



COVID-19 BOARD OF COMMISSIONER UPDATE

JANUARY 25, 2022
DATA AS OF JANUARY 21, 2022

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following report contains COVID-19 related data from January 8, 2022 to January 21, 2022 on the 5 mitigation components Allegan County Health Department (ACHD) previously identified. Allegan County has reached the highest test positivity and rate of new cases since the start of the pandemic. There has been no indication that Allegan County has yet peaked. In the state’s [January 11 Data and Modeling Update](#), models project cases and hospitalizations to peak by the end of January or early February. On January 13, ACHD published updated [School Quarantine Guidance](#) and on January 19, an updated [COVID-19 workplace toolkit](#) was published.

As Omicron is much more contagious and wearing a good quality mask helps reduce spread. Starting January 25, ACHD will be distributing free KN95/N95 masks to our community. Masks are available for curbside pick-up at the Human Services Building Parking lot from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, and 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM Thursday and Friday. Masks will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis, while supplies last. We are also working with local agencies to redistribute similar to how Meijer is distributing masks.

On January 18, the Federal Government launched [covidtests.gov](#), a website for all Americans to order 4 free rapid COVID-19 tests based on their household. ACHD shared this information on our social media pages, and will share again during our COVID-19 Update and community newsletter.

On January 13, 2022, subsequent to its rejection of the 1.5 million dollars, the Board clarified its expectations that the County transition to a mandated or down to low response utilizing available grant funding. It is important to note that as ACHD transitions to mandated services only; that many COVID-19 assistance and data reports that contain school district and zip code/census track data will be discontinued. ACHD will include links to the MDHHS and CDC data systems that provide only County level data. With a mandated level response, the services to be discontinued, include but are not limited to COVID-19 testing, COVID-19 vaccine clinics (except for minimum program requirements), business/other organizations assistance, local school reports, local dashboard, and local community leader reports. Non COVID-19 services such as environmental health permits (new construction for well and septic permits) may be delayed when ACHD sanitarian staff are reassigned in response to a surge in cases.

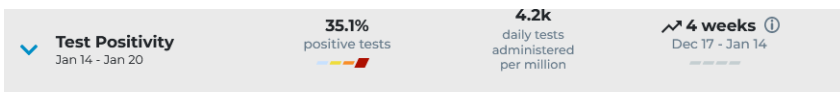
COVID-19 MITIGATION COMPONENTS



ENHANCED ABILITY TO TEST

COUNTY LEVEL DATA

The Test Positivity Rate has been increasing for the last 4 weeks in Allegan County. **Allegan County is currently at 35.1% 7-day positivity, with 4.2 k daily administered tests per million.**



ARE PEOPLE ABLE TO GET TESTED?

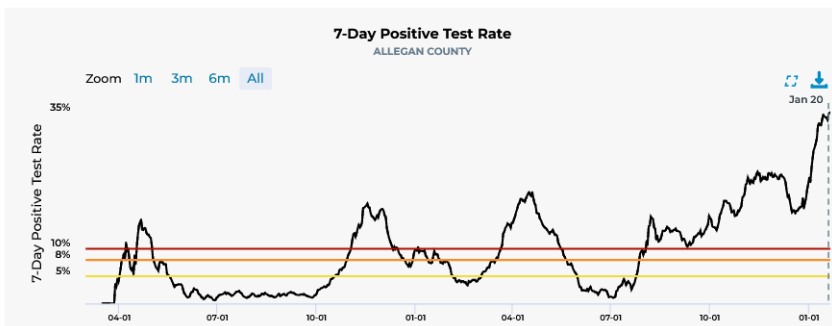
In October 2021, ACHD collaborated with MDHHS and HONU Management to bring more testing access to Allegan County. In January 2022, ACHD secured testing events for Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 12 PM – 5 PM starting 1/17/22.

All testing events can be found on

www.allegancounty.org/covid.

