



COVID-19 BOARD OF COMMISSIONER UPDATE

JANUARY 11, 2022
DATA AS OF JANUARY 10, 2022

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following report contains COVID-19 related data from December 27, 2021 to January 9, 2022 on the 5 mitigation components Allegan County Health Department (ACHD) previously identified. Test positivity and new cases have rebounded and rapidly increased since the Christmas holiday. On December 28, ACHD published a [news release](#) confirming the Omicron variant in our community. ACHD adopted the [CDC’s updated quarantine and isolation guidance](#) on December 29, 2021 for our community, reducing the number of minimum days to stay home from 10 to 5. More information on the Omicron Variant can be found [here](#).

With the highly transmissible Omicron variant present in our community, ACHD sees timely and accessible testing imperative to facilitate residents’ resumption of primary life activities, e.g. work, school, etc. and early access to treatments that help reduce severe illness. We have a high concern for the economic impact that the Omicron variant can cause within our community. As the virus is highly transmissible, more families will be impacted from quarantine and isolation, in turn creating financial hardships with not being able to work. ACHD is requesting all school, business, and community leaders consider masking in indoor spaces along with the other mitigation strategies into the near future.

Why Cloth Masks Might Not Be Enough as Omicron Spreads

Time it takes to transmit an infectious dose of Covid-19

	PERSON NOT INFECTED IS WEARING			
	Nothing	Cloth mask	Surgical mask	N95
Nothing	15 min.	20 min.	30 min.	2.5 hours
Cloth mask	20 min.	27 min.	40 min.	3.3 hours
Surgical mask	30 min.	40 min.	1 hour	5 hours
N95	2.5 hours	3.3 hours	5 hours	25 hours

It will take 25 hours for an infectious dose of Covid-19 to transmit between people wearing non-fit-tested N95 respirators. If they’re using tightly sealed N95s—where only 1% of particles enter the facepiece—they will have 2,500 hours of protection.

Note: Results published in Spring 2021. The CDC expects the Omicron variant to spread more easily. Source: ACGH’s Pandemic Response Task Force

Figure 1. “Why Cloth Masks Might Not Be Enough as Omicron Spreads”.

Upgrading masks is an important item to consider with the Omicron variant, as cloth masks are showing not being enough against Omicron. KN95 and N95 masks for adults and children are more readily available for purchase now compared to the early days in the pandemic. Figure 1 shows the time it takes to transmit an infectious dose of COVID-19 when an infected person is wearing a mask and a not infected person is wearing a mask. It will take 25 hours for an infectious dose of COVID-19 to transmit between people wearing non-fit tested N95 respirators.

We are entering a new phase of this pandemic—one where we have a more transmissible variant, yet mild illness for majority of the population. Due to the speed that the Omicron COVID-19 variant spreads, we anticipate cases to dramatically rise. This new phase also has effective vaccines for everyone ages 5+, monoclonal antibody treatments, and antiviral treatments available. With these new factors to consider, **Public Health will be shifting from a heavy focus on test positivity and new cases, to hospitalizations and death metrics.**

Vaccination coverage continues to slightly increase, however Allegan County did not hit the 70% goal of residents over 16 vaccinated before December 31, 2021.

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. **Allegan County is currently at 28.7% 7-day positivity, with 3.4 k daily administered tests per million.**

