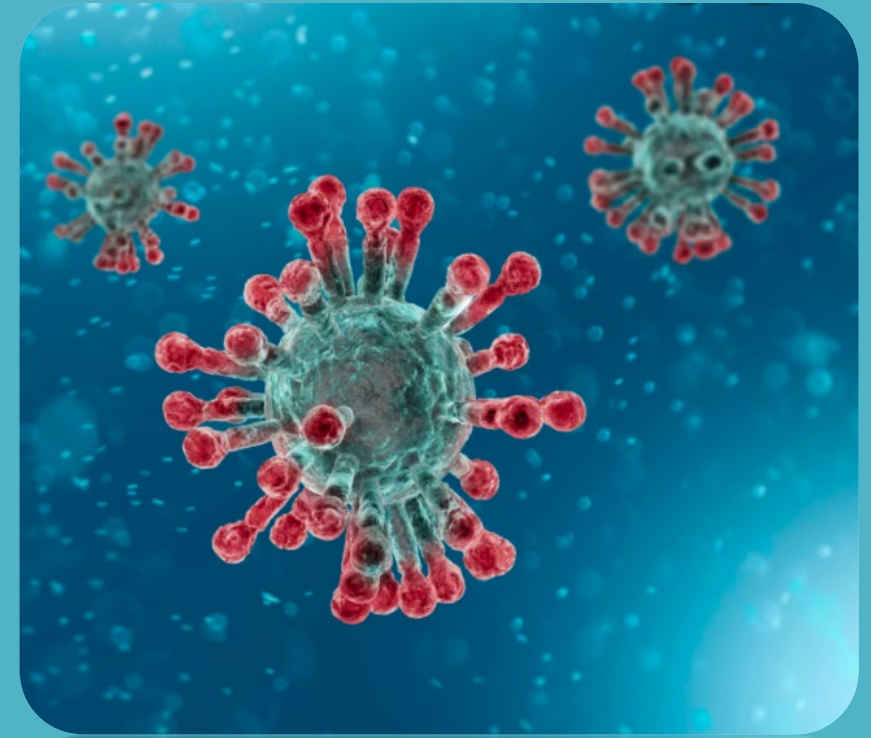




HEALTH
Department

ACHD COVID-19 School Update

2021-2022 School Year
December 22, 2021 Update





HEALTH
Department

About this Report

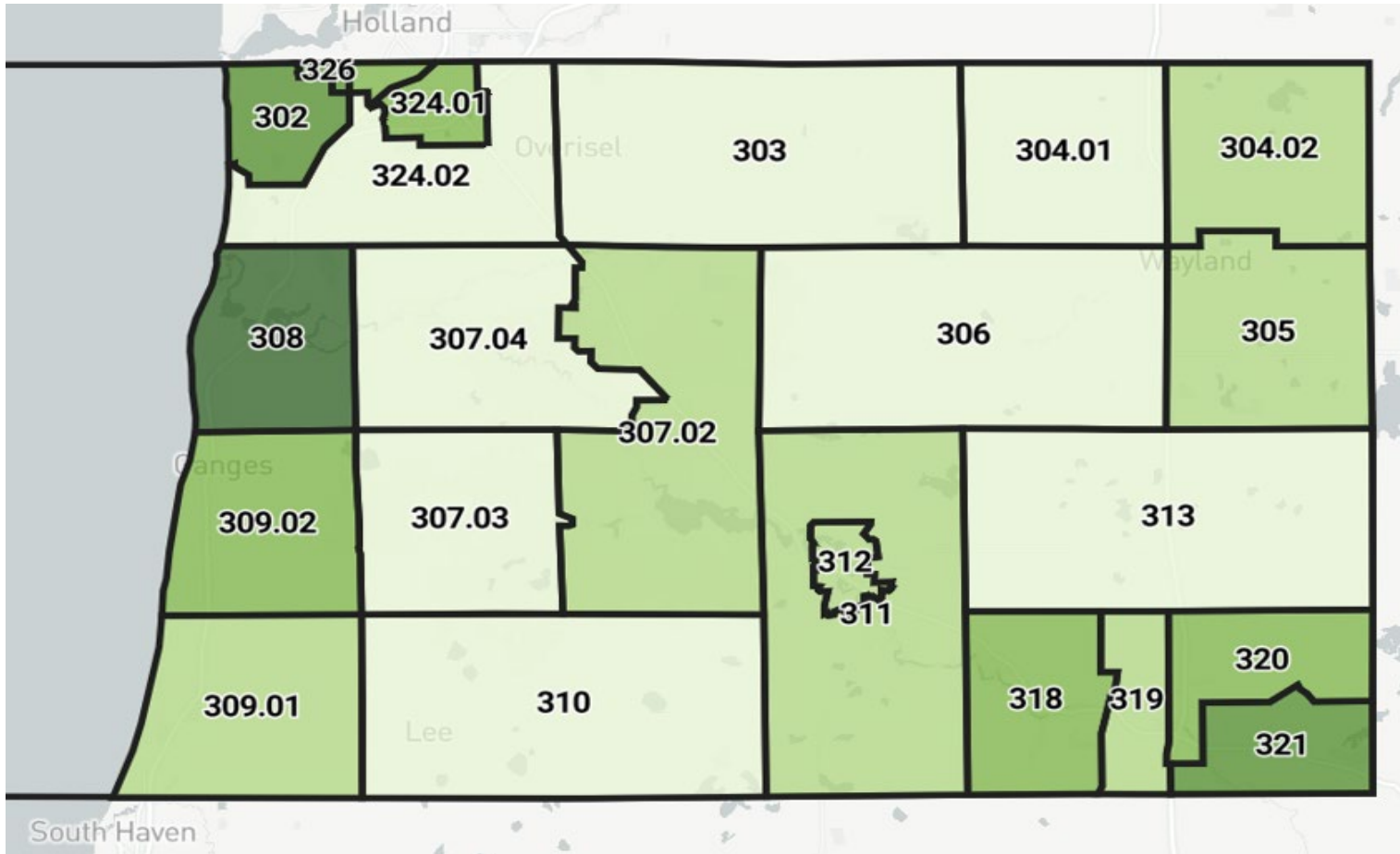
This report is compiled on a bi-weekly basis, and publication will be on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month.

This report will be published under the “Schools” resource section on www.allegancounty.org/covid

This report was created for school leaders, Board of Education members, parents and communities.

If you have suggestions for improvement, please complete an [inquiry form](#)

Allegan County Vaccination Coverage Trends (% Age 16+), As of December 17, 2021

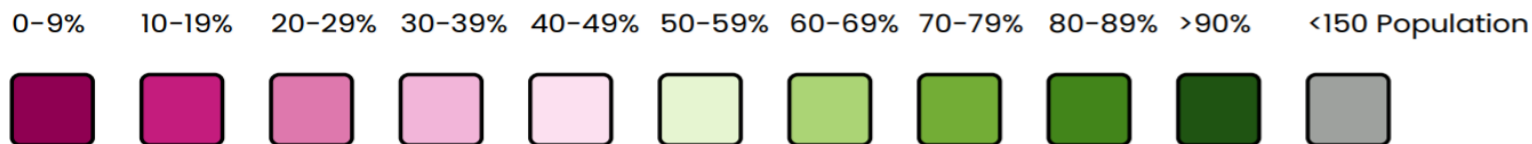


Allegan County Percentage Fully Vaccinated All Ages: 50.2% (57,805/115,250)

Percent Breakthrough, All Ages: 2.51% (1,589/63,247)

- Percent Breakthrough All Ages Data as of 12/3/2021
- Breakthrough case: a confirmed COVID-19 case in a fully-vaccinated individual

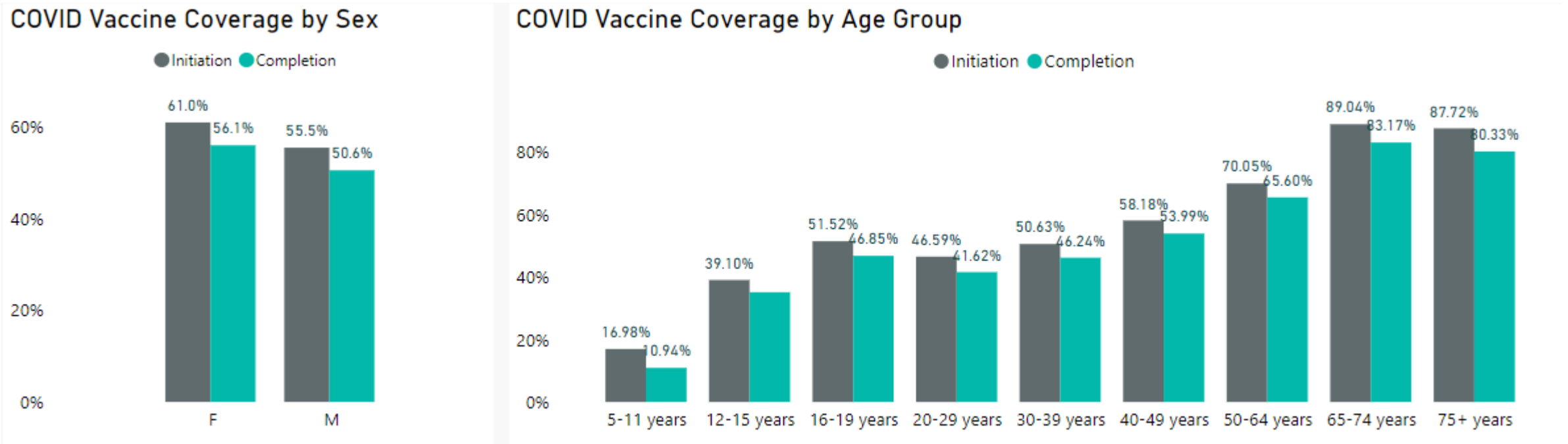
Color coded by: Received 1 or More Dose (% Ages 16+)



MI Lighthouse Report: Region Map

Source: Michigan Disease Surveillance System; MI Lighthouse Report

Allegan County Vaccination by Gender and Age Group, As of December 16, 2021



Age 5-11
 Initiated: 1,874: 17%
 Completed: 1,207: 10.9%

Age 12-15
 Initiated: 2,631: 39.1 %
 Completed: 2,367: 35.2%

Age 16-19
 Initiated: 2,976: 51.6%
 Completed: 2,706: 46.9%

Definitions:

Initiation: Percentage who have received either 1 or more doses of ANY vaccine.

