



# COVID-19 BOARD OF COMMISSIONER UPDATE

DECEMBER 7, 2021

DATA AS OF DECEMBER 3, 2021

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following report contains COVID-19 related data from November 20, 2021 to December 3, 2021 on the 5 mitigation components Allegan County Health Department (ACHD) previously identified. Allegan County is currently experiencing a surge of COVID-19 cases. The County is in High Community Transmission. Cases appear to be on a downward trend from the 11/12/21-11/18/21 case average of 938 weekly cases. There are too many cases for ACHD to investigate in a timely matter. Because of this, ACHD has prioritized cases under the age of 19, over the age of 65, or those individuals living or working in a high risk setting. Majority of cases in Allegan County are under the age of 19. Vaccination coverage continues 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.

As we enter the winter months and holiday season, we are concerned for the rise in cases from indoor gatherings, and holiday related events. ACHD continues to promote mitigation measures individuals can take to reduce their risk of COVID-19.

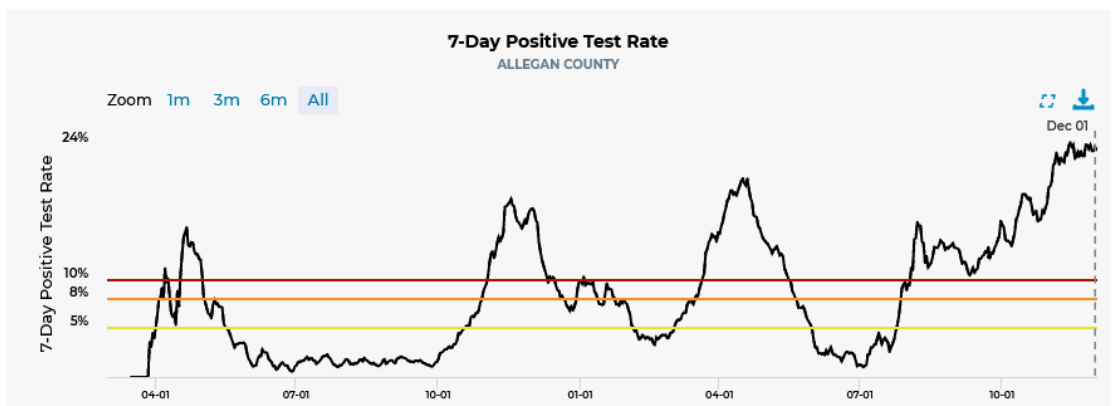
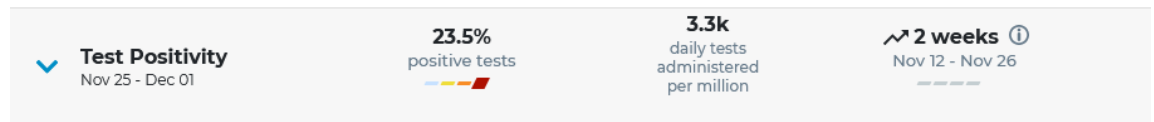
## COVID-19 MITIGATION COMPONENTS



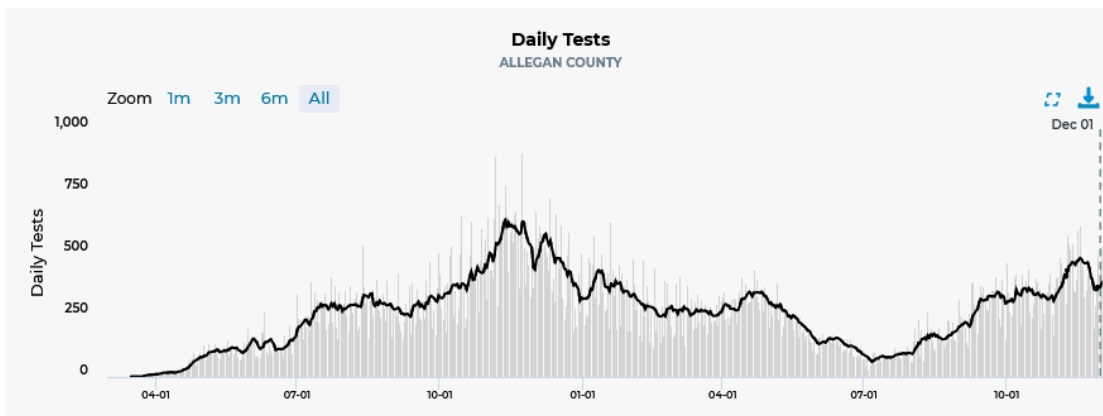
## ENHANCED ABILITY TO TEST

### COUNTY LEVEL DATA

The Testing Positivity Rate has been increasing for the last 2 weeks in Allegan County, and is at the highest percentage since the start of the pandemic. Allegan County is currently at 23.5% 7-day positivity, with 3.3k daily administered tests per million. The number of daily tests administered slightly increased the 2 weeks before the Thanksgiving holiday.



