

*Grand Traverse County Health Department is directing middle and high schools in Grand Traverse County to go virtual until April 12th due to 1) Metrics: increased local cases in middle and high school aged children, highest percent positivity of COVID-19 testing and highest hospitalization rate during the pandemic , 2) Governor Whitmer's' recommendation that schools go virtual after spring break, 3) CDC and the Michigan Department of Health and Human (MDHHS) recommend post spring break quarantines for those who have travelled, and 4) time needed for Health Department staff to complete case investigations on an increasing number of school aged cases and time to work with school staff on contact tracing.*

*There are expected to be well over 1000 tests run today alone at the Central High School testing site, combined with all other regular testing in Grand Traverse County, we anticipate a large number of positive cases this week given the current positivity rate in both the county and region. Adding to that, Spring Break activities and going virtual for the remainder of this week will allow for the ability to assess whether or not the high rates and trends will continue up or level off.*

*Due to increasing cases and a growing number of variant cases in Michigan, effective April 5th, 2021, MDHHS is reinstating the standard 14-day quarantine for close contacts of COVID-19 cases. This will remove the option of a 10-day quarantine for non-variant cases. As a reminder, a negative test result to "test out of quarantine" has never been adopted in the State of Michigan.*

*GTCHD will meet with Grand Traverse County Schools on Friday April 9th to provide an update on metrics for the week and any further actions needed to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community and schools."*