During the last two-week period:

- **Five testing events from 1/8/2022-1/21/2022 with 353 tests administered and 31.7% test positivity from events**

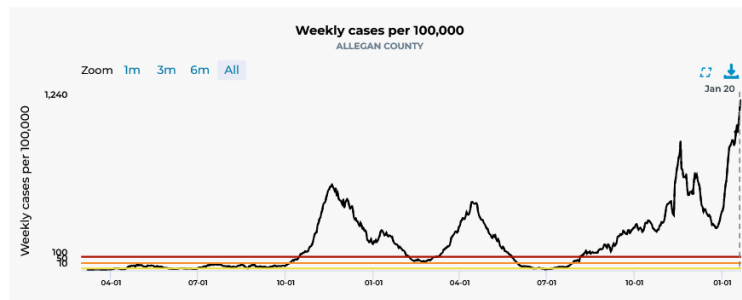
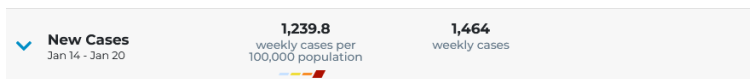


On January 18, the Federal Government launched [covidtests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov), a website for all Americans to order 4 free rapid COVID-19 tests based on their household.

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. **During the period 1/8/2022-1/21/2022, Allegan County’s new case rate was 1,239.8 per 100,000.** This is the highest we have seen so far in Allegan County since the start of the pandemic.



Due to the high volume of cases, our public health and healthcare systems struggle to provide case investigation, contact tracing, and healthcare services such as routine procedures and hospital inpatient capacity. 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 (8 hrs. a week) for those who choose to get a COVID-19 vaccine and/or booster at the Health Department. ACHD is required to offer COVID-19 vaccine along with other vaccine for all children who qualify for Vaccine for Children (VFC) program.

CASE INVESTIGATION

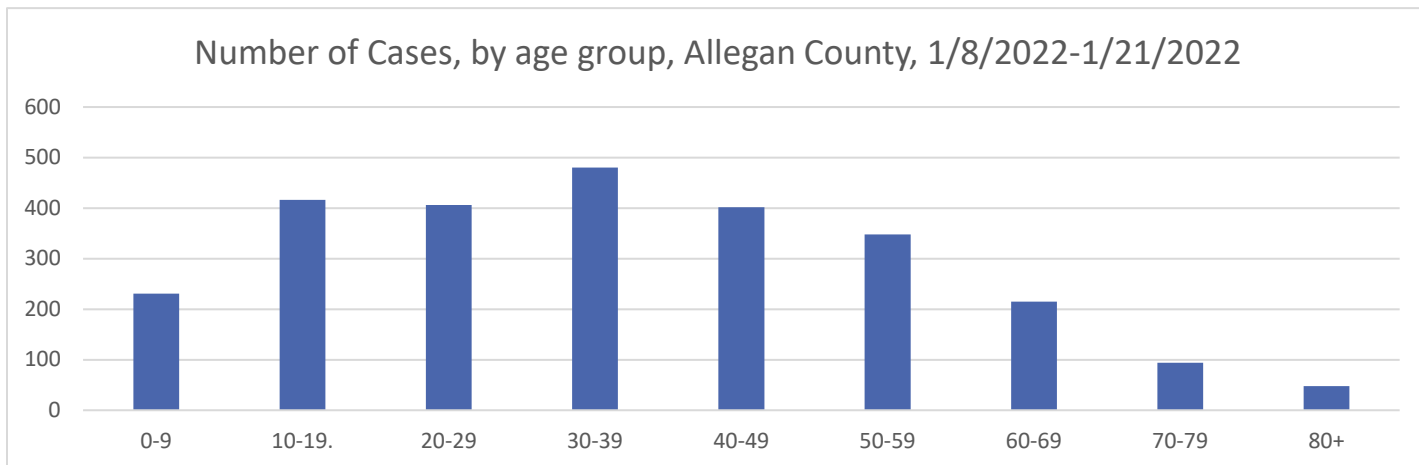
Due to the high transmission level and the number of cases reported in a week, ACHD is not able to investigate all high risk cases. ACHD currently investigates only the following groups of individuals:

- Individuals under the age of 19, school aged
- Individuals over the age of 65

DATA AS OF JANUARY 21, 2022

- Individuals living in a congregate setting where risk of transmission is high

CASES IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS, BY AGE GROUP (1/8/2022 – 1/21/2022)



From 1/8/22 to 1/21/22, Allegan County had a reported **8.7% of investigated cases were household close contacts** – 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.

2,651 cases reported in the MDSS from 1/8/2022 to 1/21/2022

542 letters sent to cases from 1/8/2022-1/21/2022

LETTERS AND CLOSE CONTACTS

ACHD sends letters of exposure to individuals identified as close contacts (from high-risk setting 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 individual is not in a high-risk setting and needs 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. These numbers are only for high-risk settings only and those who requested letters.

