



COVID-19 BOARD OF COMMISSIONER UPDATE

FEBRUARY 8, 2022
DATA AS OF FEBRUARY 4, 2022

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following report contains COVID-19 related data from January 22, 2022 to February 4, 2022 on the 5 mitigation components Allegan County Health Department (ACHD) previously identified. Test positivity and new weekly cases have been decreasing since January 25, 2022 in Allegan County. This suggests that Allegan County has reached its peak for this Omicron surge.

The percentages of inpatient beds that are COVID-19 positive for both Grand Rapids Region and Kalamazoo Region are slightly decreasing; indicating hospital capacity is slightly increasing.

Based on the Board of Commissioners January 23, 2022 decision to transition to mandated or low services and reject ACHD response recommendation and the funding needed from ARPA; ACHD began the transition to a mandated service level. As previously explained, mandated services include communicable disease investigation, health education services and limited vaccine appointments if a community member is vulnerable or a child qualifies for the Vaccine for Children program. Starting mid-February, ACHD will no longer be able to routinely provide data down to school district, zip code, or census tract data. The Michigan Disease Surveillance System is around 20 years old and it is very time consuming to pull those more localized data sets. ACHD will post a message to the website redirecting community members to CDC and MDHHS Allegan County level data. Public Health Newsletters will occur monthly and continue to include non-COVID related health information. Since ACHD announced to staff of the transition, six staff members resigned and one was let go, five staff members will be let go on 2/11/22, and three staff members will be let go on 2/18/22.

On January 31, the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine was approved for use by the FDA in individuals 18 years of age and older. On February 1, 2022, Pfizer announced that they would seek emergency use authorization (EUA) for a 6 month to 4-year-old COVID-19 vaccine. The Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) is set to meet on [February 15](#) to discuss the clinical trial data from this population. Pharmacy providers will be able to vaccinate individuals 3 years old and older. ACHD is currently working to contact all pharmacy and medical providers locally to see who will provide COVID-19 vaccines to this age group. When this vaccine is approved and there are gaps in providers willing to vaccinate this age group, ACHD will need to extend clinic hours per our minimum program requirements to meet that gap.

ACHD continues to distribute KN95 masks to community partners, and at the Human Service Building. With less than 3,600 left, ACHD is evaluating community partners on their interest to redistribute to community members. If the ability exists within partner organizations, ACHD will reorder additional KN95 masks.

Vaccination coverage continues to increase, with 60.5% of eligible residents receiving at least one dose. ACHD is working with Western MPH students and CDCF health educators to gather data locally on vaccine hesitancy to use for future health education services.

COVID-19 MITIGATION COMPONENTS



ENHANCED ABILITY TO TEST

COUNTY LEVEL DATA

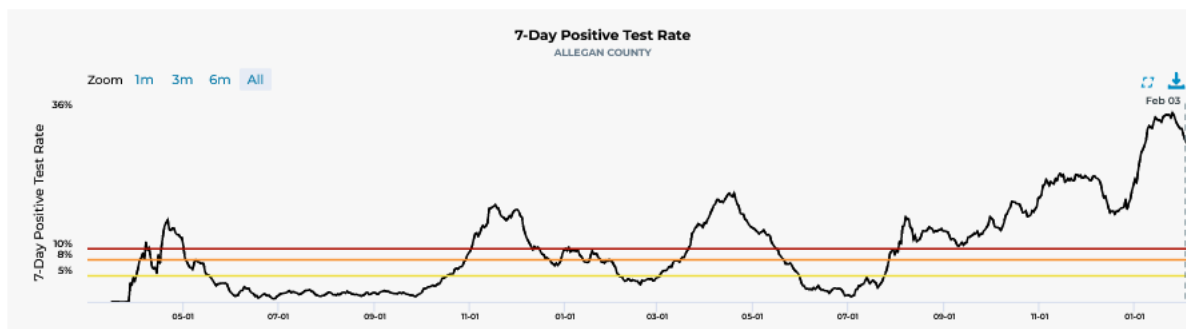
Test Positivity
Jan 28 - Feb 03

30%
positive tests

3k
daily tests
administered
per million

1 week
Jan 21 - Jan 28

The Test Positivity Rate has decreased in the last week in Allegan County. **Allegan County is currently at 30% 7-day positivity, with 3 k daily administered tests per million.**



TEST AVAILABILITY

On January 19, 2022, the Federal Government launched [covidtests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov), where each household could get 4 free at home test kits. [As of January 15, 2022](#), private health insurers are required to cover up to eight at-home COVID-19 diagnostic tests per month for each person covered by a health plan. More information related to insurance coverage of COVID-19 at home test kits can be found [here](#).

