



Health Officer

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elkhartcountyhealth.org

Elkhart County Health Department

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Things are always changing in our understanding of Covid-19 and the virus that causes this disease. I want to be sure you know scientists are still finding new things that change our understanding of this epidemic. Here are a few:

Recent studies in the U.S., China, and Britain have found antibody levels in previously infected people drop by half over about 2 ½ months. Antibodies, which help fight infections, often wane over time. For some infections, the body will retain a memory of the virus, and start making antibodies rapidly when re-exposed. More studies are being done to see if this happens with the Covid-19 virus.

This summer weather calls us to enjoy the lakes, rivers, etc. in this county. That is good—water cannot transmit the coronavirus. Use normal water safety measures, and swim safely! In addition, remember, water cannot transmit the virus, but people can. Be careful to distance from others on the shore.

Our two ISDH testing sites can test children older than age 2, so please get any child who is symptomatic, or who may have been exposed to Covid-19 tested. The sites are free. They are at the Northside Middle School Gym in Elkhart, and at the Chicago Ave. Team Rehabilitation site in Goshen. Both sites are open 9AM to 6 PM Tues.-Sat.

The news is full of stories about a vaccine for the SARS-CoV-2 virus, but it is still months away, IF all goes well with this next level of testing. Plan on continuing current mitigation efforts until AT LEAST spring 2021.

The best place to eat meals during a pandemic is at home. However, if you decide to eat out, choose a place where you can eat outside. Transmission of the virus is much less likely to occur outside where there is good ventilation.

Do all you can to keep your loved ones and yourself safe!

Lydia Mertz, MD
Elkhart County Health Officer

Improving the Lives, Health and Environment of our Community



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.