



COVID-19 BOARD OF COMMISSIONER UPDATE

APRIL 12, 2022

Data as of April 11, 2022

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Data as of April 7, 2022

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following report contains COVID-19 related data from March 25, 2022 to April 7, 2022, on the 5 mitigation components Allegan County Health Department (ACHD) previously identified. Test positivity and new weekly cases have remained low in Allegan County as we are still in a low COVID-19 community level. ACHD continues to recommend individuals stay up to date with their vaccines, seek testing, and stay home if they are sick during this post-surge recovery phase. On March 29, the FDA granted authorization for a second booster dose recommendation for immunocompromised individuals and individuals over the age of 50. The goal of this recommendation is to reduce the risk of severe illness, hospitalization, and death for these individuals if they contract COVID-19. The second booster dose should be given at least 4 months after their first booster (whether they received a Pfizer, Moderna, or Johnson & Johnson booster). Getting a second booster is not necessary to be considered up to date on COVID-19 vaccines at this time. ACHD is updating existing communication materials and providing health education to the public on social media and in our newsletter on this change. For more information about second booster dose authorization, visit [here](#).

ACHD continues to plan and prepare for the next potential surge in cases and the instance of a new variant in the community. ACHD has worked with Emergency Management and deployed an After Action Survey to the Allegan County community in order to gain feedback on how emergency preparedness activities can be improved on for future circumstances. The After Action Survey is open until April 19, and once it closes, ACHD will analyze the data to inform recommended changes to our All Hazards Plan.

ACHD provides education surrounding COVID-19 on social media and in our monthly newsletter to ensure residents have the tools and information needed surrounding masks, testing, and vaccination to help inform individual decisions or prepare for future surges. Multiple units of government and libraries in the County have adult and child size KN95 masks for community members to pick-up, with two libraries in the County also offering at-home test kits to pick up. These locations can be view on our COVID-19 webpage under [Masking Resources](#) and [Testing Resources](#). Masks continue to be available for pick up in the lobby of the Human Service Building Monday-Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm as well.

ACHD published updated School Guidance Documents, reflecting quarantine changes and new COVID-19 community level framework. These documents can be view on our [School Resources webpage](#). ACHD is updating our Workplace toolkit for businesses reflecting these changes as well. This updated toolkit will be posted on our [Business webpage](#) once finalized.

ACHD has been looking into additional mitigation information to share with businesses and schools, including the importance of improving ventilation and filtration indoors. A [guide](#) found in [Your Local Epidemiologist’s newsletter on ventilation and filtration](#) outlines tools that schools can use from ‘Schools for Health’ to ensure proper air quality in classrooms as a tool to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Improving ventilation and filtration is an important mitigation measure that adds another layer of protection against COVID-19 and other communicable diseases.

ACHD stresses the importance of testing before and after vacation in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19. ACHD has provided resources to residents on where they can get tested for no cost throughout Allegan County, and will continue to post this information in our monthly newsletter.

COVID-19 MITIGATION COMPONENTS



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

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

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

#DoYourPart

ENHANCED ABILITY TO TEST

COUNTY LEVEL DATA

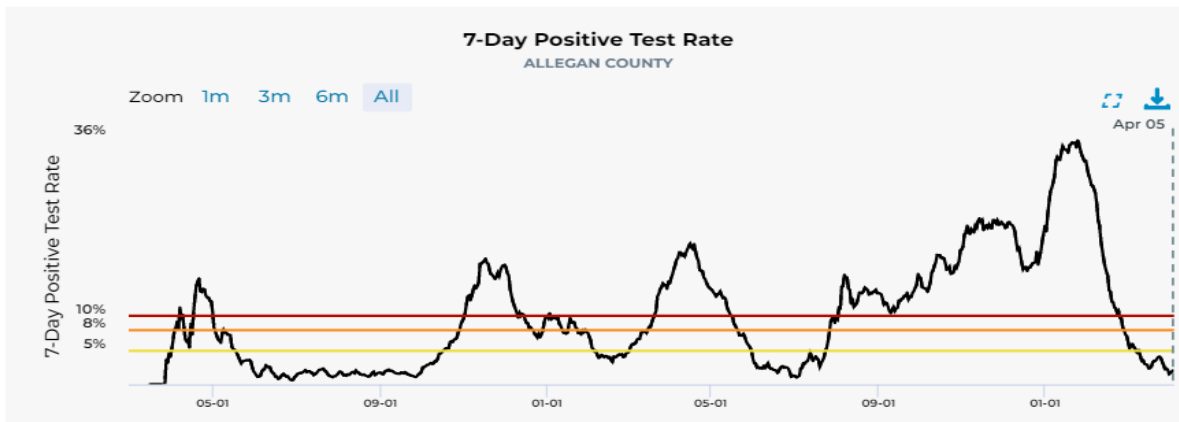
Test Positivity
Mar 30 - Apr 05

2% positive tests

911.1 daily tests administered per million

1 week
Mar 25 - Apr 01

The Test Positivity Rate for Allegan County continues to trend downward. Allegan County is currently at 2% 7-day positivity, with 911.1 daily administered tests per million. This is a .9% decrease since the last update.



TEST AVAILABILITY

Data as of April 7, 2022

Daily tests administered have decreased since the Omicron surge. If/when cases rise in our community, leading to an increase in need of testing, ACHD has worked with partners to expand testing access. Currently there are multiple options in Allegan County where residents can obtain at-home testing kits or go get tested for COVID-19.

Free at-home test kits to order online:

- www.Covidtests.gov - order 2 sets of 4 free at-home test kits from the federal government. (If you already ordered your first set, order a second today)
 - If you have health insurance through an employer or Marketplace, your insurance will pay you back for 8 at-home tests each month for each person on your plan. View more information [here](#).
- www.AccessCovidtests.org - order free at-home test kits through Project ACT (enter zip code to check eligibility)

Free at-home test kits from MDHHS available at 2 libraries in Allegan County:

- Allegan District Library (331 Hubbard St, Allegan)
- Fennville District Library (400 W Main St, Fennville)


Free Community Testing Events are held every Wednesday and Friday at the Allegan County Transportation Building from 12 pm – 5 pm. These events offer PCR and rapid testing options.

- Visit the [MDHHS Community Based Pop-up Testing page](#) to sign up for the testing events at Allegan Transportation Building and to find other testing sites near you.
- Visit <https://www.solvehealth.com/covid-testing> to find additional COVID-19 sites near you.
- COVID-19 testing location finder: [Coronavirus - Test](#)

