



COVID-19 BOARD OF COMMISSIONER UPDATE

DECEMBER 21, 2021

DATA AS OF DECEMBER 20, 2021

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following report contains COVID-19 related data from December 4, 2021 to December 17, 2021 on the 5 mitigation components Allegan County Health Department (ACHD) previously identified. Allegan County is currently experiencing a decline in test positivity and new cases since our December 7, 2021 update. However, the County is still in High Community Transmission. There are still too many cases for ACHD to investigate in a timely manner. Because of this, ACHD has continued to prioritize cases under the age of 19, over the age of 65, or those individuals living or working in a high risk setting. The health systems that surround the Allegan County Area have over 20% of inpatient beds that are COVID-19 positive. Many hospitals in our area are over 70% occupancy, which means there are less resources to care for those with other urgent medical needs such as trauma from a car accident or a heart attack. Vaccination coverage continue to slightly increase, however Allegan County is not set to hit the 70% goal of residents over 16 vaccinated before the December 31, 2021 deadline based on current trends.

OMICRON AND TESTING

Testing availability is a high concern for ACHD. Currently, there are 1-3 free testing events per week in the county that are supported by MDHHS and HONU Management group. The Omicron Variant has been detected in West Michigan ([December 9 Press Release](#)). CDC expects that anyone with the Omicron infection can spread the virus to others, even if they are vaccinated or don't have symptoms. As data suggests, this variant is more transmissible than the original SARS-CoV-2 virus, so testing access will be extremely important to identify infections and separate the infected from the rest of the population. Timely accessible testing allows individuals to determine quickly if they have COVID-19 and reduces spread in schools or workplaces. More information on the Omicron Variant can be found [here](#).

ACHD continues to promote mitigation measures individuals can take to reduce their risk of COVID-19.

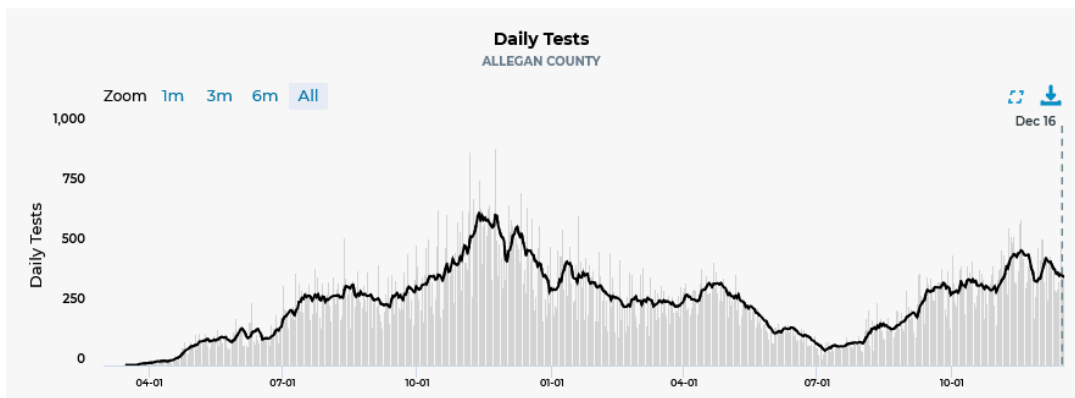
COVID-19 MITIGATION COMPONENTS



ENHANCED ABILITY TO TEST

COUNTY LEVEL DATA

The Testing Positivity Rate has been decreasing for the last 2 weeks in Allegan County. Allegan County is currently at 16.8% 7-day positivity, with 3.2k daily administered tests per million. The number of daily tests administered has slightly decreased compared to the December 7 BOC Update where there was 3.3k daily administered tests per million.



ARE PEOPLE ABLE TO GET TESTED?

Testing access has been a challenge for many in Allegan County. Increased demand has caused challenges with same-day access and limited supply availability. ACHD has focused on making COVID-19 testing more accessible for our community members, however, more testing is needed in our County. ACHD is looking to increase testing capabilities starting in January 2022.

In October 2021, ACHD partnered with MDHHS and HONU Management to bring more testing access to Allegan County. Testing locations have merged with vaccine clinic locations to reduce barriers that many have been experienced to testing, including transportation, availability, insurance, and cost.

