

## DHD#10 ENCOURAGES UTILIZING MI COVID ALERT APP

December 17, 2020 – It has been a month since the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) launched the new [MI COVID Alert](#) app and they announced today that there have already been nearly 500,000 downloads. The success of this app depends on all Michiganders utilizing it, and District Health Department #10 (DHD#10) is encouraging everyone in our ten-county jurisdiction to download and utilize the app to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

MI COVID Alert is a free, easy to use, anonymous mobile app that provides fast alerts to let you know whether you may have been exposed to COVID-19. It works like this:

- First, you download the app from the [Apple](#) or [Google](#) app stores
- Next, if you test positive for COVID-19, you will receive instructions from your local health department or MDHHS to enter a code so you can share your test results anonymously on the app. This step helps verify that results are accurate.
- Once submitted, the app takes approximately 10 hours to begin alerting other users.
  - The app uses low energy Bluetooth technology to detect phones with the app near you and send alerts every two hours.
  - The app notifies anyone you were in close contact with during the time you may have been spreading the virus but won't identify you.
- If you have been in close contact (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes) with someone who has COVID-19, you will receive a push notification to your mobile phone.
  - The alert tells a user they may have been exposed to COVID-19 and how many days ago the exposure took place. This allows you to think about where exposure might have taken place, get tested, and consider quarantining.

**No personally identifiable information is collected and shared with other users.**

- The app works in the background to gather randomly generated phone IDs to alert users, keeping personal information, and real identities safe.
- If you delete the app, your information will also be deleted.

**MI COVID Alert CAN:**

- Alert you if you have been in close contact with someone who has the app and has tested positive for coronavirus.
- Advise you on what to do to protect yourself and others.
- Alert other app users that you were in close contact with, if you test positive for coronavirus.
- Checks for possible exposure every two hours.

“We are excited to have this technology at our fingertips to assist with potential exposure notification,” stated Kevin Hughes, Health Officer for DHD#10. “While it does not replace contact tracing or following all necessary prevention strategies, it is an additional tool to notify individuals quickly if they have been exposed to COVID-19.”



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### COUNTIES SERVED:

Crawford  
Kalkaska  
Lake  
Manistee  
Mason  
Mecosta  
Missaukee  
Newaygo  
Oceana  
Wexford



[www.dhd10.org](http://www.dhd10.org)



[www.facebook.com/DHD10](https://www.facebook.com/DHD10)

The more people who use the app, the more effective it will be in helping prevent the spread of COVID-19.

It is still important to remember:

- You must still wear a mask or cloth face covering in public indoor and crowded outdoor spaces.
- You should continue to wash your hands regularly, cover coughs, and stay home if you are feeling sick.
- If you test positive for COVID-19, it is critical that you let health officials know who may be a close contact.
- If you receive a call from your local health department or MI COVID Help, it is important that you answer the call to know if you may have been exposed to COVID-19.

**If you receive an alert that you may have been in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19, get tested and consider quarantining. There are easy testing options, including no-cost testing.**

- Visit [Michigan.gov/CoronavirusTest](https://Michigan.gov/CoronavirusTest) to find testing locations near you and schedule an appointment.
- You may also dial 2-1-1 or call Michigan's COVID Hotline at 888-535-6136 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and press 1 to be connected to an operator who can help you find a nearby location and schedule an appointment.

If you have COVID-19 related questions, call our COVID hotline at **231-305-8675** or email us at [covid@dhd10.org](mailto:covid@dhd10.org). For more information on COVID-19, visit our website at [www.dhd10.org/coronavirus](https://www.dhd10.org/coronavirus).

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IMAGES:



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