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PRESS RELEASE

TO: Marquette County Media

FROM: Marquette County Health Department

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DATE: August 7, 2020

SUBJECT: **Protecting Our Vulnerable Populations – COVID-19**

With the recent and continuing rise in COVID-19 cases within Marquette County and throughout the region, and with the return of our student population to our university campus, the Marquette County Health Department (MCHD) would like to remind citizens to be cautious and considerate of vulnerable populations within our community in consideration of the spread of COVID-19.

The Marquette County Health Department has been collaborating with Northern Michigan University (NMU) in planning a safe return of the student population to the campus in Marquette. MCHD is confident in NMU's strategies to address COVID-19.

However, it is important that we all remain considerate of vulnerable populations that are more susceptible to severe outcomes of COVID-19 as we move through the community in coming months. Vulnerable populations include individuals at higher risk of severe outcomes of COVID-19 infections such as older adults, and individuals with underlying medical conditions, obesity, who are immune compromised, or live in congregate settings.

To protect our vulnerable populations, please consider limiting travel (locally and distant), reducing the number of people encountered, maintaining physical distancing, and to wearing a mask in public. Likewise, high risk individuals should stay vigilant and continue to practice standard precautionary measures to prevent becoming infected by the virus.

As always:

- Clean your hands often. Scrub with soap for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer if you cannot wash.
- Avoid close contact with people, particularly those who appear sick.
- Stay home when you are sick. Call ahead before going to your healthcare provider. Learn what to do if you are sick; <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- Wear a mask. It ultimately protects us all.
- Maintain a 6-foot distance between yourself and people who are not members of your household.

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