During the last two week period, the number of tests given and percent positivity from testing events:

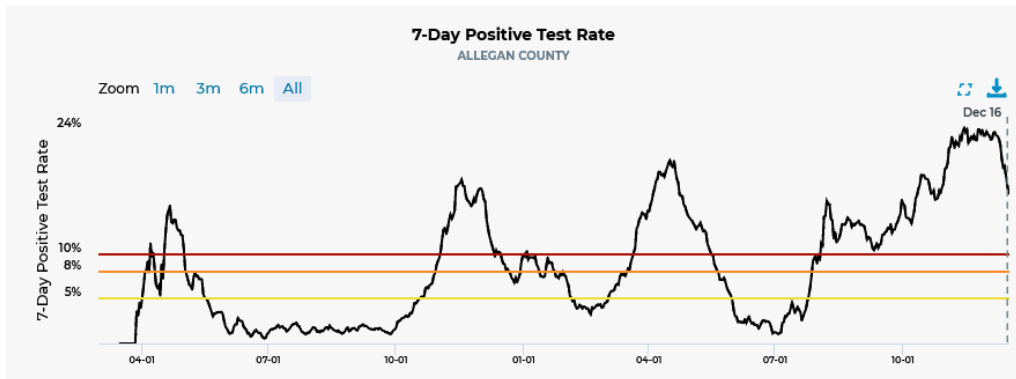
- 2 testing events the week of 12/5-12/11. 150 tests administered, 24% test positivity from events
- 3 testing events the week of 12/12-12/18. 150 tests administered, 22.7% test positivity from events

Test Positivity Dec 10 - Dec 16	16.8% positive tests	3.2k daily tests administered per million	2 weeks Nov 26 - Dec 10
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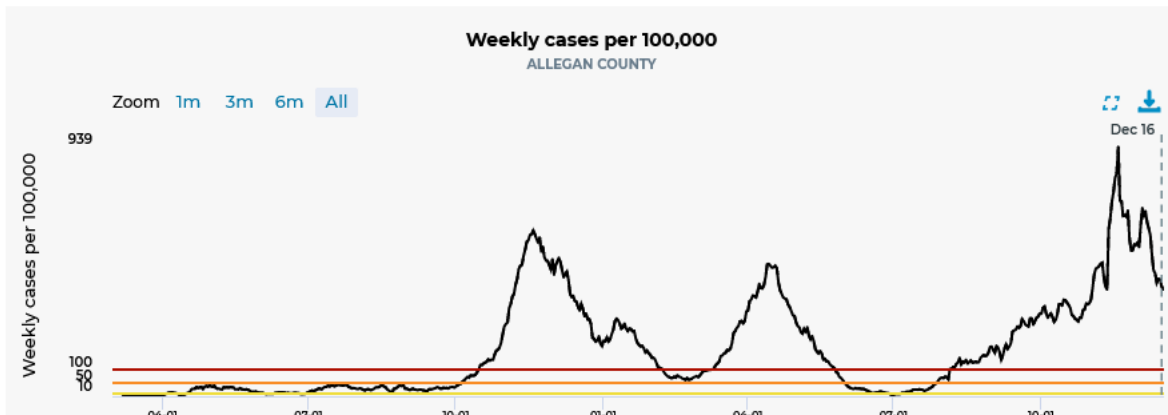
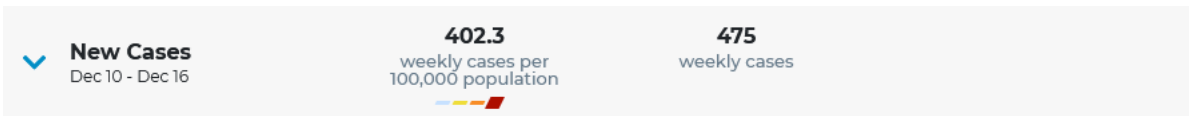
ROBUST CASE INVESTIGATION AND CONTACT TRACING

ALLEGAN COUNTY COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION LEVEL: HIGH

Allegan County has been in a high level of community transmission since early August 2021. We've seen a steady increase in cases since then, with the highest case rate being 938 weekly cases per 100,000 (11/12/21-11/18/21). During the period 12/10/21-12/16/21, case rates have declined to 502.3.6 per 100,000.



