



COVID-19 BOARD OF COMMISSIONER UPDATE

MARCH 22, 2022

Data as of March 21, 2022

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Data as of March 17, 2022

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following report contains COVID-19 related data from March 4, 2022 to March 17, 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. ACHD has aligned with the [CDC framework](#) released in February to monitor the level of COVID-19 in communities that includes hospitalizations, hospital capacity, and cases, to inform recommendations on prevention measures, like masking and testing. Allegan County is currently in a post-surge recovery phase, and as of March 17, is in a low COVID-19 community level.

On March 11, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) updated their Quarantine and Isolation Guidance to align with the state being in a post-surge, recovery phase. (This guidance is an additional consideration to ACHD’s guidance that is in alignment with CDC’s framework released February 25).

MDHHS recommends local health departments and school administrators, and leaders work together to quickly isolate COVID-19 cases among students and staff, adopt quarantine policies that reduce the risk of transmission in schools while supporting in-person learning, and maintain consistent and timely communication with school families and staff. Changes in MDHHS guidance is expanded upon in the Schools section (pg. 10) in this report.

COVID-19 Community Levels – Use the Highest Level that Applies to Your Community				
New COVID-19 Cases Per 100,000 people in the past 7 days	Indicators	Low	Medium	High
Fewer than 200	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	<10.0	10.0-19.9	≥20.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	<10.0%	10.0-14.9%	≥15.0%
200 or more	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	NA	<10.0	≥10.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	NA	<10.0%	≥10.0%

The COVID-19 community level is determined by the higher of the new admissions and inpatient beds metrics, based on the current level of new cases per 100,000 population in the past 7 days

To find out the COVID-19 community level:

- First determine whether a county, state, or territory has fewer than 200 new cases per 100,000 people in the past 7 days or 200 new cases or more per 100,000 people in the past 7 days.
- Then, determine the level (low, medium, or high) for the new admissions and inpatient beds and indicators using the scale for the area’s number for new cases.
- The COVID-19 Community Level is based on the higher of the new admissions and inpatient beds metrics.
- Check your county’s [COVID-19 Community Level](#).

The percentages of inpatient beds that are COVID-19 positive for both Grand Rapids Region and Kalamazoo Region are still continuing to decrease; indicating an increase in hospital capacity. Since Allegan County is in a post-surge recovery phase, ACHD has been using this time to plan with community partners for our next surge with a particular focus on it being a vaccine resistant variant with higher mortality rates. ACHD is also working with CDCF contract staff to conduct focus groups and/or survey tools around vaccine hesitancy, to gain an understanding on how efforts to increase vaccine coverage in Allegan County can be implemented.

ACHD has received supplies of child-size KN95 masks. These masks are being distributed to our partner local units of government and libraries. Over 1,700 adult and child KN5 masks have been given to our partner sites to increase community access. Providing resources like masks to the community allows residents to have tools they need if they need additional personal protection based on their risk, or Allegan County, enters a high COVID-19 community level. The organizations that have masks available can be found [here](#). ACHD encourages those in need of masks to [contact](#) these organizations for mask availability.

Long COVID – also known as PASC (post-acute sequelae of COVID-19) -- is difficult illness to diagnose and study, but information on this burden will be important to understand, as Long COVID will be a contributing factor on long-term public health outcomes for years to come. For treatments to be developed, scientists are looking to understand the burden, epidemiological patterns, and biological pathways through which long COVID develops. New information on long COVID, as well as resources for community members to locate long COVID clinics – called Post COVID Care Centers (PCCC) — is outlined in this report. More information can be

found in the [“Long COVID Miniseries” by Your Local Epidemiologist](#), and by viewing the interactive PCCC map at www.survivorcorps.com/pccc.

ACHD is working to share mental health information and resources to the community through social media and monthly community newsletters. Based on results from the Allegan County Community Health Survey, many residents in Allegan County have had their mental health impacted because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Providing mental health information and resources to residents is an important part of COVID-19 response and navigating the pandemic. The Stay Well Program from MDHHS offers confidential counseling to Michigan residents and different online resources for those struggling with mental health. View more information [here](#).

COVID-19 MITIGATION COMPONENTS



Allegan County COVID-19 Community Level: Low

Allegan County Health Department recommends everyone to:

- Stay up to date on your COVID-19 Vaccines
- Get tested if you have symptoms

Actions including social distancing, frequent handwashing, wearing a well-fitted face mask, and isolation/quarantine help lessen the level of transmission

HEALTH Department | Learn more about CDC's COVID-19 Community Levels [here](#). #DoYourPart

Allegan County currently is in a low community level for COVID-19. At this time, ACHD is encouraging residents to stay [up-to-date](#) on their COVID-19 vaccines, get tested if they develop symptoms, and consider wearing a mask when needed.

ENHANCED ABILITY TO TEST

COUNTY LEVEL DATA

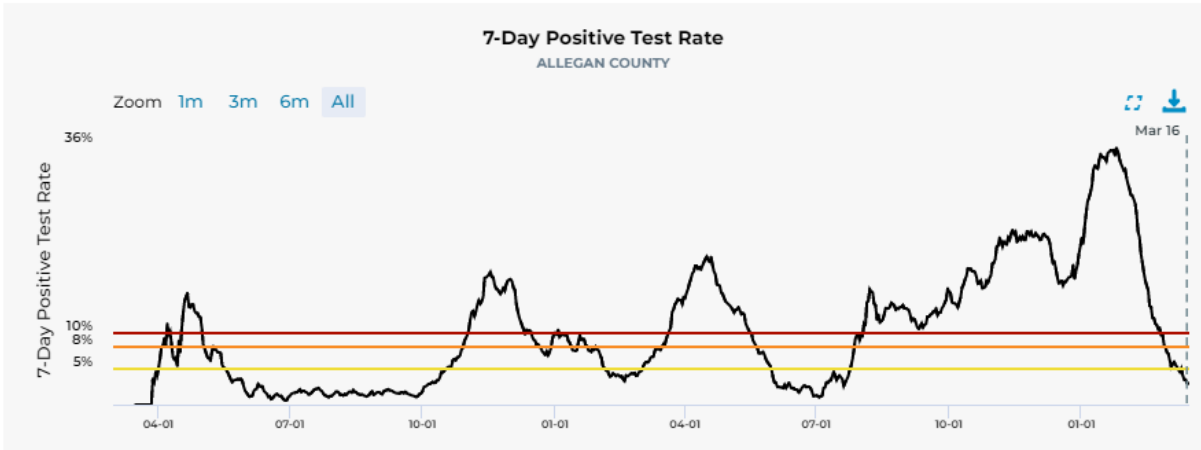
Test Positivity
 Mar 10 - Mar 16

2.9%
 positive tests

1.1k
 daily tests administered per million

7 weeks ⓘ
 Jan 21 - Mar 11

The Test Positivity Rate has decreased about 50% from the two weeks prior. **Allegheny County is currently at 2.9% 7-day positivity, with 1.1 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 four 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 found [here](#).

On March 1, 2022, it was announced that Americans could order an additional set of four tests from [covidtests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov). ACHD has shared this information out with the community through social media as well as the March ACHD e-mail newsletter that went out to over 29,000 residents.

Another way individuals can order free COVID-19 tests per household is through Project ACT. To check zip code eligibility, visit [AccessCovidTests.org](https://www.AccessCovidTests.org), call 888-535-6136 or contact 211. Qualifying zip codes will receive one free kit per household, containing five tests in a kit. Zip codes are routinely being added to the eligibility list.

