



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TO: Media Partners
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REGARDING: Public Health Advisory - Travelers
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Western Upper Peninsula Health Department Issues Public Health Advisory

Baraga, Gogebic, Houghton, Keweenaw and Ontonagon Counties -- The Western Upper Peninsula Health Department (WUPHD) issued a public health advisory today addressing the influx of individuals who are seeking shelter from areas that have a significant community spread of COVID-19 and those returning from travel outside of the immediate area.

“The increase in population to our area could place a strain on our communities as people seek out essential supplies,” said Cathryn A. Beer, Health Officer at WUPHD. “This influx also has the potential to place a large burden on our local healthcare systems in the event that they become ill.”

Anyone returning to the area and generally anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 should self-isolate for 14 days to avoid potentially exposing others. All residents, whether full time or seasonal, should adhere to the Governor’s “Stay at Home” order. People should not go out unless necessary for work or to buy essential supplies such as food and prescriptions.

To prevent the spread of COVID-19, people should:

- Stay home if they are sick
- Wash their hands frequently
- Avoid close contact with sick people
- Disinfect commonly touched surfaces
- Avoid touching your face; avoid shaking hands
- Follow suggested guidelines for social distancing

WUPHD is working to coordinate their response with federal, state, and local officials, as well as healthcare professionals, institutions, schools and community organizations. A local COVID-19 informational call line is available Monday through Friday, from 8 AM EST to 4 PM EST at (906) 487-5545. There is a State informational hotline available from 8 AM EST to 5 PM EST seven days per week. That number is 1-888-535-6136. Additional information on COVID-19 can be found on the MDHHS website (www.michigan.gov/coronavirus), or the CDC website (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/>).

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