With case rates high, our public health and healthcare systems struggle to provide case investigation, contact tracing, and healthcare services such as routine procedures and hospital inpatient capacity. The majority of cases are in the unvaccinated; it is incredibly important for people



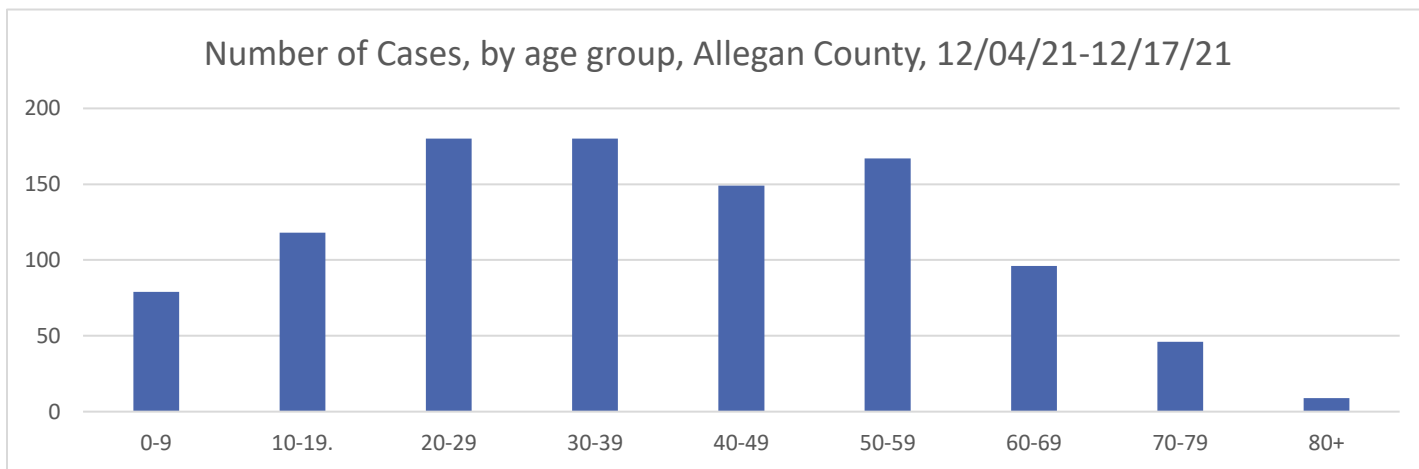
who are not yet vaccinated to get their first dose as soon as possible. We still have much to learn about the Omicron Variant, but CDC expects that anyone with Omicron infection can spread the virus to others, even if they are vaccinated or don't have symptoms. Scientists are currently investigating Omicron, including how protected fully vaccinated people will be against infection, hospitalization, and death. Timely and easy access to testing will help identify cases sooner and limit spread. More information on the Omicron Variant can be found [here](#).

CASE INVESTIGATION

Due to the high transmission level and the number of cases reported in a week, ACHD is not able to investigate all cases. Because of this, ACHD currently investigates only the following groups of individuals:

- Individuals under the age of 19, school aged
- Individuals over the age of 65
- Individuals living in a congregate setting where risk of transmission is high

CASES IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS, BY AGE GROUP (12/04/21-12/17/21)



From 12/04/21 to 12/17/21, Allegan County had a reported **16% of household close contacts that became cases** – meaning they lived with someone who tested positive and later tested positive themselves. Notifying close contacts helps individuals know that they were exposed and allows close contacts to make more informed decisions on their day-to-day lives. On December 3, 2021, ACHD began using the State’s Patient Education Genius (PEG) platform to help with case investigation. This sends the case investigation questions to the case directly through an email or text message link.

DATA AS OF DECEMBER 20, 2021

1,025 cases reported in the MDSS from 12/04/21 to 12/17/21

859 letters sent to cases from 12/04/21 to 12/17/21

LETTERS AND CLOSE CONTACTS

ACHD continues to send letters of exposure to individuals identified as close contacts during the case investigation process. These letters include quarantine expectations, actions to take, and phone numbers to call if individuals have additional questions, or need further assistance. We are not sending letters of exposure to every single close contact in Allegan County (just prioritized cases) due to the high amount of cases in Allegan County. If individuals need a letter, they can request one. These letters help with students that were exposed in the school with a return to school date and workers with a letter when they cannot work due to an exposure.

WHY SHOULD PEOPLE QUARANTINE IF THEY WERE EXPOSED?

Quarantine separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick. This helps people from unknowingly exposing or infecting others. ACHD currently recommends a 10 day quarantine period or a 7 day quarantine option with proof of a negative test on day 7. Keeping the infected and exposed separated from healthy individuals can help control the virus spread.

663 close contacts currently being monitored as of 12/20/21

575 quarantine letters sent from 12/04/21 to 12/17/21

SCHOOLS

In October 2021, ACHD began publishing biweekly school reports to help parents, educators, and leaders make informed decisions.

