



The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians

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

ANNOUNCING SIXTEEN (16) NEW COVID-19 CASES, AT-HOME COVID-19 TESTS, FIRST PATIENTS RECEIVE MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY THERAPY.

December 2, 2021

- **The GTB Health Department is reporting sixteen (16) new positive COVID-19 cases from November 23rd through December 2nd.** The local health departments for Leelanau, Grand Traverse, Benzie, and Isabella 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.

Due to the sharp increase in cases, the GTB Health Department will resume pre-appointment testing for all in-person appointments.

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 and celebrate safely.

- *****The GTB Health Department delivered its first monoclonal antibody therapy treatments to 4 patients today.** This treatment will be offered to 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.



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- *****IMPORTANT: The GTB Health Department is continuing to schedule vaccination clinics for booster shots and children ages 5 to 11.** After school hours will be offered in order to vaccinate as many eligible children as possible. You should get a booster shot if you are 18 and older. If you received Pfizer or Moderna, you can receive a booster at 6 months after completing your primary COVID-19 vaccination series. If you received Johnson & Johnson, you should receive a booster at least 2 months after your shot. Any of the COVID-19 vaccines authorized in the United States can be used for a booster dose.

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

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/0xwOwg>

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 4,480 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.

- **Below is summary information for the 297 cumulative positive cases to-date tested at the GTB Health Department:**

By Age

- 0-20 – 85 cases
- 20-29 yrs – 55 cases
- 30-39 yrs – 53 cases
- 40-49 yrs – 40 case
- 50-59 yrs – 30 cases



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- 60-69 yrs – 23 cases
- 70-79 yrs – 6 cases
- 80-89 yrs – 4 cases
- >89 yrs – 1 case

By County

- Leelanau – 116
- Benzie – 11
- Grand Traverse – 132
- 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