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

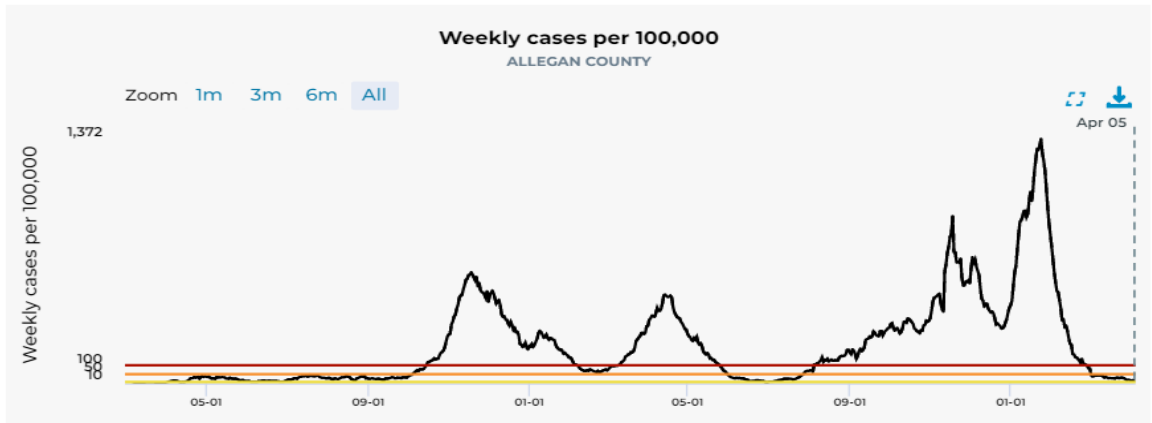
 **New Cases**
 Mar 30 - Apr 05

14.4
 weekly cases per 100,000 population

17
 weekly cases

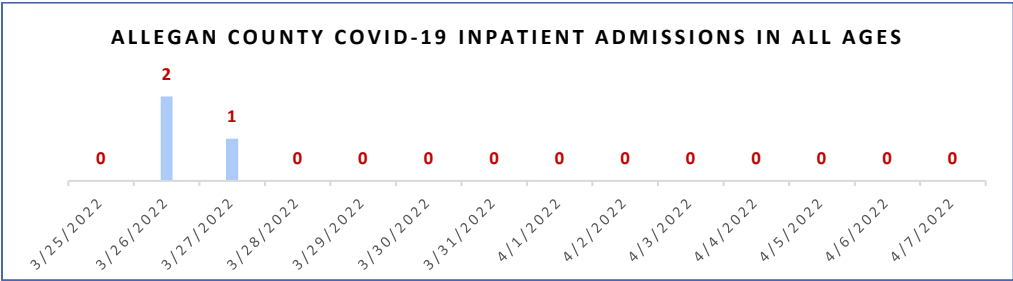
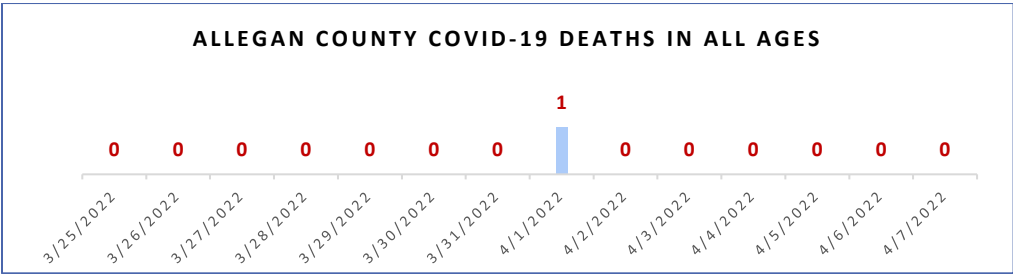
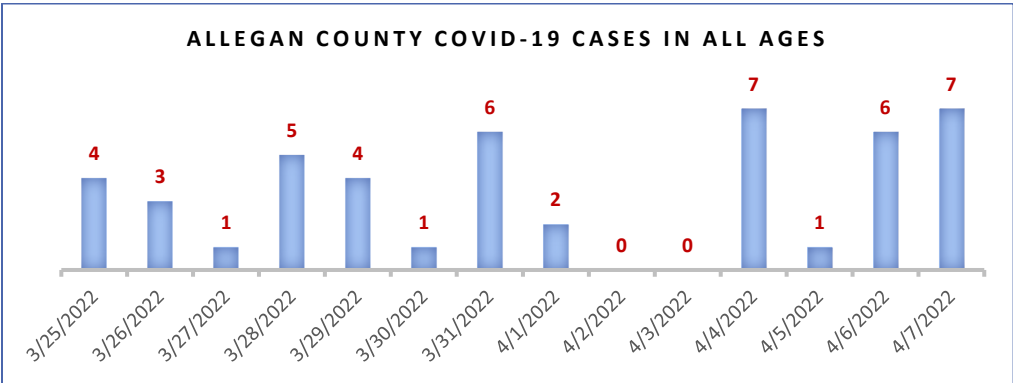


Allegan County is in a low COVID-19 community level based on new CDC framework, since February 24, 2022. **There has been a continued decrease in actual cases for the last three weeks.** During the period 3/30/2022-4/05/2022, Allegan County's new case rate was 14.4 per 100,000. More than a



40% decrease from the three weeks prior.

OVERVIEW OF COVID-19 CASES AND DEATHS IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS (03/25/2022 – 04/07/2022)



During 03/25/2022 to 04/07/2022:

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

The highest number of cases during this timeframe were reported in 30 to 39 years of age.

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

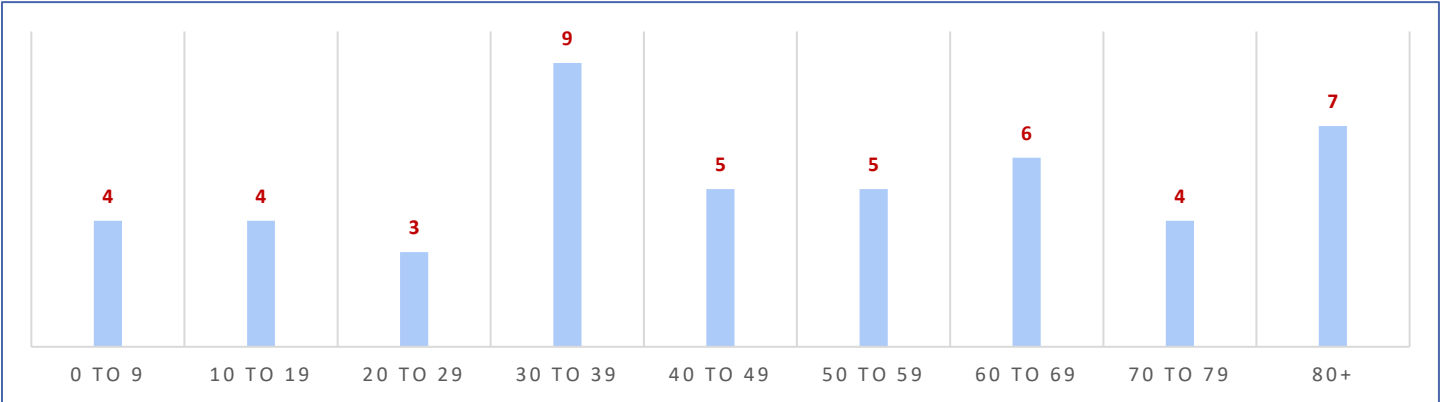
There was one death reported related to SARS CoV-2 infection during this timeframe.

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 (03/25/2022 – 04/07/2022)



From 03/25/2022 to 04/07/2022, Allegan County had a reported **6.4%** 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, 0% of cases were identified as community contacts (meaning close contacts who were in a setting other than household), and **12%** of cases were **close contacts to those who work or live in a high-risk/congregate facility** in Allegan County.

47 cases reported in the MDSS from 3/25/2022 to 4/7/2022

EXPOSURE LETTERS AND CLOSE CONTACTS

As of March 1, 2022, ACHD sends potential Exposure Letters for COVID-19, similar to other communicable disease letters. Potential Exposure Letters are sent to individuals based on classroom and bus lists provided by 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 level of community transmission, based on the CDC framework. During future times of surge, additional access to testing resources, vaccination clinics, and therapeutic treatment might be made available as the situation warrants.

