

COVID-19 Conversations with Community Partners

May 20, 2020

Questions and Answers

- 1. I understand the Health Department has engaged businesses who are permitted to open this weekend. How granular is this guidance? Type of disinfectants?**

The Health Department works very closely with food facilities at all times. Each of the businesses that are allowed to reopen are required to develop a plan on how to keep their employees and people they serve safe. There is guidance from OSHA that clearly spells out what businesses are supposed to do. The Health Department has used this information and put into a toolkit for businesses. Eric Johnston, Environmental Health Director, developed a frequently asked questions for campgrounds and food facilities. More information can be found at our website: <http://www.bldhd.org/coronavirus-covid-19> Various business toolkits have also been shared with the local chamber of commerce as well.
- 2. Is there any chance to get a testing facility or to collect specimens in the mid or northern part of the (Leelanau) county?**

The Health Department agrees we need to increase the capacity of testing. Options are being looked throughout the State. As we continue to work on the planning with community partners, we would like to work with medical providers to start. Northwest Michigan Health Services is still testing at half of the capacity and are able to test asymptomatic, critical infrastructure workers. The contact number to schedule a test is 231-642-5292. If there are those who struggle with transportation issues getting to a test site, call the Health Department and we will work with them.
- 3. Are there any facilities in Benzie County testing asymptomatic individuals?**

Not at this time. They are being sent to the Leelanau Northwest Michigan Health Services site.
- 4. Are you still telling people who are coming up to the region to quarantine for 2 weeks?**

As of right now, yes. This will be discussed as more travel is allowed.
- 5. Patricia Sotus-Little, stated that the Leelanau Peninsula Economic Foundation is printing signs for Leelanau County businesses to display in their business about social distancing and wearing of masks, etc. These signs are free to Leelanau County businesses and you can contact Patricia for more information at: psoutaslittle@gmail.com**
- 6. It was mentioned before about the Health Department having public service announcements on the radio and television of what is expected of people who are coming for other areas. Will that be done?**

That is certainly one option we are looking at. We have found social media has also been a great tool for getting information out.
- 7. Any update on the limit of any public gatherings. What is anticipated with that, for instance in school events?**

Under the current Executive Order, gatherings under ten (10) people are allowed. We do not know in which phase, of the MI Safe Start Plan, that larger gatherings will be allowed.
- 8. When you say that travel is not allowed, can you explain what that means? People who own a cottage here, can come here, correct? But hotels and rentals are not accepting clients, correct? I am seeing more people here, but I am assuming that is those who own seasonal homes here.**

Under Executive Order 2020-92, certain types of travel are allowed. Travel between houses in the State, caring for an elderly parent, child, etc. Travel for the purpose of vacation is not allowed and vacation rentals are not allowed. Rentals can be allowed for housing critical infrastructures workers.

9. As Courts re-open they will need to know the number of cases each week to reevaluate whether they can continue on the phase-in process as planned. Can this information be obtained off the BLDHD website?

The order as issued by the Supreme Court is difficult to answer. Court employees can contact Lisa Peacock directly to answer any questions at lpeacock@bldhd.org

10. Are there tests happening presently at Strongheart?

The Grand Traverse Band does have the ability to do testing onsite. If you are a member, then you just need to contact the clinic.

11. Do law enforcement employees have to be tested?

Currently they are not required to be tested but they can be since they are considered a critical infrastructure employee.

12. Can independent caregivers get tested?

Yes, those caregivers would qualify as a critical infrastructure employee. Testing can be done at Northwest Michigan Health Services located at 10767 E. Traverse Highway in Traverse City. You can call the COVID-19 testing number at 231-642-5292.

13. How long after exposure is necessary for a positive test?

While we do not know for certain, most people are symptomatic within five to seven days of exposure. The Health Department advises to wait to test for seven days after exposure.

In closing, we would like to thank everyone for their time and efforts in keeping the community safe. The Health Department provides daily updates. If you would want to be added to our emailing list, please contact Michelle Klein at mklein@bldhd.org