



Health Officer

608 Oakland Ave. | Elkhart, IN 46516 | 574-523-2105

elkhartcountyhealth.org

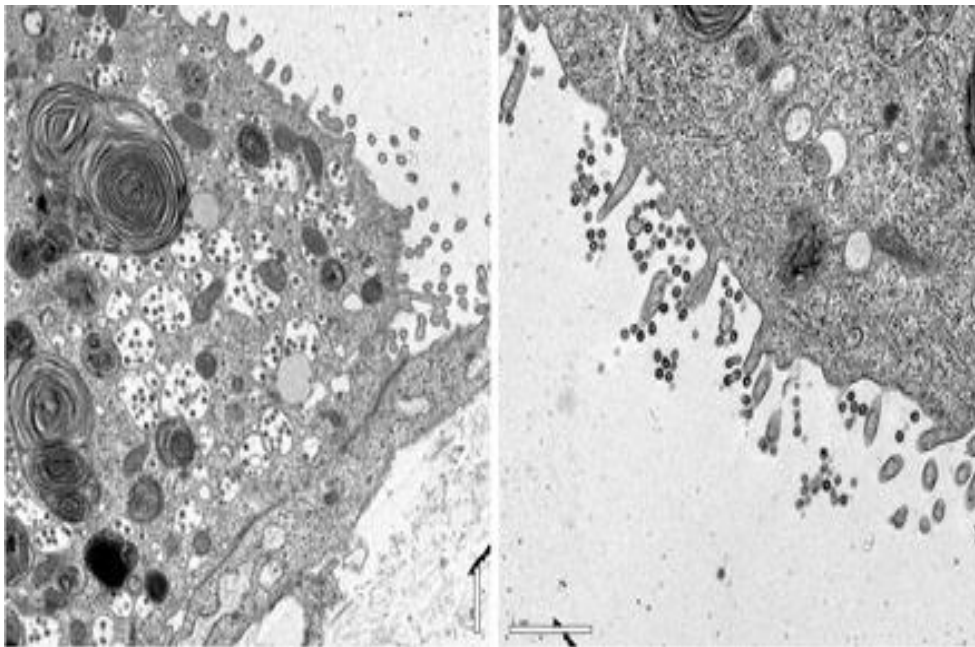
Elkhart County Health Department

Lydia Mertz, MD

Elkhart County Health Officer

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I am going to give you an idea of what we are up against in this fight against the coronavirus.



Here is a human cell inundated with coronavirus or COVID-19 (small black dots in and outside the cell). No cell can survive such a vicious attack.

Improving the Lives, Health and Environment of our Community



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



For example, on the left are normal human lungs. On the right is a lung riddled by COVID-19. The lung that has been attacked by COVID-19 was no longer able to exchange oxygen and carbon dioxide. In other words, this lung is unable to breathe. This diseased lung was from a woman in her 20s, healthy until she contracted this viral illness. Like many her age, she was just living her life, but this virus doesn't care how old you are, what color you are, what language you speak. It is only looking for human lungs.

As you make your plans for this Fourth of July holiday, which traditionally includes family, friends, outings, BBQ, parks, swimming, and a host of other activities, please remember COVID-19 is searching for new victims. Please do all you can to protect yourself and your loved ones.

DISTANCE YOURSELF! MASK UP! WASH YOUR HANDS! STAY SAFE!

Lydia Mertz, MD
Elkhart County Health Officer