Residents can also find community-testing locations through the MDHHS website resources:

- Free community-based pop-up rapid antigen testing: [Coronavirus - Community Based Pop-Up Rapid Antigen Testing](#)
- COVID-19 testing location finder: [Coronavirus - Test](#)

Testing resources ebb and flow locally with demand in testing. When more virus is in the community, it is harder to get appointments locally related to demand is greater than supply/resources. With current testing levels, many people are not seeking testing.

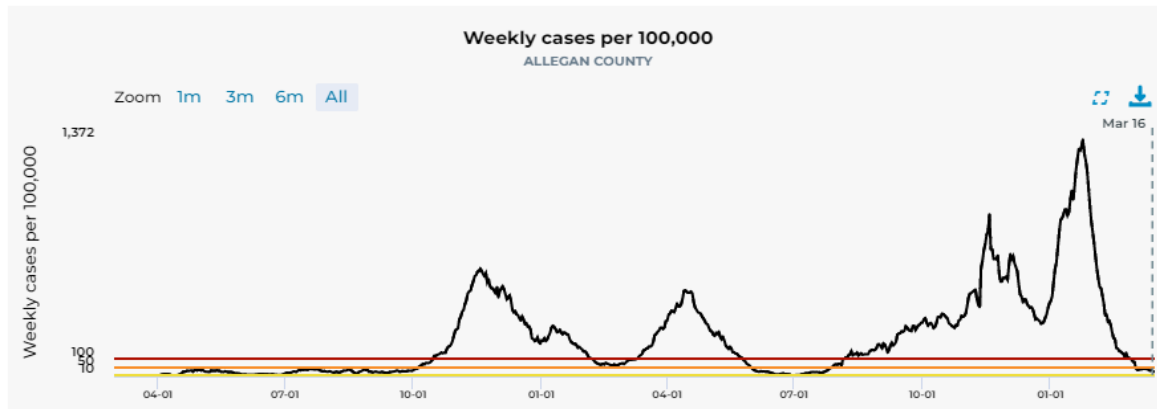
If residents are struggling to find accessible testing, they can call ACHD at 269-673-5411 option 2 and we can help them navigate the systems.

ROBUST CASE INVESTIGATION AND CONTACT TRACING

ALLEGAN COUNTY COVID-19 COMMUNITY LEVEL: LOW

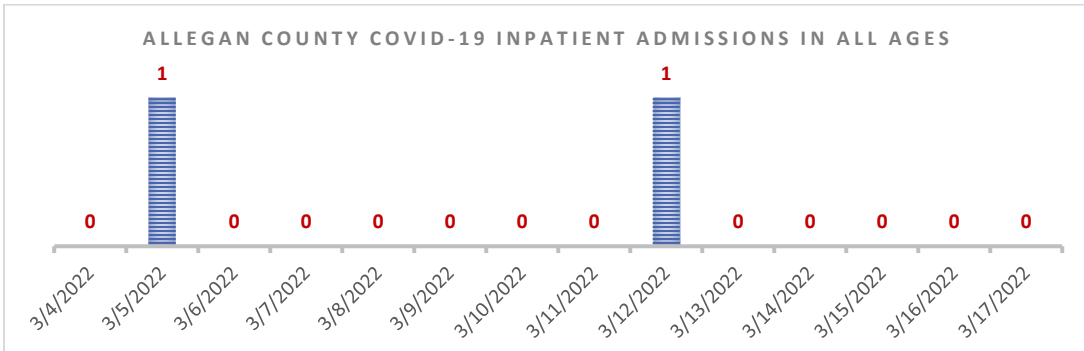
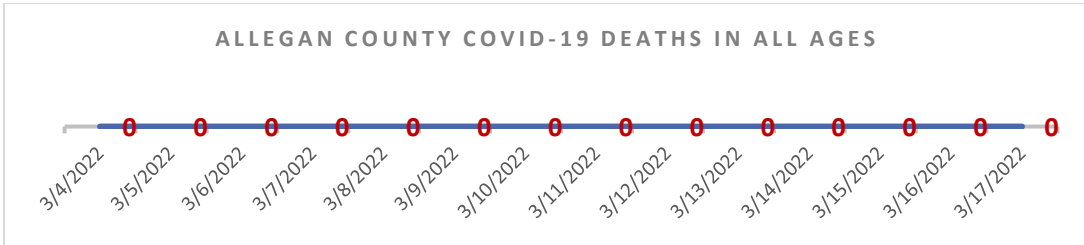
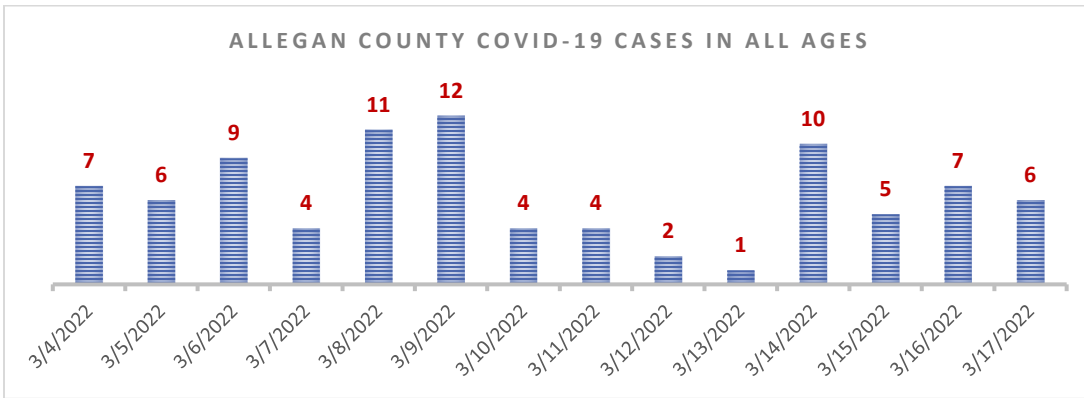
<p>New Cases Mar 10 - Mar 16</p>	<p>27.9 weekly cases per 100,000 population</p>	<p>33 weekly cases</p>
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Allegan County has been in a high level of community transmission since early August 2021. Allegan County is now in a low COVID-19 community level based on new CDC framework, since February 24, 2022. **There has been a decrease in actual cases in the last two**



weeks. During the period 3/10/2022-3/16/2022, Allegan County’s new case rate was 27.9 per 100,000. More than 65% decrease from the two weeks prior.

OVERVIEW OF COVID-19 CASES AND DEATHS IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS (03/04/2022 – 03/17/2022)



During 03/04/2022 to 03/17/2022:

88 total cases were reported via the Michigan Disease Surveillance System (MDSS) for Allegan County.

The highest number of cases were reported in 20 to 29 years of age.

The youngest inpatient admission was reported in 40 to 49 years of age.