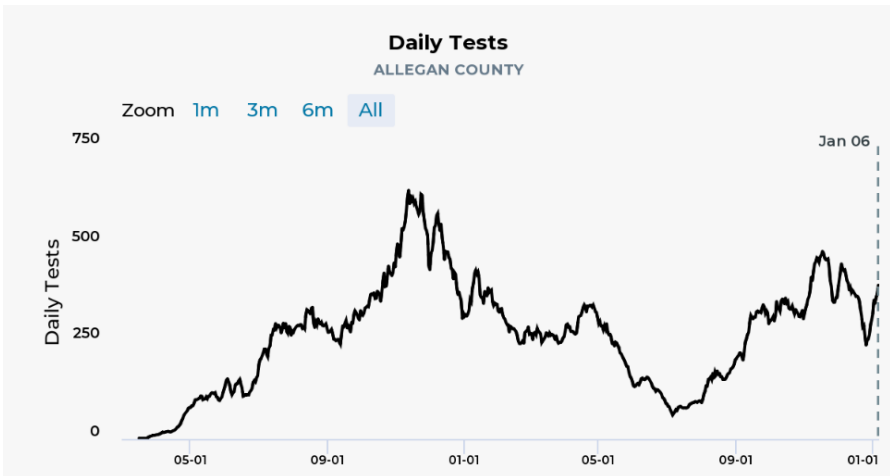
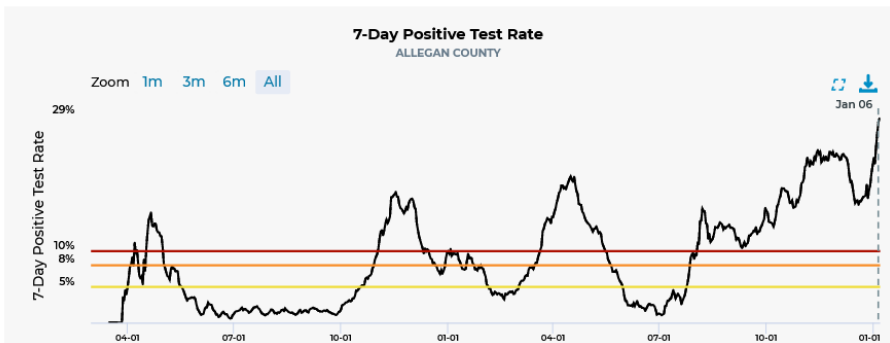
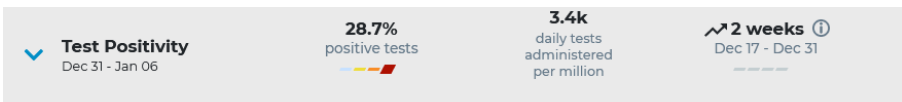
ARE PEOPLE ABLE TO GET TESTED?

Testing access has been a challenge for many in Allegan County. Increased demand has caused challenges with same-day access and limited supply availability.

In October 2021, ACHD collaborated with MDHHS and HONU Management to bring more testing access to Allegan County. In January 2022, ACHD secured testing events for Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 12 PM – 5 PM starting 1/17/22. All testing events can be found on www.allegancounty.org/covid.

During the last two-week period:

- **Two testing events from 12/27/2021 – 1/7/2022. 353 tests administered, 25.2% test positivity from events**

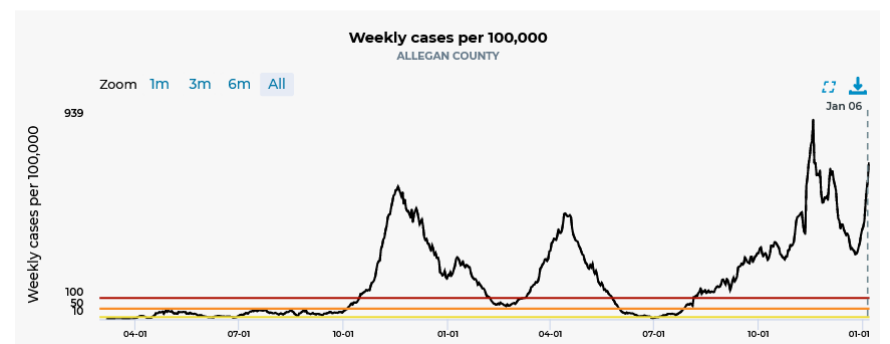
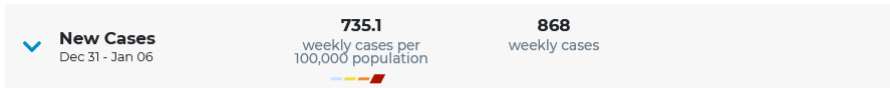


ROBUST CASE INVESTIGATION AND CONTACT TRACING

ALLEGAN COUNTY COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION LEVEL: HIGH

Allegan County has been in a high level of community transmission since early August 2021. We have 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 12/31/21-1/6/22, Allegan County's new case rate was 735.1 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 individuals; it is incredibly important for people who are not yet vaccinated to get their first dose as soon as possible. While individuals can still become infected, data shows milder illness for fully vaccinated and boosted individuals. ACHD is holding vaccine clinics two times a week for those who choose to get a COVID-19 vaccine and/or booster at the Health Department.