386 exposure letters were sent out as of 04/11/2022

1 close contact currently being monitored as of 04/11/2022

OUTBREAKS & CLUSTERS

The following table shows the number of outbreaks that ACHD has identified for high-risk settings in Allegan County as of April 4, 2022. ACHD has not identified any new outbreaks related to schools since February 3, 2022. ACHD has not identified any new outbreaks in businesses since February 17, 2022 and other congregate care** facilities since March 15, 2022. There was one new outbreak identified in a long-term care setting as of April 4, 2022. ACHD reported one ongoing outbreak and one new outbreak in the state's Situation Report as of April 4, 2022.

Type of Setting	Total Number of Outbreaks (10/21/21-4/11/22)
School	14
Business	8
Long Term Care*	18
Other Congregate Facilities**	1

*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

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 April 11, 2022, ACHD has connected three LTC facilities in Allegan County with the iPRAT-Team for additional mitigation assistance.

434 resident cases and 50 resident deaths have been reported from January 1, 2020 to March 22, 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 22, 2022.

According to statewide data¹, 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.

745 staff cases have been reported from January 1, 2020 to March 22, 2022

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 also 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 **2.7%** of inpatient beds that are COVID-19 positive, and the **Kalamazoo Region** has **3.3%** of inpatient beds that are COVID-19 positive, as of April 5, 2022.

HOSPITALS IN THE ALLEGAN COUNTY AREA

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

As of 4/4/2022

Hospital	COVID-19 Patients	COVID-19 Patients in ICU	Bed Occupancy %
Ascension Borgess Allegan Hospital	0	0	12%
Ascension Borgess Hospital	5	2	81%
Ascension Borgess-Pipp Hospital	0	0	47%
Bronson Methodist Hospital	15	1	94%
Bronson South Haven	1	0	75%
Holland Community Hospital	5	0	78%
Mercy Health Mercy Campus	8	0	70%
Mercy Health St. Mary's Main Campus	7	3	61%
Metro Health Hospital	3	0	71%
Spectrum Health - Blodgett Hospital	10	2	87%
Spectrum Health - Butterworth Hospital	28	5	88%
Spectrum Health Zeeland Hospital	4	1	31%
Spectrum Helen DeVos Children's Hospital	5	0	81%

Hospital Capacity
Mar 30 - Apr 05

2.7% beds with COVID ⓘ

42.4 beds per million with COVID

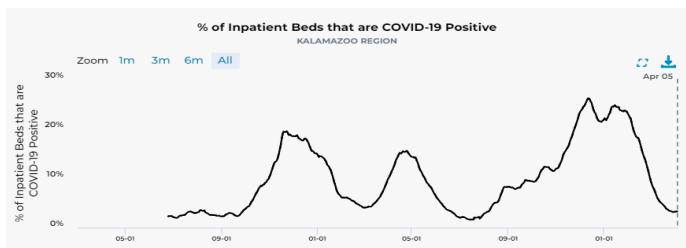
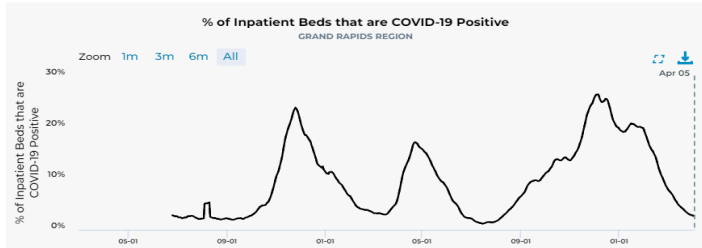
1.6k beds per million (COVID + non-COVID)

Hospital Capacity
Mar 30 - Apr 05

3.3% beds with COVID ⓘ

46 beds per million with COVID

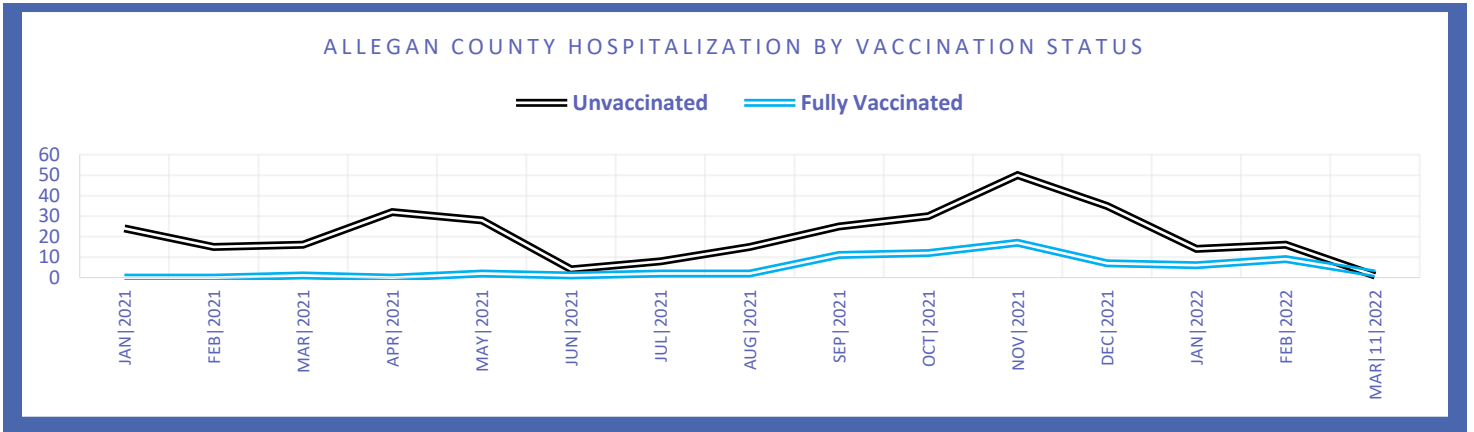
1.3k beds per million (COVID + non-COVID)



¹ The data is from weekly reporting by facilities with bed occupancy of at least 13 beds.

Data as of April 7, 2022

Vaccinations are effective at reducing hospitalizations from COVID-19. In Allegan County, **81.3%** of the **hospitalizations** from 01/01/2021 to 03/11/2022 have been in those that are **unvaccinated**.