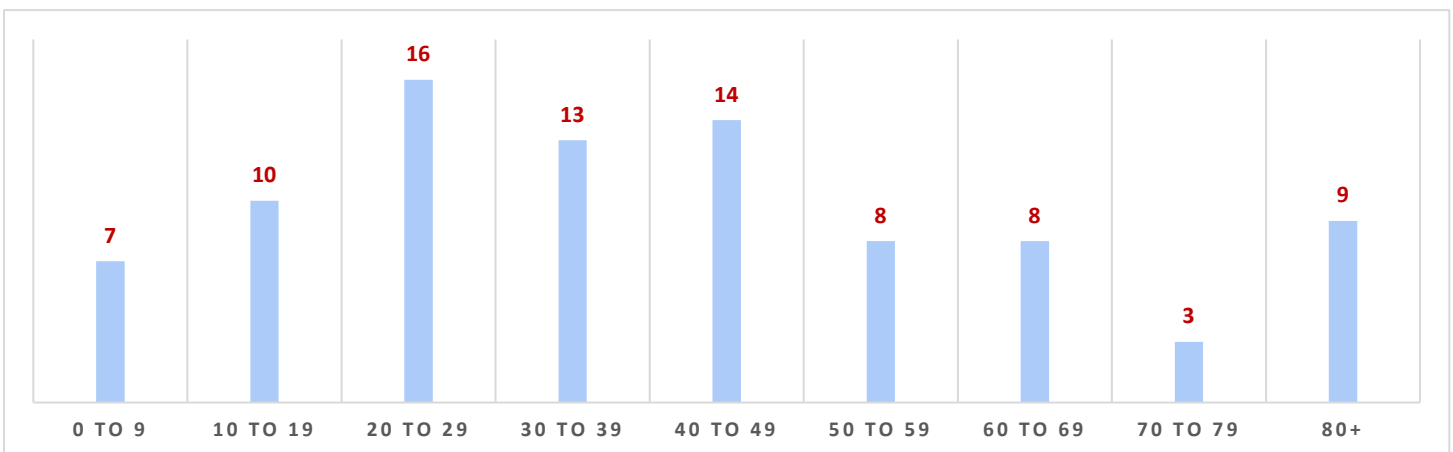
There were no deaths reported related to SARS CoV-2 infection.

As of 2/16/2022, MDHHS has released an update stating that Michigan is transitioning into a *post-surge recovery phase*.

CASE INVESTIGATION

ACHD is currently working to investigate all cases.

CASES IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS, BY AGE GROUP (03/04/2022 – 03/17/2022)



From 03/04/2022 to 03/17/2022, Allegan County had a reported **11.4% 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.

As reported in the Michigan Disease Surveillance System (MDSS) during this timeframe: **1.1% of cases were identified as community contacts** (meaning close contacts who were in a setting other than household), and **4.5% of cases were close contacts to those who work or live in a high-risk/congregate facility** in Allegan County.

88 cases reported in the MDSS from 3/4/2022 to 3/17/2022

EXPOSURE LETTERS AND CLOSE CONTACTS

On February 28, ACHD sent a memo to superintendents and board of education members letting them know that as of March 1, 2022 ACHD is moving from sending quarantine letters to sending potential Exposure Letters for COVID-19, similar to other communicable disease letters. Potential Exposure Letters will be sent to individuals based on classroom and bus lists provided from schools. Quarantine might be required if there is an identified outbreak or ongoing spread in the facility. Recommendations regarding masking and quarantine may change as conditions evolve or Allegan County moves to a High Community Level, based on the new CDC framework. During future times of surge, additional access to testing resources, vaccination clinics, and therapeutic treatment may be made available as the situation warrants.

220 exposure letters were sent out as of 03/18/2022

WHY SHOULD PEOPLE CONSIDER 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.

0 close contacts currently being monitored as of 03/18/2022

SUFFICIENT HEALTH CARE CAPACITY

LONG COVID-19 (POST-ACUTE SEQUELAE OF SARS-COV-2 INFECTIONS [PASC])

Last update we defined Long COVID (also referred to as PASC), the symptoms associated, and comparison of long COVID to other viruses. This update includes long COVID-19 data for Michigan, viral load as an indicator for long COVID, and treatment moving forward. There is still a lot to study and learn from long COVID. Researchers are looking closely at patients with Long COVID and are finding traces of the virus in all types of different tissues, including the esophagus, thyroid, and spleen. Researchers are also looking at the toll COVID-19 takes on the body. This illness is difficult to diagnose and study, but information on this burden will be important to understand, as Long COVID will be a contributing factor on long-term public health outcomes for years to come. For more information, view [“Long COVID Miniseries” by Your Local Epidemiologist](#).

Prevalence and incidence estimates for long COVID have vastly ranged from 2% to 75%. The American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation uses an estimate of 30% on their [long COVID dashboard](#), which equates to **23.44 million Americans** currently experiencing long COVID.

MICHIGAN DATA

On their long COVID dashboard, the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation estimates currently in Michigan there have been 689,678 cases of long COVID since July 2020. The dashboard also estimates there have been 2,298,928 total surviving COVID-19 cases in Michigan since July 2020. See Figure 1 to the right.

VIRAL LOAD

SARS-CoV-2 viral load can predict severe COVID-19 disease. One of the leading virology labs, Yale’s Iwasaki Lab, [found](#) that viral load on saliva tests predicted the severity of COVID-19 cases, like mortality. Viral load can predict long COVID as well. A recent [study](#) found the level of coronavirus RNA in the blood early in infection positively predicts long COVID 3-months later. The study found that viral load maps to one specific long COVID symptom: loss of taste and smell.

TREATMENT

For treatments to be developed, scientists are looking to understand the burden, epidemiological patterns, and biological pathways through which long COVID develops. Results from one study were presented at the American College of Cardiology’s [Cardiovascular Summit](#) conference last month. A scientific group [evaluated](#) the impact of enhanced external counterpulsation (EECP) therapy among 50 COVID-19 survivors. EECP uses contracting and relaxing pneumatic cuffs on the calves, thighs, and lower hip area to provide oxygen-rich blood to the heart muscle, brain, and the rest of the body. The sessions lasted for more than 7 weeks. At the end, long COVID symptoms like fatigue, breathing difficulties, and chest discomfort all improved. Evidence of this study were preliminary with no control group, but were a step in the right direction for developing treatment for long COVID.

Long COVID clinics – called Post COVID Care Centers (PCCC)—have opened across the country and world affiliated with Survivor Corps. Residents can view the interactive map database and find clinics at www.survivorcorps.com/pccc.

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 **4.9%** of inpatient beds that are COVID-19 positive, and the **Kalamazoo Region** has **4.9%** of inpatient beds that are COVID-19 positive, as of March 16, 2022.

Data as of March 17, 2022

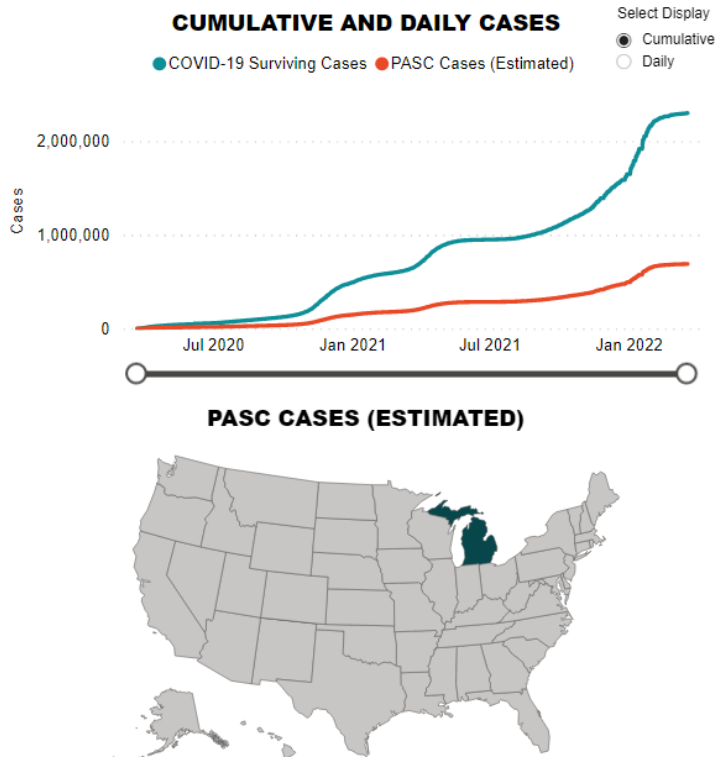


Figure 1: American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation map of Post-Acute Sequelae of SARS-CoV-2 Infections (PASC) Estimates and Insights for Michigan (Data as of 3/20/2022)