Completion: Percentage of Allegan County Residents receiving 2 doses of Pfizer or Moderna or 1 dose of J&J.

Source: Michigan Disease Surveillance System; [MI COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard](#)

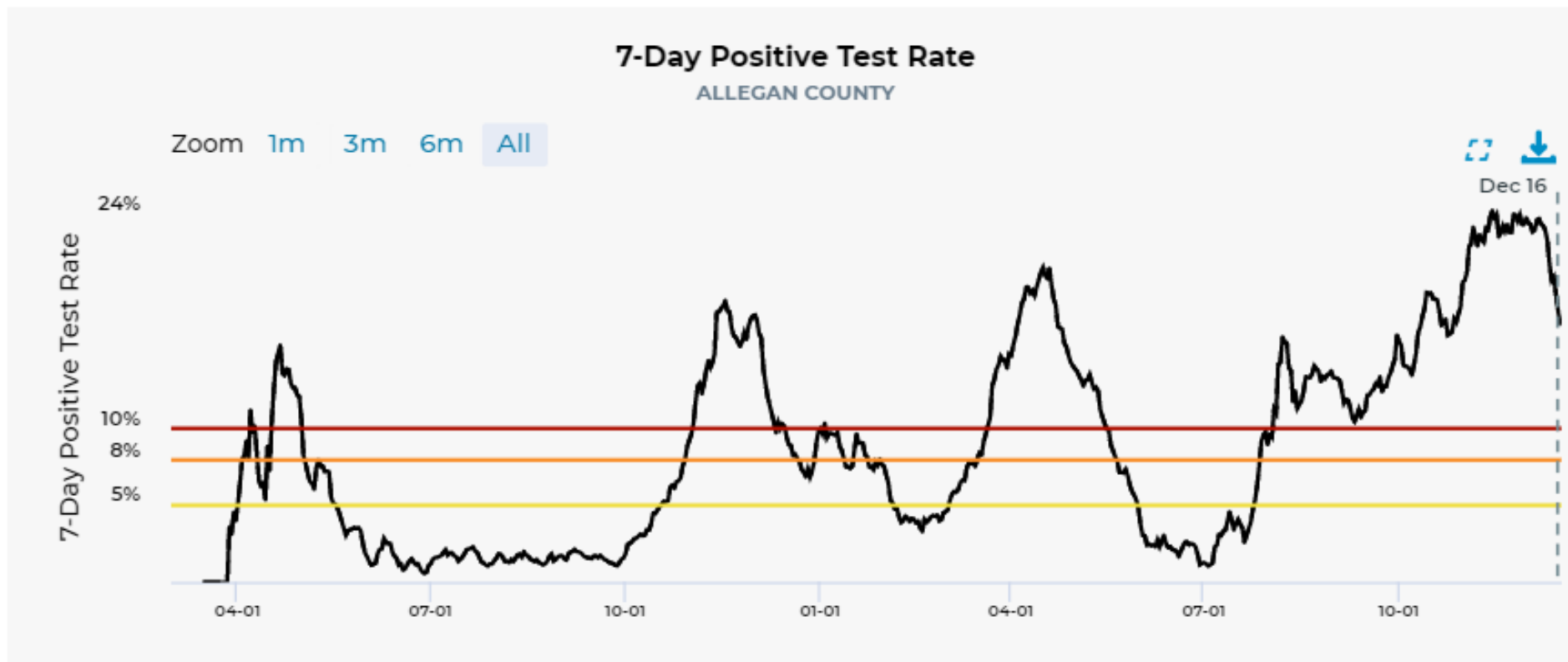
Alleghan County Testing Trends All Ages, As of December 16, 2021

Test Positivity
Dec 10 - Dec 16

16.8%
positive tests

3.2k
daily tests administered per million

2 weeks ⓘ
Nov 26 - Dec 10



Risk Thresholds (% Positive)



Low: <5%



Moderate 5-<8%



Substantial 8-<10%



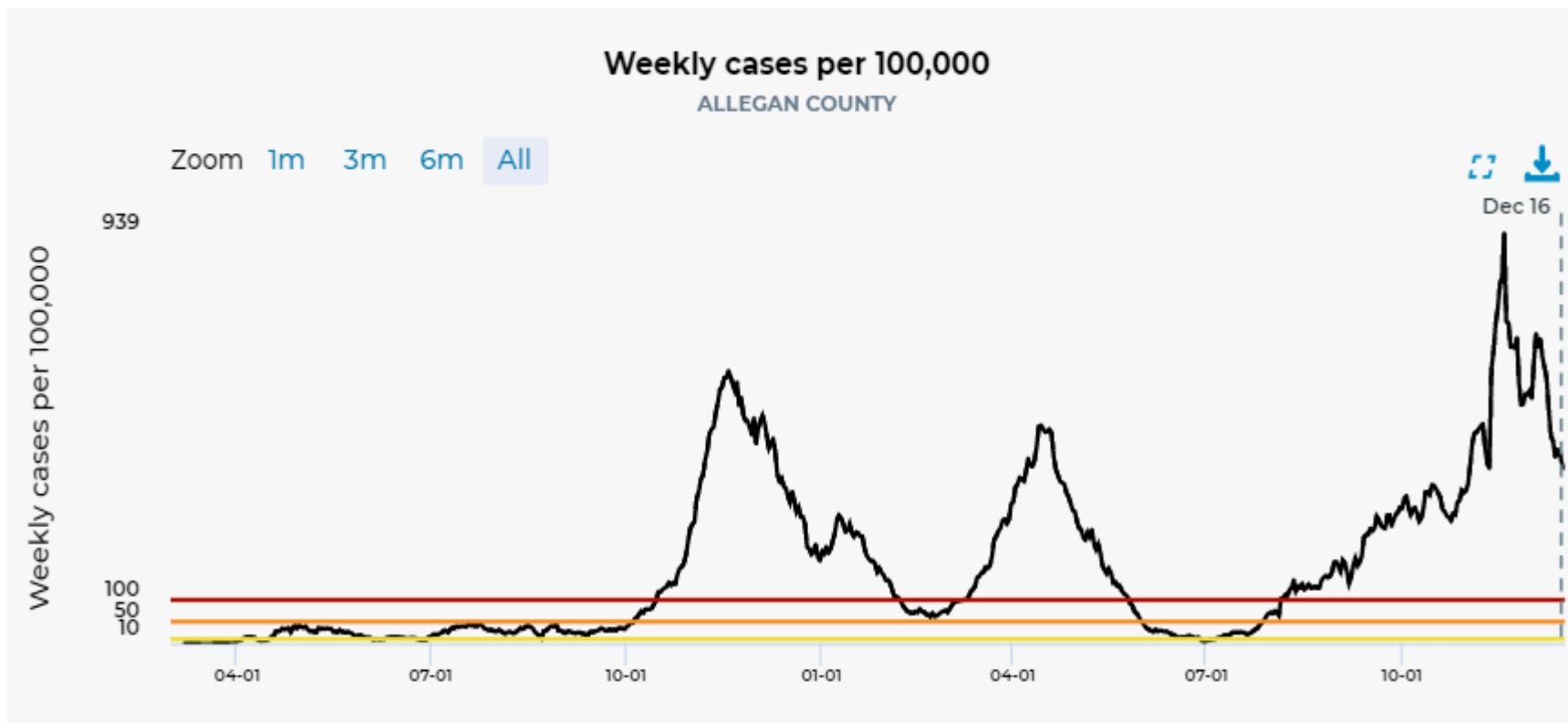
High >=10%

Alleghan County Case Trends All Ages, As of December 16, 2021

✓ **New Cases**
Dec 10 - Dec 16

402.3
weekly cases per
100,000 population

475
weekly cases



Risk Thresholds (Cases per 100,000)



Low: <10



Moderate 10-49



Substantial 50-99



High >=100

Allegan County Case Trends School Ages 3 to 17

March 2020 through December 17, 2021

As of March 2020,
15.0% were asymptomatic cases (no symptoms but tested positive for COVID-19)

Total Cases : 3,179

Data from 3/1/2020 to 12/17/2021

For this section to auto-calculate,
enter the date you exported the data here ----->