DATA AS OF DECEMBER 3, 2021



## 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.

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 experienced to testing, including transportation, availability, insurance, and cost.

During reporting period, number of tests given and percent positivity from testing events:

- **5 testing events the week of 11/20-11/26. 426 tests administered, 22.5% test positivity from events**
- **4 testing events the week of 11/23-12/3. 327 tests administered, 29.4% test positivity from events**

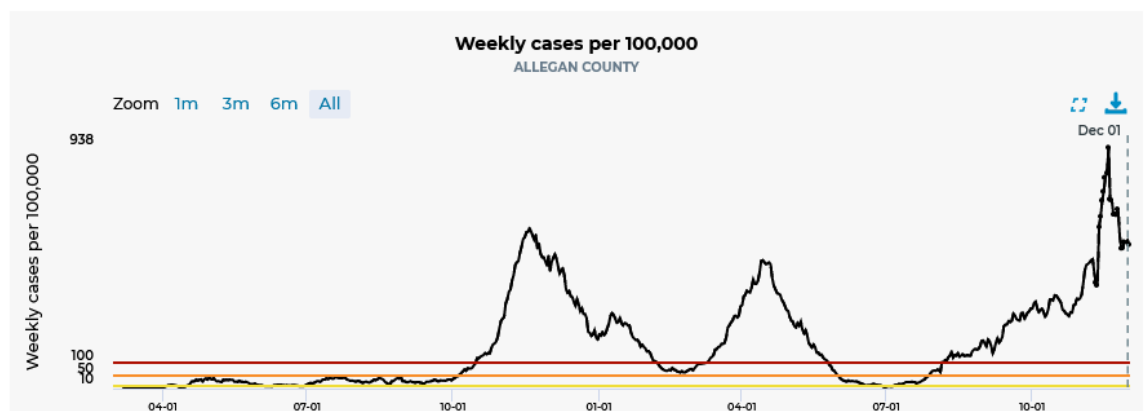
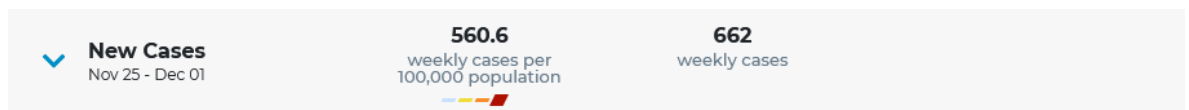
## ROBUST CASE INVESTIGATION AND CONTACT TRACING

### 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 11/25/21-12/1/21, case rates have declined to 560.6

per 100,000. ACHD anticipates that many cases are likely backlogged due to the state and county being closed for the Thanksgiving holiday.