HOSPITALS IN THE ALLEGAN COUNTY AREA

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

As of 3/21/2022

Hospital	COVID-19 Patients	COVID-19 Patients in ICU	Bed Occupancy %
Ascension Borgess Allegan Hospital	0	0	8%
Ascension Borgess Hospital	4	1	88%
Ascension Borgess-Pipp Hospital	0	0	65%
Bronson Methodist Hospital	20	2	98%
Bronson South Haven	0	0	75%
Holland Community Hospital	6	0	78%
Mercy Health Mercy Campus	15	2	77%
Mercy Health St. Mary's Main Campus	4	1	55%
Metro Health Hospital	1	0	73%
Spectrum Health - Blodgett Hospital	13	2	92%
Spectrum Health - Butterworth Hospital	39	5	89%
Spectrum Health Zeeland Hospital	2	1	36%
Spectrum Helen DeVos Children's Hospital	5	0	75%

✓

Hospital Capacity

Mar 10 - Mar 16

4.9%

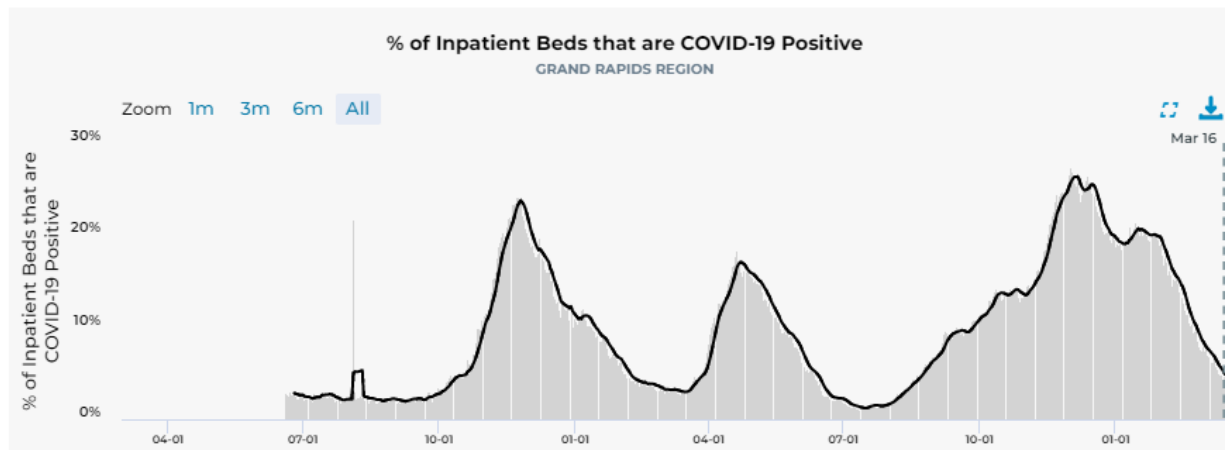
beds with COVID ⓘ

70.8

beds per million with COVID

1.6k

beds per million (COVID + non-COVID)

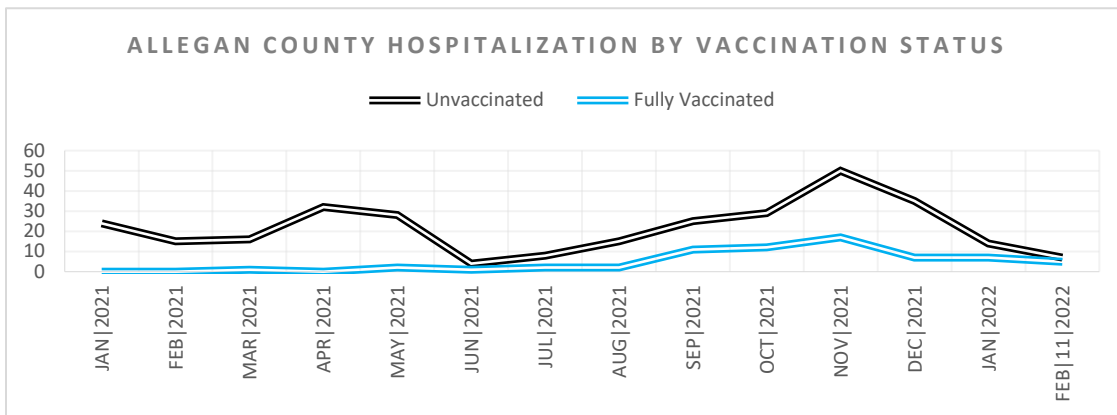
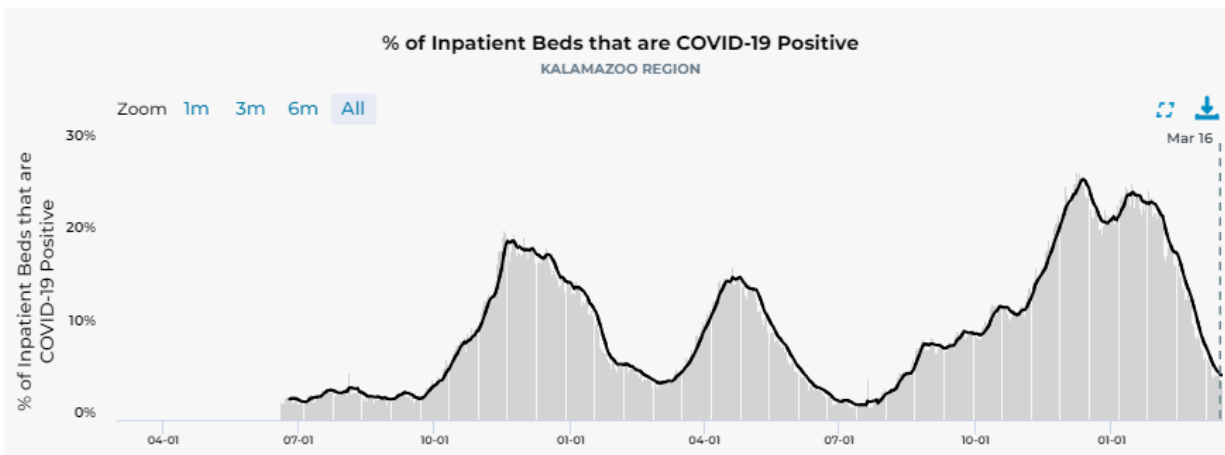


Hospital Capacity
Mar 10 - Mar 16

4.9%
beds with COVID ⓘ

57.4
beds per million
with COVID

1.3k
beds per million
(COVID + non-
COVID)

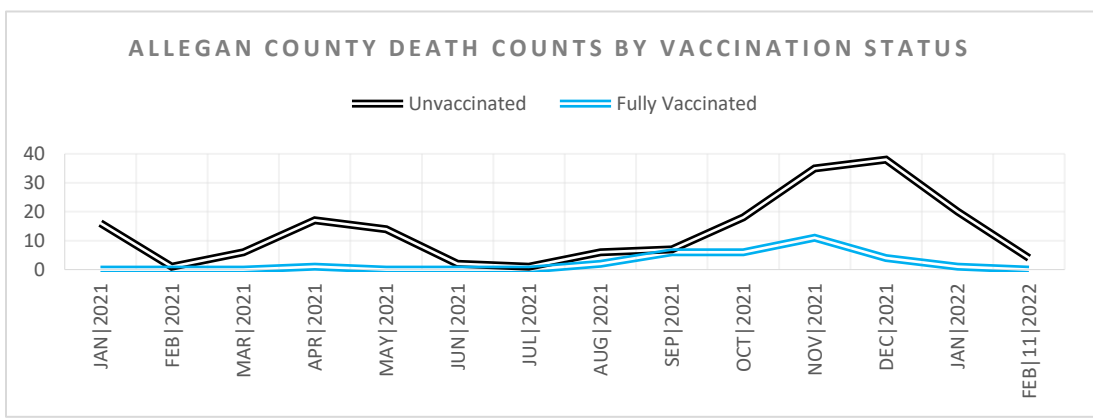


Vaccinations are effective at reducing hospitalizations from COVID-19. In Allegan County, 81.8% of the hospitalizations from 01/01/2021 to 02/11/2022 have been in those that are unvaccinated.