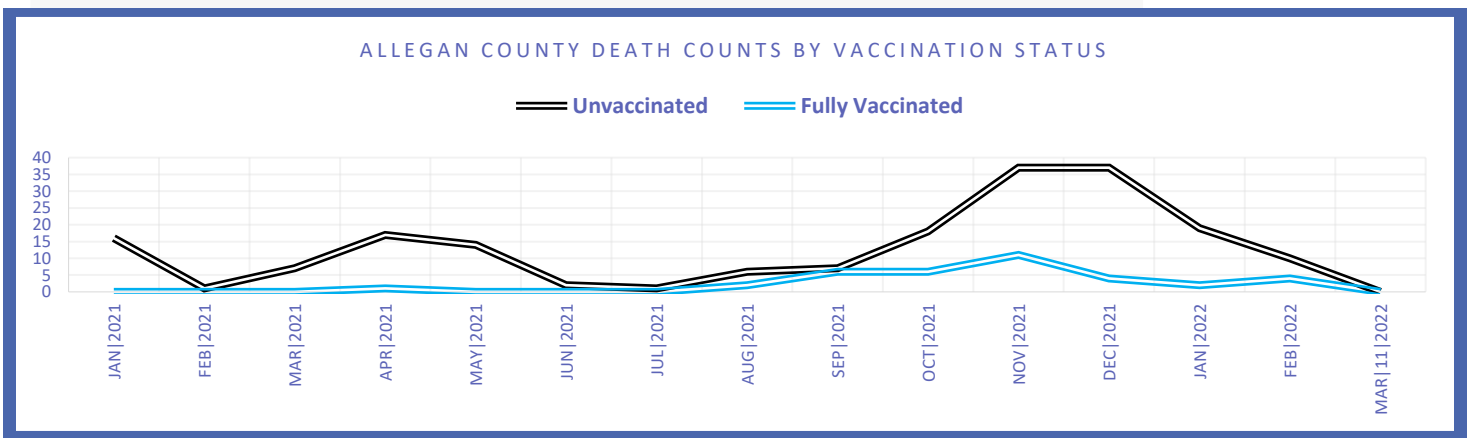


DEATHS

Deaths
Mar 30 - Apr 05
0 daily deaths



Similarly, vaccinations are effective at preventing deaths from COVID-19. There were **84.8%** of **COVID-19 deaths** identified in **unvaccinated** individuals in Allegan County from 01/01/2021 to 03/11/2022.



BEST PRACTICES

SCHOOLS

On March 28, ACHD published updated school guidance documents and frequently asked questions documents to reflect new quarantine recommendations and new CDC COVID-19 community level framework. These changes are in alignment with CDC and are posted on our [COVID-19 School Resources webpage](#), available to view in English and Spanish.

During this time where Allegan County is in a low COVID-19 community level, ACHD continues to recommend 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, 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.

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](#).

ACHD is updating our COVID-19 Workplace Toolkit, to reflect quarantine and isolation changes as well as COVID-19 community level changes made by the CDC last month. These changes will be posted on the [COVID-19 Business webpage](#) once finalized.

SPRING BREAK TRAVEL AND TESTING RESOURCES

Many residents have been traveling the past couple of weeks due to Spring Break vacations. ACHD encourages residents to understand the risk associated with traveling and recommends:

- Do **NOT** travel if you are sick or awaiting COVID test results or a close contact recommended to quarantine.
- Check your destination's CDC Community Levels ([COVID-19 by County | CDC](#)) and travel requirements
- Remember masking is still required on public transportation and indoor transportation hubs (airports, train stations)
- Vaccinate or boost before travel [Coronavirus - COVID-19 Vaccine \(michigan.gov\)](#)
- Testing is widely available
- Discuss these factors and safety plans with travel companions

When returning home, it is important that you watch for symptoms and take the necessary precautions to help decrease the risk of spreading COVID-19. Consider testing 3-5 days after returning home and avoid contact with elderly or immunocompromised loved ones for 10 days after returning. **The following testing resources are available for Allegan County residents at no cost to them:**

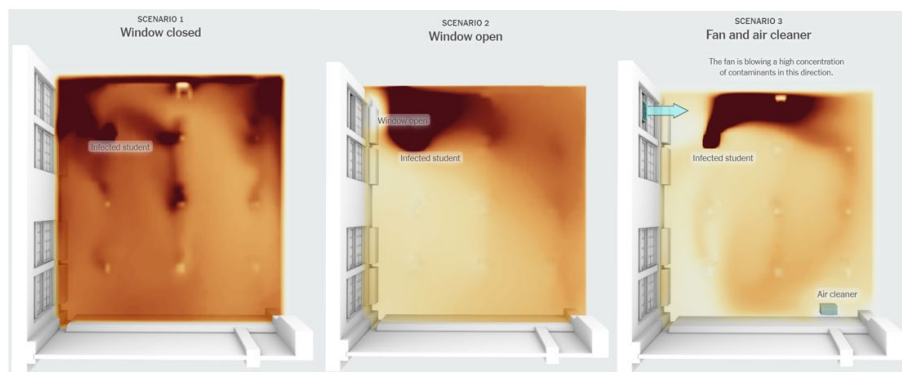
- MDHHS and HONU Management Group hold free testing events every Wednesday and Friday at the Allegan County Transportation building from 12pm to 5pm (Visit <https://bit.ly/3u1ezsA> for more information about this testing location and others near you)
- Allegan District Library and Fennville District Library have free test kits from MDHHS to hand out to community members. One test kit available per person, and up to five per household. To obtain a test kit, visit Allegan District Library (331 Hubbard St, Allegan) or Fennville District Library (400 W Main St, Fennville).
- You can also order free test kits for your household (2 different ways):
 - Visit www.Covidtests.gov to order 2 sets of 4 free at-home test kits from the federal government. (If you already ordered your first set, order a second today!)
 - Visit www.AccessCovidtests.org to order free at-home test kits through Project ACT (enter zip code to check eligibility)
- Visit <https://www.solvehealth.com/covid-testing> to find additional COVID-19 sites near you.

IMPORTANCE OF VENTILATION AND FILTRATION

Improving indoor air quality is an important mitigation tool for businesses and schools that can help curb transmission of COVID-19. On March 30, Your Local Epidemiologist writer Katelyn Jetelina, MPH, PhD, explained how air quality has shown to decrease transmission of COVID-19 that can be viewed [here](#). The article mentions the research on ventilation and filtration, including:

- A [study](#) last summer found that open windows in classrooms could have up to a 14.1 fold reduction in COVID-19 transmission. This was highly dependent on the time of year (summer, spring, and winter), number of windows, and how frequently those windows are open.
- A Johns Hopkins [study](#) found that HEPA filters were responsible for a 65% drop in COVID-19 transmission.
- Another study found that one HEPA filter is as [effective](#) as two windows partly open all day during the winter (2.5-fold decrease in transmission). Two HEPA filters are even more effective (4-fold decrease in transmission).
- Most recently, a [data analysis](#) in Italy found ventilation in schools could reduce the risk of infection up to 82%.

The graphic below from the [New York Times](#) shows how an open window and a fan/air cleaner can affect air quality in a room.



Schools and businesses should prioritize improving ventilation and air quality as a useful mitigation tool. Schools for Health has a [5- step guide](#) to checking ventilation rates in classrooms that schools can utilize. There are two main things that building managers should focus on when it comes to air quality:

1. **Improving air ventilation** by bringing in clean outdoor air. Indoor air moves less than outdoor air, so viral particles hang in the air in

greater concentrations. Ventilation can disperse viral particles.

2. **Enhancing filtration** to remove viral particles from indoor air. This is a great tool to supplement #1 or use if adequate ventilation isn't possible (like opening a window is impossible).

Improvements to air quality in a classroom or office setting can be done by:

1. Increasing outdoor air ventilation, like opening windows
2. Recirculating air that passes through a filter with at least a minimum efficiency rating value 13 (MERV 13) rating
3. Passage of air through portable air cleaners with HEPA (high-efficiency particulate air) filters

Overall, improving ventilation and filtration is an important mitigation tool that can be used to decrease transmission of COVID-19 in schools and businesses and will also protect from other health issues. When mitigation measures are layered together like masking, vaccination, testing, and air filtration, individuals have more protection and are able to stay healthy.