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 [here](#). Currently, HONU and MDHHS are still able to host testing events locally but need locations that are conducive to providing this testing during the winter months.

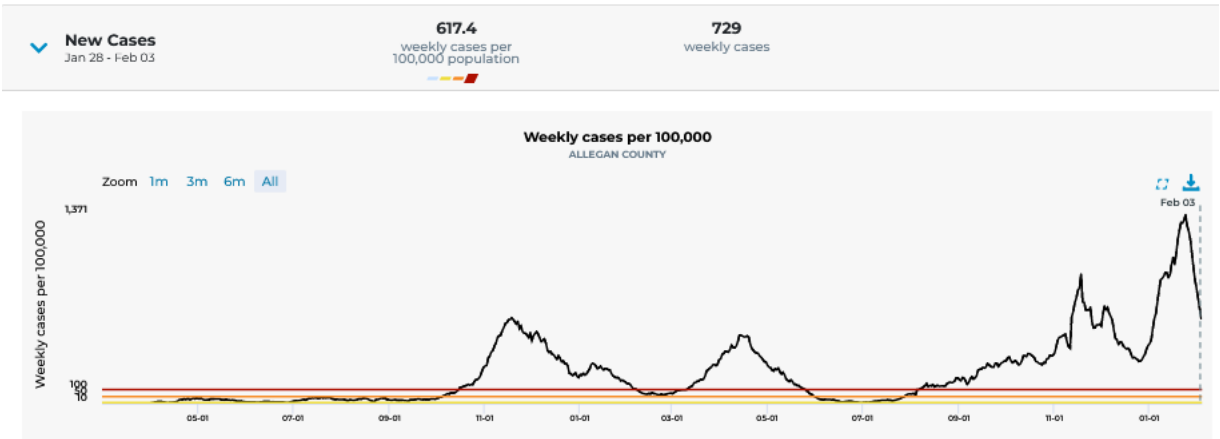
The testing events hosted by HONU at Allegan County Transportation building:

- Six testing events from 1/24/2022-2/4/2022 with 382 tests administered and 26.7% 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 significant decrease in actual cases in the last two weeks. However, ACHD still has more COVID-19 cases in one week than ACHD did for all communicable disease investigation cases for the whole year of 2019. During the period 1/28/2022-2/3/2022, Allegan County’s new case rate was 617.4 per 100,000.**



Due to the high volume of cases, our public health and healthcare systems still struggle to provide case investigation, contact tracing, and healthcare