DEATHS

Deaths
Mar 10 - Mar 16

0
daily deaths



Similarly, vaccinations are effective at preventing deaths from COVID-19. There were 85.8% of COVID-19 deaths identified in unvaccinated individuals in Allegan County from 01/01/2021 to 02/11/2022.

BEST PRACTICES

OUTBREAKS & CLUSTERS

The following table shows the number of outbreaks that ACHD has identified for high-risk settings in Allegan County as of March 18, 2022. ACHD has not identified any new outbreaks related to schools since February 3, 2022. ACHD has not identified any new outbreaks in businesses and other congregate care facilities since February 17, 2022. There was one new outbreak identified in a long-term care setting as of March 8, 2022. ACHD reported three ongoing outbreaks in the state’s Situation Report as of March 17, 2022.

Type of Setting	Total Number of Outbreaks
School	14
Business	8
Long Term Care*	17
Other Congregate Facilities**	1

Data as of March 17, 2022

*An increase noted in the total number of outbreaks for the Long Term Care setting is due to an outbreak coding update made in MDSS. This update allows staying in compliance with an epidemiological procedure that distinguishes outbreak identifiers specific to different building licensures, which are operating under the same facility name.

**Includes jails, correctional facilities and shelters

SCHOOLS













On February 25, CDC released a new framework to monitor the level of COVID-19 in communities. Allegan County is currently in a low COVID-19 Community Level. ACHD has aligned with CDC and is working to update school guidance documents and quarantine recommendations to reflect this new framework and that Allegan County currently being in low COVID-19 Community level. Updated documents will be posted to <https://www.allegancounty.org/health/covid-19/covid-19-school-resources>.

ACHD recommends people stay up to date with their vaccines, seek testing, and stay home if they are sick. Schools should continue to ensure increased ventilation, social distancing when possible, frequent handwashing, individuals staying home when sick and enhanced cleaning. ACHD recommends that all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, should wear a mask during isolation and quarantine periods. [Making personal decisions](#) about mask use in certain settings is an important tool in mitigating the spread of COVID-19. Individuals, who feel sick, may be at high risk of infection, or whom feel better protected when masked should choose to wear a mask to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

On March 11, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) updated their Quarantine and Isolation Guidance to align with the state being in a post-surge, recovery phase (this guidance is an additional consideration to ACHD's guidance that is in alignment with CDC's framework released February 25).


MDHHS recommends local health departments and school administrators, and leaders work together to quickly isolate COVID-19 cases among students and staff, adopt quarantine policies that reduce the risk of transmission in schools while supporting in-person learning, and maintain consistent and timely communication with school families and staff.

Changes in MDHHS Quarantine Guidance are now determined on the type of exposure a student is a contact to (personal/household exposure or other/community exposure) rather than vaccination status. View the graphic below detailing MDHHS new guidance.

	Who is Impacted	Public Health Recommendations
 <h2>Isolation</h2> <p>Has COVID-19</p>	<p>Any individual who tests positive for COVID-19 and/or displays COVID-19 symptoms (without an alternate diagnosis or negative COVID-19 test) regardless of vaccination status.</p>	 Isolate at home for 5 days; and  If symptoms have improved or no symptoms developed, may leave isolation after day 5 and wear a well-fitted mask, for 5 more days (ending after day 10).* <i>If positive with no symptoms, monitor for symptoms for 10 days as well.</i> 
 <h2>Quarantine</h2> <p>Exposed to COVID-19</p>	<p>Personal or household contact, regardless of vaccination status, exposed to someone with COVID-19 (see definition below).</p>	 Monitor symptoms for 10 days.  Test 3-7 days after exposure or if symptoms develop.  Wear a mask around others for 10 days after exposure.**  Avoid unmasked activities or activities with higher risk of exposing vulnerable individuals.***
	<p>Other exposure (from community, social, work setting).</p>	 Monitor symptoms for 10 days.  Consider wearing a mask around others for 10 days after exposure; at a minimum, mask in settings with higher risk of exposing vulnerable individuals.***  Test if symptoms develop.

* If a mask cannot be worn, recommend 10 days of home isolation.
 ** If a mask cannot be worn, individual should home quarantine for 10 days. A Test to Stay protocol may also be developed in partnership between school and local health department.
 *** Activities with immunocompromised or other high-risk individuals, social/recreational activities in congregate settings.

Personal/household contacts include individuals who share living spaces, including bedrooms, bathrooms, living room and kitchens. It also includes those who live together, sleep over, carpool or have direct exposure to respiratory secretions from a positive individual. This would include exposure in childcare settings for those under 2 years of age.



MDHHS is also providing schools antigen testing supplies free of charge through the [MI Safer Schools Testing program](#). Schools and individual school districts can request antigen test kits through the MI Safer Schools: [School Antigen COVID Test Ordering form](#).

The [MI Backpack Home Test Program](#) by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has made at-home antigen tests widely available to Michigan schools for the 2021-2022 school year. For more guidance about at-home COVID-19 testing, please see: [Public Guidance for At-Home COVID-19 Testing](#)

ACHD is updating our School Quarantine Guidance documents. Once finalized, changes will be posted on www.allegancounty.org/covid and sent to school superintendents.

BUSINESSES

Businesses should continue to ensure increased ventilation, social distancing when possible, frequent handwashing, individuals staying home when sick and enhanced cleaning. These strategies help keep a healthy workplace.

ACHD has created a Business Mitigation Strategies Survey for business to fill out and provide us information on what current mitigation strategies they have in place. Businesses can access the survey [here](#).

KN95 MASKS

ACHD has received an additional supply of KN95 masks including both adult **and** children sizes. These masks are available for pick-up in the lobby of the Human Services Building; **Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.**, ACHD also has distributed these masks to community partners in Allegan County such as local units of government and libraries.

ACHD is encouraging residents in need of masks to contact the following organizations:

ORGANIZATION NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE NUMBER
Salem Township Library	3007 142nd Ave, Burnips	(616) 896-8170
Leighton Township Library	4451 12th St, Wayland	(616) 877-4143
Fennville District Library	400 W Main St, Fennville	(269) 561-5050
Hopkins District Library	118 E Main St, Hopkins	(269) 793-7516
Wayland Township Hall	1060 129th Ave, Shelbyville	(269) 792-6394
Ganges Township Hall	1904 64th St, Fennville	(269) 543-8316
Allegan District Library	331 Hubbard St, Allegan	(269) 673-4625
Ransom District Library	180 S Sherwood Ave, Plainwell	(269) 685-8024

MENTAL HEALTH & COVID-19

ACHD is working to share mental health information and resources available in Michigan to the community through social media and monthly community newsletters. Many residents throughout Michigan and Allegan County have had their mental health impacted because of the COVID-19 pandemic. myStrength is a free service for the entire community from [Allegan County Community Mental Health Services](#)' mental health & wellness that comes in the form of a website and/or mobile app.

It can be accessed by anyone in the county by using an email address and an access code. The access code is ALLEGAN. This service can be used anonymously.