CONSIDER MASK USE FOR VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Masking is one thing individuals can do for other vulnerable members of your community. Many individuals, such as those who have underlying medical conditions, those who are pregnant/recently pregnant, and the elderly, are at an increased risk of severe illness for COVID-19. While spending time with them you should take extra precautions even when the COVID-19 community level is low. Some extra precautions individuals can take include:

- Wearing masks
- Getting tested before gathering
- Getting vaccinated and/or boosted
- Talk to your healthcare provider about some other precautions you should take

Being respectful of others decision to wear a mask, regardless of the reason is also important to keep in mind. Vulnerable populations should consider taking the necessary precautions to limit their risk. Different medical conditions require you to take different precautions based on the severity of the medical conditions. Viewing [these guidelines](#) will help those who are at high risk determine the appropriate precautions to take when navigating spaces.

Masking around vulnerable populations in your community is one aspect of taking the proper precautions. Knowing your community's [COVID-19 community level](#) is important when determining if one should wear a mask. When making decisions about risk, consider the setting, your vaccination status, and current level of community transmission in addition to the personal and family risk factors outlined in the MDHHS graphic to the left.

Understanding Personal and Household Risk

Protect yourself from COVID-19 by understanding levels of risk, practicing good hygiene and hand washing, staying home when sick, and staying up to date with vaccinations. Masking is a personal and local community choice. Know your risk; know that others may have a risk different from yours. Respect the choice.

Masking is a proven way to reduce your risk of COVID-19.

When making decisions about risk, consider the setting, your vaccination status and current level of community transmission in addition to the personal and family risk factors* noted below.

		Lower Risk Settings		Higher Risk Settings	
		Outdoor Distanced Spaces (Parks, Trails, Large parks)	Outdoor Crowded Spaces (Concerts, Theme parks, etc...)	Indoor Distanced Spaces (Social distancing ability self-controlled)	Indoor Crowded Spaces (Poorly ventilated and/or social distancing not in personal control)
Lower Risk	Up to date on vaccine, without risk factors				
	Up to date on vaccine, with risk factors				
Higher Risk	Unvaccinated, without risk factors				
	Unvaccinated, with risk factors				

Up to Date on vaccine includes any booster doses as defined by the CDC. Additionally, individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 90 days would fall into similar risk categories as those who are up to date on vaccination.
***Risk factors** include older adults (60+) and those who have serious chronic medical conditions like heart disease, diabetes or lung disease (at any age), and those who live in high-risk congregate settings (like nursing homes, corrections facilities and shelters). If you live with others who have risk factors, consider their health in addition to your personal health.

Visit Michigan.gov/Coronavirus for current COVID-19 information.

COMMUNICATIONS

COVID-19 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 3/25/2022 – 4/7/2022

- 6 social media posts
- 1 Volunteer Newsletter sent
- 5 Education materials created/updated
- 2 Guidance Documents updated
- 1 survey deployed to public

PARTNERSHIPS DURING 3/25/22 – 4/7/22

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

- Collaborated with eight local units of Government and Libraries to distribute KN95 masks to the public, and shared information to public about Allegan District Library and Fennville District Library handing out COVID-19 testing kits to community members.
- Working with Emergency Management team on After Action items, including an After Action Survey that has been made available to the public until April 19 to help improve future emergency preparedness and All-Hazard planning.

COMMUNITY VACCINATION/HERD IMMUNITY/TREATMENT

SECOND BOOSTER DOSE RECOMMENDED FOR IMMUNOCOMPROMISED AND 50+

Data as of April 7, 2022

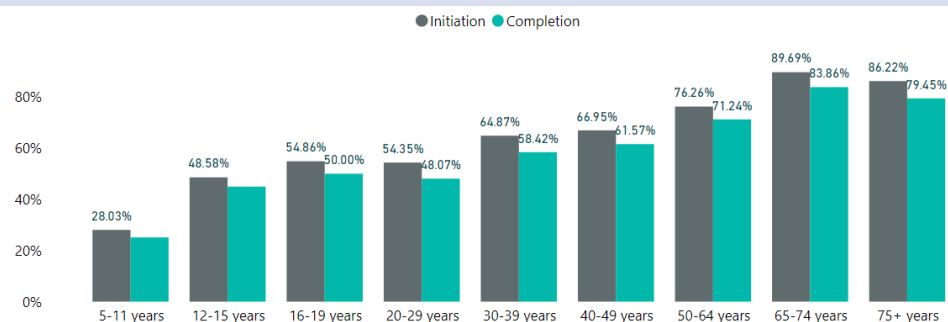
On March 29, 2022, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorized a 2nd booster shot for both Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 Vaccines. Individuals eligible to get the second booster dose include those who are immunocompromised and adults age 50 and older. The goal of this recommendation is to reduce the risk of severe illness, hospitalization, and death for these individuals if they contract COVID-19. The Second booster dose can be given at least 4 months after their first booster (whether they received a Pfizer, Moderna, or Johnson & Johnson booster).

A person is fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving all recommended doses in the primary series of their COVID-19 vaccination.

A person is up to date with their COVID-19 vaccination if they have received all recommended doses in the primary series and [one booster](#) when eligible. Getting a second booster is not necessary to be considered up to date at this time.

ACHD will update existing communication materials and put out notice to the public on social media and in our newsletter educating on this change. For more information about second booster dose authorization, visit [here](#).

COVID-19 VACCINE COVERAGE BY AGE GROUP



As of 4/7/2022

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.