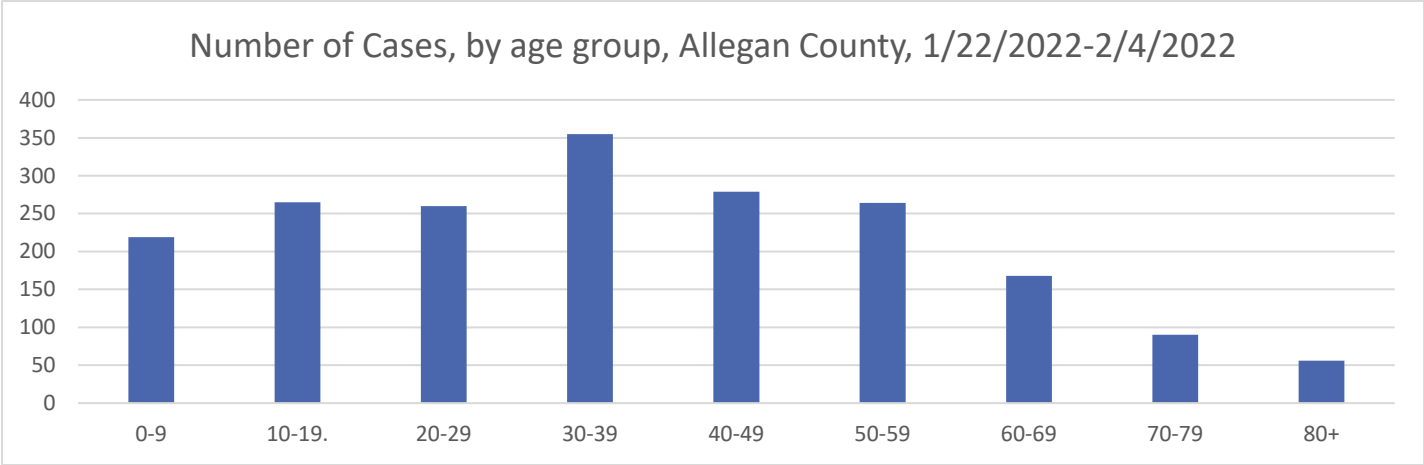
services such as routine procedures and hospital inpatient capacity. While individuals can still become infected, data shows milder illness for fully vaccinated and boosted individuals. ACHD is currently holding vaccine clinics with limited hours two times a week for those who choose to get a COVID-19 vaccine and/or booster at the Health Department. ACHD is also doing homebound individuals and connecting other vulnerable congregate cares to local pharmacies or providers

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 (1/22/2022 – 2/4/2022)



From 1/22/22 to 2/4/22, Allegan County had a reported **9.8% 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.

1,964 cases reported in the MDSS from 1/22/2022 to 2/4/2022

122 letters sent to cases from 1/22/2022-2/4/2022

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.

655 close contacts currently being monitored as of 2/7/2022

1,778 quarantine letters sent from 1/22/2022-2/4/2022

SCHOOLS

In October 2021, ACHD began publishing biweekly school reports to help parents, educators, and leaders make informed decisions. Due to funding levels decreasing, these reports will no longer be published after February 8, 2022.

View school reports here:

- [January 25th Report](#)
- February 8th Report (to be posted on www.allegancounty.org/covid by 5pm on February 8)

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 18.6% 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 February 3, 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	3	0	32%
Ascension Borgess Hospital	37	7	100%
Ascension Borgess-Pipp Hospital	0	0	53%
Bronson Methodist Hospital	75	4	85%
Bronson South Haven	2	0	63%
Holland Community Hospital	20	1	95%
Mercy Health Mercy Campus	72	17	86%
Mercy Health St. Mary's Main Campus	54	4	84%
Metro Health Hospital	29	7	78%
Spectrum Health - Blodgett Hospital	86	13	93%
Spectrum Health - Butterworth Hospital	121	32	86%

Spectrum Health Zeeland Hospital	13	4	65%
Spectrum Helen DeVos Children's Hospital	23	0	78%

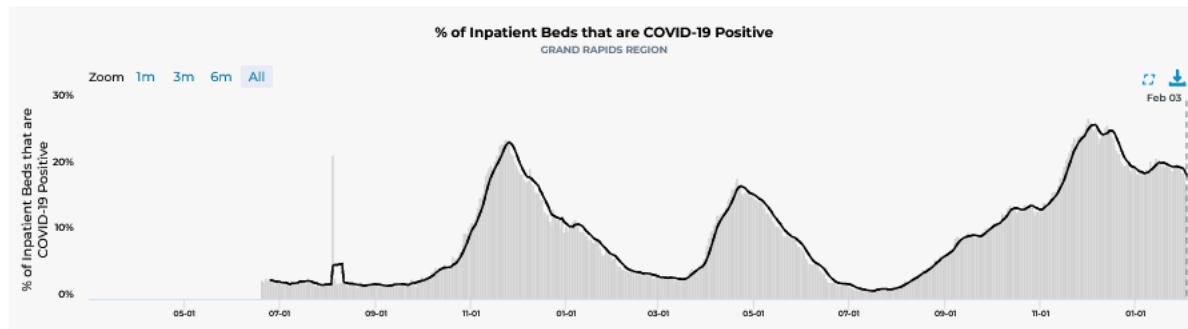
As of 1/31/2022

Hospital Capacity
Jan 28 - Feb 03

18.6%
beds for COVID ⓘ

266.8
beds per million
with COVID

1.5k
beds per million
(COVID + non-
COVID)