The [Stay Well Program](#) from MDHHS offers confidential counseling to Michigan residents and different online resources for those struggling with mental health. If residents or their loved ones are feeling emotional distress due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they can get free, confidential support from a Michigan Stay Well counselor by calling **1-888-535-6136 and pressing "8" – this services is available 24/7**. Allegan County students and families who are experiencing mental health impacts because of the pandemic and unable to get services, please call 269-673-5411. ACHD can refer individuals to the Allegan County Students and Families Assistance Program (SFAP) The SFAP is a 24/7 confidential, short-term, counseling service and is available until November 2022.

The Stay Well Program also has a new series “Cultivating Joy” with animated videos covering different mental health topics released each week. View the newest video in the series discussing activities that help promote everyday joy, [here](#).

LONG TERM CARE & OTHER CONGREGATE CARE FACILITIES

An outbreak investigation is initiated when a resident at a Long Term Care Facility (LTC) is identified as a confirmed case of COVID-19. For correctional facilities, either a confirmed or a probable COVID-19 case will prompt an outbreak investigation. MDHHS offers further support for facilities via the Infection Prevention and Resource Assessment Team (iPRAT) when ACHD identifies facilities that are experiencing a large outbreak. As of March 21, 2022, ACHD has connected three LTC facilities in Allegan County with the iPRAT-Team for additional mitigation assistance.

432 resident cases and 50 resident deaths have been reported from January 1, 2020 to March 8, 2022.

The information above represents COVID-19 data reported directly to MDHHS by licensed and operating Skilled Nursing, Home for the Aged and Adult Foster Care facilities (licensed to serve 13 or more individuals) in Michigan from January 1, 2020 through March 8, 2022.

According to statewide data*, the case counts reported in both residents and staff are trending downwards in both Adult Foster Care (AFC)/Home for the Aged (HFA) and Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF). Cases within Long Term Care Facilities (LTCFs) continue to be higher among staff than for residents, as has been the case throughout the Delta and Omicron surges. Case counts in residents

Data as of March 17, 2022

decreased again for AFC/HFA (20) but increased for SNFs (67). Case counts in staff continues to decrease in both AFC/HFA (36) and SNF (84).

743 staff cases have been reported from January 1, 2020 to March 8, 2022.

*The data is from weekly reporting by facilities with bed occupancy of at least 13 beds.

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 COVID communication efforts from 3/4/2022 – 3/17/2022

- 5 social media posts
- 1 Community Newsletter sent
- 7 Education materials
- 4 Guidance Documents updated
- 1 survey developed
- 1 News Release provided

PARTNERSHIPS DURING 3/4/22 – 3/17/22

ACHD has built partnerships with a variety of sectors over the past 2 years. Below is a two-week snapshot of partnerships

- Collaborated with eight local units of Government and Libraries to distribute KN95 masks to the public.
- Currently planning with NexGen around testing events to provide to the community if we see another spike in cases and there is a need for testing in the community.
- Working with Emergency Management team in the planning of an After Action Report for COVID-19 response, including a survey for the community to receive insightful feedback on how to improve processes in the future. The survey is in its final review stage and will be sent out next week.

COMMUNITY VACCINATION/HERD IMMUNITY/TREATMENT

ANTIVIRAL, MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY TREATMENTS, ETC.

COVID-19 therapeutics are authorized for those who meet select high-risk criteria. Vaccinations remain the best way to protect against COVID-19. Individuals are encouraged to talk to their healthcare provider about whether they should get antibody or antiviral treatment. Monoclonal antibody treatment and antiviral medication are widely available across the state for residents who are in need. Antiviral medication prescribed by healthcare providers for the treatment of COVID-19:

Paxlovid is available at select pharmacies across the state including [47 Michigan Meijer locations](#).

Monlunpiravir is available at all Meijer locations in Michigan and several other pharmacies.

Data as of March 17, 2022

Data for mAb therapy is reduced in quality as there are very few Allegan providers that either offer (or have offered) monoclonal antibody therapy since the initial EUAs were granted. Ascension Borgess Allegan and Ascension Borgess-Pipp are the two sites in the county offering mAb, neither of which demonstrated high levels of output or ordering. This may be due to most residents traveling out of county to Bronson, Holland, Borgess, or Spectrum for treatment.

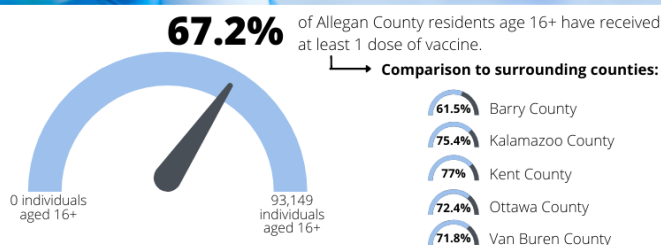
Monoclonal antibody therapy in Michigan is trending down of late (<500 infusions per week) from a peak of ~7500 in December/January. In Allegan County, between November 2020 and November 2021, around 400 residents received mAb therapy.

As for oral antivirals, Meijer Stores (191 and 047) in Allegan report a total of 53 patient courses of Paxlovid and 36 patient courses of Molnupiravir being dispensed. This data is provided by MDHHS EMS Bureau.

For more information on treatment options such as antiviral medication and MAB Therapy, residents are encouraged to visit www.michigan.gov/covidtherapy

Allegan County VACCINE DATA

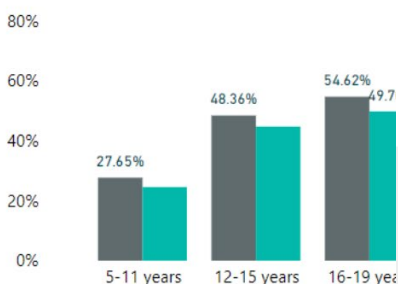
Updated 3/21/22
Data as of 3/17/22



COVID-19 VACCINE COVERAGE BY AGE GROUP

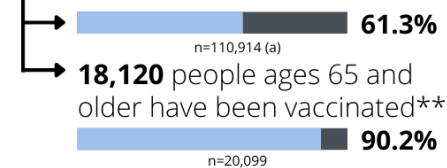
As of 3/15/2022

Residents age 50+ have the highest percentage of vaccination, with these individuals meeting the 70% vaccination goal. Low vaccine rates seen in young children and adolescents might be attributed to the fact that emergency use was not authorized for this cohort until later on.



As of March 17, **67,958** 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



VACCINE AVAILABILITY

Vaccine availability remains high as pharmacies, doctor's offices, and health care systems are administering vaccines. ACHD will have vaccine appointments available for vulnerable populations or children in the Vaccine for Children program.

Residents are encouraged to visit www.vaccinefinder.org and www.vaccinatewestmi.com in order to find vaccination clinics near them.

ACHD is working with businesses and organizations to offer support and/or vaccination clinics if there is an outbreak detected and assistance needed.

Due to not meeting our goal of 70% of the eligible population (aged 16 years and older) receiving at least one dose of vaccination, we are looking at strategies for 2022 that we can implement to increase vaccination rates in Allegan County to reach this 70% goal. With the help of our CDCF health educators and contract staff, we will be looking at conducting focus groups to get a better understanding of factors that are contributing to vaccine hesitancy in our lower coverage populations, as well as working with students in schools to develop PSAs on COVID education and misinformation.