VACCINE AVAILABILITY

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

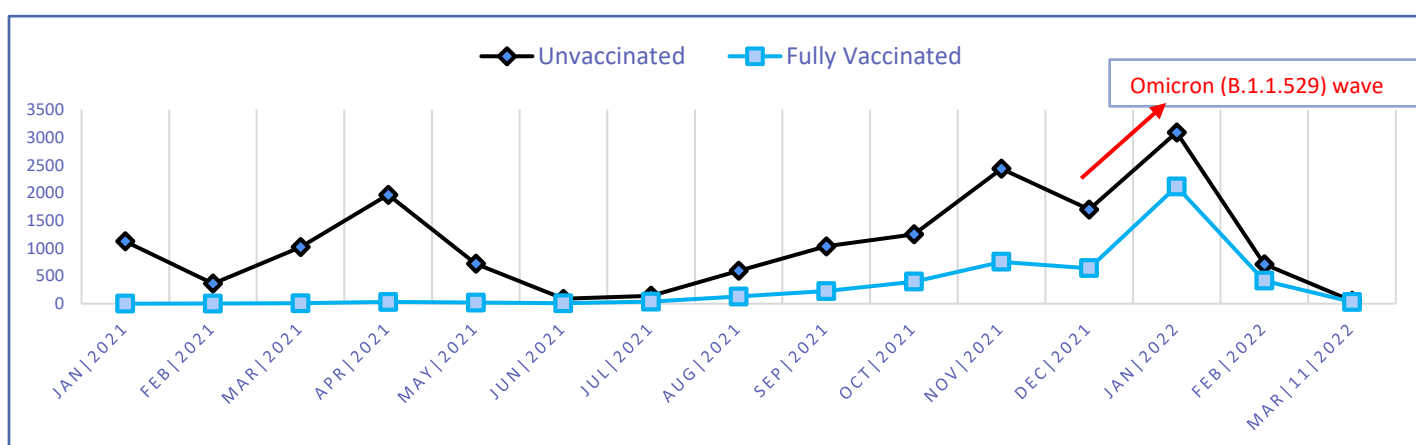
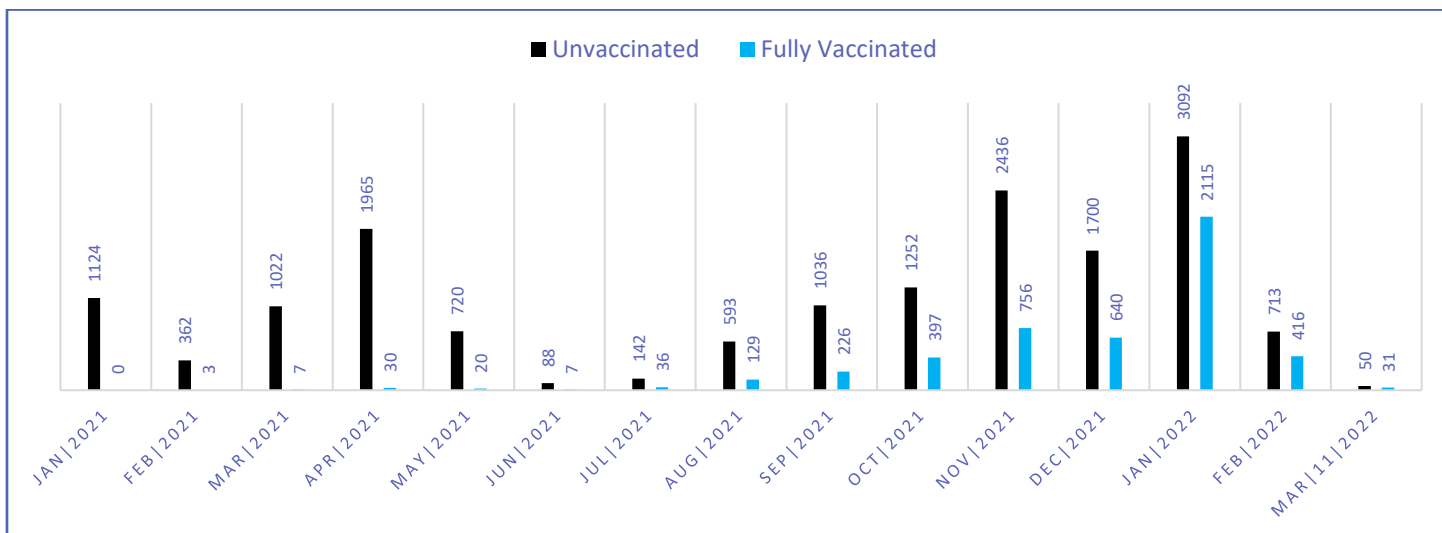
Residents are encouraged to visit www.vaccinefinder.org and www.vaccinatewestmi.com to find vaccination clinics near them.

ACHD works with businesses and organizations offering support and/or vaccination clinics if there is an outbreak detected and assistance needed.

We are looking at strategies to increase vaccination rates in Allegan County. With the help of our CDCF health educators and contract staff, we are developing survey questions to understand and learn of factors that are contributing to vaccine hesitancy in our lower coverage populations.

EFFECTIVENESS

ALLEGAN COUNTY UNVACCINATED AND FULLY VACCINATED COVID-19 CASES BY REFERRAL DATES 01/01/2021 TO 03/11/2022

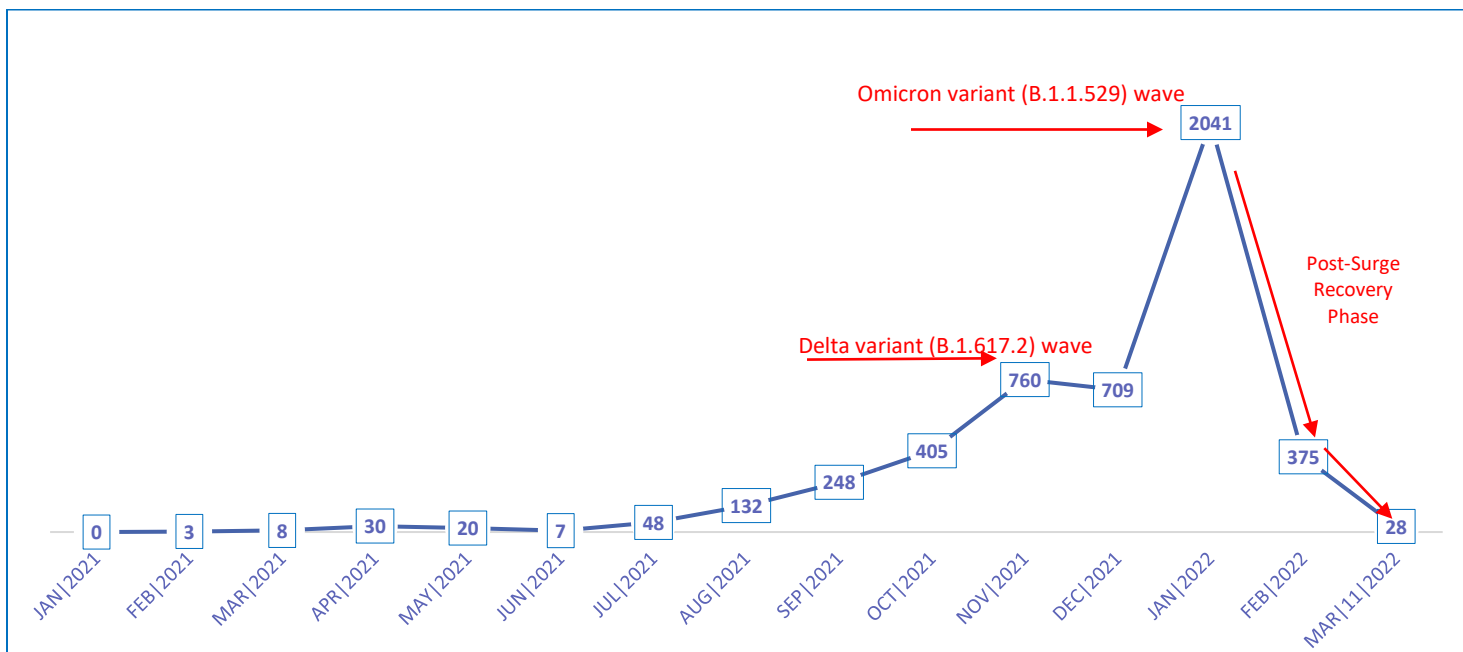


When comparing fully vaccinated cases to unvaccinated cases, it is important to note that unvaccinated cases are more likely to occur even though fully vaccinated cases have increased since July 2021. As seen in the charts, the unvaccinated (black line) have more cases compared to the fully vaccinated (blue line).

AS OF MARCH 11, 2022:

- There were 365 cases in the 0 to 18 age group who were persons that met the CDC-definition of being 'fully vaccinated' or 'breakthrough case' related to SARS-CoV-2 infection.
- 7.6% 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 963 cases (including all ages) 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.

