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Change in Reporting COVID-19 Cases in Michigan Begins April 16, 2020

On Thursday, April 16, 2020, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services will begin reporting on the number of probable cases of COVID-19 for each county. Current reporting of laboratory confirmed cases and deaths will continue.

What counts as a probable case of COVID-19? Probable cases are individuals who have symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath), but have not been tested, **and** meet at least one of the following conditions within the last 14 days:

- The person has had close contact with a laboratory confirmed case or close contact with another probable case of COVID-19.
- They have had close contact with a symptomatic contact of a laboratory confirmed case.
- They have traveled to an area experiencing sustained, ongoing community transmission of SARS-CoV-2 (the virus which causes COVID-19).
- They are considered by public health authorities to be at higher risk of exposure, such as healthcare workers or people working or living in group homes.

Will the probable cases be tested? Although testing capability is being expanded throughout the state of Michigan, healthcare providers must still prioritize who can be tested. If resources are available, those with mild symptoms may be tested. It is important for any person who has been told by their healthcare provider or health department that they are a probable case of COVID-19, that they follow the guidance for isolation and quarantine for themselves and their close contacts.

Why is Michigan going to start showing the number of probable cases? The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, LMAS District Health Department and our partners across the state have been cautioning residents that they should assume the virus is in their community, even if confirmed cases are low in a particular region or county. Showing the number of probable cases will give more information about the spread of the virus in our area, but this still will not be a complete picture. As some individuals infected with COVID-19 can have no symptoms at all, and others can have only mild symptoms and do not seek medical care, because of this the total number of cases will likely never be fully known.

Confirmed cases, deaths, and probable cases will be updated each day at 3pm at Michigan.gov/coronavirus. Probable case counts will be included starting on April 16, 2020.

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