Data as of March 17, 2022

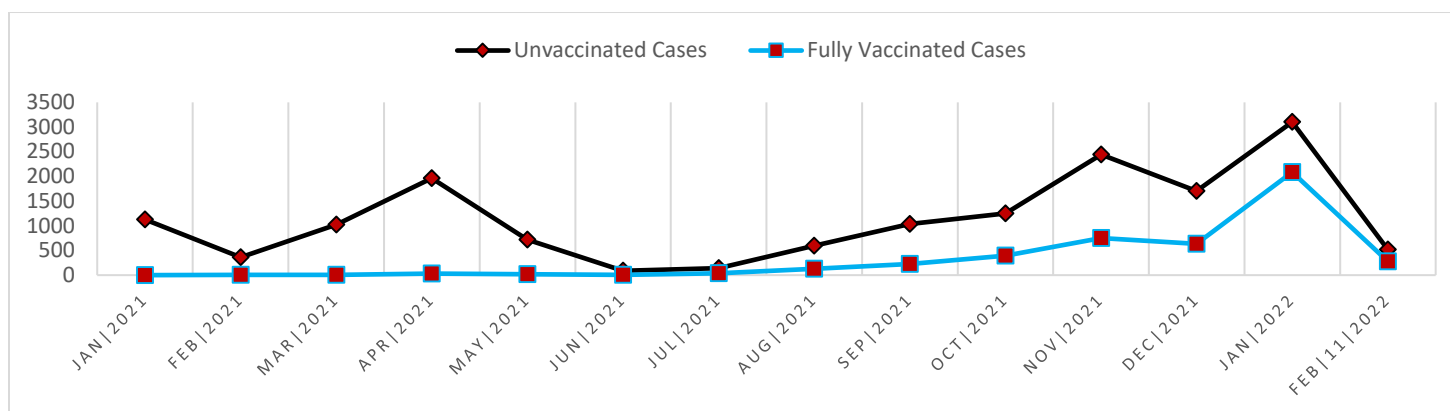
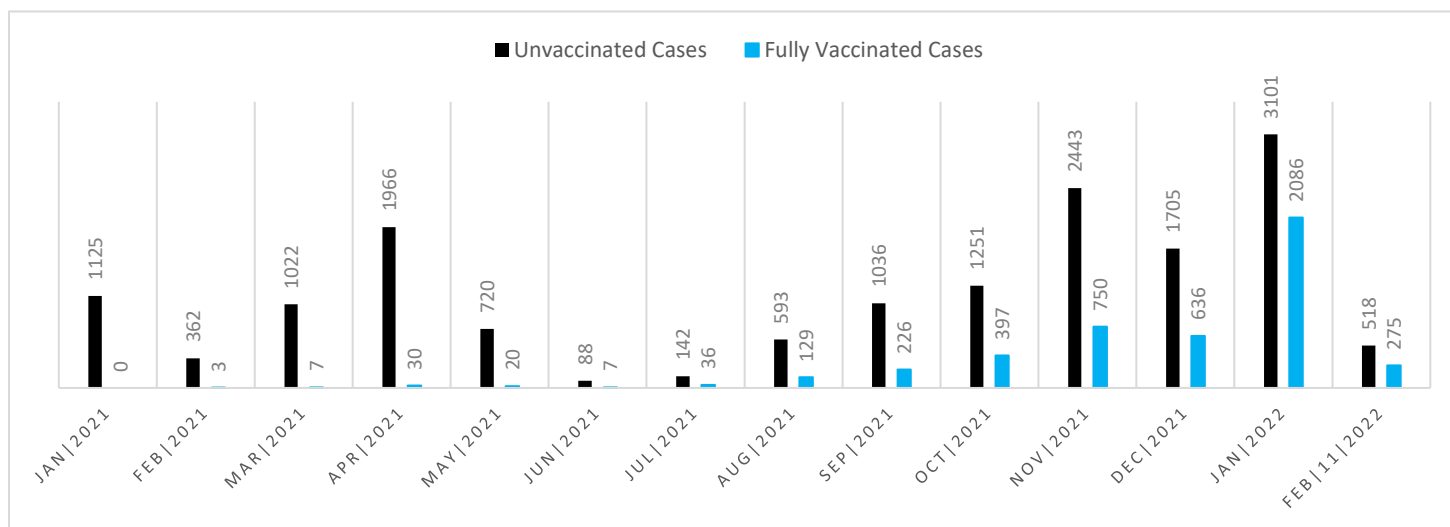
Fully Vaccinated: Individuals (5 years and older) receiving 2 doses of Pfizer or Moderna or 1 dose of J&J.

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 UNVACCINATED AND FULLY VACCINATED COVID-19 CASES BY REFERRAL DATES 01/01/2021 TO 02/11/2022



NOTE: Updated data on vaccination status of COVID-19 cases was not available at the time of publication.

When comparing fully vaccinated cases to unvaccinated cases, it is important to note that 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 (black line) have more cases compared to the fully vaccinated (blue line).

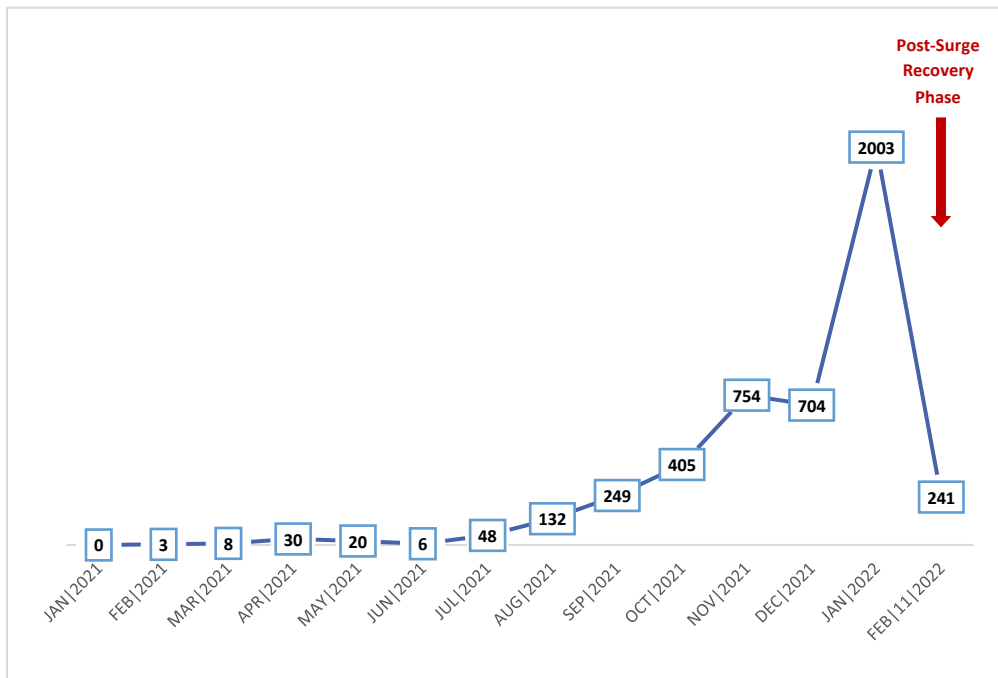
ACHD continues to monitor breakthrough data, as it may not be provided on a local level.

AS OF FEBRUARY 11, 2022:

- There were 350 cases in the 0 to 18 age group who were persons who met the CDC-definition of being 'fully vaccinated' or 'breakthrough case' related to SARS-CoV-2 infection.
- 7.4% of cases (including all ages) were reported as breakthrough cases.
- 5.4% of cases in the 0 to 19 age group were reported as breakthrough cases.
- All pediatric breakthrough cases were reported in ages 5 years old or over.
- There has been no hospitalizations or deaths related to SARS-CoV-2 infection reported in the 5 to 11 age group.
- There were 12 cases in the 0 to 19 age group with a specimen collection date \geq 14 days after receipt of an additional or booster dose of any COVID-19 vaccine on or after August 13, 2021.

Data as of March 17, 2022

OVERVIEW OF ALLEGAN COUNTY COVID-19 BREAKTHROUGH CASES AS OF FEBRUARY 11, 2022



As of February 11, 2022:
There were 22.3% (4,605) fully vaccinated cases identified via the MDSS-MCIR match criteria by referral, onset, diagnosis, or specimen collection dates.