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



AS OF MARCH 11, 2022:

- There were 22.8% (4,814) fully vaccinated cases identified²
- There were 311 cases in the 0-17 school age group who were persons that met the CDC-definition of being ‘fully vaccinated’ or ‘breakthrough case’
- 2.8% of the cases in the latest vaccine eligible group of age 5-11 were reported as breakthrough cases
- 18.2% of breakthrough cases were reported in the 50 to 59 age group, which is the group reporting the largest number of COVID-19 breakthrough cases
- The youngest fully vaccinated individual hospitalized related to SARS-CoV-2 infection was reported in the 20 to 29 age group.
- All deaths related to SARS-CoV-2 infection were reported in ages 50 and above. The youngest breakthrough death was reported in the 50 to 59 age group.

UNDERSTANDING BREAKTHROUGH CASES

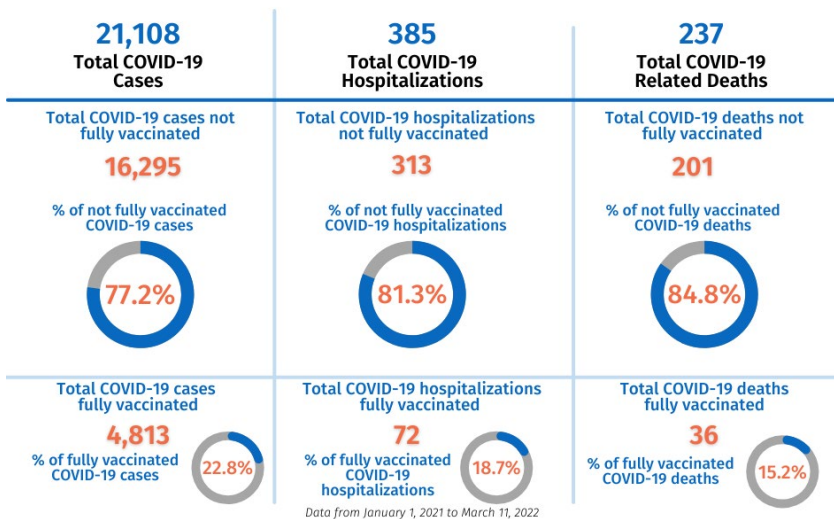
Breakthrough cases are those persons who contract COVID-19 despite being fully vaccinated for the disease. Breakthrough cases are more likely to occur in those who are older, those who have compromised immune systems, and those who are exposed more to COVID-19 (such as at work or school). It is important 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.

² Identified via the MDSS-MCIR match criteria by referral, onset, diagnosis, or specimen collection dates.

Allegan County Case Data by Vaccination Status ALL AGES

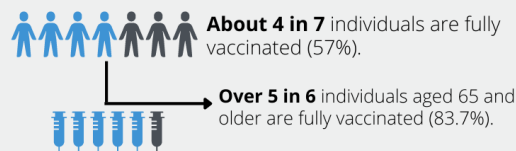
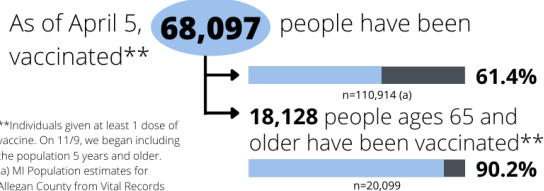
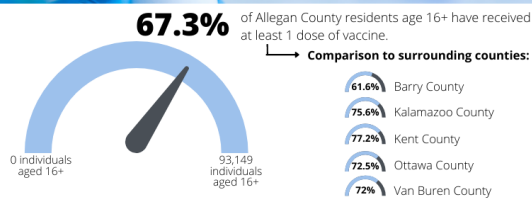
HEALTH Department
Updated 4/11/22
Data as of 3/11/22

Since January 2021, there have been:



Allegan County VACCINE DATA

Updated 4/11/22
Data as of 4/5/22



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.

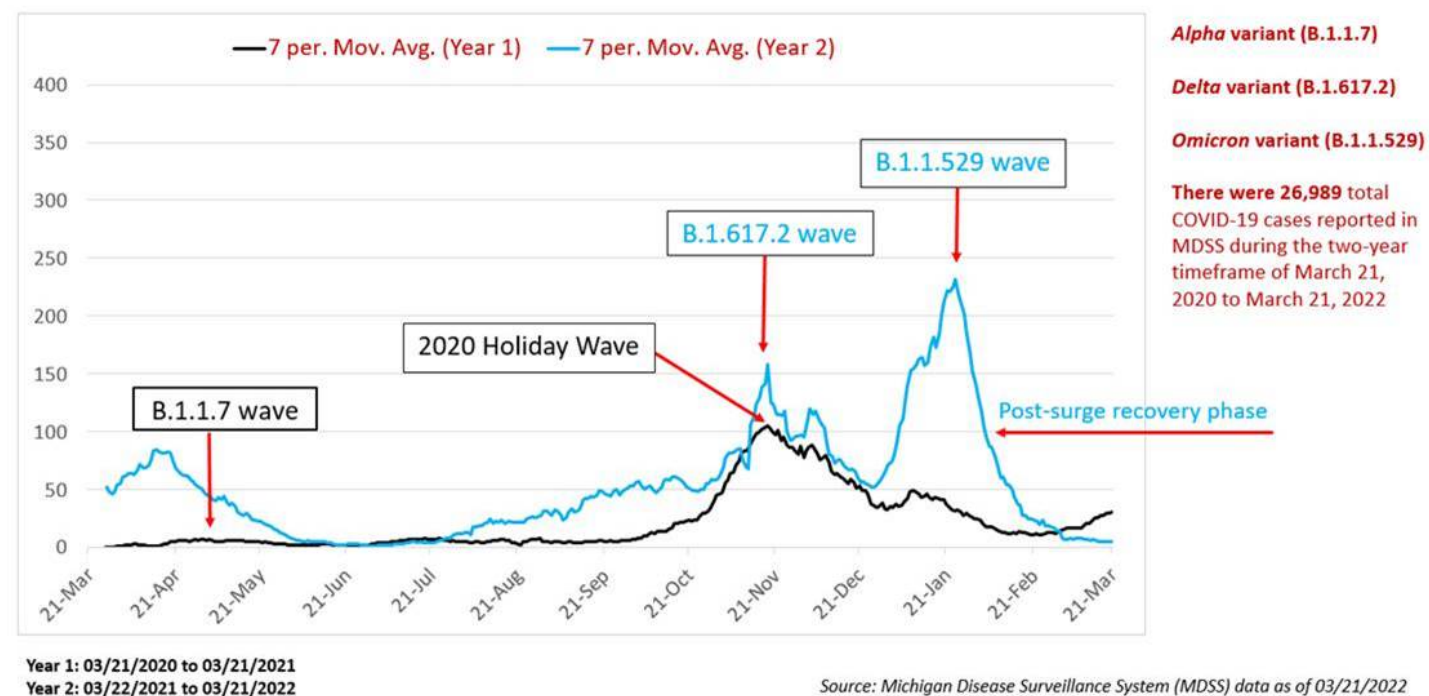
COVID-19 SURVEILLANCE

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 that there are increases related to COVID-19 activity from the BA.2 Omicron sub-variant in other areas of the world. In data trends that have been observed in the past, the pattern indicating an increase in the case counts in other countries also tend to be seen in the United States. We will continue to monitor these case surges.

ALLEGAN COUNTY: A YEAR-OVER-YEAR REVIEW

March 21, 2022 marked the second year for the COVID-19 pandemic in Allegan County. The first COVID-19 case in Allegan County that had been reported in the Michigan Disease Surveillance System (MDSS) was on March 21, 2020. The charts and information below will capture a year-over-year comparative analysis of the COVID-19 case trends for Allegan County during the 2020-2022 years of pandemic. We will continue to monitor patterns and variabilities associated with COVID-19 cases in Allegan.

