



# DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT NO. 2

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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### Follow-Up Results Received for COVID-19 Wastewater Testing

Recently, District Health Department No. 2 (DHD2) received follow-up results for wastewater testing done in the Tawas area. Previous testing done at some medical care facilities and Tawas Area Schools indicated an increase in the levels of the virus that causes COVID-19 found in the wastewater. Follow-up testing results show the level of the virus that causes COVID-19 in the wastewater for Tawas Areas Schools has decreased.

The testing of water in all forms has been a long-standing public health tool to help determine the presence of bacteria or disease and can provide insight into what mitigation strategies may be necessary to protect public health. For example, the purpose of lake water testing can result in a do not swim advisory of public beaches due to high E-coli levels. The previous elevated levels in the community wastewater lead to additional testing and vaccination events being offered in the community. DHD2 will continue to monitor the situation and respond as appropriate.

District Health Department No. 2 is reminding residents of the following steps they can take to help prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- Get vaccinated if you are able; to find a location visit [www.dhd2.org/covid-19](http://www.dhd2.org/covid-19) or [www.vaccines.gov](http://www.vaccines.gov)
- Wear a mask when in indoors and at crowded outdoor settings
- Wash your hands and use hand sanitizer
- Maintain social distancing whenever possible
- Stay home if you are sick
- Get tested for COVID-19 if you are showing symptoms. To find a testing location visit: <https://www.solvehealth.com/search?cobrandedSrpLocation=MI>.

More information on wastewater surveillance can be found on the CDC's National Wastewater Surveillance System website at

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/surveillance/wastewater-surveillance/wastewater-surveillance.html>.