View school reports here:

- [December 7th Report](#)
- December 21st Report, to be posted on <https://www.allegancounty.org/health/covid-19/covid-19-resources> by 5pm on December 21.

SUFFICIENT HEALTH CARE CAPACITY

HOSPITALIZATIONS

Allegan County falls in the Region 5 Health Care Coalition. Given the location of the county, some community members will access hospitals in the Region 6 Health Care Coalition (Grand Rapids-Holland Region). Both regions published press releases sharing concerns of the hospital capacity in their regions before the Thanksgiving holiday. The chart below lists the hospitals that Allegan County community members may access for COVID and non-COVID related health needs and their current capacity levels.

The figures following the hospital chart show the current percentage of inpatient beds treating COVID-19 patients, for the Grand Rapids Region (Region 6), and Kalamazoo Region (Region 5). The Grand Rapids Region has 25.5% of inpatient beds that are COVID-19 positive, and the Kalamazoo Region has 25.3% of inpatient beds that are COVID-19 positive, as of December 16, 2021.

HOSPITALS IN THE ALLEGAN COUNTY AREA

Note: Some smaller hospitals might not have ICU beds for COVID or non-COVID patients

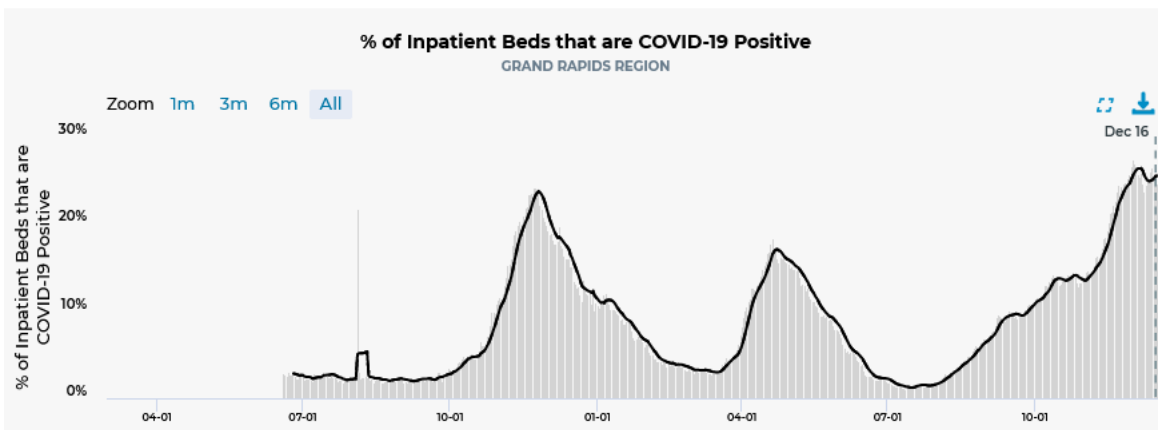
Hospital	COVID-19 Patients	COVID-19 Patients in ICU	Bed Occupancy %
Allegan General Hospital	6	0	40%
Ascension Borgess Hospital	51	13	77%
Ascension Borgess-Pipp Hospital	0	0	47%
Bronson Methodist Hospital	86	9	91%
Bronson South Haven	2	0	100%
Holland Community Hospital	38	9	77%
Mercy Health Mercy Campus	76	32	85%
Mercy Health St. Mary's Main Campus	55	13	100%
Metro Health Hospital	53	5	90%
Spectrum Health - Blodgett Hospital	115	33	100%
Spectrum Health - Butterworth Hospital	66	52	92%
Spectrum Health Zeeland Hospital	34	6	80%
Spectrum Helen DeVos Children's Hospital	11	0	84%

