August 6, 2020

COVID-19 Exposure at Camp Michawana

On 8/6/2020, Barry-Eaton District Health Department became aware of an outbreak of COVID-19 at Camp Michawana, located in Hope Township outside of Hastings, Michigan, in Barry County. As of 8/6/2020, 5 staff members and 1 camp visitor have tested positive for the virus, and an additional individual is considered a probable case due to their exposure history and current symptoms. Based upon our initial investigation, we believe that people who have attended or stayed at Camp Michawana on or after July 24th may have been exposed to COVID-19.

Barry-Eaton District Health Department recommends that these individuals self-quarantine at home for 14 days past the last date of their stay at the camp. Individuals should monitor themselves closely for symptoms of COVID-19, and seek testing immediately if symptoms develop.

Camp Michawana is fully cooperating with Barry-Eaton District Health Department and will remain closed for the next two weeks to all visitors. Camp Michawana contains a children’s overnight camp, a family camp, and a traditional-style campground. All three camp styles were active while individuals ill with COVID-19 were present and may have had exposure to individuals with COVID-19.

We estimate that approximately 250 persons attended or staffed the camp in the past two weeks and are at greatest risk of exposure. Approximately 180 campers were children under 18 who attended the children’s overnight camp either last week, or this week. An additional 70 persons were either attendees at the family-style camp, or staff of the camp. BEDHD is partnering with Camp Michawana management to notify those persons directly of their exposure, as many of them are from outside of the local area.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, fatigue, muscle aches, congestion, and loss of taste and smell. Individuals experiencing these symptoms should speak with their healthcare provider and seek testing for COVID-19.

For more information on COVID-19, please visit BEDHD’s page at https://www.barryeatonhealth.org/coronavirus or MDHHS’ page at https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/.