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Health Department of Northwest Michigan COVID-19 Update

Pfizer booster shot now available for anyone 16+

Following CDC approval, the Health Department of Northwest Michigan is urging anyone 16 and older to get the Pfizer booster vaccine 6 months after receiving their two primary COVID-19 vaccines. Currently, Pfizer is the only authorized vaccine for under age 18. A parent/guardian must accompany a minor to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

“Getting vaccinated is how we can continue to protect ourselves further from COVID-19 spread and work our way out of this pandemic,” said Dr. Josh Meyerson, Medical Director with the Health Department of Northwest Michigan. “This is great news that the Pfizer vaccine booster is available for anyone 16 and older. I urge anyone 5 and up to get vaccinated, and those 16 and up to receive their booster as soon as they’re eligible – at least 6 months after completing their primary series.”

The COVID-19 Pfizer booster dose may be given with other vaccines, including the flu vaccine, at the same time.

[As previously recommended](#), those with moderately to severely compromised immune systems should receive an additional dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine at least 28 days after a second dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. This additional dose is intended to improve the response of people who are immunocompromised to their initial vaccine series.

Flu and COVID-19 vaccinations – including booster shots – are widely available at pharmacies, health care providers and health department clinics. For a list of vaccine providers and locations in Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet and Otsego counties, click [here](#). To schedule a flu vaccine, call the Health Department of Northwest Michigan at 1-800-432-4121.

To schedule a COVID-19 vaccination appointment with the Health Department of Northwest Michigan exclusively for children 5 to 11 years old, [click here](#). To schedule a COVID-19 vaccination appointment with the health department for anyone 12 and older, [click here](#). A parent/guardian must accompany anyone younger than 18 to a COVID-19 clinic. Please bring an insurance card to the appointment. Anyone with questions or unable to find a time or date that works for them and/or their child may call the health department at 800-432-4121.

To find a test site in the area, visit <http://www.nwhealth.org/covid19main.html>.

Stay up to date on the latest information in the Health Department of Northwest Michigan jurisdiction by [liking and following our Facebook page](#) and visiting our [COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#). To locate a testing facility, visit the [Michigan COVID-19 Test](#)

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is mandated by the Michigan Public Health Code to promote wellness, prevent disease, provide quality healthcare, address health problems of vulnerable populations, and protect the environment for the residents and visitors of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, and Otsego counties. For more information, visit nwhealth.org.

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[Finder website](#). To track the risk levels of COVID-19 pandemic indicators, visit the [MI Safe Start Map website](#). For more information regarding the COVID-19 vaccine, visit the MDHHS [vaccine website](#) or the [CDC vaccine website](#).