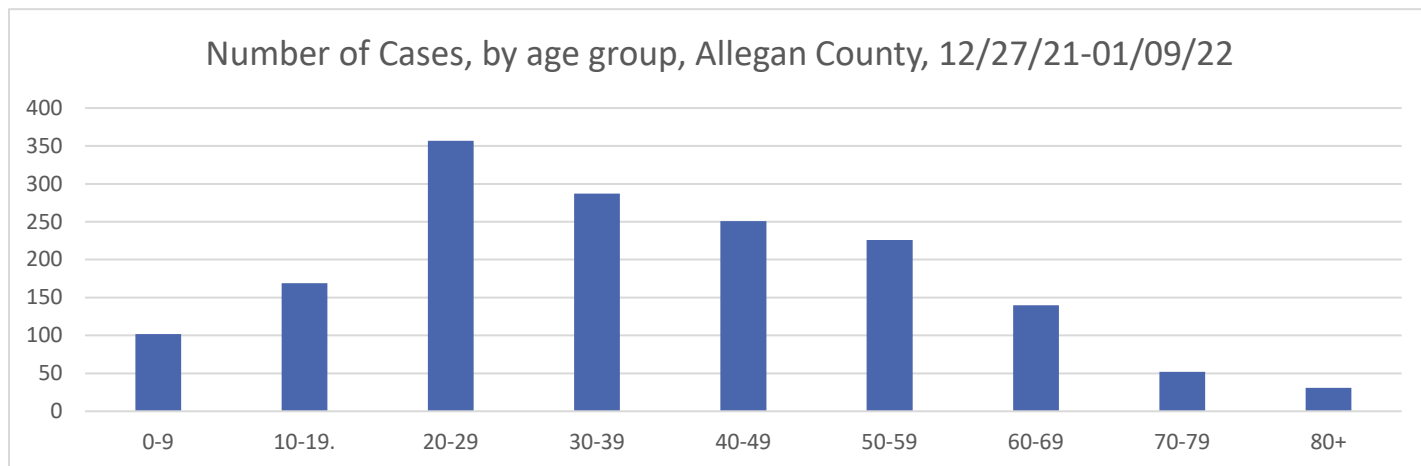


CASE INVESTIGATION

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 (12/27/21-01/09/22)



From 12/27/21 to 1/9/22, Allegan County had a reported **10.5% 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 about an exposure and allows close contacts to make decisions that are more informed on their day-to-day lives.

1,617 cases reported in the MDSS from 12/27/21 to 01/09/22

716 letters sent to cases from 12/27/21 to 01/09/22

LETTERS AND CLOSE CONTACTS

ACHD sends letters of exposure to individuals identified as close contacts (from prioritized cases) during the case investigation process. These letters include quarantine expectations, how long to stay at home, actions to take, and phone numbers to call if individuals have additional questions, or need further assistance. If individuals need a letter, they can request one.

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.

680 close contacts currently being monitored as of 01/10/22

317 quarantine letters sent from 12/27/21 to 01/09/22

SCHOOLS

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

View school reports here:

- [December 21st Report](#)
- January 11th Report, to be posted on <https://www.allegancounty.org/health/covid-19/covid-19-resources> by 5 PM on January 11th.

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). 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 19% of inpatient beds that are COVID-19 positive, and the Kalamazoo Region has 22.2% of inpatient beds that are COVID-19 positive, as of January 6, 2022.