03/01/20
mm/dd/yy

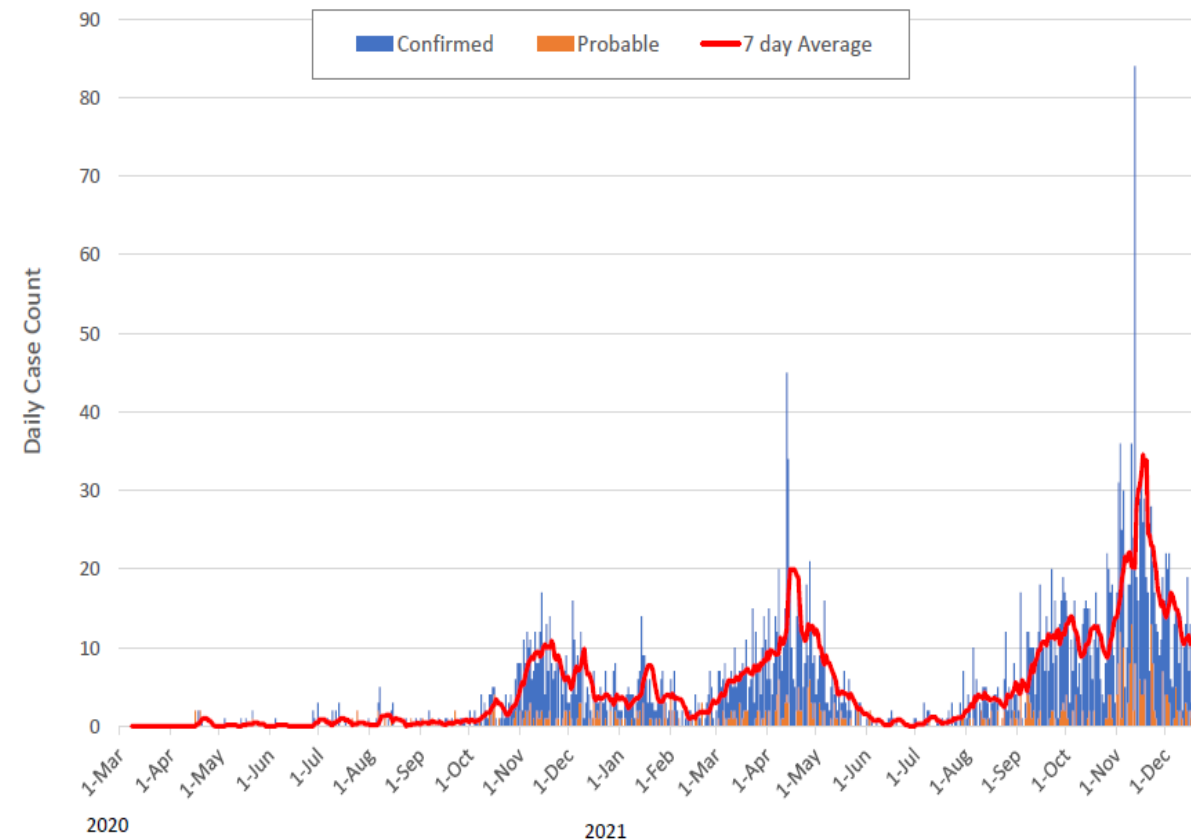
Number of Cases reported since March 2020

3179

| | Count | % ** |
|--|-------|-------|
| In quarantine at time of onset/positive test | 982 | 30.9% |
| Associated with known cluster/outbreak | 74 | 2.3% |
| Any contact (HC, Comm, HH) to confirmed case | 1517 | 47.7% |
| Healthcare Contact to confirmed case | 1 | 0.0% |
| Community Contact to confirmed case | 368 | 11.6% |
| Household Contact to confirmed case | 1200 | 37.7% |
| Attended Community Event/Mass Gathering | 104 | 3.3% |
| Any Travel (international, domestic, in state) | 163 | 5.1% |
| Source of infection is unknown | 1036 | 32.6% |

** Denominator is the number of cases reported in past two weeks

Allegan County COVID-19 Cases In Age 3 to 17 by Referral Date



Allegan County Breakdown of Total COVID-19 Cases
By School Age (3-17)
From March 1, 2020 to December 17, 2021

Allegan County Breakdown of COVID-19 Cases
By School Age (3-17)
Past 2 Weeks , As of December 17, 2021

Breakdown of Cases by School Age Categories

| | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Total Case Count | 3179 |
| Number of Cases <18 years | 3179 |
| % cases <18 years | 100.0% |

Breakdown of Cases by School Age Categories

| | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Total Case Count | 146 |
| Number of Cases <18 years | 146 |
| % cases <18 years | 100.0% |

| <u>Approximate Grade Level</u> | <u>Age</u> | <u>Case Count*</u> | <u>% total cases</u> | <u>% cases <18 years</u> |
|--------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| | 0-2 years | 0 | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Pre-K age | 3-4 years | 202 | 6.4% | 6.4% |
| K-5th grade age | 5-10 years | 1081 | 34.0% | 34.0% |
| 6-8th grade age | 11-13 years | 664 | 20.9% | 20.9% |
| 9-12th grade age | 14-17 years | 1232 | 38.8% | 38.8% |

| <u>Approximate Grade Level</u> | <u>Age</u> | <u>Case Count*</u> | <u>% total cases</u> | <u>% cases <18 years</u> |
|--------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| | 0-2 years | 0 | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Pre-K age | 3-4 years | 13 | 8.9% | 8.9% |
| K-5th grade age | 5-10 years | 57 | 39.0% | 39.0% |
| 6-8th grade age | 11-13 years | 34 | 23.3% | 23.3% |
| 9-12th grade age | 14-17 years | 42 | 28.8% | 28.8% |

**Case counts are based on case ages, which have been grouped into approximate grade levels.
These counts may not reflect the actual grade level of cases.
To prevent double-counting of cases, the age brackets do not overlap.*

**Case counts are based on case ages, which have been grouped into approximate grade levels.
These counts may not reflect the actual grade level of cases.
To prevent double-counting of cases, the age brackets do not overlap.*

Allegan County Case Trends Elementary School Ages 5 to 10

March 2020 through December 17, 2021

As of March 2020,
 45.2% were household contact to a confirmed case
 18.7% were asymptomatic cases (no symptoms but tested positive for COVID-19)

Total Cases : 1,081

CASES REPORTED IN PAST TWO WEEKS: Data from 12/4/2021 to 12/17/2021

For this section to auto-calculate,

enter the date you exported the data here ----->

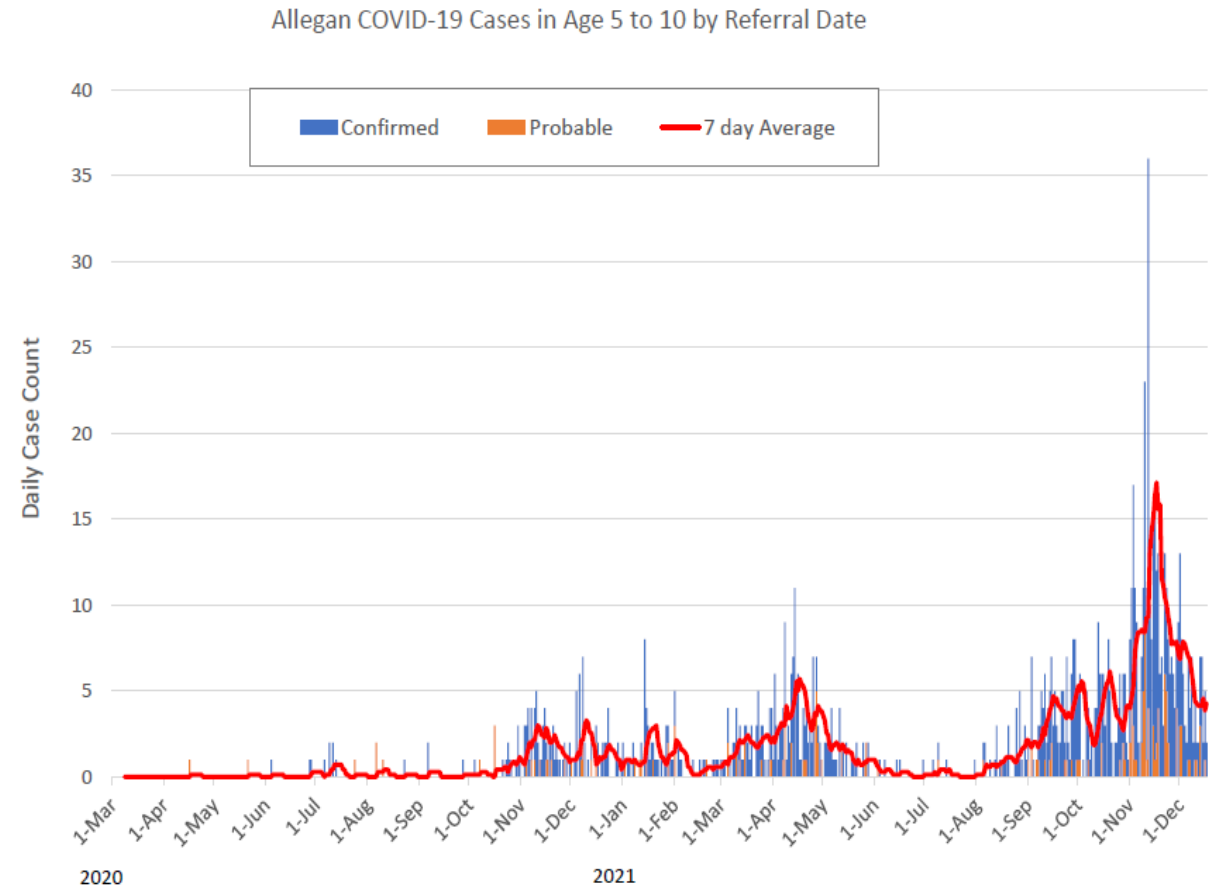
12/17/21
 mm/dd/yy

Number of Cases reported in past two weeks

57

| | Count | % ** |
|--|-------|-------|
| In quarantine at time of onset/positive test | 17 | 29.8% |
| Associated with known cluster/outbreak | 0 | 0.0% |
| Any contact (HC, Comm, HH) to confirmed case | 34 | 59.6% |
| Healthcare Contact to confirmed case | 0 | 0.0% |
| Community Contact to confirmed case | 3 | 5.3% |
| Household Contact to confirmed case | 31 | 54.4% |
| Attended Community Event/Mass Gathering | 2 | 3.5% |
| Any Travel (international, domestic, in state) | 2 | 3.5% |
| Source of infection is unknown | 17 | 29.8% |

