



AT YOUR SERVICE

NEWS FROM THE BERRIEN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Thanks to all for their efforts in tackling COVID-19! A special thanks to those on the frontline interfacing with patients in diagnosis, evaluation, and treatment!

Berrien County COVID Timeline

- We began monitoring travelers from China Feb 10th.
- Throughout the month of February we continued to monitor travelers, our first PUI's (persons under investigation).
- Last At Your Service Newsletter: "No confirmed cases in Michigan as of 03-04-20".
- March 18- our first positive COVID case in Berrien County.
- March 20 - Our first Joint Press Conference with Lakeland and Law Enforcement. My Plea: Protect the Population Vulnerable to this virus: the elderly, especially those with co-morbid conditions.
- March 30 -our first County COVID death.
- April 4 - posted that masks recommended to non-health care providers. The post reached 66,000 people (attempting to provide protection to the public from the mask wearer).
- April 24 - Governor's stay at home order until May 15; later extended to May 28.
- April 30 - Berrien County Data Dashboard established.

Berrien Current Update May 20th

(2 months since our first confirmed positive)

551 - Confirmed Cases

34 - COVID Deaths

Vulnerable Populations for Sure!

Of our deaths:

- Twenty one of the thirty four were long term care residents.
- Several others were Hospice patients at home.
- All of our 34 deaths had at least two co-morbidities and the majority had three! (Hypertension, Obesity, COPD, Diabetes, Dementia, Alzheimer's, Stroke, Cancer, Chronic Kidney Disease, etc.)
- Median age at death is 81 years.
- Average age at death is 78 years.

COVID-19 Testing in Berrien County

Throughout the past two months SARS-COV-2 viral testing (COVID-19 testing) has expanded in Berrien County. Our ability to do active surveillance in Berrien County has been largely benefited from the availability of testing supplies being offered by Spectrum Health Lakeland to our community members and physicians. Beginning in April, Intercare Community Health Network has also come online with testing in Berrien County and have added a mobile unit to assist with COVID-19 testing in areas of Berrien County with limited transportation.

Additionally, Wal-Mart in Benton Harbor and Rite Aid in Bridgman are offering a self-collection nasal swab without a practitioner's laboratory order for COVID-19 testing. The expansion of testing has benefited the contact tracers working at the Health department in their ability to recommend quarantine and isolation based on symptoms and testing. As of May 20th the Berrien County Health Department has performed over 4,500 contact tracings with those who had COVID-19 or had exposure to someone with COVID-19.

Good News!

The Berrien County Health Department continues to monitor our beaches and all our water test are good! So think about enjoying our beaches with their clean water and get some vitamin D, exercise, and a positive mental health experience.

The CDC and Michigan websites provide exceptional resources for a variety of audiences including healthcare providers and the general public.

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus

www.michigan.gov/coronavirus

Local information is also readily available by following the Berrien County Health Department on social media

www.bchdmi.org/COVID19



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