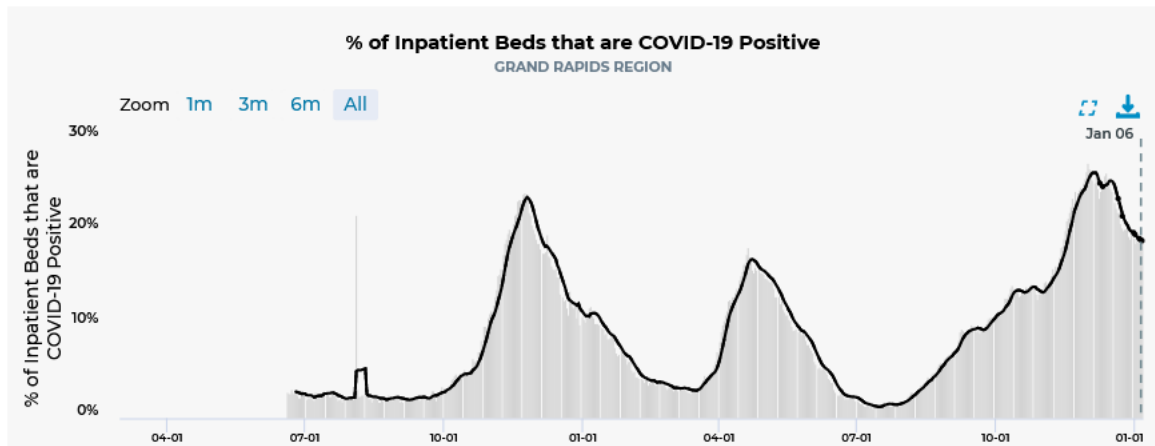
HOSPITALS IN THE ALLEGAN COUNTY AREA

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

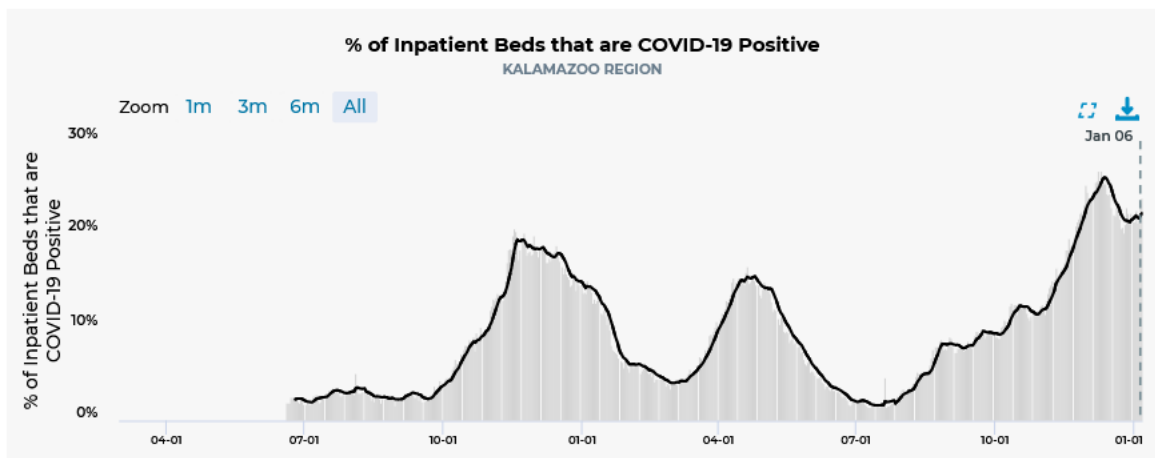
Hospital	COVID-19 Patients	COVID-19 Patients in ICU	Bed Occupancy %
Ascension Borgess Allegan Hospital	2	0	52%
Ascension Borgess Hospital	45	8	67%
Ascension Borgess-Pipp Hospital	0	0	59%
Bronson Methodist Hospital	75	6	95%
Bronson South Haven	1	0	100%
Holland Community Hospital	17	5	87%
Mercy Health Mercy Campus	59	21	80%
Mercy Health St. Mary's Main Campus	52	10	94%
Metro Health Hospital	38	5	82%
Spectrum Health - Blodgett Hospital	97	22	93%
Spectrum Health - Butterworth Hospital	122	42	88%
Spectrum Health Zeeland Hospital	19	6	70%
Spectrum Helen DeVos Children's Hospital	13	0	74%

As of 1/10/2022

<p>✓ Hospital Capacity Dec 31 - Jan 06</p>	<p>19% beds for COVID ⓘ</p>	<p>290.6 beds per million with COVID</p>	<p>1.5k beds per million (COVID + non- COVID)</p>
---	--	---	--



<p>✓ Hospital Capacity Dec 31 - Jan 06</p>	<p>22.2% beds for COVID ⓘ</p>	<p>330.1 beds per million with COVID</p>	<p>1.4k beds per million (COVID + non- COVID)</p>
---	--	---	--



Vaccinations are effective at reducing hospitalizations from COVID-19. In Allegan County, 82.4% 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. 84.8% of COVID-19 deaths have been in unvaccinated individuals. Vaccinated deaths were all over the age of 50.

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 do not 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.

School Quarantine Guidance can be found [here](#). ACHD is finalizing updated quarantine guidance to align with the updated quarantine and isolation guidance from the CDC. Some schools have adopted testing strategies depending on mitigation strategies in place during exposure.

Plainwell, Allegan, 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. Allegan Public Schools mask requirement ends 1/11/22 and Plainwell Community Schools mask requirement ends 1/14/22.