645 close contacts currently being monitored as of 01/24/2022

1,544 quarantine letters sent from 1/8/2022-1/21/2022

SCHOOLS

In October 2021, ACHD began publishing biweekly school reports to help parents, educators, and leaders make informed decisions. These will be discontinued in February as ACHD transitions to mandated services only.

View school reports here:

- [January 11th Report](#)
- January 25th Report (to be posted on www.allegancounty.org/covid by 5pm on January 25)

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.

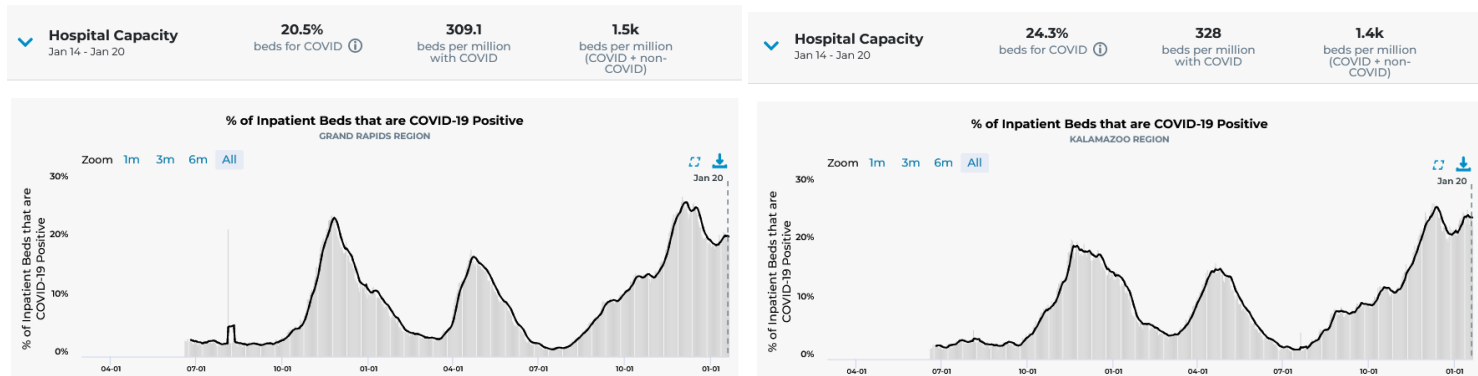
The following figures show the current percentage of inpatient beds treating COVID-19 patients, for the Grand Rapids Region (Region 6), and Kalamazoo Region (Region 5). The Grand Rapids Region has 20.5% of inpatient beds that are COVID-19 positive, and the Kalamazoo Region has 24.3% of inpatient beds that are COVID-19 positive, as of January 20, 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	56%
Ascension Borgess Hospital	43	6	93%
Ascension Borgess-Pipp Hospital	0	0	59%
Bronson Methodist Hospital	92	7	91%
Bronson South Haven	3	0	88%
Holland Community Hospital	21	1	90%
Mercy Health Mercy Campus	63	19	85%
Mercy Health St. Mary's Main Campus	51	7	94%
Metro Health Hospital	46	8	94%
Spectrum Health - Blodgett Hospital	99	17	92%
Spectrum Health - Butterworth Hospital	122	35	86%
Spectrum Health Zeeland Hospital	19	3	79%
Spectrum Helen DeVos Children's Hospital	16	0	78%

As of 1/17/2022



Vaccinations are effective at reducing hospitalizations from COVID-19. In Allegan County, 82.4% of the hospitalizations¹ have been in those that are unvaccinated.

¹ NOTE: Data is as of 1/1/21. ACHD is waiting on updated Breakthrough Case data from the state. These data were not ready at time of publication.

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 50².

BEST PRACTICES

SCHOOLS

Since the beginning of the school year, ACHD has identified **14 outbreaks or clusters in schools** (as of 1/20/22).

ACHD strongly recommends masking for all as an important mitigation strategy to keep students at in-person learning. Adopting a masking for all 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 posted new School Quarantine Guidance on 1/12/2022 to align with new isolation and quarantine guidance from CDC.