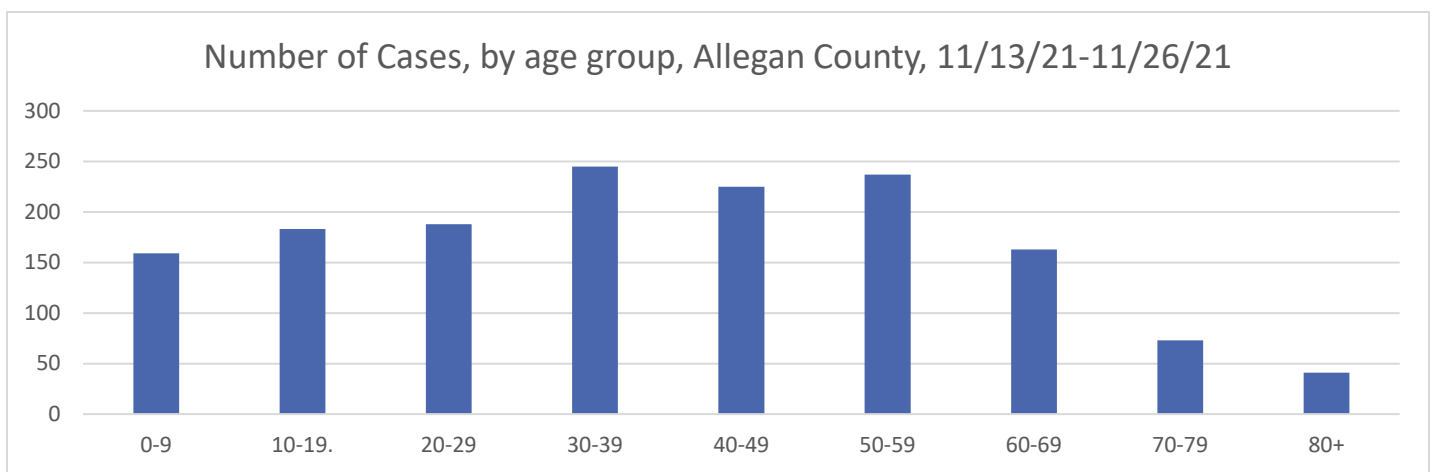
With case rates high, our public health and healthcare systems struggle to provide case investigation, contact tracing, and healthcare services such as routine procedures and hospital inpatient capacity. The majority of cases are in the unvaccinated; it is incredibly important for people who are not yet vaccinated to get their first dose as soon as possible. While people who are vaccinated can contract COVID-19, particularly the Delta variant, they are MUCH less likely to contract COVID-19 if exposed. They are also less likely to spread it to others, helping to control the spread of the virus.

## 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 (11/13/21-11/26/21)



ACHD published a News Release on November 24, 2021 that included our concerns with the high level of transmission, what people can do, and also asking individuals who test positive for COVID to self-report and to notify their close contacts. The self-report form is found on our website. We also ask people who test positive to notify their close contacts to mitigate the spread. In Allegan County, **17% of cases are household close contacts** – 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.

**1,529 cases** reported in the MDSS from 11/20/21 to 12/3/2021

**1,209 letters** sent to cases from 11/20/21 to 12/3/21

## 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 due to the high amount of cases in Allegan County. 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.

DATA AS OF DECEMBER 3, 2021

## 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.

870 close contacts currently being monitored, as 12/3/21

1,061 quarantine letters sent from 11/20/21 to 12/3/21

## SCHOOLS

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

View school reports here:

- [November 23<sup>rd</sup> Report](#)
- December 7<sup>th</sup> Report, to be posted on [www.allegancounty.org/covid](http://www.allegancounty.org/covid) under COVID Resources by 5pm on December 7.

## 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 25.6% of inpatient beds that are COVID-19 positive, while the Kalamazoo Region has 23.1% of inpatient beds that are COVID-19 positive, as of December 1, 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	2	0	44%
Ascension Borgess Hospital	52	8	73%
Ascension Borgess-Pipp Hospital	1	0	53%
Bronson Methodist Hospital	86	11	98%
Bronson South Haven	3	0	63%
Holland Community Hospital	39	4	77%
Mercy Health Mercy Campus	73	26	88%
Mercy Health St. Mary's Main Campus	80	13	94%
Metro Health Hospital	67	3	89%
Spectrum Health - Blodgett Hospital	116	29	100%
Spectrum Health - Butterworth Hospital	148	52	90%
Spectrum Health Zeeland Hospital	28	6	80%