Data as of 12/13/2021

✓ **Hospital Capacity**
 Dec 10 - Dec 16

25.5%
 beds for COVID * ⓘ

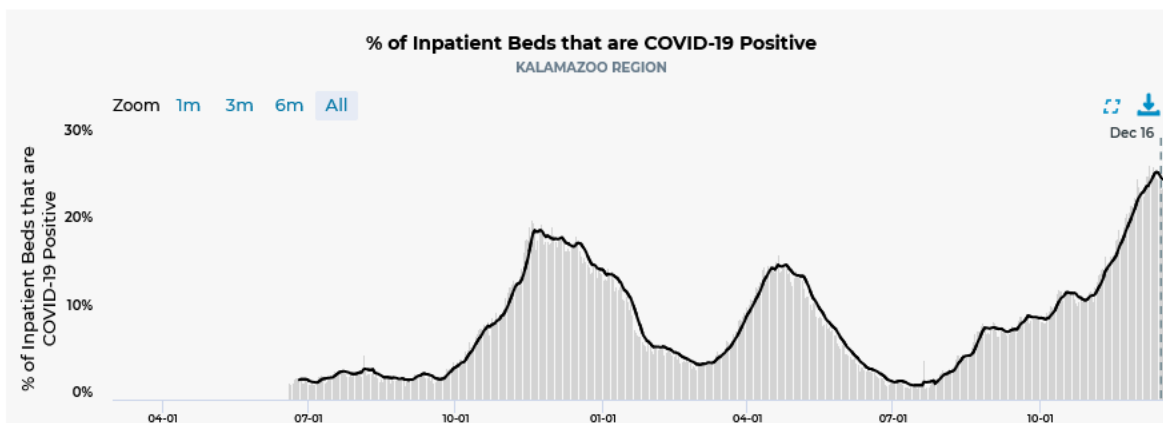
1.6k
 inpatient beds per million



✓ **Hospital Capacity**
 Dec 10 - Dec 16

25.3%
 beds for COVID * ⓘ

1.4k
 inpatient beds per million



DATA AS OF DECEMBER 20, 2021

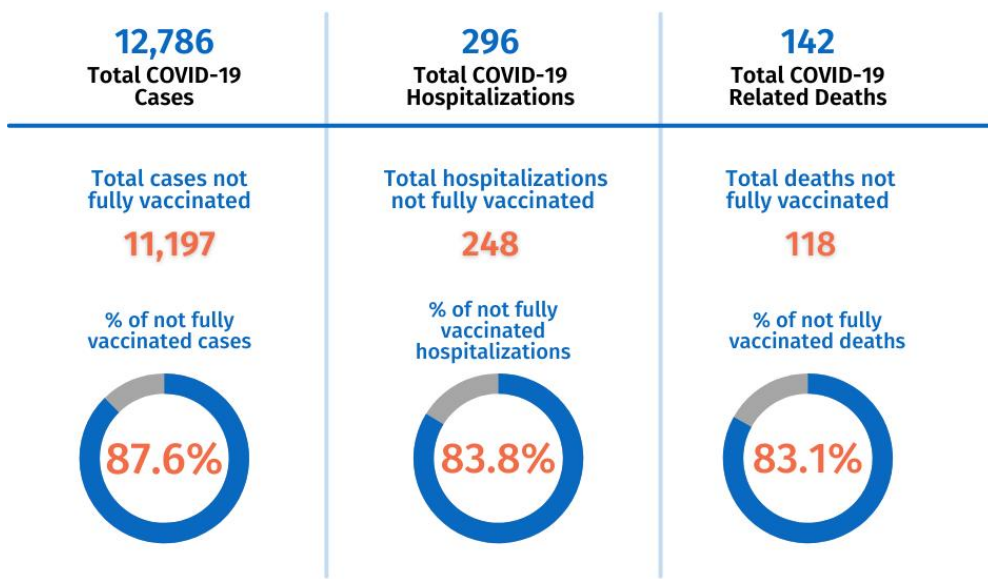
Vaccinations are effective at reducing hospitalizations from COVID-19. In Allegan County, 83.8% of the hospitalizations since 1/1/21 have been in those that are unvaccinated.

DEATHS

Similarly, vaccinations are effective at preventing deaths from COVID-19 in Allegan County. 83.1% of COVID-19 deaths have been in unvaccinated individuals. Vaccinated deaths are all over the age of 55, with **majority of vaccinated deaths being over the age of 70 (81.3%)**



Since January 2021, there have been:



Data from January 1, 2021 to December 3, 2021

BEST PRACTICES

SCHOOLS

In recent weeks, districts have needed to close due to staff and student absences. Since the beginning of the school year, ACHD has identified **13 outbreaks or clusters in schools** (as of 12/9/21)

ACHD continues to recommend universal masking as an important mitigation strategy to keep students at in-person learning. Adopting a universal masking policy (if you don't already have one) is most effective when you are on the upswing of a surge. It is also important to evaluate ventilation, social distancing as much as possible, and hand hygiene procedures.

