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PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY FOR TRAVELERS HEADING NORTH

The Grand Traverse County Health Department, in collaboration with the Northern Michigan Public Health Alliance (NMPHA), issues the following advisory to protect the health of the public in the 31-county NMPHA region:

Northern Michigan Counties are seeing an influx of individuals who are seeking shelter from areas with significant COVID-19 community spread or returning from travel outside of these counties. While we understand the desire to seek shelter in our communities with fewer COVID-19 cases, this potentially poses an unnecessary risk to all residents of Northern Michigan.

The increased population to the northern Michigan area puts a substantial strain on our communities as travelers seek supplies, such as groceries and toiletries, as well as potentially needing health care in the event they become sick. During this public health crisis, many rural communities may not be equipped with personnel, supplies or resources for a surge in population.

If you still choose to travel to your seasonal home or return home from travel, the Grand Traverse County Health Department, in addition to the Northern Michigan Public Health Alliance, is advising that you abide by the following guidelines:

1. If you are sick, stay at home and do not leave your residence.
2. If you have symptoms suggestive of COVID-19, contact your healthcare provider for assistance.
3. All individuals traveling to seasonal homes or returning home from winter homes in other states should **self-quarantine for 14 days** upon arrival to your destination.
4. Following the 14-day self-quarantine period, please **obey the Governor's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" order** and do not go out unless absolutely necessary.
5. All residents, whether full time or seasonal, should adhere to the Governor's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" order and only venture out to obtain essential supplies and services when absolutely necessary. If you do need to go out, please adhere to social distancing protocols and limit the number of people going out for supplies or services.

By following these simple guidelines, the risk for spreading COVID-19 lowers significantly, thus protecting everyone who lives, works, and plays in beautiful northern Michigan.

This advisory will remain in effect until lifted and is endorsed by local public health, local healthcare systems, local law enforcement, and county leadership.

Stay Home, Stay Safe & Save Lives,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy Hirschenberger".

Wendy Hirschenberger, MPH
Health Officer, Grand Traverse County Health Department