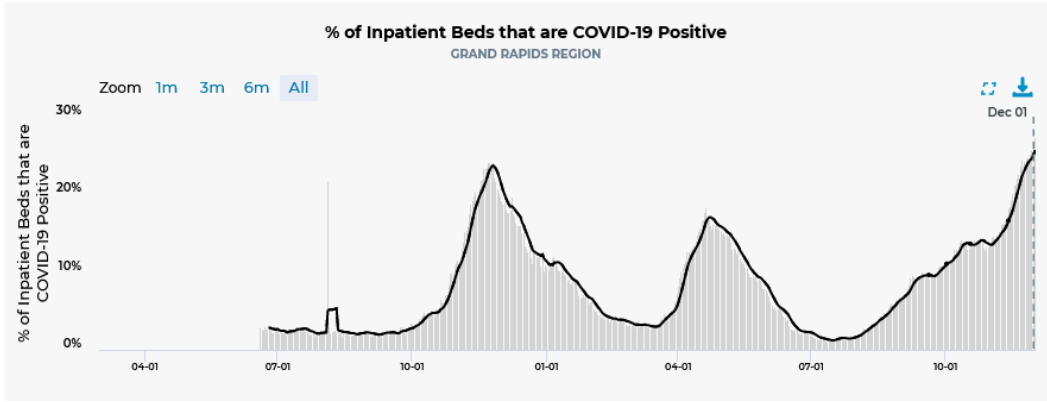
DATA AS OF DECEMBER 3, 2021

Spectrum Helen DeVos Children's Hospital	13	0	83%
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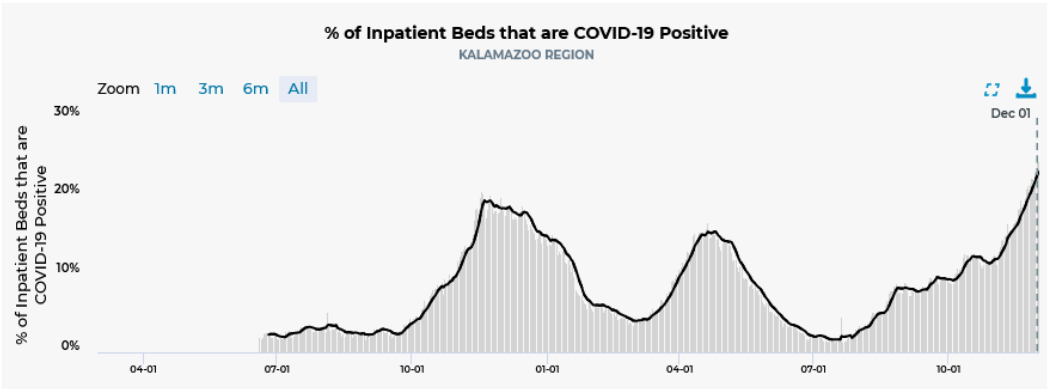
Data as of 12/3/2021

## HOSPITAL CAPACITY

▼ **Hospital Capacity**  
 Dec 01
 25.6%  
 beds for COVID \* ⓘ
 1.6k  
 inpatient beds per million

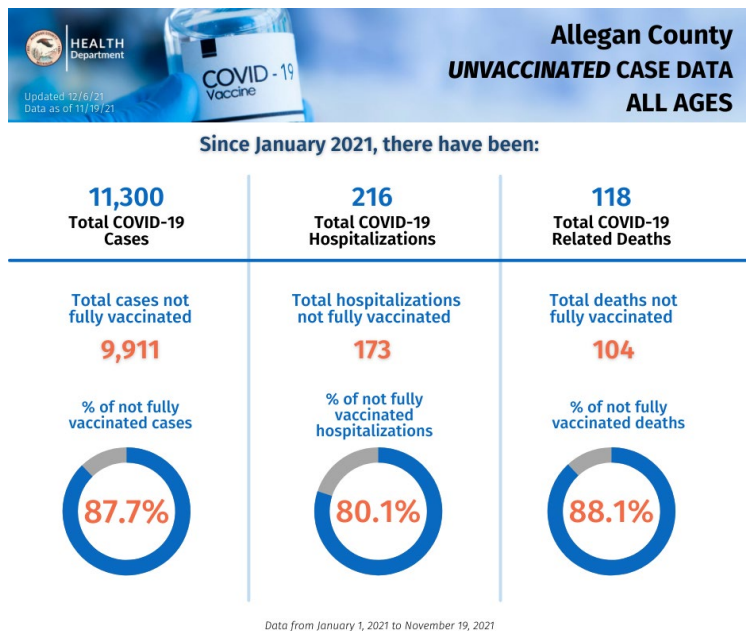


▼ **Hospital Capacity**  
 Dec 01
 23.1%  
 beds for COVID \* ⓘ
 1.4k  
 inpatient beds per million



Just as the national studies predicted, vaccination has a large impact on hospitalizations in Allegan County. People who are vaccinated have fewer hospitalizations, and their hospitalizations tend to be much less severe.

The image to the right shows the percentage of unvaccinated cases, hospitalizations and deaths from 1/1/2021 – 11/19/2021.



