

Main Office
184 U.S. 41 East,
Negaunee, MI 49866
www.mqthealth.org



PRESS RELEASE

TO: Marquette County Media

FROM: Marquette County Health Department

CONTACT: Brianna Mileski, Director of Community Health, 906-475-9977

DATE: December 1, 2020

SUBJECT: **MCHD Using Michigan Health Alert Network to Notify Confirmed COVID Cases**

On November 11th the Marquette County Health Department announced it would begin prioritizing contact tracing in response to the increase in COVID-19 cases. This includes children under 18, those working and living in high risk settings, and those at higher risk for severe illness.

In an effort to further streamline contact tracing, MCHD will begin using the Michigan Health Alert Network (MIHAN) to notify the public of COVID-19 positive results and exposure. This alert is a generated telephone call that will come from the phone number 1-866-998-3678 or may show up on a caller ID as MIHAN. We recommend all citizens program this number into your cellphone in case you may become part of an exposure investigation in the future. This way you will know it is a message from the local health department. The alert will contain information such as; a positive COVID-19 diagnosis, a possible COVID-19 exposure within the community or local schools, and quarantine period duration. The alert will never contain personal health information about individuals.

It is very important that you listen to the entire message. At the end of the message please use your telephone keypad to acknowledge receipt of the message. These responses will let us know whether you understand the information. It is crucial that you select a response. This alert software will save considerable staff time and allow us to distribute information to the public with less delay. We appreciate your patience with this process.

For more information on COVID-19 and to locate a testing center near you, please visit mqthealth.org, michigan.gov/coronavirus, or cdc.gov.

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