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 45 Local Businesses from 12/27/21-1/10/22 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 12/27/21- 01/09/22

- 3 ad campaigns on Facebook regarding testing events
- 5 social media posts
- 1 COVID-19 Presentations
 - o December 22nd Update
- 1 School Reports
 - o December 21st Report
- 1 Press Release
- 1 Email Updates
 - o December 22nd

COMMUNITY VACCINATION/HERD IMMUNITY/TREATMENT

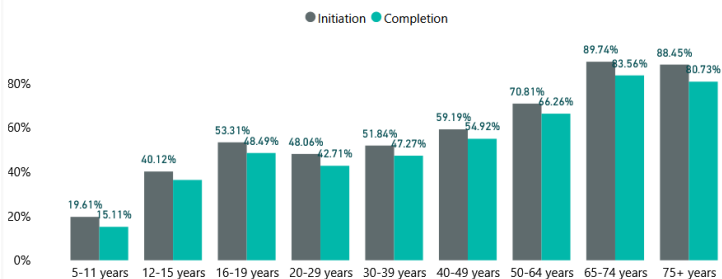
COVERAGE

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.

BY AGE GROUP

Vaccination patterns for COVID-19 is highly correlated with age – the older the population, the greater the rates of vaccination.

COVID Vaccine Coverage by Age Group



VACCINE AVAILABILITY

On January 6, 2022, ACHD decreased vaccine efforts to offer COVID-19 vaccine appointments on-site every Thursday (1 PM – 6 PM) and Friday (1 PM – 4 PM) for a total of 8 hrs. Vaccine availability remains high as pharmacies, doctor’s offices, and health care systems are giving vaccines.

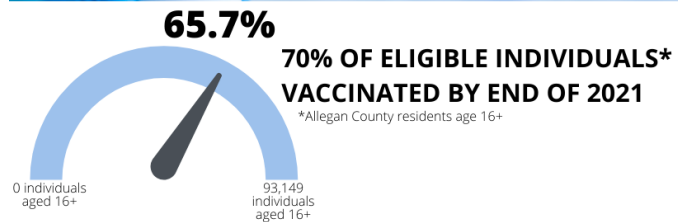
During 12/27/21-1/8/22, **639 residents received their first dose** (168 were pediatric first doses) and **642 residents got their second dose** (233 were pediatric second doses). **2,138 additional/booster doses were given.**

During 12/27/21-1/8/22, **ACHD held 3 clinics – giving 13 adult primary series doses, 82 booster or additional doses, and 35 pediatric doses.**

DATA AS OF JANUARY 10, 2022

Allegan County VACCINE DATA

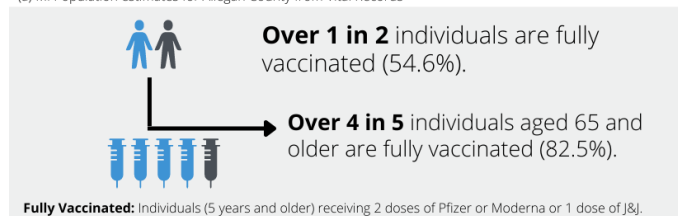
Updated 1/10/22
Data as of 1/7/22



As of January 7, **66,039** 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



Total Doses Distributed*

127,710

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

Primary Series Doses Administered*

120,262

Additional/Booster Doses Administered*

28,734

*based on person's residence.

PLANNED CLINICS

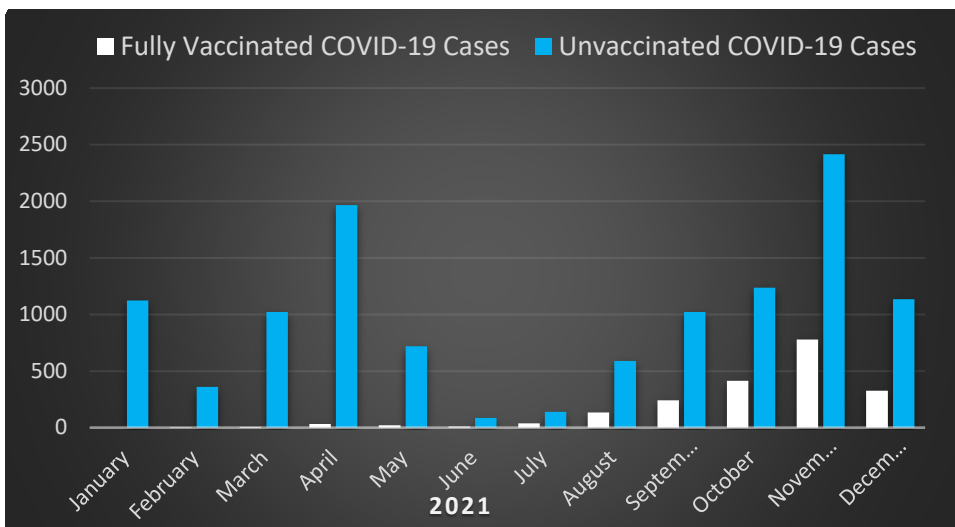
ACHD has vaccine clinics available by appointment only at the health department. To schedule an appointment, visit www.allegancounty.org/covid

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.