All pediatric breakthrough cases were reported in ages 5 and over.

The youngest fully vaccinated individual hospitalized related to SARS-CoV-2 infection was reported in the 20 to 29 age group.

Youngest fully vaccinated death related to SARS-CoV-2 infection was reported in the 50 to 59 age group.

UNDERSTANDING BREAKTHROUGH CASES

HEALTH Department
Updated 3/7/2022
Data as of 2/11/22

Allegan County Case Data by Vaccination Status ALL AGES

Since January 2021, there have been:

Total COVID-19 Cases	Total COVID-19 Hospitalizations	Total COVID-19 Related Deaths
20,674	369	219
Total COVID-19 cases not fully vaccinated	Total COVID-19 hospitalizations not fully vaccinated	Total COVID-19 deaths not fully vaccinated
16,072	302	188
% of not fully vaccinated COVID-19 cases	% of not fully vaccinated COVID-19 hospitalizations	% of not fully vaccinated COVID-19 deaths
77.7%	81.8%	85.8%
Total COVID-19 cases fully vaccinated	Total COVID-19 hospitalizations fully vaccinated	Total COVID-19 deaths fully vaccinated
4,602	67	31
% of fully vaccinated COVID-19 cases	% of fully vaccinated COVID-19 hospitalizations	% of fully vaccinated COVID-19 deaths
22.3%	18.2%	14.2%

Data from January 1, 2021 to February 11, 2022

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.

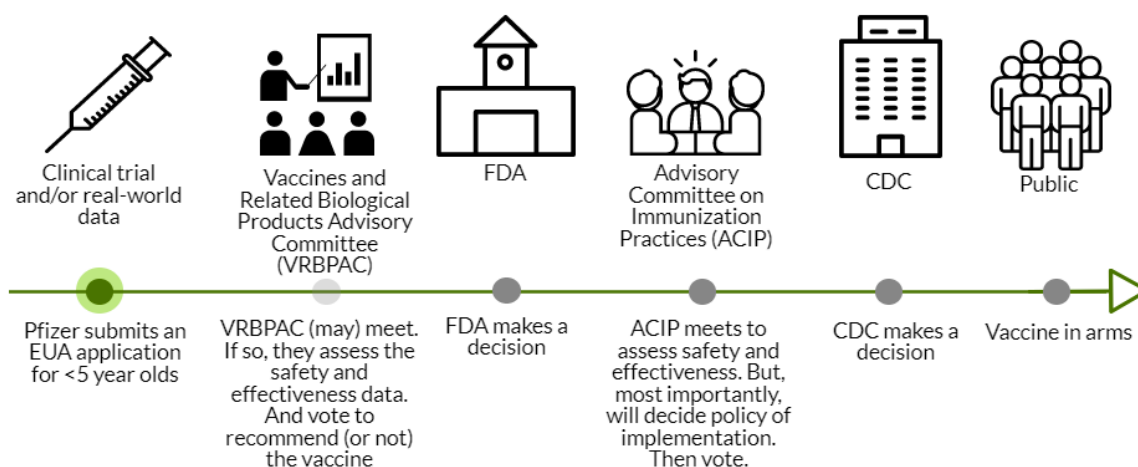
UNDER 5 VACCINATION UPDATE

COVID-19 vaccinations are not yet available for children under 5 years of age. As of now, this is what we know about the current process taking place for authorization:

Data as of March 17, 2022

- Pfizer is conducting ongoing clinical trials in this age group. The trial showed that two smaller doses of the vaccine in younger children does not create the same immune response as the larger doses used in older children, and scientists are now evaluating data about the effectiveness of a third dose.
- This evaluation is part of the thorough and rigorous review process that all the COVID-19 vaccines have undergone before being authorized. After reviewing initial data, the FDA announced it would wait until more data from the ongoing trial is available, which could be in April, to help advisors make a science-based recommendation.
- Once the clinical trial data is ready, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will continue to follow their thorough standards for safety and effectiveness before approving the vaccine. If the data findings look good, the vaccines will be made available to children under the age of five across the nation.

ACHD is continuing to monitor the process and when more information becomes available, we will share with the public.



(Figure created by [YLE](#)— Dr. Katelyn Jetelina)

GLOBAL COVID-19 SURVEILLANCE

An important part of communicable disease investigation is surveillance and seeing if there are outbreaks or increases in cases regionally, statewide, nationally, and globally. ACHD has noted there are increases in COVID-19 activity in other areas of the world. In the past patterns, those increases are often seen in the United States. We will continue to monitor these increases.

It is an important and critical goal for global public health practitioners to work toward reducing the number of new COVID-19 cases in order to flatten the epidemic curve. Globally, as of March 17, 2022, the World Health Organization (WHO) reports 462,758,117 confirmed cases and 6,056,725 deaths related to the SARS CoV-2 infection.

The MDHHS' Epidemiology Update on the COVID-19 Long Term Conference Call on March 15, 2022 had relayed seeing case surges in the United Kingdom (UK), South Korea, and Hong Kong. This is indicative of an increase in the incidence of the Omicron variant BA.2 and higher hospitalization rates in the UK. As of March 16, 2022, the WHO reports a daily increase of 18,436 new confirmed cases of COVID-19 in UK, which is a daily change of 24.64%.

The following countries have been reported by the John Hopkins University and Medicine Coronavirus Resource Center as experiencing an increase in the number of weekly new cases: **South Korea, Vietnam, Germany, United Kingdom, France, and Italy**. As of March 14, 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has indicated a **COVID-19 Risk Assessment Level 4** (very high) for the aforementioned countries, thus, recommending a high degree of caution as it relates to travel.

COVID-19 Risk Level 4	Cases Reported in the Last 7 Days*	Deaths Reported in the Last 7 Days*
South Korea	No data available	No data available
Vietnam	1,778,422	521
Germany	1,485,319	1,397
United Kingdom	487,208	495
France	505,291	823
Italy	404,124	957

*Data reported by the [World Health Organization Coronavirus Dashboard](#) as of March 17, 2022

COVID-19 Risk Level 4	Weekly New Hospital Admissions for COVID-19**	Closest Available Date of Data Point**
South Korea	13,434	March 16, 2022
Vietnam	No data available	No data available
Germany	6,340	March 19, 2022
United Kingdom	12,029	March 14, 2022
France	7,435	March 19, 2022
Italy	3,490	March 09, 2022

**Data reported by the [Our World in Data - Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Hospitalizations](#)

WASTEWATER SURVEILLANCE

ACHD has been working with Hope College over the last year as they sample wastewater for COVID-19. There are municipal water supply systems, as well as one large business participating in wastewater sampling. ACHD, Hope College, and Ottawa County Department of Public Health recently met and discussed how wastewater data can be used in surveillance. There will be more information regarding this in future updates.

SOURCES

- [MI Safe Start Map and CDC Indicators](#)
- Allegan County Health Department Facebook page
- www.michigan.gov/covidvaccine
- Michigan Disease Surveillance System (MDSS)
- HONU
- [FDA](#)
- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Breakthrough Cases Data File
- [CDC](#)
- [MI Backpack Home Test Program](#)
- [Long Term Care Data](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard](#)
- www.vaccinatewestmi.com
- www.vaccinefinder.org
- [CDC Stay Up-to-date on Vaccinations](#)
- CHN Associates, Student and Family Assistance Program Monthly Report
- [New COVID-19 Cases Worldwide - Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center \(jhu.edu\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Travel Recommendations by Destination | CDC](#)
- [World Health Organization Coronavirus Dashboard](#)
- [PCCC Database](#)
- [AAPM&R PASC Dashboard](#)
- [MDHHS Quarantine and Isolation Guidance](#)
- [Our World in Data - Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Hospitalizations](#)