



The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians

2605 N. West Bay Shore Drive • Peshawbestown, MI 49682-9275 • (231) 534-7211

ANNOUNCING FOUR (4) NEW COVID-19 CASES, COVID-19 BOOSTERS APPROVED FOR 16 AND 17 YEAR OLDS, MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY THERAPY TREATMENTS.

December 15, 2021

- **The GTB Health Department is reporting four (4) new positive COVID-19 cases through December 14th.** The local health departments for Leelanau and Grand Traverse counties were notified as the county of residence. We are continuing to see a sharp increase in cases. Please continue to take measures to reduce spread including vaccination, wearing face masks, avoiding crowded or poorly ventilated settings, staying home when ill, seeking testing if symptomatic or exposed, and frequent handwashing.

You may obtain an at-home COVID-19 test kit for home-use at no cost. Please call 231-534-7200 to make a request. You can use at-home testing to reduce the risk of spreading the virus during this holiday season. Please consider keeping at-home-tests at home or where you may need them. At-home tests may be used if you have COVID-19 symptoms or have been exposed or potentially exposed to an individual with COVID-19. Even if you don't have symptoms and have not been exposed to an individual with COVID-19, using an at-home test before gathering with unvaccinated children, elders, those who are immunocompromised, or individuals at risk of severe disease can reduce the risk of spreading the virus.

- **The GTB Health Department is providing booster shots to 16 and 17 year olds.** Please note that written consent from a guardian is required. Anyone 16 and older is urged 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.

The recent emergence of the Omicron variant further emphasizes the importance of primary vaccination, boosters, and prevention efforts needed to protect against COVID-19. Vaccines have been proven to be safe and effective and booster doses help broaden and strengthen protection against Omicron and other variants.

Please contact the GTB COVID-19 Vaccination Line (231-534-7475) if you would like to schedule a vaccination or for any questions you may have.



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You may use the following links to self-schedule a booster shot or your primary doses. Alternatively, you can call the GTB COVID-19 Vaccination Line (231-534-7475).

Benzie: <https://www.solvehealth.com/book-online/OxwOwg>

Charlevoix: <https://www.solvehealth.com/book-online/gZJPYg>

Medicine Lodge: <https://www.solvehealth.com/book-online/A6dK1g>

TCC: <https://www.solvehealth.com/book-online/AWoXXA>

Strongheart: <https://www.solvehealth.com/book-online/go5QoA>

The GTB Health Department has now administered 4,655 doses. Currently, 59% of GTB tribal members age 12 and over and 82% of GTB elders age 55 and over in the 6-county service area are vaccinated.

- *****The GTB Health Department has now delivered monoclonal antibody therapy treatments to 6 patients.** This treatment is offered to all patients who meet clinical criteria. The treatment is authorized for high-risk patients for treatment of mild to moderate COVID-19 and post-exposure prophylaxis in high-risk patients. Clinical trials in high-risk, positive patients have reported 70% reduction in hospitalizations or deaths. As post-exposure prophylaxis, 98.5% of patients in one trial remained asymptomatic and for those who became symptomatic, symptoms resolved sooner than the placebo group. High-risk criteria for severe disease include older age (e.g. 65 or greater), BMI of 25 or greater, pregnancy, chronic kidney disease, diabetes, immunosuppressive disease, currently receiving immunosuppressive treatment, cardiovascular disease, hypertension, chronic lung diseases, sickle cell disease, neurodevelopment disorders or other conditions that confer medical complexity, having a medical-related technological dependence not related to COVID-19 (e.g. tracheostomy), other medical conditions or factors that place the patient at high risk for progression to severe COVID-19.

If you have questions about the new monoclonal antibody treatment available at the GTB Health Department, please contact the clinic at 231-534-7200 and request to speak to a medical provider.

- **Below is summary information for the 314 cumulative positive cases to-date tested at the GTB Health Department:**



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By Age

- 0-20 – 94 cases
- 20-29 yrs – 56 cases
- 30-39 yrs – 56 cases
- 40-49 yrs – 43 case
- 50-59 yrs – 31 cases
- 60-69 yrs – 23 cases
- 70-79 yrs – 6 cases
- 80-89 yrs – 4 cases
- >89 yrs – 1 case

By County

- Leelanau – 128
- Benzie – 11
- Grand Traverse – 137
- Kalkaska – 5
- Manistee – 2
- Charlevoix – 8
- Antrim -19
- Ingham – 1
- Isabella -3

***There are more active cases in the community that were tested at other facilities that are not included in this tally.

If you would like to get tested for COVID-19, please call the clinic at (231)-534-7200 to get on the daily testing schedule. We ask that all individuals tested appear on the testing schedule. Please note, the GTB Health Department tests tribal members and families, government employees, government entities, and essential support groups to GTB when possible.

Respectfully,

Soumit Pendharkar, MHA, FACHE
Health Administrator