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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

To: All Media  
From: Joel Strasz, Public Health Officer – Bay County Health Department  
Date: January 27, 2022  
Re: **BAY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT ON AGING PROVIDES KN95 FACE MASKS AND RAPID TEST KITS**

**BAY COUNTY, MICHIGAN** – The Bay County Health Department (BCHD) will begin providing free KN95 face masks and rapid antigen tests at the Bay County Health Department located at 1200 Washington Ave in downtown Bay City during normal business hours beginning Friday, January 28. No appointment will be necessary. These items will be available while supplies last.

Due to the highly transmissible omicron coronavirus variant and recent surge in coronavirus cases, the Bay County Health Department will begin providing one pack of ten free KN95 face masks and one box of two tests per person. If interested in receiving these items, visit the Bay County Health Department between the normal business hours of 8:30am-4:30pm Monday-Friday.

Bay County Department on Aging, will also be providing one ten pack of free KN95 face masks and one box of two tests per person while supplies last. Bay County seniors can stop in at the Department on Aging located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the county building (515 Center Avenue, Bay City), Monday-Friday 8am to 5pm, again while supplies last.

As COVID-19 continues to surge with the presence of the highly contagious Omicron variant, getting vaccinated and boosted, as well as wearing a well-fitting mask over your mouth and nose in indoor public settings or crowds is crucial to protect yourself and others from COVID-19. BCHD recommends upgrading your mask to a high filtration respirator, like KN95's, for ideal protection. Free KN95 masks have been made available throughout Michigan as part of the state's Mask Up, Mask Right campaign. Find additional distribution sites at [Michigan.gov/MaskUpMichigan](https://Michigan.gov/MaskUpMichigan) or call the COVID-19 hotline at 888- 535-6136.

Please do your part and help minimize the spread of COVID-19. For the latest and most accurate information regarding the COVID-19 go to the Bay County Health Department website at <https://www.baycounty-mi.gov/Health/COVID19/>.

For more information regarding face masks, visit Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/types-of-masks.html>