** Denominator is the number of cases reported in past two weeks



Allegan County Case Trends Middle School Ages 11 to 13

March 2020 through December 17, 2021

As of March 2020,
 41.6% were household contact to a confirmed case
 14.6% were asymptomatic cases (no symptoms but tested positive for COVID-19)

CASES REPORTED IN PAST TWO WEEKS: Data from 12/4/2021 to 12/17/2021

For this section to auto-calculate,

enter the date you exported the data here ----->

12/17/21
 mm/dd/yy

Number of Cases reported in past two weeks

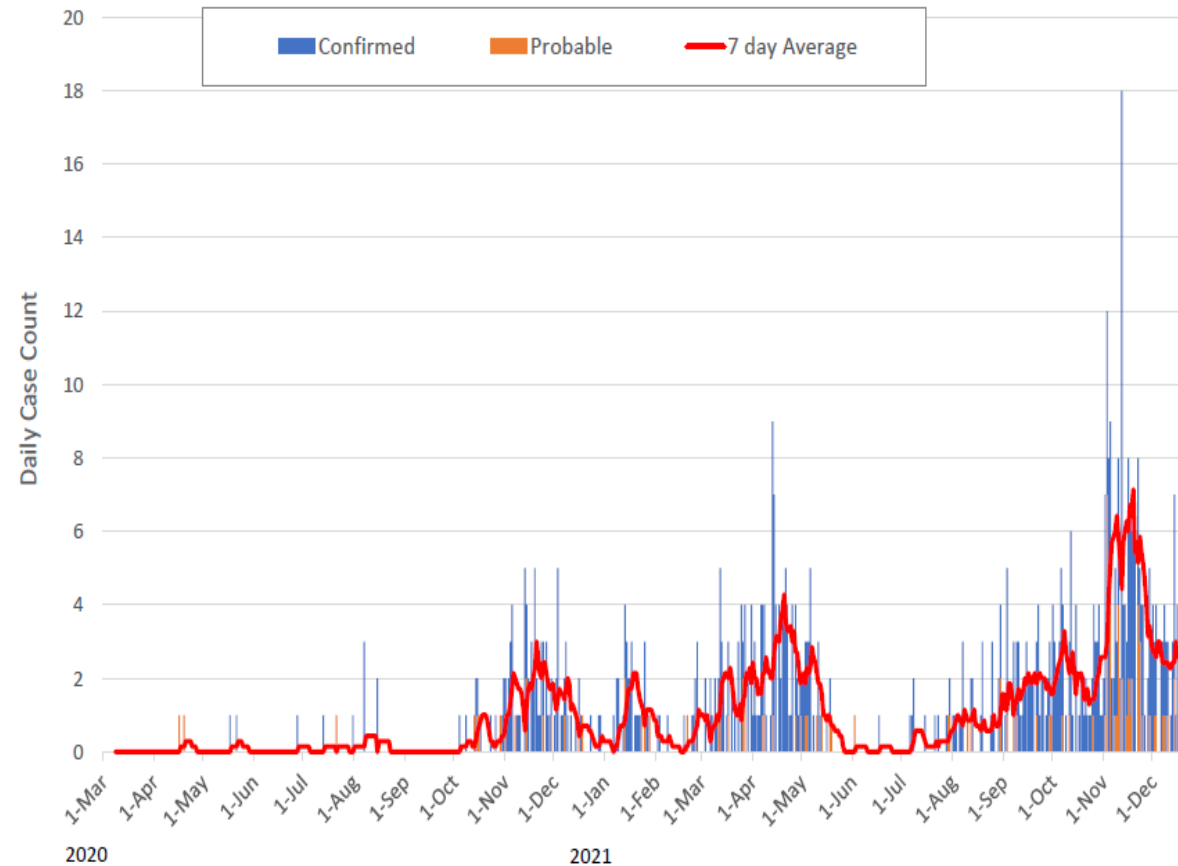
34

| | Count | % ** |
|--|-------|-------|
| In quarantine at time of onset/positive test | 7 | 20.6% |
| Associated with known cluster/outbreak | 0 | 0.0% |
| Any contact (HC, Comm, HH) to confirmed case | 17 | 50.0% |
| Healthcare Contact to confirmed case | 0 | 0.0% |
| Community Contact to confirmed case | 1 | 2.9% |
| Household Contact to confirmed case | 16 | 47.1% |
| Attended Community Event/Mass Gathering | 1 | 2.9% |
| Any Travel (international, domestic, in state) | 0 | 0.0% |
| Source of infection is unknown | 9 | 26.5% |

** Denominator is the number of cases reported in past two weeks

Total Cases : 664

Allegan County COVID-19 Cases in Age 11 to 13 by Referral Date



Source: Michigan Disease Surveillance System

Allegan County Case Trends High School Ages 14 to 17

March 2020 through December 17, 2021

As of March 2020,
 26.3% were household contact to a confirmed case
 11.8% were asymptomatic cases (no symptoms but tested positive for COVID-19)

Total Cases: 1,232

CASES REPORTED IN PAST TWO WEEKS: Data from 12/4/2021 to 12/17/2021

For this section to auto-calculate,

enter the date you exported the data here ----->

12/17/21
 mm/dd/yy

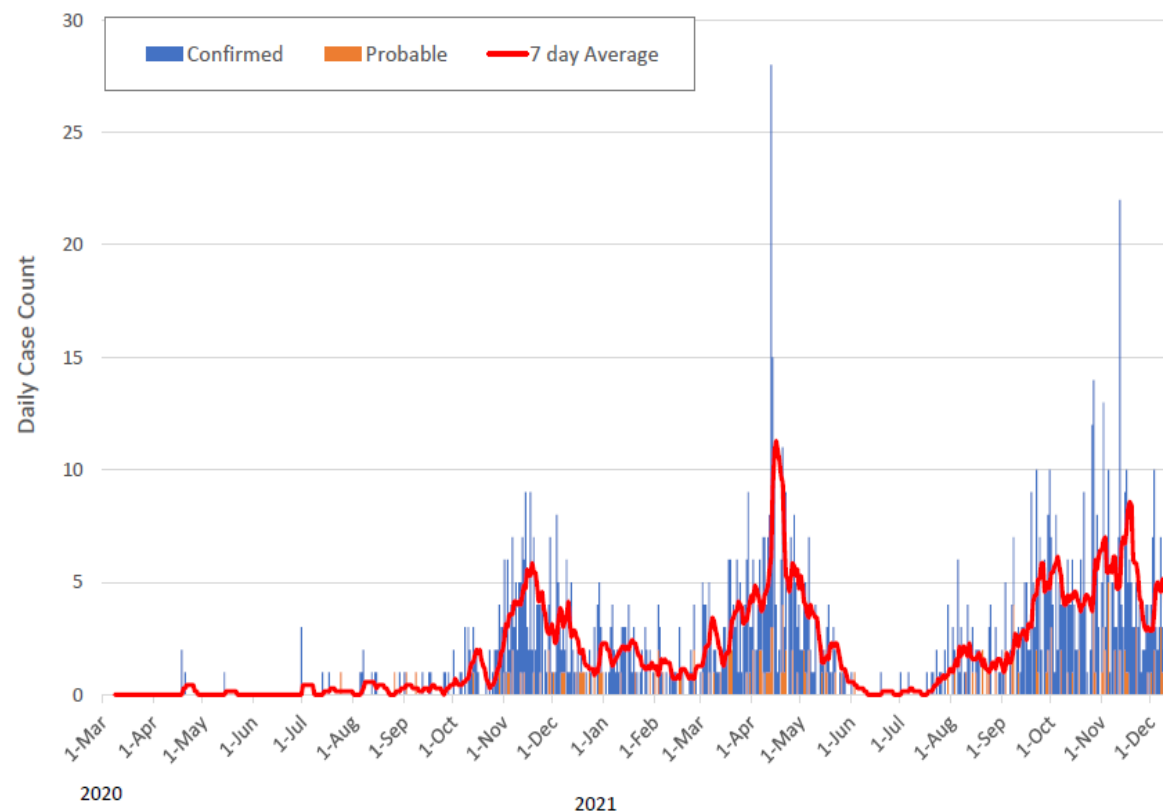
Number of Cases reported in past two weeks