Plainwell (in place until 2/7/2022) and Saugatuck School Districts have universal masking in place. AAESA also has a mask requirement in place for their Admin building, ACATEC, Hillside Main Campus, Hillside Young Adult Campus, staff at AAESA Great Start Readiness Program, and staff during Early on Services. Washington Elementary in Otsego School District also has a 14-day masking requirement in place (until 2/2/2022).

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 as it relates to COVID. These services and bi-weekly COVID-19 updates that include data to zip code/census will be discontinued as we transition to mandated services only.

Worked with 42 Local Businesses from 1/08/22 – 1/21/22 on technical assistance including case investigation and contact tracing

COMMUNICATIONS

There is a lot of information out there related to this response, including misinformation that Public Health works to combat and health education is a mandated service.

The following are metrics related to communication efforts from 1/8/2022 – 1/25/2022

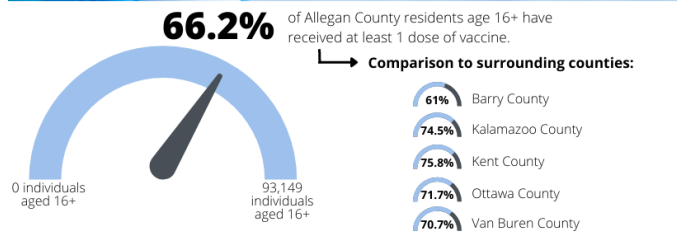
- 13 social media posts
- 2 COVID-19 Presentations
- 2 School Reports
- 1 Press Release

² NOTE: Data is as of 1/1/21. ACHD is waiting on updated Breakthrough Case data from the state. These data were not ready at time of publication.

- 4 Email Updates
- 34 education materials updated/created

Allegan County VACCINE DATA

Updated 1/24/22
Data as of 1/23/22



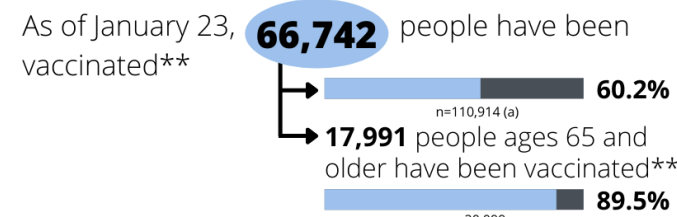
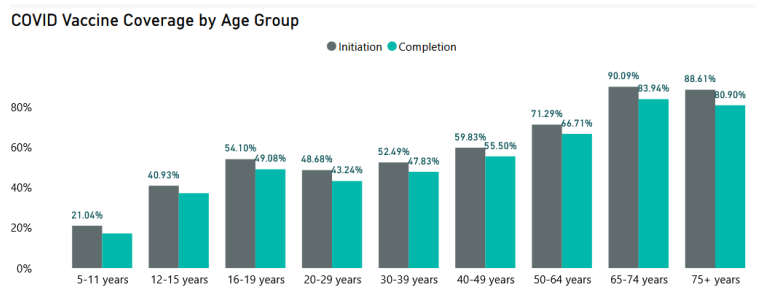
COMMUNITY VACCINATION/HERD IMMUNITY/TREATMENT

COVERAGE

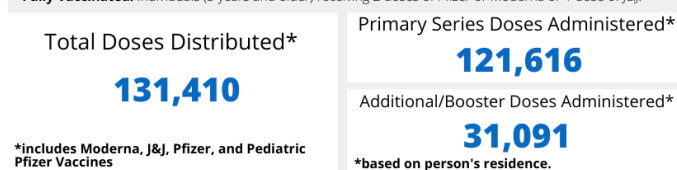
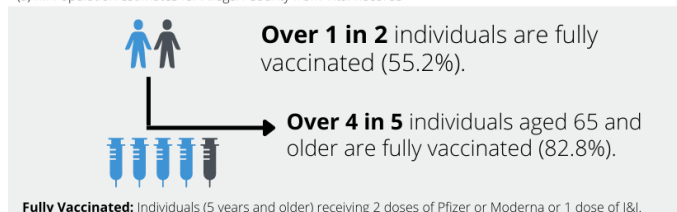
Vaccination rates remain too low at this point to stop case surges and outbreaks. There are still too many people who are susceptible. Immunity from prior infection is more unpredictable and wanes faster than immunity from vaccination. It is important to get boosters if you are eligible.

BY AGE GROUP

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



**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



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.

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 8 hrs. Vaccine availability remains high as pharmacies, doctor's offices, and health care systems are administering vaccines.

