



## Dickinson-Iron District Health Department

---

Dickinson County  
818 Pyle Drive, Kingsford, MI 49802  
Ph: (906) 774-1868 Fax: (906) 774-9910  
BRANCH OFFICE

Iron County  
601 Washington Ave, Iron River, MI 49935  
Ph: (906) 265-9913 Fax: (906) 265-2950  
MAIN OFFICE

---

### News Release

Contact: Daren Deyaert, R.S.  
Health Officer  
Phone: (906) 779-7231  
Email: [ddeyaert@didhd.org](mailto:ddeyaert@didhd.org)

### Immediate Release

#### ***The Dickinson-Iron District Health Department Advising Significant Increase in Local Cases***

Kingsford and Iron River, Michigan – September 18, 2020 The Dickinson-Iron District Health Department (DIDHD) has continued to monitor COVID-19 cases within our community since the beginning of this pandemic. The results of positive and probable cases along with recovered cases are posted to our Facebook page Monday through Friday. The recent number of positive and probable cases has significantly increased this month. As of 9/18/2020 at 1:30 p.m. Dickinson County currently reports 93 confirmed cases, 2 probable cases for a total of 95 cases. Iron County currently reports 62 confirmed cases, 2 probable cases for a total of 64 cases.

With the increase in cases, the Dickinson-Iron District Health Department staff have been working diligently to identify close contacts of all individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19. All positive COVID-19 tests are reported to the local public health department and individuals are contacted within 24 hours. An interview is conducted to identify any close contacts they have had during their identified infectious period. A close contact, in regards to COVID-19, is defined as someone who is within 6 feet for longer than 15 minutes. “We are well trained in asking questions in a manner to get the most information we possibly can. We are asking about workplaces, locations that are visited, social gatherings, and travel. We are asking where they’ve been and the nature of visits and interactions,” says Ruth Manier, Community Health Services Director.

If you have been informed by a friend, employer or acquaintance that you may have been exposed to COVID-19, please know that public health is investigating the case. If you are considered a “close contact” by CDC standards and have been identified during an interview, you will be contacted by DIDHD-. It is important to please answer your phone or return any messages left for you by public health.

-CONTINUED-

If you feel that you may have been exposed but have not yet received a call from public health, please err on the side of caution. You should monitor yourself for symptoms and if they develop, get yourself tested.

If you have been notified by a friend, employer, or acquaintance outside of the State of Michigan, please exercise caution and self-quarantine yourself for 14 days. Local public health may or may not be notified of an instance that has occurred out of state.

If you are experiencing any new or unusual symptoms such as respiratory symptoms, shortness of breath, fever (greater than 100.4°F), sore throat, unusual headache, loss of smell or taste, extreme fatigue, nausea, vomiting or cough, please contact your primary care provider to see about getting tested for COVID-19. Public health officials believe COVID-19 is more prevalent than numbers currently show. It is important that when you are sick, you should stay home.

The Dickinson-Iron District Health Department has made available all necessary information to residents and local businesses regarding the importance of preventative measures for COVID-19. The Dickinson-Iron District Health Department continues to advise the business community to remain vigilant by requiring their employees and the public to wear facial coverings and enforce social distancing requirements within their facilities. It is up to community leaders and residents to do their part to prevent COVID-19 cases.

The Dickinson-Iron District Health Department cannot control this virus from being present in our community, only you can. Please do your part by avoiding large gatherings, adhering to the social distancing requirements, wearing a facial covering, and practicing good personal hygiene. For more information or updated local statistics visit [www.michigan.gov/coronavirus](http://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus).

###