

DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT #10 DEPLOYS NEW SOFTWARE FOR COVID CASE INVESTIGATION

April 19, 2021- Beginning April 19, 2021, District Health Department #10 (DHD#10) will be using new software to help with case investigation. With cases continuing to increase in the jurisdiction, Health Department staff, even working at full capacity, are unable to investigate all positive cases in a timely manner. Therefore, DHD#10 is partnering with Michigan software developer CoherentRx to implement a tool called Patient Education Genius (PEG) for collecting information from individuals who test positive for COVID-19 through a digital survey sent via text message or e-mail.

“If you test positive for COVID-19, you may not get a phone call from the Health Department right away” explains Kevin Hughes, Health Officer for DHD#10. “Unless you fall into a high-risk category based on age or type of employment, you will now receive a text or email with a link to an online survey where you enter your information. We ask that all residents in our jurisdiction please complete this survey if you receive it.”

When DHD#10 receives notification of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, the PEG system will issue a text message and/or e-mail to the individual. The survey only asks for information that is allowable under the Public Health Code and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability (HIPAA) Privacy Act, such as demographics, symptoms, occupation, attendance at public events or gatherings, and people with whom they may have been in close contact. The survey *does not* gather any private information like social security numbers, personal passwords, or banking details.

The survey should take less than 15 minutes to complete. Health Department staff will review the information provided and reach out to ill individuals as needed. Using the PEG survey to gather information from those who test positive for COVID-19 helps us identify those who may spread the virus to others. This is also important to initiate isolation and quarantine as soon as possible because any delay to this process can result in unnecessary spread. This new method for case investigation will help DHD#10 prioritize investigations on outbreaks in schools, businesses, and vulnerable populations.

What to do if you test positive for COVID:

- As soon as you test positive, start isolation immediately. Isolation lasts for 10 days from the start of symptoms or if no symptoms, from the positive test date.
- Notify your close contacts and encourage them to quarantine for a full 14 days.
- If you have questions about isolation or quarantine, call the Health Department at 231-305-8675 or visit: <https://www.dhd10.org/covid-19-now-what/>

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MEDIA CONTACT

Jeannine Taylor
Public Information Officer
O: 231-876-3823
C: 231-920-4998
E: jtaylor@dhd10.org



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