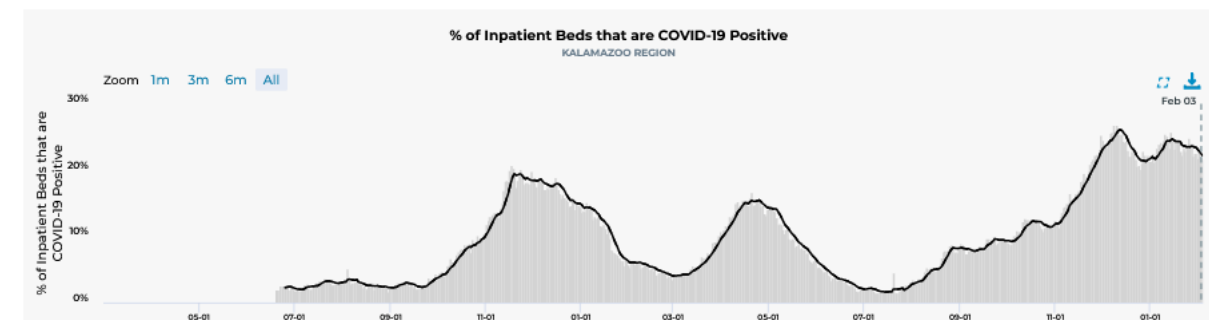


Hospital Capacity
Jan 28 - Feb 03

22.2%
beds for COVID ⓘ

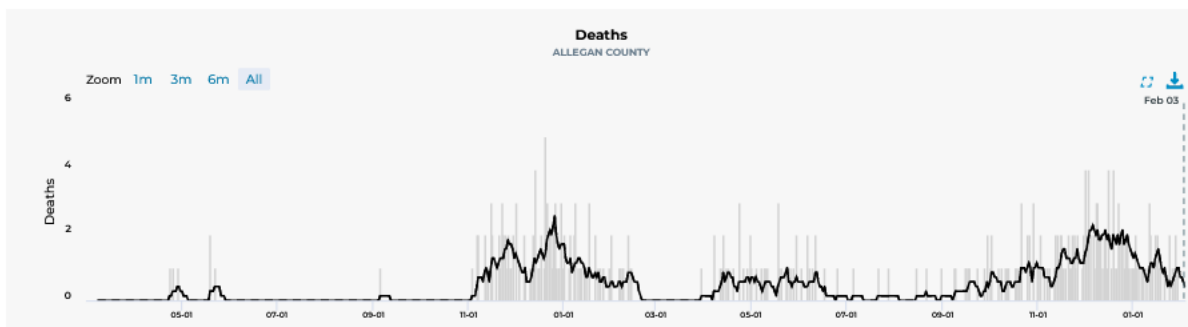
293.5
beds per million
with COVID

1.4k
beds per million
(COVID + non-
COVID)



Vaccinations are effective at reducing hospitalizations from COVID-19. In Allegan County, 82.9% 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. 86.5% of COVID-19 deaths have been in unvaccinated individuals.

BEST PRACTICES

DATA AS OF FEBRUARY 4, 2022

SCHOOLS

Since the beginning of the school year, ACHD has identified **14 outbreaks or clusters in schools** (as of 2/3/22)

ACHD strongly recommends masking for all as an important mitigation strategy to keep students at in-person learning since our community is still in high community transmission. 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.

Saugatuck School District and AAESA have universal masking in place.

BUSINESSES

Since the start of the pandemic ACHD has prioritized an individual to work with all businesses in Allegan County to provide technical assistance as needed when cases are identified in the workplace. As we transition to mandated services, ACHD will only be able to offer assistance when there is a cluster or outbreak. When a business calls, our front desk support staff will ensure they are connected with CDC, MDHHS, or local health education information.

Worked with 17 Local Businesses from 1/22/22 – 2/4/22 on technical assistance including case investigation and contact tracing

COMMUNICATIONS

COVID Health Education has been a prioritized effort in this response. There is a lot of information out there related to this response, including misinformation that is a challenge for Public Health to combat. .

