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Immediate Release:

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Grand Traverse County COVID report, case data Nov. 16 - 17

For Wednesday, November 18, 2020, the Grand Traverse County Health Department is reporting 44 new cases of COVID-19, bringing the cumulative case total to 1,286 with 627 recovered and 17 deaths, leaving 642 active cases.

Through case investigations during the month of November, the Grand Traverse County Health Department identified 2,789 close contacts of COVID-19 cases and instructed them to quarantine, averaging almost 155 people per day. As we manage the rise in cases, we continue to urge those that test positive to immediately self-isolate and contact those you were in close contact with during your infectious period (within six feet and longer than 15 minutes over the course of 24 hours). The infectious period begins 48 hours prior to the onset of symptoms or 48 hours prior to the day the test was taken if you are asymptomatic. An infographic with instructions can be found [here](#).

There are no places of possible public exposure to report today.

From November 16 - 17, the Grand Traverse County Health Department completed **62** case investigations for confirmed COVID-19 cases. The following is information known at this time:

- All 62 cases are primary residents.
- Ages:

0-19	9
20-29	12
30-39	6
40-49	8
50-59	11
60-69	7
70-79	6
80-89	2
90-99	1
100+	
- Symptomatic: **58** Asymptomatic: **4**
- **4** are linked to travel either into or out of the area as reported during the case investigation
- **11** are linked to large group gatherings or social events
- **25** cases were known close contacts to other positive cases
- Approximately **279** close contacts were identified, notified, and instructed to quarantine.

Case Investigations were also completed on 9 probable cases (individuals who were close contacts of a positive COVID case who became symptomatic during their quarantine).

Earlier this week, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Director Robert Gordon released a new [Epidemic Order](#) regarding gathering restrictions and face mask requirements. This order is now in effect, ending on December 8th, 2020. The order was issued to enact a three-week pause targeting indoor social gatherings and other group activities in an effort to curb rapidly rising COVID-19 infection rates. Although there were some changes to what remains open, many residents have had questions about what this order means as we head into the holidays. MDHHS has created a [frequently asked questions](#) page to answer many of the questions regarding the latest orders.

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