ACHD current school quarantine guidance allows for students to attend school if mitigation strategies were in place in the school setting. The Quarantine Guidance can be found [here](#). Some schools have adopted testing strategies depending on mitigation strategies in place during exposure.

Plainwell, Allegan, Otsego, and Saugatuck School Districts have universal masking in place. AAESA also has a mask requirement in place for Hillside Main Campus, Hillside Young Adult Campus, staff at AAESA Great Start Readiness Program, and staff during Early on Services.

BUSINESSES

ACHD works with all businesses in Allegan County to provide technical assistance when cases are identified in the workplace. Many business leaders join ACHD for our bi-weekly COVID-19 update where we share what is happening in the county and the work around COVID.

[Worked with 18 Local Businesses from 12/4/21-12/20/21 on technical assistance including case investigation and contact tracing](#)

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications have been a key effort in this response. There is a lot of information out there related to this response, including misinformation that Public Health works to combat.

The following are metrics related to communication efforts from 12/4/21-12/17/21

- 3 ad campaigns on Facebook
- 6 social media posts
- 2 COVID-19 Presentations
 - o [December 8th Update](#)
 - o December 22nd Update (posted on website after 4pm on 12/22)
- 2 School Reports
 - o [December 7th Report](#)
 - o December 21st Report
- 2 Email Updates
 - o [December 9th Update](#)
 - o December 22nd update to be posted this week

COMMUNITY VACCINATION/HERD IMMUNITY/TREATMENT

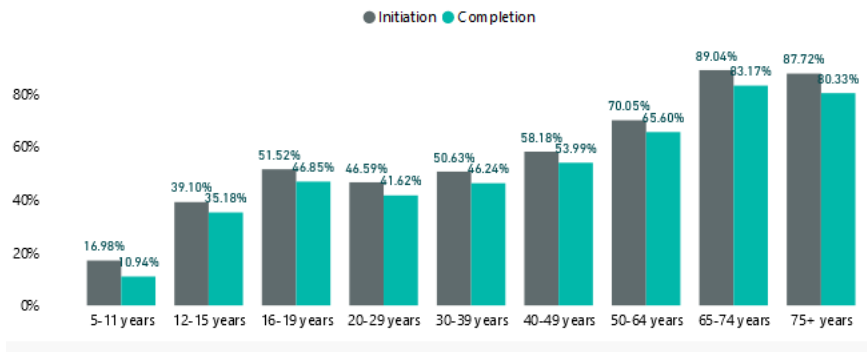
COVERAGE

Vaccination rates remain too low at this point to stop case surges and outbreaks. There are still too many people who are susceptible. Immunity from prior infection is more unpredictable and wanes faster than immunity from vaccination. It is important to get boosters if you are eligible. ACHD began vaccinating children ages 5 to 11 on November 8th. 16.98% of 5-11 year olds have initiated their vaccines.

BY AGE GROUP

Vaccination patterns for COVID-19 is highly correlated with age – the older the population, the greater the rates of vaccination. We expect the rates for ages 5-11 to continue to increase. It is critical to improve the rates of vaccinations in younger working-age adults, particularly those aged 20-54, as well as to address workplace, social, and household spread.

COVID Vaccine Coverage by Age Group



VACCINE AVAILABILITY

ACHD continues to offer 2-3 community vaccine clinics a week. Beyond ACHD efforts, vaccine availability remains high as pharmacies, doctor’s offices, and health care systems are also giving vaccines.