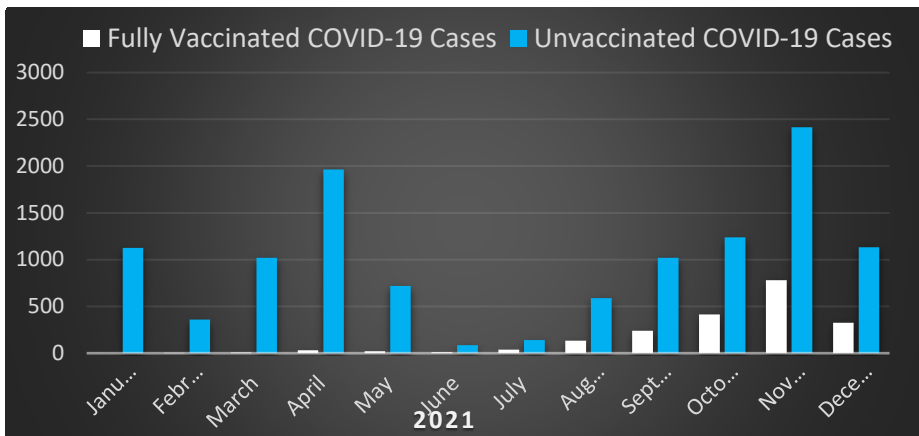
During 1/8/2022-1/20/2022, **950 residents received their first dose** (219 were pediatric first doses) and **924 residents got their second dose** (298 were pediatric second doses). **3,083 additional/booster doses were given.**

During 1/8/2022-1/20/2022, **ACHD held 4 clinics – giving 4 adult primary series doses, 30 booster or additional doses, and 9 pediatric doses.**



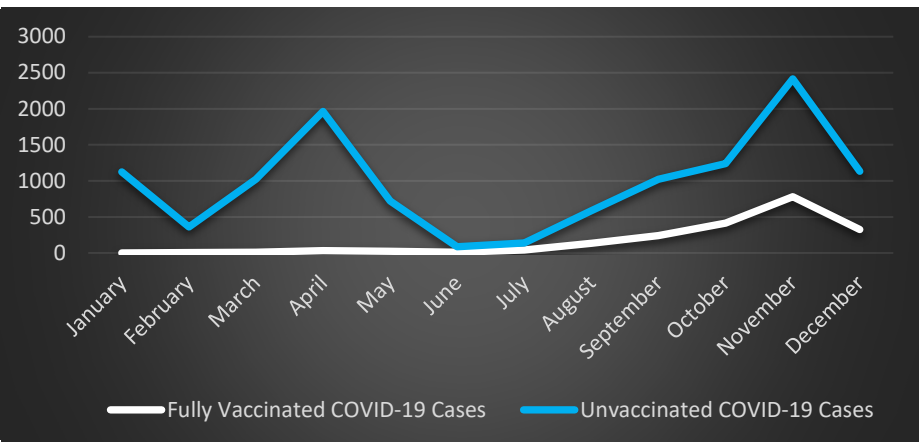
EFFECTIVENESS

Vaccination is very effective at reducing the chances of getting COVID-19³. 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. They are more likely to occur in those who are older, those who have compromised immune systems, and those who are more exposed to COVID-19 (such as at work or school). 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

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

Since January 2021, there have been:

13,819 Total COVID-19 Cases	319 Total COVID-19 Hospitalizations	171 Total COVID-19 Related Deaths
Total COVID-19 cases not fully vaccinated	Total COVID-19 hospitalizations not fully vaccinated	Total COVID-19 deaths not fully vaccinated
11,812	263	145
% of not fully vaccinated COVID-19 cases	% of not fully vaccinated COVID-19 hospitalizations	% of not fully vaccinated COVID-19 deaths
85.5%	82.4%	84.8%
Total COVID-19 cases fully vaccinated	Total COVID-19 hospitalizations fully vaccinated	Total COVID-19 deaths fully vaccinated
2,007	56	26
% of fully vaccinated COVID-19 cases	% of fully vaccinated COVID-19 hospitalizations	% of fully vaccinated COVID-19 deaths
14.5%	17.6%	15.2%

Data from January 1, 2021 to December 17, 2021

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)

³ NOTE: Data is as of 1/1/21. ACHD is waiting on updated Breakthrough Case data from the state. These data were not ready at time of publication.