42

| | Count | % ** |
|--|-------|-------|
| In quarantine at time of onset/positive test | 13 | 31.0% |
| Associated with known cluster/outbreak | 0 | 0.0% |
| Any contact (HC, Comm, HH) to confirmed case | 20 | 47.6% |
| Healthcare Contact to confirmed case | 0 | 0.0% |
| Community Contact to confirmed case | 4 | 9.5% |
| Household Contact to confirmed case | 17 | 40.5% |
| Attended Community Event/Mass Gathering | 0 | 0.0% |
| Any Travel (international, domestic, in state) | 0 | 0.0% |
| Source of infection is unknown | 14 | 33.3% |

** Denominator is the number of cases reported in past two weeks

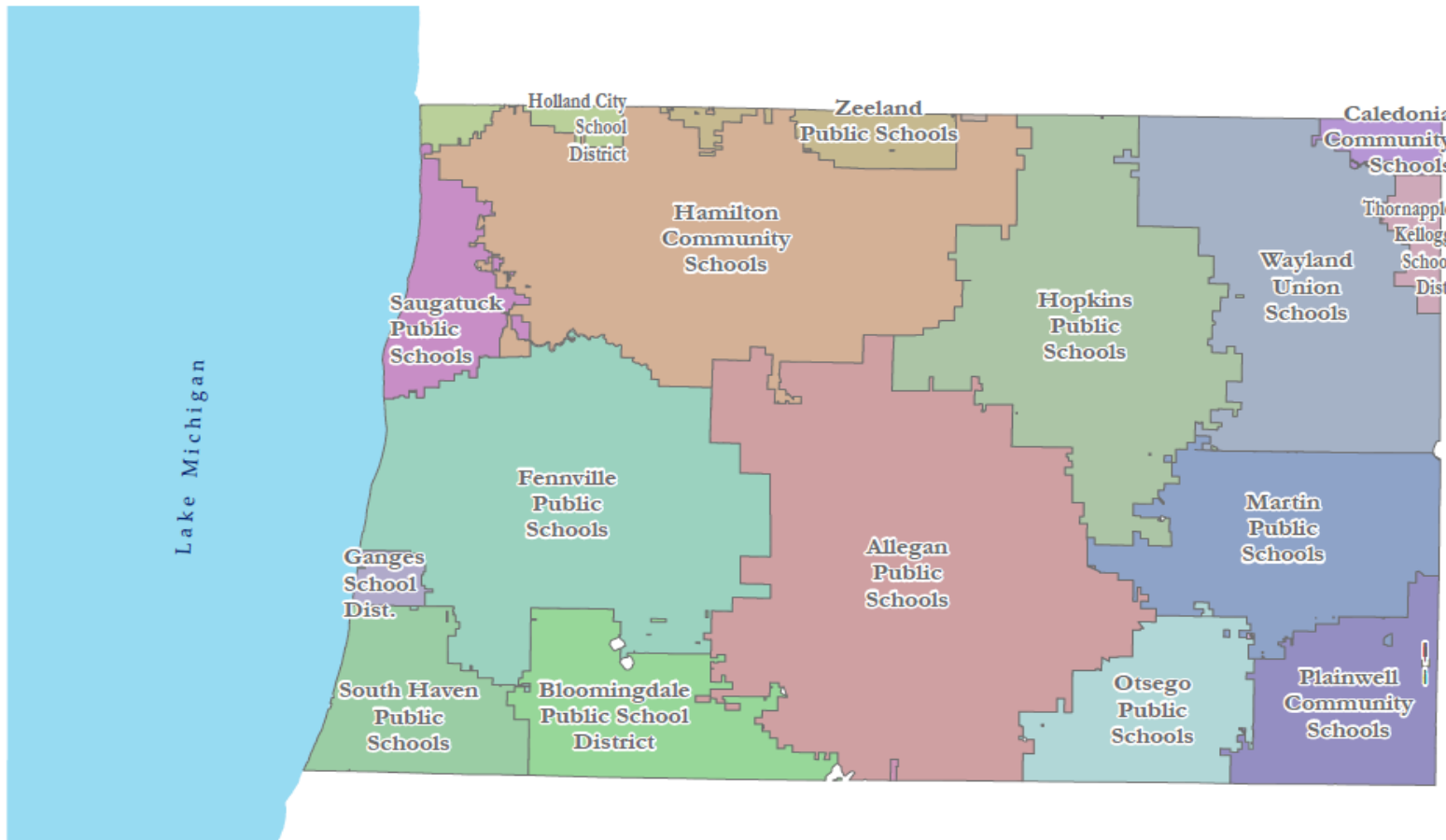
Allegan County COVID-19 Cases in Age 14 to 17 by Referral Date



Source: Michigan Disease Surveillance System

Map for Cases by School District: Data from 12/4/21 to 12/17/21

Allegan County School Districts



Total Cases
(12/4/21 to 12/17/21)

Ages 5 to 10: 55

Ages 11 to 13: 34

Ages 14 to 17: 41

*Please note this data is formulated by address from Michigan Disease Surveillance System and some school age cases in a district may attend school in another district. Cases are updated on all school websites, please see individual school district webpage for more specific case numbers as required by the October 6, 2020 MDHHS Epidemic Order, Reporting of Confirmed and Probable Cases of COVID-19 at School.

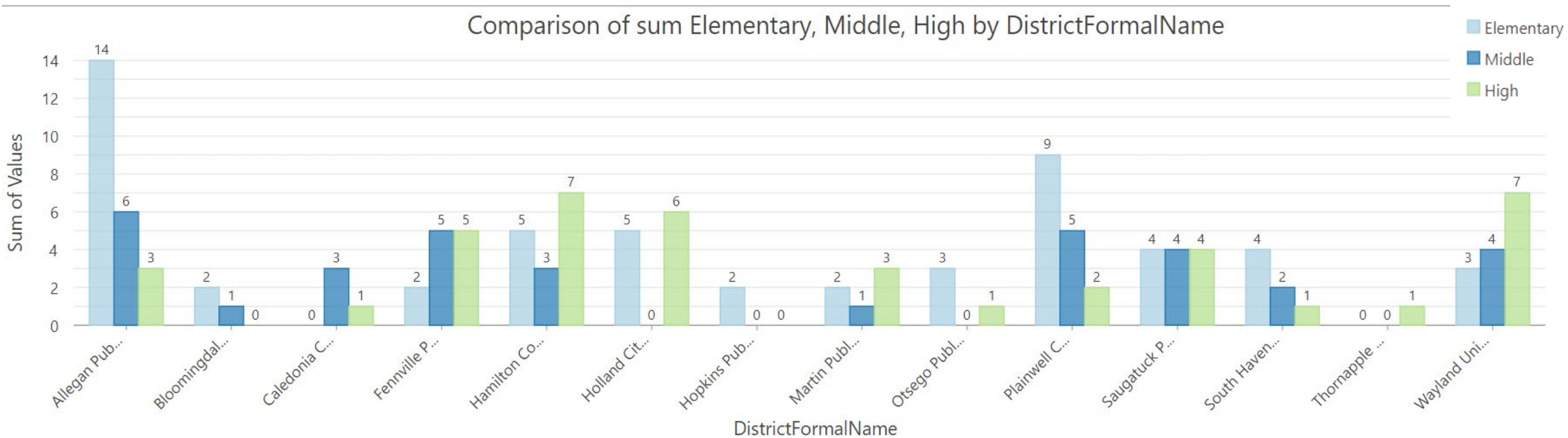
Chart for Cases by School District: Data from 12/3/21 to 12/17/21

Total Elementary Cases: 55

Total Middle School Cases: 34

Total High School Cases: 41

Comparison of sum Elementary, Middle, High by DistrictFormalName



*Please note this data is formulated by address from Michigan Disease Surveillance System and some school age cases in a district may attend school in another district. Cases are updated on all school websites, please see individual school district webpage for more specific case numbers as required by the October 6, 2020 MDHHS Epidemic Order, Reporting of Confirmed and Probable Cases of COVID-19 at School.

| School District | Vaccine Efforts | Mask Requirements | Contact Tracing/ Screening | Social Distancing | Air Ventilation/ Cleaning | Percentage Fully Vaccinated (%) | Number of Cases |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Allegan Public Schools | | √§ | √ | √ | √ | Grade 0-5: 0% Grade 6-8: 19.5% Grade 9-12: 35% | 24 |
| Allegan Area Educational Service Agency (includes ACATEC and Hillside) | | √ | √ | √ | √ | 41% | 3 |
| Fennville Public Schools | √ | | | √ | √ | Elementary: 0% Middle School: 16.3% High School: 33% Pearl Alternative: 21.1% Staff: 62.1% | 3 |
| Glenn Public School | | √ | | √ | √ | Students: 0% Staff: 90% | 0 |
| Hamilton Community Schools | | | | √ | √ | 14.3% | 7 |
| Holland Christian Schools †, ◊ | | | | | | | 3 |
| Hopkins Public Schools** | | | | √ | √ | | 1 |
| Innoacademy- Allegan Campus | √ | | √ | √ | √ | Students: 5.6% Staff: 80% | 0 |
| Martin Public Schools † | | | | | | Grade 0-5: 0% Grade 6-8: 17% Grade 9-12: 21.5% | 1 |
| Moline Christian School†,◊ | | | | | | | 0 |
| Otsego Public Schools | | | | √ | √ | Elementary: 0% High School: 44% Middle School: 29.4% | 7 |
| Outlook Academy | √ | | √ | √ | √ | 43.2% | 0 |
| Plainwell Community Schools | √ | √☼ | √ | √ | √ | 22.3% | 1 |
| Saugatuck Public Schools | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | Douglas Elementary: 0% Middle School: 37% High School: 59.4% | 8 |
| St. Mary's Visitation** | | √ | √ | √ | √ | | 1 |
| St. Margaret School†,◊ | | | | | | | 1 |
| St. Stanislaus School†,◊ | | | | | | | 0 |
| St. Therese Catholic School | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | Students: 0% Staff: 62.5% | 0 |
| Wayland Union Schools | √ | | √ | √ | √ | 16% | 9 |
| * Following ACHD order of K-6 students to wear masks | | | | | | Sources: ACHD School SharePoint Site, ACHD Back to School Survey, MICR | |
| § Following universal masking for K-12 students until January 11, 2022 | | | | | | | |
| ☼ Following universal masking for K-12 students until January 14, 2022 | | | | | | | |
| **Data is insufficient for calculating percent vaccinated | | | | | | | |
| † Did not receive information in the ACHD 21-22 Back to School Survey | | | | | | | |
| ◊ Did not receive roster information to calculate percent vaccinated | | | | | | | |
| Data for Number of Cases is the current number of cases in that district as of 12/20/21. Data for Percent Vaccinated is fully vaccinated/ number of students or staff (roster provided by school district). | | | | | | | |
| Data calculations for percent vaccinated is updated as of 12/20/21. | | | | | | | |