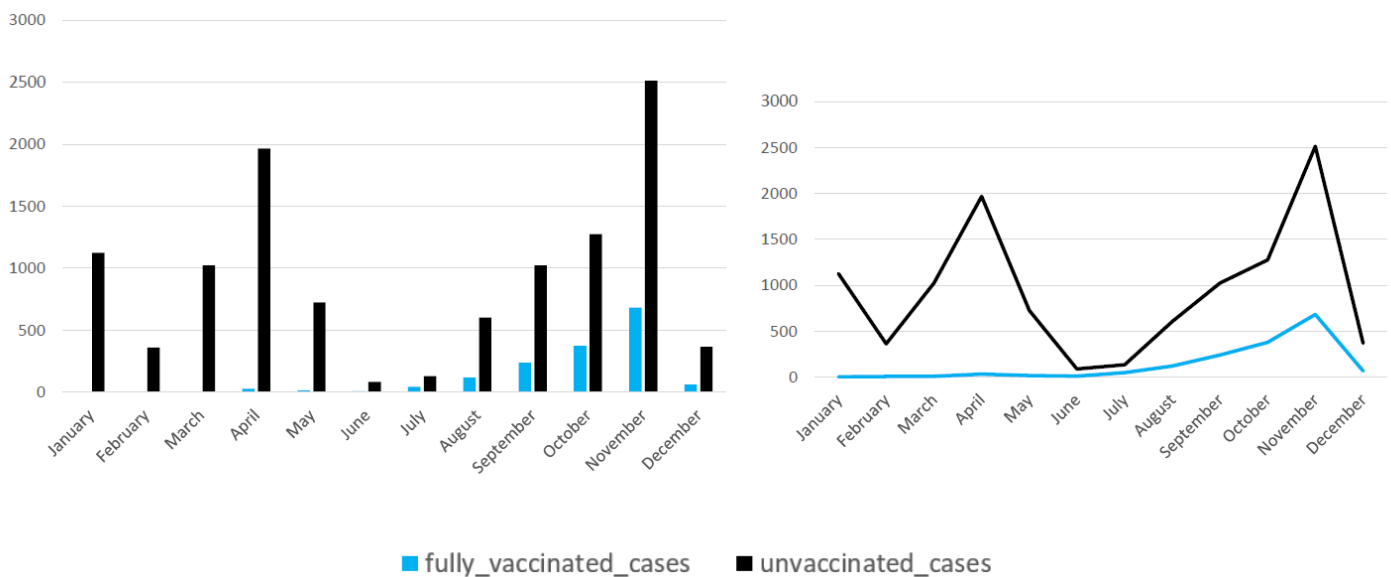
During 12/04/21-12/18/21, **1,480 residents received their first dose** (401 were pediatric first doses) and **1,840 residents got their second dose** (1,168 were pediatric second doses). **6,974 additional/booster doses were given.**

During 12/04/21-12/18/21, **ACHD held 5 clinics – giving 90 adult primary series doses, 460 booster or additional doses, and 143 pediatric doses.** Due to the high availability of COVID-19 vaccines through others, ACHD is looking to decrease vaccine clinics in January 2022 and offer vaccines during normal business hours on-site at the Human Services Building.

EFFECTIVENESS

Vaccination is very effective at reducing the chances of getting COVID-19. When comparing fully vaccinated cases to unvaccinated cases, unvaccinated cases are more likely to occur, even though fully vaccinated cases have increased since July 2021. As you can see in the visual below, the unvaccinated (black line) have more cases compared to the fully vaccinated (light blue line).

Allegheny County COVID-19 Fully Vaccinated Cases vs Unvaccinated Cases from 01/01/2021 to 12/3/2021



UNDERSTANDING BREAKTHROUGH CASES

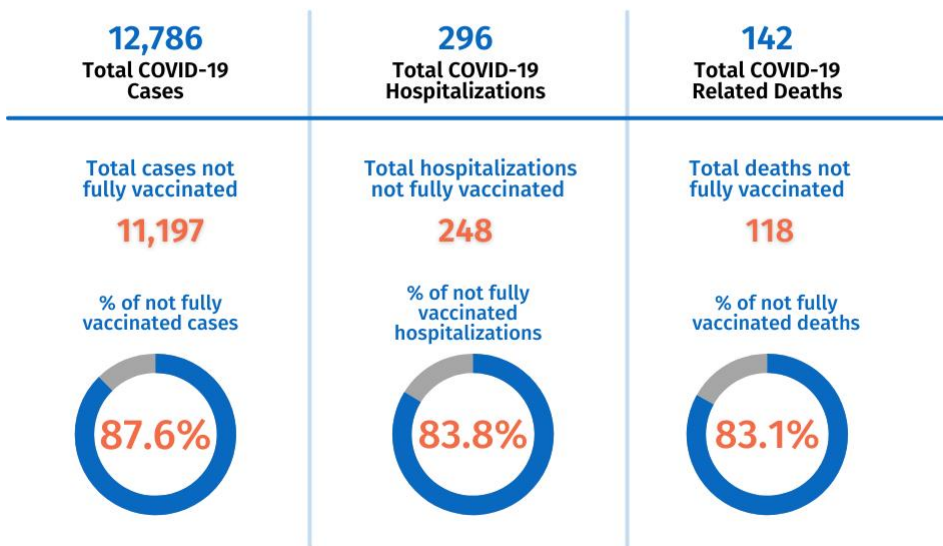
Breakthrough cases are those persons who contract COVID-19 despite being fully vaccinated for the disease. These are more likely in those who are older, those with compromised immune systems, and those who are more exposed to COVID-19 (such as through work). It's important to understand that the chances that an unvaccinated person and a vaccinated person catching COVID-19 from an exposure are not the same. Vaccinated people are much less likely to contract the disease, and are less infectious if they do contract it. The majority of vaccinated people won't spread the virus if they are exposed. Among breakthrough cases, vaccines ensure less infectious viral particles for a shorter period of time.