The following are metrics related to communication efforts from 1/22/2022 – 2/7/2022

- 8 social media posts
- 1 COVID-19 Presentations
- 1 School Reports
- 1 Press Release
- 3 Email Updates
- 20 education materials updated/created

COMMUNITY VACCINATION/HERD IMMUNITY/TREATMENT

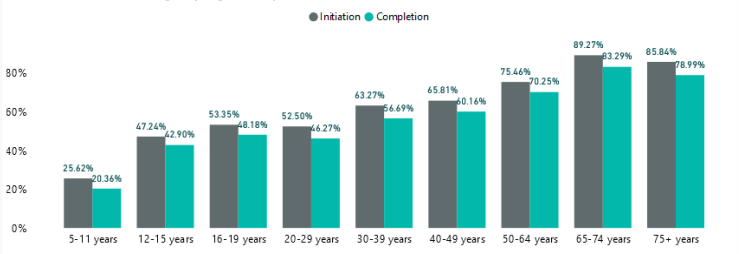
COVERAGE

Vaccination rates remain too low at this point to stop case surges and outbreaks. Still too many people 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.

DATA AS OF FEBRUARY 4, 2022

BY AGE GROUP

COVID Vaccine Coverage by Age Group



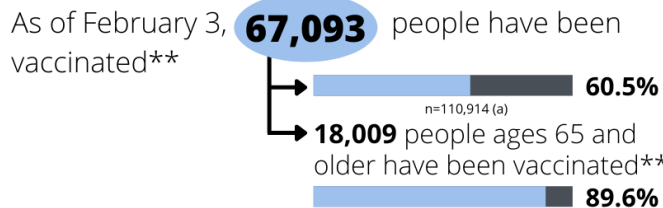
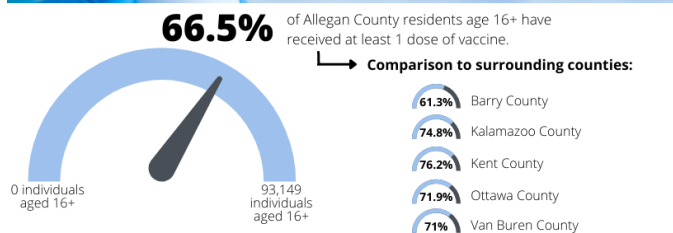
VACCINE AVAILABILITY

ACHD currently has on-site COVID-19 vaccine clinics every Thursday (1 PM – 6 PM) and Friday (1 PM – 4 PM). After February 18, ACHD will move to by appointment only COVID-19 vaccines. Vaccine availability remains high as pharmacies, doctor’s offices, and health care systems are administering vaccines.

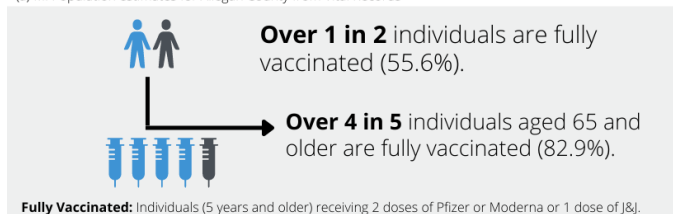
During 1/22/2022-2/4/2022, **428 residents received their first dose** (120 were pediatric first doses) and **533 residents got their second dose** (184 were pediatric second doses). **1,540 additional/booster doses were given.**

During 1/22/2022-2/4/2022, **ACHD held 4 clinics – giving 3 adult primary series doses, 11 booster or additional doses, and 9 pediatric doses.**

Allegan County VACCINE DATA



**Individuals given at least 1 dose of vaccine. On 1/19, we began including the population 5 years and older. (a) MI Population estimates for Allegan County from Vital Records



Total Doses Distributed*	Primary Series Doses Administered*
132,910	122,319
	Additional/Booster Doses Administered*
	32,175
*includes Moderna, J&J, Pfizer, and Pediatric Pfizer Vaccines	*based on person's residence.

