



CHIPPEWA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

508 Ashmun, Suite 120

Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan 49783

www.chippewahd.com

MEDIA RELEASE

Date: April 15, 2020

Contact person: Lana Steinhaus, BBA
Deputy Health Officer/Public Information Officer
906.635.3630

lsteinhaus@chippewahd.com

Michigan Department of Health & Human Services (MDHHS) Reporting Probable COVID-19 Cases

CHIPPEWA County, Michigan – On April 16, 2020, MDHHS will begin reporting on the number of probable cases for each county, along with current reporting of laboratory confirmed cases and deaths.

Probable cases of COVID-19 disease are individuals who have symptoms of COVID-19, but have not been tested, and meet one of the following conditions within the past 14 days:

- close contact with a laboratory confirmed case or close contact with another probable case of COVID-19;
- close contact with a symptomatic contact of a laboratory confirmed case;
- traveled to an area experiencing sustained, ongoing community transmission of COVID-19; or
- are people within the community who public health authorities consider more likely to be exposed, such as health care workers or people living in group homes.

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 include a fever, cough and shortness of breath/difficulty in breathing.

It is essential to note that if an individual's healthcare provider or health department indicates they are a probable case of COVID-19, it is important to follow the recommendations of home isolation, and quarantine for their close contacts. If a person is counted as a probable case and then tests positive, the individual will be removed from the probable case count and placed into the positive count.

Chippewa County Health Department (CCHD) is aware that seeing how many additional people are likely to have COVID-19 will be startling, but we know that the number of



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confirmed cases is only a part of the story. Michigan's number of confirmed cases is understood to be an undercount, something the new data will help to improve. Also, as more testing becomes available, expect to see an increase in the number of people infected.

CCHD is strongly encouraging Chippewa County residents to continue following social distancing guidelines, wearing face coverings as appropriate, and remaining at home as much as possible.

The State of Michigan provides COVID-19 case updates after 3:00 p.m. daily at www.michigan.gov/coronavirus. Please visit us on Facebook @chippewacountyhealth or www.chippewahd.com for more information.

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Environmental Health
906.635.3620

Home Health & Hospice
906.635.1568

Personal & Family Health
906.635.1566

Main Fax
906.253.1466