HEALTH Department
Updated 12/20/21
Data as of 12/3/21

**Allegan County
UNVACCINATED CASE DATA
ALL AGES**

Since January 2021, there have been:



Data from January 1, 2021 to December 3, 2021



HEALTH Department
Updated 12/20/21
Data as of 12/3/21

**Allegan County
BREAKTHROUGH CASE DATA
ALL AGES**

As of December 1, there are **63,247** total fully vaccinated individuals in Allegan County

Total breakthrough cases: 1,589	Total breakthrough hospitalizations: 48 <i>all breakthrough hospitalizations are over the age of 40</i>	Total breakthrough COVID-19 related deaths: 24 <i>all breakthrough deaths are over the age of 55</i>
% of breakthrough cases: 2.51%	% of breakthrough hospitalizations: 0.08%	% of breakthrough deaths: 0.04%

Breakthrough cases: the number of fully vaccinated people who developed COVID-19
Breakthrough hospitalizations: the number of fully vaccinated people who were hospitalized for COVID-19
Breakthrough deaths: the number of fully vaccinated people who died related to COVID-19

This bottom section shows breakthrough data for ages 5-19 ONLY

As of December 1, there are **4,959** fully vaccinated children ages 5-19

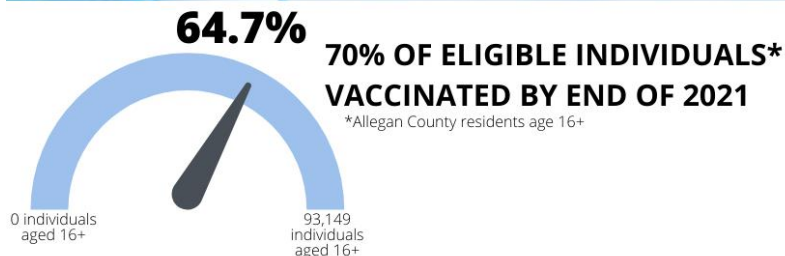
Total breakthrough cases: **74** % of breakthrough cases: **1.49%**

Data from January 1, 2021 to December 3, 2021



Allegan County VACCINE DATA

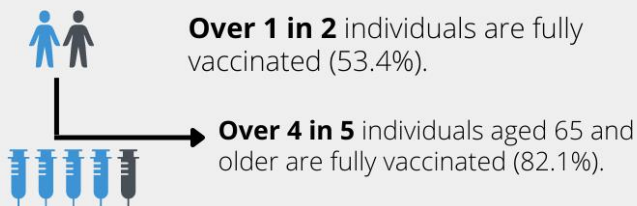
Updated 12/20/21
Data as of 12/17/21



As of December 17, **64,728** people have been vaccinated**



**Individuals given at least 1 dose of vaccine. On 11/9, we began including the population 5 years and older.
(a) MI Population estimates for Allegan County from Vital Records



Fully Vaccinated: Individuals (5 years and older) receiving 2 doses of Pfizer or Moderna or 1 dose of J&J.

Total Doses Distributed*

124,270

Primary Series Doses Administered*

117,834

Additional/Booster Doses Administered*

24,067

*includes Moderna, J&J, Pfizer, and Pediatric Pfizer Vaccines

*based on person's residence.

PLANNED CLINICS December 20, 2021 to December 31, 2021

2 Clinics

100 Doses

Note: Our goal of vaccinating 70% of the population accounted for the 16 and older population. With increasing the eligibility population, our vaccine coverage decreased. We are continuing to strive towards our goal of vaccinating 70% of residents 16 and older, which will reflect on the gauge at the top of this graphic.

6/1/2021 Update: Previous vaccine graphics included 96,451 as the population of Allegan County residents 12 years and older. After further review, 99,878 is a more accurate population estimation.



SOURCES:

- <https://mistartmap.info/cdc-indicators>
- HONU Allegan County Testing Reports
- Allegan County Health Department Facebook page
- www.michigan.gov/covidvaccine
- Michigan Disease Surveillance System (MDSS)