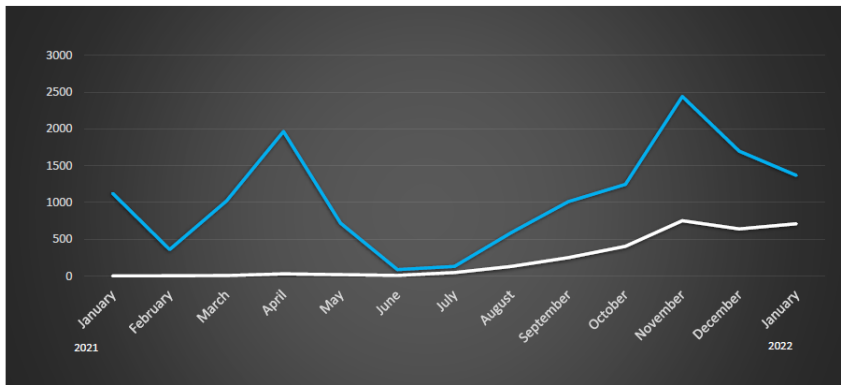
PLANNED CLINICS
 ACHD has vaccine clinics available by appointment at the health department. To schedule an appointment, visit www.allegancounty.org/covid or call 269-673-541

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

Allegan County COVID-19 Fully Vaccinated Cases vs Unvaccinated Cases from 01/01/2021 to 01/14/2022

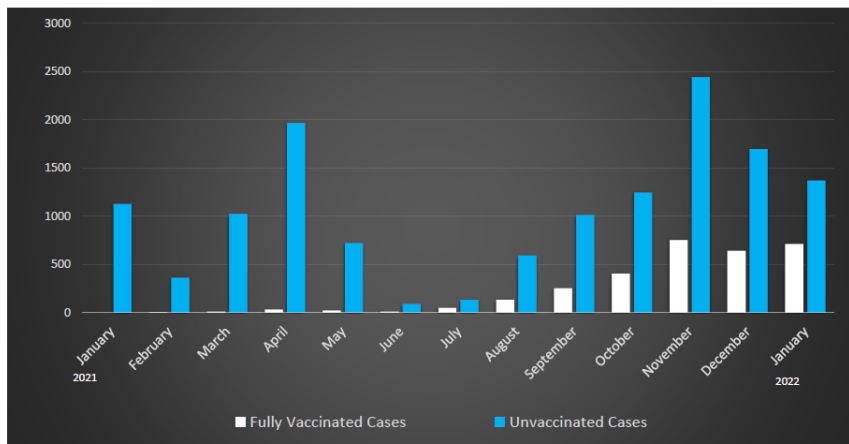


When comparing fully vaccinated cases to unvaccinated cases, unvaccinated cases are more likely to occur, even though fully vaccinated cases have increased since July 2021. As you can see in the charts, the unvaccinated (blue line) have more cases compared to the fully vaccinated (white line).

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

Allegan County COVID-19 Fully Vaccinated Cases vs Unvaccinated Cases from 01/01/2021 to 01/14/2022



infectious viral particles for a shorter period.

Allegan County
Case Data by Vaccination Status
ALL AGES

Updated 1/26/2022
Data as of 1/14/22

Since January 2021, there have been:

<p>16,755 Total COVID-19 Cases</p> <p>Total COVID-19 cases not fully vaccinated 13,769</p> <p>% of not fully vaccinated COVID-19 cases 82.1%</p>	<p>346 Total COVID-19 Hospitalizations</p> <p>Total COVID-19 hospitalizations not fully vaccinated 287</p> <p>% of not fully vaccinated COVID-19 hospitalizations 82.9%</p>	<p>193 Total COVID-19 Related Deaths</p> <p>Total COVID-19 deaths not fully vaccinated 167</p> <p>% of not fully vaccinated COVID-19 deaths 86.5%</p>
<p>Total COVID-19 cases fully vaccinated 3,006</p> <p>% of fully vaccinated COVID-19 cases 17.9%</p>	<p>Total COVID-19 hospitalizations fully vaccinated 59</p> <p>% of fully vaccinated COVID-19 hospitalizations 17.1%</p>	<p>Total COVID-19 deaths fully vaccinated 26</p> <p>% of fully vaccinated COVID-19 deaths 13.5%</p>

Data from January 1, 2021 to January 14, 2022

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)