



CHIPPEWA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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MEDIA RELEASE

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OMICRON VARIANT CONFIRMED IN CHIPPEWA COUNTY

CHIPPEWA County, Michigan – The Chippewa County Health Department (CCHD) has received confirmation from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) that the Covid-19 Omicron variant has been detected in Chippewa County. The Omicron variant spreads more rapidly than previous variants of Covid-19, which may account for the rapidly climbing case count within the county over the past several weeks. Since January 1, 2022 more than 800 cases of Covid-19 have been reported in Chippewa County.

Vaccines are shown to be effective against Omicron and other variants of Covid-19 in that people that test positive for Covid-19 are at much lower risk of severe Covid, hospitalization and death.

In an effort to protect the vulnerable, CCHD strongly recommends that community members take the following steps to prevent further spread of the virus:

- Wear a well-fitting mask when in close contact to others
- Get vaccinated, including a booster as soon as possible
- If you become ill with a fever and other symptoms (sore throat, cough, etc.) stay home until fever subsides and symptoms improve
- If you have the ability to get tested do so
- If you test positive for Covid-19 notify your close contacts

CCHD and other community partners will be receiving KN95 masks for distribution to the public soon; watch for public announcements for further information on distribution sites.

Beginning today, community members can receive up to 4 home test kits by ordering online through: <https://www.covidtests.gov/>.

For more information on test sites and what to do if you test positive for Covid-19 please visit www.chippewahd.com

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