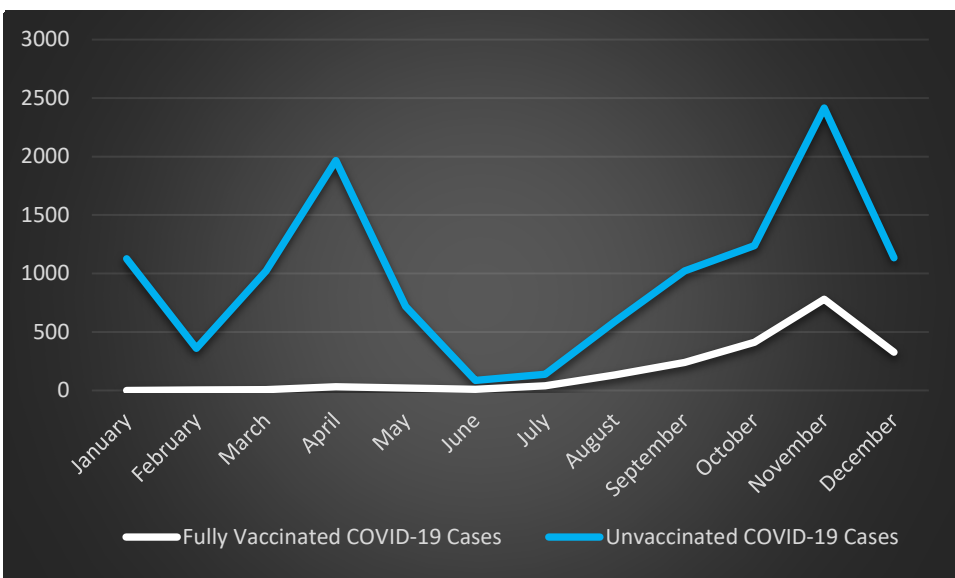
EFFECTIVENESS

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 charts, the unvaccinated (blue line) have more cases compared to the fully vaccinated (white line).



UNDERSTANDING BREAKTHROUGH CASES

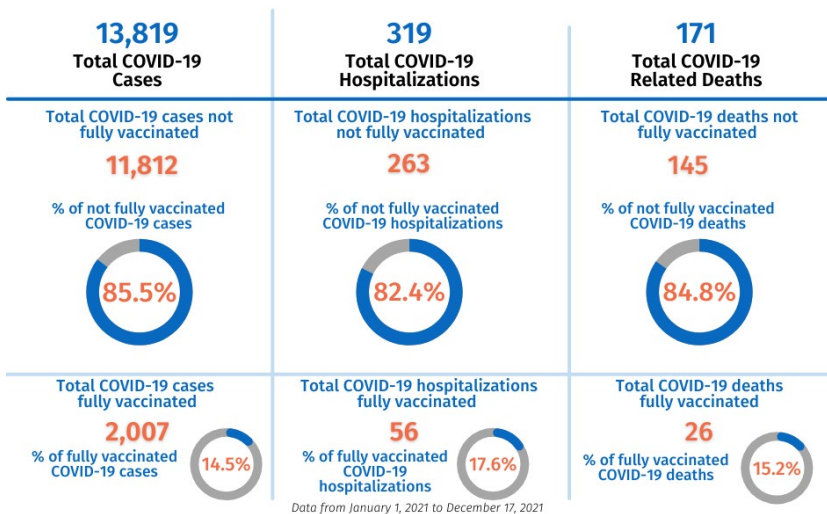
Breakthrough cases are those persons who contract COVID-19 despite being fully vaccinated for the disease. These are more likely in those who are older, those with compromised immune systems, and those who are more exposed to COVID-19 (such as through work). It is important to understand that the chances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



Allegan County Case Data by Vaccination Status ALL AGES

HEALTH Department
Updated 1/10/2022
Data as of 12/17/21

Since January 2021, there have been:



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)