

NEWS RELEASE

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Saginaw County Health Department Modifies Recommendations for Quarantine

(SAGINAW) – Because positivity rates and new daily cases/per million have been declining for nearly three weeks, the Saginaw County Health Department and its counterparts around the state are jointly modifying recommendations for quarantine after exposure as a close contact to someone with presumptive or confirmed COVID-19 from 14 days to 10 days.

In addition to improving case data, consistency and compliance are key issues.

“There has been a lot of confusion around the state as different communities make different recommendations for quarantine,” explains Chris Harrington, MPH, health officer. “We were firm on our 14-day recommendations because of high case counts and positivity. But, as we see the numbers going in a much better direction, we can see the value of reducing quarantine from 14 to 10 days for the added benefit of better compliance.”

Harrington states that anyone recently contacted by the health department or MDHHS can now shift to a 10-day quarantine effective immediately. “For example, if today is your 10th day of quarantine, you may return to school or work tomorrow if symptom free.” Quarantine, Harrington explains, means stay home, stay put, and stay away from others. She notes that nearly 50% of the cases in Saginaw County are from household contact. “Early in the pandemic, people did a great job of isolating themselves from the rest of the family if they had COVID-19 or if they were exposed. It would be great if people would revert back to that level of caution inside the home now.”

In addition, Harrington encourages everyone to continue practicing the tried-and-true public health practices that truly work against COVID-19: wash your hands, wear your mask, watch your distance, and get a vaccine.

From May 11-June 30, the Saginaw County Health Department is offering walk-in vaccination clinics for anyone 16+ who lives or works in Saginaw County every Tuesday from 9am to 4pm and every Wednesday from 3:30pm to 6:30pm at the old Sears Department Store inside Fashion Square Mall. The entrance to the clinic is on the west side of the building facing Bay Road, where there is plenty of parking.

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