

Friday, June 5, 2020

State Reports 5K Probable COVID Cases, 240 Deaths

Nearly 5,000 probable COVID-19 cases and 240 deaths likely due to the disease were reported on Friday, the first time the state has included such information.

There are 4,928 probable cases in Michigan, the state said, and 240 probable deaths from COVID-19. The state also is reporting 58,241 cases – with 38,099 considered to be recovered – and 5,597 deaths.

"We are continuing to improve the information we are providing as our goal is to share timely and accurate data during this pandemic," Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, chief medical executive and chief deputy for health, said in a statement. "Data is now being provided in visual, easy-to-understand graphs and allow users to display data by date, for their county or by preparedness region. I am grateful for the hard work and dedication of MDHHS staff who made this possible."

Additionally, on Friday, the state reported it has performed 622,070 diagnostic tests and 100,485 serology, or antibody, tests. The state's data reporting also shows more information by county as of Friday.

At a press briefing, Ms. Khaldun said the state is seeing encouraging trajectories and continued rates of declines in cases and deaths. She said the Upper Peninsula and Traverse City area have continued rates of below five cases per million people per day. She said the Lansing region is below seven cases per million people per day.

The Grand Rapids area is also in its second week of declining cases, she said.

"As we move forward with opening reopening the economy, I want to stress that the risk of COVID-19 is not gone. People must continue to wear a mask in public. Make sure you're maintaining a six-foot distance from yourself and others if you're in a public space," Ms. Khaldun said. "Clean frequently touched surfaces often and wash your hands. Although the risk levels are going down, it does not mean it has gone away, and so we must remain vigilant. Particularly those who are elderly or have chronic underlying medical conditions like heart disease, diabetes, COPD, or weakened immune system, strongly consider not going out unless you absolutely must."

Ms. Khaldun also said the state is continuing its work on contact tracing and while its goal is to talk to a person 98 percent of the time when they make calls, that number is currently around 60 percent.

"This highlights the fact that we really need everyone to pick up the phone when they are called by state or local health department staff," she said. "When we call you, we will always protect your information, and we will never ask for things like money or credit card information or a social security number, but it is important that we speak with you about your contacts, especially if you have tested positive for COVID-19."

Ms. Khaldun went on to add: "We may also be calling you to tell you you've been in close contact with someone with COVID-19, and that you need to get tested, or you need to self-quarantine to prevent the spread of the disease to others. So please do answer the phone when we call you so that we can do this important public health work."