Close Contact Data by School Building (Districts A-M)

| District | School | Total Close Contacts | School Exposure | On Quarantine | Eligible for Self Monitoring / Close Contacts Attending Class | Eligible for Daily Testing | Total student population |
|-----------|----------------|----------------------|-----------------|---------------|---|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| AAESA | ACATEC | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 638 |
| AAESA | Hillside | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 124 |
| Allegan | Allegan HS | 19 | 18 | 10 | 9 | 0 | 581 |
| Allegan | Dawson El | 12 | 11 | 12 | 0 | 4 | 284 |
| Allegan | LE White MS | 42 | 42 | 36 | 6 | 11 | 492 |
| Allegan | Pine Trails El | 29 | 29 | 27 | 2 | 17 | 347 |
| Allegan | West Ward El | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 234 |
| Fennville | Fennville El | 13 | 0 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 551 |
| Fennville | Fennville MS | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 310 |
| Fennville | Fennville HS | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 421 |
| Glenn | Glenn | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 33 |
| Hamilton | Bentheim El | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 234 |
| Hamilton | Blue Star El | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 233 |
| Hamilton | Hamilton El | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 356 |
| Hamilton | Hamilton HS | 3 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 798 |
| Hamilton | Hamilton MS | 21 | 21 | 16 | 5 | 0 | 821 |
| Hamilton | Sandyview El | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 98 |
| Hopkins | Hopkins El | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 397 |
| Hopkins | Hopkins HS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 522 |
| Hopkins | Hopkins MS | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 369 |
| Hopkins | Sycamore El | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 251 |
| Martin | Brandon El | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 288 |
| Martin | Martin HS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 331 |
| Martin | Martin MS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Charter | Innocademy | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 87 |
| Charter | Outlook | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 44 |

This data is the identified current close contacts by each school building on **12/20/2021**. **Note: this is not an aggregate number.**

Source: ACHD School SharePoint Site

Definitions:

- ❑ **Total close contact:** Any school staff or student that was determined to meet the close contact definition (includes household exposures)
- ❑ **Eligible for self monitoring/still attending:** Any close contact that is still attending school due to vaccination status, previous infection in the last 90 days, or both case and close contact were masked during time of exposure.
- ❑ **School Exposure:** the exposure was identified in the school setting
- ❑ **On quarantine:** those that are following the traditional quarantine and not attending school during their quarantine period.
- ❑ **Eligible for Daily Testing:** Any school staff or student identified as a close contact to an unmasked case, but was wearing a mask during the time of exposure. These individuals have a quarantine option to test daily for 7 days in order to stay in school.
- ❑ **Total Student Population:** numbers are from the 2020-2021 school year from [MI School Data](#). Please note this does not include staff numbers. Private schools were not available at the time of publication.

Close Contact Data by School Building (Districts O-W & Non-Public)

| District | School | Total Close Contacts | School Exposure | On Quarantine | Close Contacts Attending Class | Eligible for Daily Testing | Total student population |
|------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Otsego | Dix St. El | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 310 |
| Otsego | Otsego HS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 687 |
| Otsego | Otsego MS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 535 |
| Otsego | Otsego WC HS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 33 |
| Otsego | Washington El | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 427 |
| Plainwell | Gilkey El | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 378 |
| Plainwell | Plainwell HS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 834 |
| Plainwell | Renaissance HS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 61 |
| Plainwell | Starr El | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 452 |
| Plainwell | Plainwell MS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 645 |
| Saugatuck | Douglas El | 10 | 2 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 345 |
| Saugatuck | Saugatuck HS | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 264 |
| Saugatuck | Saugatuck MS | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 206 |
| Wayland | Baker El | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 318 |
| Wayland | Dorr El | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 396 |
| Wayland | Pine St. El | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 405 |
| Wayland | Steeby El | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 241 |
| Wayland | Wayland HS | 22 | 22 | 22 | 0 | 0 | 825 |
| Wayland | Wayland MS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 684 |
| Non-Public | East Martin | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Non-Public | Moline Christian | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Non-Public | St. Margaret's | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Non-Public | St. Mary's | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Non-Public | St. Stanislaus | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Non-Public | St. Therese | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Non-Public | Holland Christian | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |

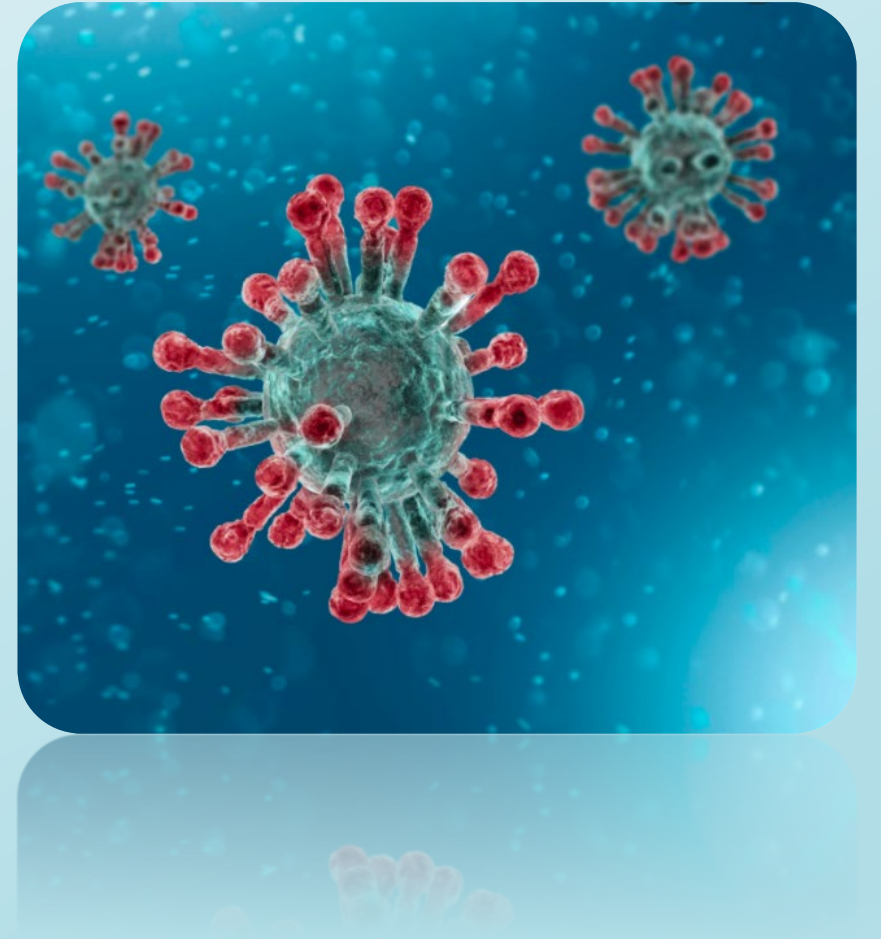
This data is the identified current close contacts by each school building on **12/20/2021**. **Note: this is not an aggregate number.**

Source: ACHD School SharePoint Site

Definitions:

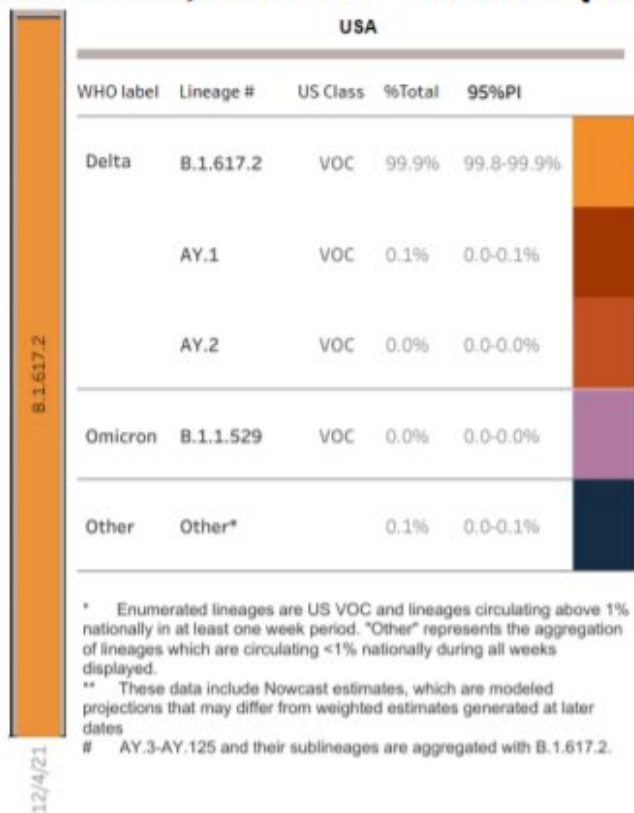
- Total close contact:** Any school staff or student that was determined to meet the close contact definition (includes household exposures)
- Eligible for self monitoring/still attending:** Any close contact that is still attending school due to vaccination status, previous infection in the last 90 days, or both case and close contact were masked during time of exposure.
- School Exposure:** the exposure was identified in the school setting
- On quarantine:** those that are following the traditional quarantine and not attending school during their quarantine period.
- Eligible for Daily Testing:** Any school staff or student identified as a close contact to an unmasked case, but was wearing a mask during the time of exposure. These individuals have a quarantine option to test daily for 7 days in order to stay in school.
- Total Student Population:** numbers are from the 2020-2021 school year from [MI School Data](#). Please note this does not include staff numbers. Private schools were not available at the time of publication.