## DEATHS

Similarly, vaccinations are effective at preventing deaths from COVID-19 in Allegan County. 88.1% of COVID-19 deaths have been in unvaccinated. Vaccinated deaths are all over the age of 55, with **majority of vaccinated deaths being over the age of 70 (78.6%)**

## BEST PRACTICES

### SCHOOLS

The situation in schools is concerning for a number of reasons. 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 12/2/21)

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, which is what we are seeing currently.

Some schools have adopted a test-to-stay strategy (where those who would be ordinarily quarantined due to a school-based exposure are able to test every morning before school). This keeps more children in-person attending school and reduces the risk of an outbreak.

### 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.

**Monitored 53 businesses for potential outbreaks from 11/20-12/3**

### 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 communications efforts from 11/20/21-12/3/21

- 7 ad campaigns on Facebook
- 11 social media posts

DATA AS OF DECEMBER 3, 2021

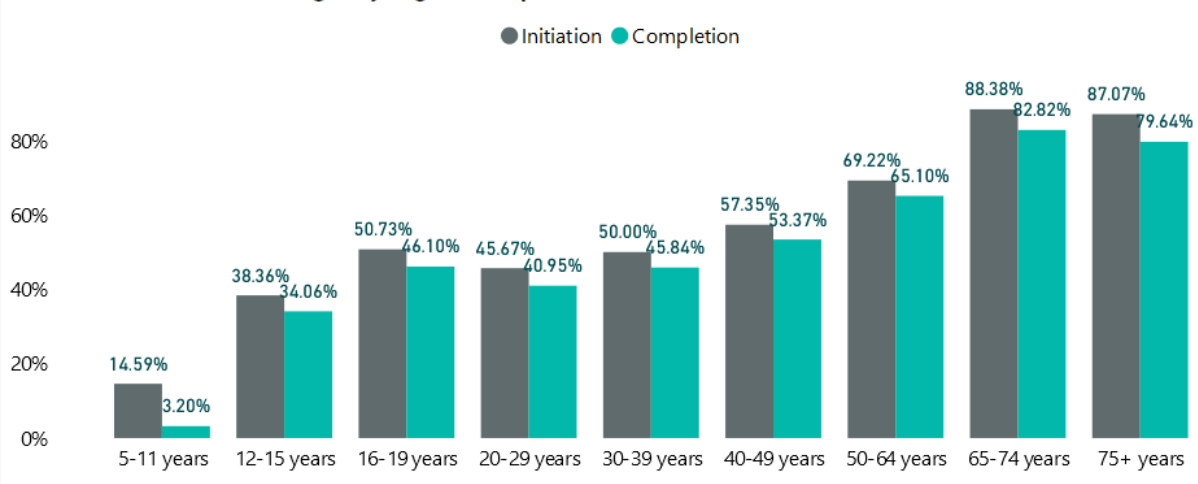
- 1 press release
- 11 website updates/calendar events published
- 2 event flyers created
- 2 COVID-19 Presentations
  - o [November 24<sup>th</sup> COVID-19 Update](#)
  - o Presentation created for Plainwell Schools
- 2 School Reports
  - o [November 23<sup>rd</sup> Report](#)
  - o December 7<sup>th</sup> Report
- 1 Email Update
  - o [November 24<sup>th</sup> update](#)
  - o December 8<sup>th</sup> update is on track to be posted this week.
- 1 new educational material created

## 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. While boosters will help to some degree, it's important for the unvaccinated to get their first shot. ACHD began vaccinating children ages 5 to 11 on November 8th.

COVID Vaccine Coverage by Age Group



### 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 will be critical to improve the rates of vaccinations in younger working-age adults, particularly those aged 20-54, as well to address workplace, social, and household spread.

