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**Immediate Release:
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Grand Traverse County COVID Report and Case Investigation Breakdown Oct. 23 - 26

The Grand Traverse County Health Department is reporting 48 new cases of COVID-19 since Friday, October 23, 2020, bringing the cumulative case total to 694 with 422 recovered and thirteen deaths, leaving 259 active cases.

Since October 1, 2020, Grand Traverse County has reported 256 new cases of COVID-19 and have traced over 1,000 close contacts to positive cases who were instructed to quarantine. With that in mind, it is an understatement to say that case investigations are an invaluable component to limiting further spread of the virus in our area. We urge anyone that receives a telephone call from the Grand Traverse County Health Department to please return the call promptly and comply with case investigations.

Due to the large volume of cases (an average of nearly 16 cases per day over the past week), case investigations and contact tracing, Grand Traverse County Health Department is asking anyone who is told that they tested positive for COVID-19 to self-isolate at home until the health department is able to reach you. Additionally, any and all household contacts should quarantine until the case investigation and contact tracing occurs. Do not go to work, school, or any other public place while you are infectious.

If you are under a health department ordered quarantine, a negative test does not end the 14-day quarantine period early. You can both come down with symptoms AND infect others during the entire two week period. Quarantine times are disease specific based upon infectious periods of the disease and transmission period. You must stay quarantined for the entire 14-day possible infectious period. If you are a household contact to someone who is in quarantine, you do not need to quarantine.

While conducting case investigations, the listed location, during the specified dates and times was discovered to be a place of potential public exposure. Exposure sites not open to the public are contacted directly.

Lifepoint Bible Church (Spider Lake Road):

Sunday, October 25
10 a.m. Service

If you were present at the above location during the listed time period, you should self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms for 14 days since the possible exposure, **particularly if you were not wearing a mask or maintaining 6 foot distance from others.**

Symptoms include: fever, cough, shortness of breath, vomiting, diarrhea, muscle aches, repeated shaking with chills, headache, sore throat and new loss of taste or smell.

Anyone that is self-monitoring as a result should keep away from the public, family, close contacts and roommates as much as possible.

From October 23 - 25, the Grand Traverse County Health Department completed **36** case investigations for confirmed COVID-19 cases. The following is information known at this time:

- All cases **36** are primary residents.
- Ages:
 - 0-19 2
 - 20-29 7
 - 30-39 9
 - 40-49 8
 - 50-59 5
 - 60-69 3
 - 70-79 2
- Symptomatic: **34** Asymptomatic: **2**
- **5** are linked to travel either into or out of the area as reported during the case investigation
- **4** are linked to large group gatherings or social events
- **16** cases were known close contacts to other positive cases
- Approximately **154** close contacts were identified, notified, and instructed to quarantine.

Case Investigations were also completed on **2** probable cases (individuals who were close contacts of a positive COVID case who became symptomatic during their quarantine).

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