Science Round Up: School Related Data



Identified COVID-19 Cases Caused by Variants of Concern (VOC) in US and Michigan

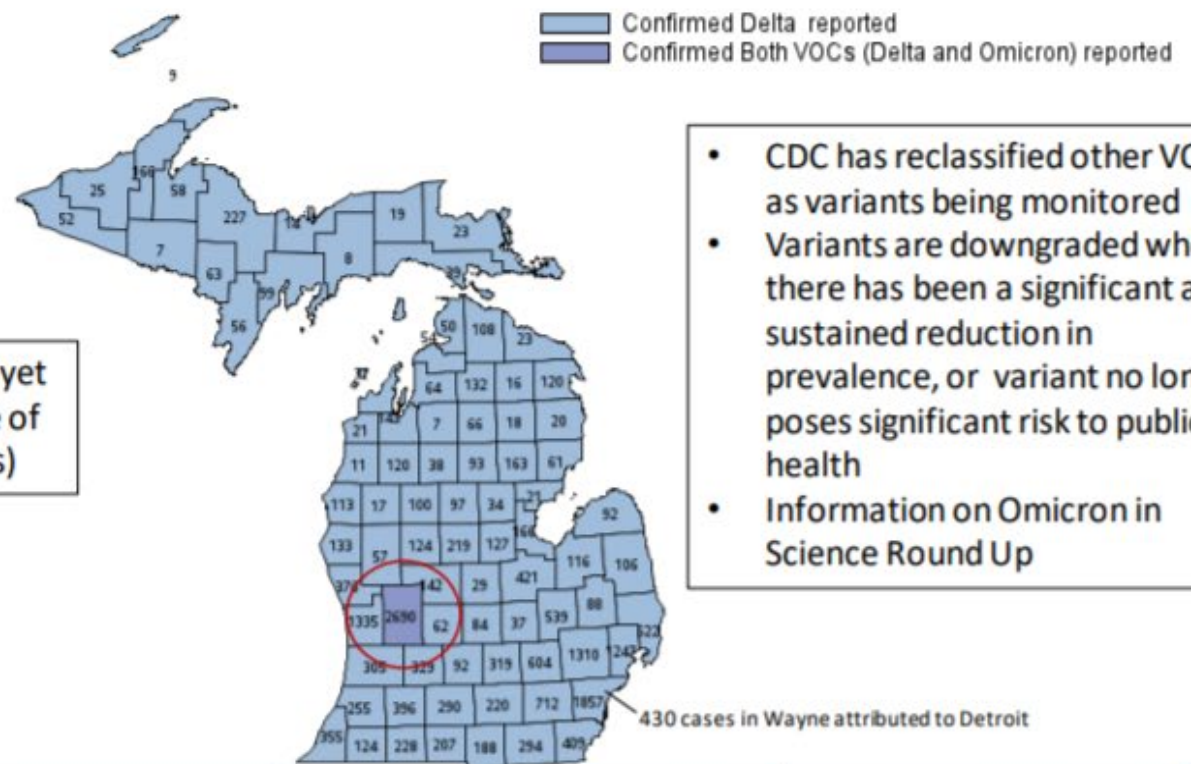
SARS-CoV-2 Variants Circulating in the United States, Nov 27 – Dec 4 (NOWCAST)



Currently, CDC is not yet reporting prevalence of AY.4.2 (i.e., Delta plus)

* Enumerated lineages are US VOC and lineages circulating above 1% nationally in at least one week period. "Other" represents the aggregation of lineages which are circulating <1% nationally during all weeks displayed.
 ** These data include Nowcast estimates, which are modeled projections that may differ from weighted estimates generated at later dates
 # AY.3-AY.125 and their sublineages are aggregated with B.1.617.2.

Variants of Concern in Michigan, Dec 13



- CDC has reclassified other VOCs as variants being monitored
- Variants are downgraded when there has been a significant and sustained reduction in prevalence, or variant no longer poses significant risk to public health
- Information on Omicron in Science Round Up

430 cases in Wayne attributed to Detroit

| Variant | MI Reported Cases* | # of Counties | MDHHS VOC Sequenced Prev. |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| B.1.617.2 (delta) | 19,954 | 83 | >99% |
| B.1.1.529 (omicron) | 1 | 1 | <1% |

Data last updated Dec 13, 2021
 Source: MDSS

Omicron – Update December 14, 2021

How easily does Omicron spread? Omicron variant likely will spread more easily

Will Omicron cause more severe illness? More data are needed

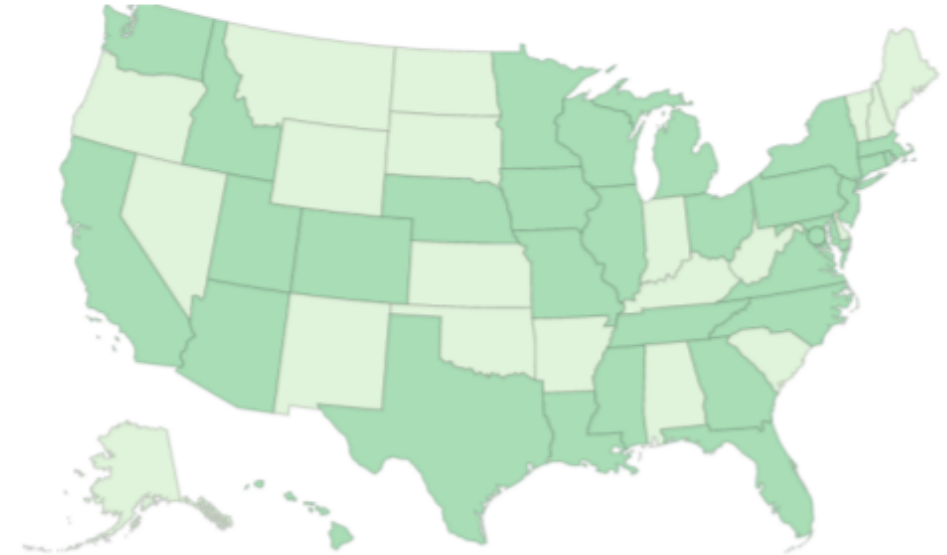
Will vaccines work against Omicron? Current vaccines, especially with booster, are expected to protect against severe illness, hospitalizations, and deaths

Will treatments work against Omicron? More data needed, but some treatments are likely to remain effective while others may be less effective

We have the Tools to Fight Omicron

- Vaccines especially with booster
- Masking
- Avoiding large indoor crowded settings
- Testing for COVID-19
- Using multiple levels of mitigation are more effective to prevent transmission

Source: CDC [Omicron Variant: What You Need to Know](#)



Territories

AS GU PR VI MP FM PW MH

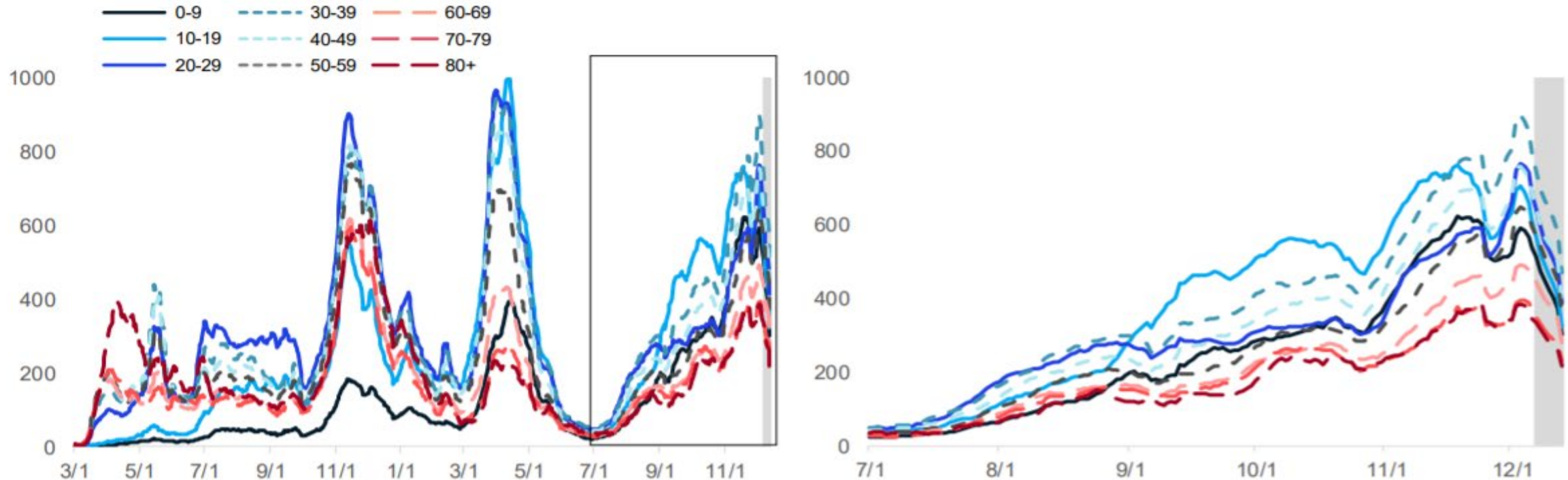


- As of Dec 14, 2021, 31 states and territories have reported identification of the Omicron variant
- As of Dec 13, 2021, at least one county in Michigan has identified a case with the Omicron variant