### 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.

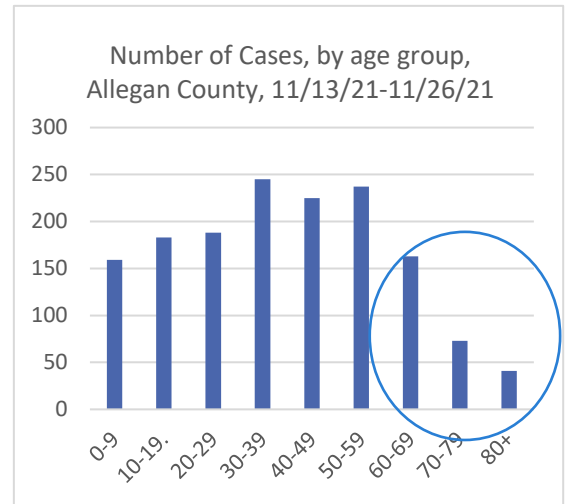
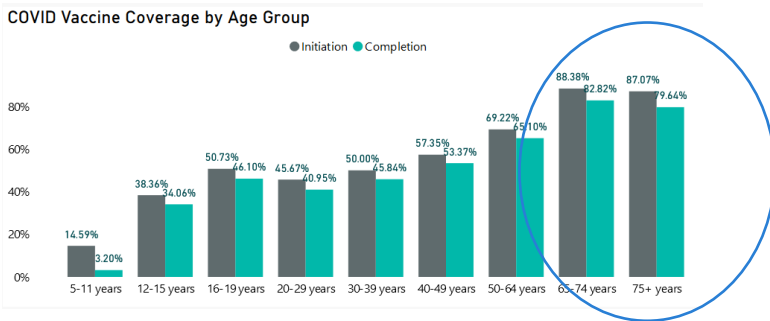
DATA AS OF DECEMBER 3, 2021

During 11/20/21-12/3/21, **1,519 residents received their first dose** (736 were pediatric first doses) and **439 residents got their second dose** (35 were pediatric second doses). **4,569 additional/booster doses were given.**

During 11/20/21 to 12/3/21, **ACHD held 5 clinics – giving 65 adult primary series doses, 457 booster or additional doses, and 202 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 you examine cases by age group and vaccination status, the number of unvaccinated cases as well as total number of cases are higher in younger age groups.



## 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. Fully vaccinated people provide little to no threat to community spread.



As of November 19, there are **56,758** total fully vaccinated individuals in Alleghan County

Total breakthrough cases: <b>1,389</b>	Total breakthrough hospitalizations: <b>43</b> <i>all breakthrough hospitalizations are over the age of 40</i>	Total breakthrough COVID-19 related deaths: <b>14</b> <i>all breakthrough deaths are over the age of 55</i>
% of breakthrough cases: <b>2.45%</b>	% of breakthrough hospitalizations: <b>0.08%</b>	% of breakthrough deaths: <b>0.02%</b>

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 November 19, there are **4,854** fully vaccinated children ages 5-19

Total breakthrough cases: <b>66</b>	% of breakthrough cases: <b>1.36%</b>
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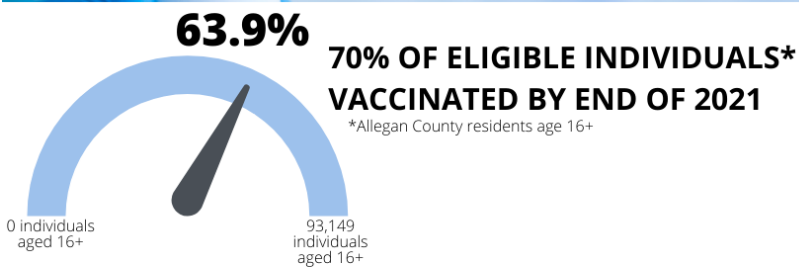
Data from January 1, 2021 to November 19, 2021



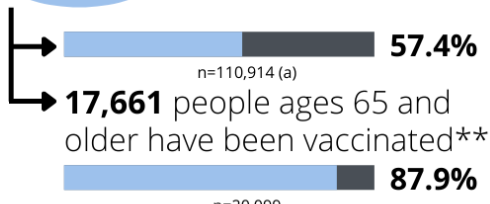


# Allegan County VACCINE DATA

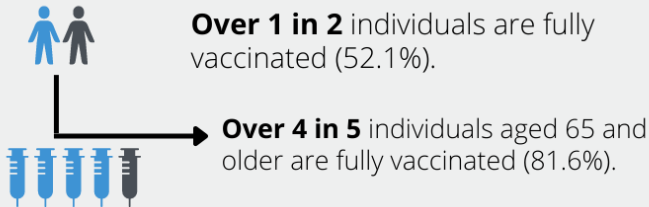
Updated 12/6/21  
Data as of 12/3/21



As of December 3, **63,692** 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\*

**116,670**

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

Primary Series Doses Administered\*

**115,474**

Additional/Booster Doses Administered\*

**18,777**

\*based on person's residence.

**PLANNED CLINICS** December 8, 2021 to December 22, 2021

**4**  
Clinics

**300** 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.



HEALTH  
Department

## SOURCES:

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

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