Michigan Trends, as of December 14, 2021

Case Rate Trends by Age Group

Daily new confirmed and probable cases per million by age group (7-day rolling average)



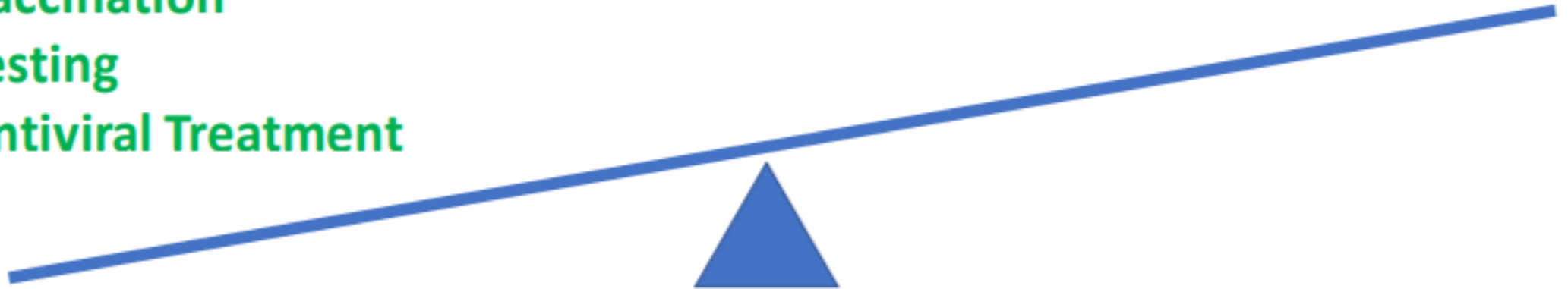
- Case rate trends for most age groups saw increases following the Thanksgiving holiday but are decreasing again
- Case rates by onset date for all age groups are between 345 and 792 cases per million (through 12/6)
- Case counts and case rates are highest for 30-39-year-olds this week

Note: Case information sourced from MDHHS and reflects date of onset of symptoms
Source: MDHHS – Michigan Disease Surveillance System

When Mitigation Measures Are Widely Implemented, Pandemic Burden is Offset

Wearing Masks
Vaccination
Testing
Antiviral Treatment

Variants (e.g., Delta, Omicron)
Influenza
Risk to nursing homes
COVID Pressure on Hospitals



Key Messages

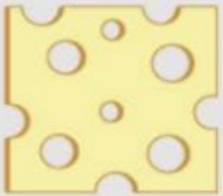
- We have the tools to control community spread, protect the vulnerable, and prevent disruptions (e.g., quarantine, hospitals overwhelmed)
- Together, these tools work even against variant strains

Mitigation Strategies for Schools

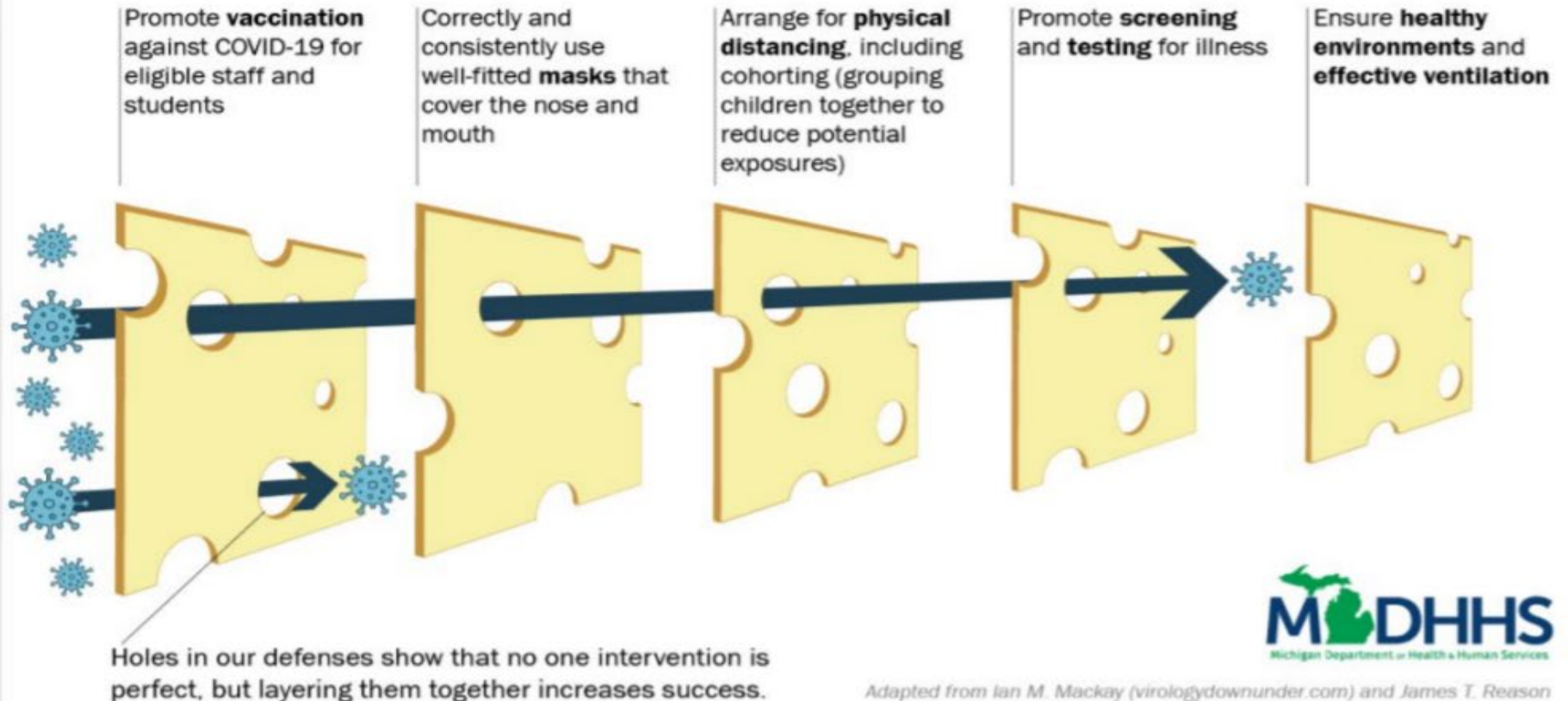
Layers of Defense Against COVID-19 in Schools

CDC recommended prevention strategies can be layered in different ways – the number and intensity of the layers can increase if community transmission increases

As community transmission increases, more holes appear in the defenses, meaning more layers of protection may be needed.



As the vaccination rate within a building or facility increases, fewer holes will appear in the defenses.



Adapted from Ian M. Mackay (virologydownunder.com) and James T. Reason

Safer Ways to Celebrate Holidays

Holiday traditions are important for families and children. There are several ways to enjoy holiday traditions and protect your health. Many generations tend to gather to celebrate holidays. Here are some ways to celebrate the holidays more safely:



- The best way to minimize COVID-19 risk and keep your family and friends safer is to **get vaccinated** if you're eligible.
- If you are sick or have symptoms, don't host or attend a gathering.
- Regardless of vaccination status, all those aged 2 or older, you should **wear a mask in indoor public places** in areas of substantial or high SARS-CoV-2 transmission and in crowded, poorly ventilated outdoor areas.
- **Before a multihousehold gathering, consider taking a rapid antigen test**, regardless of whether you've been in contact with someone with COVID-19; if you test positive, stay home until you consult your provider and rule out any possibility of infecting others.
- Consider a setting where people can spread out and where there can be good ventilation.
- If you are traveling for a holiday event, follow domestic and international travel guidelines and public health recommendations.
- Practice healthy hygiene – e.g., proper respiratory etiquette, wash your hands frequently, and avoid touching your face.
- People who have a condition or are taking medications that weaken their immune system may not be fully protected even if they are fully vaccinated. They should continue to take all precautions recommended for unvaccinated people, including wearing a well-fitted mask, until advised otherwise by their healthcare provider.
- Visit the CDC COVID-19 [Safer Ways to Celebrate Holidays](#) and [Travel Guidelines](#) for more information on how to keep yourself and your loved ones safe this holiday season.



HEALTH
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Questions on the School Reports?

Please submit an [inquiry form](#) with your questions and your contact information.