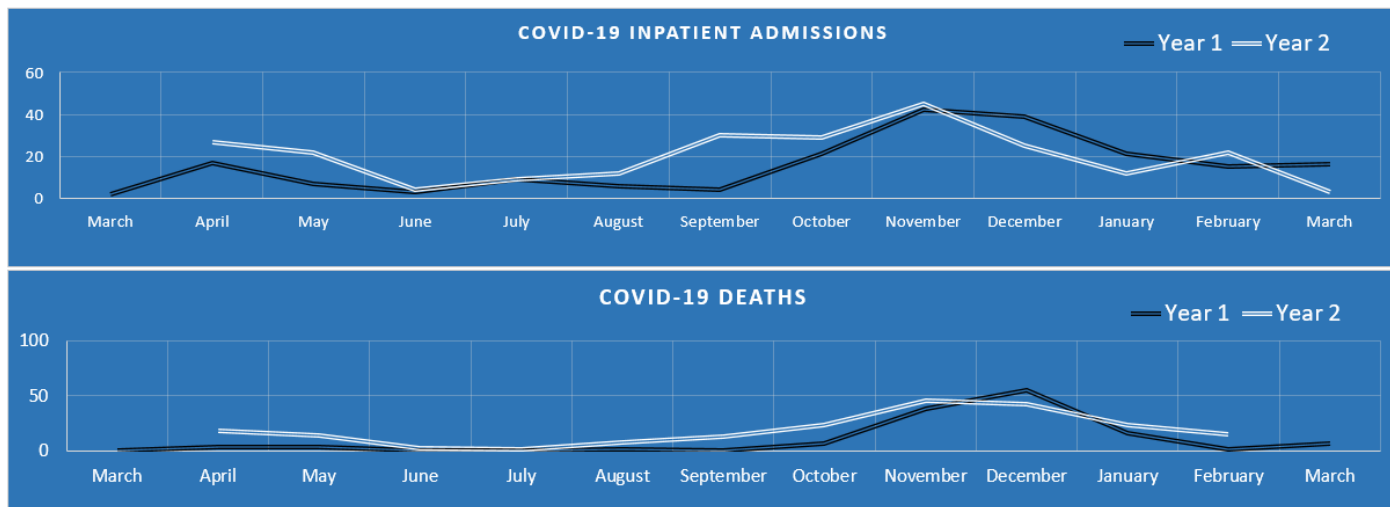
Year-Over-Year Comparison of ROLLING 7-DAY AVERAGE of COVID-19 cases in Allegan County* as of 03/21/2022
*based on referral date



FROM MARCH 21, 2020 TO MARCH 21, 2022:

- Cases were higher than they have ever been at the start of 2022, reaching their highest levels in January 2022 before gradually decreasing
- 95.1% of cases recovered, less than 4% of cases were hospitalized and less than 2% died during the entire pandemic.
- 286 healthcare workers tested positive in 2020 (5,821 total cases), compared to 282 healthcare workers testing positive in 2021 (14,692 total cases). Essential workers met the initial timeline of vaccine coverage.
- **More than 1 out of every 10 (12.7%) Allegan County residents tested positive in Year 2 (2021).**
- There were 0 MIS-C cases for 2020, compared to 3 MIS-C cases for 2021.
- There was an average of 27 hospitalizations per month related to the SARS-CoV-2 infection for Allegan County in 2021.
 - 333 hospitalizations were reported in 2021, which accounts for more than 2% of cases with 62 patients admitted to the ICU.
 - 177 hospitalizations were reported in 2020, which accounts for more than 3% of cases with 23 patients admitted to the ICU.
- The **highest case rates of the entire pandemic** were reported in ALL AGE GROUPS during the **Omicron-variant wave**.

Year-Over-Year Comparison of INPATIENT ADMISSIONS AND DEATHS related to COVID-19 in Allegan County* as of 03/21/2022
*based on referral date

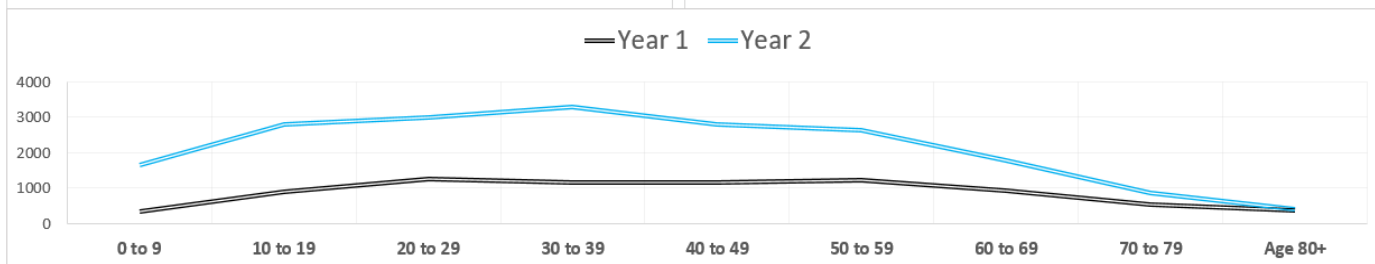
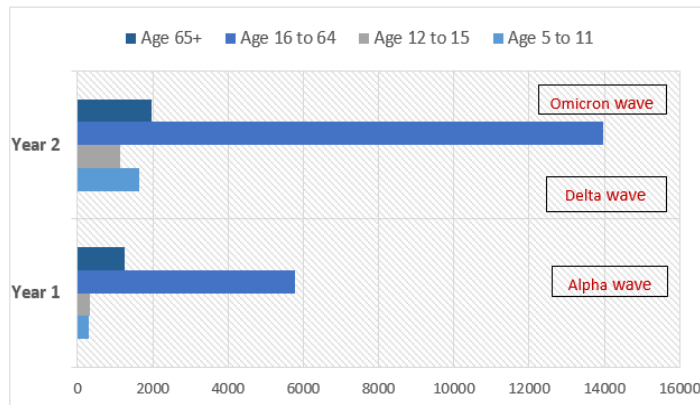
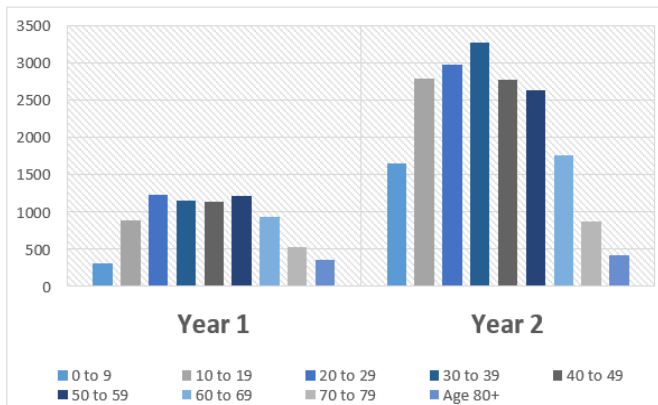


Year 1: 03/21/2020 to 03/21/2021
Year 2: 03/22/2021 to 03/21/2022

Source: Michigan Disease Surveillance System (MDSS) data as of 03/21/2022

Year-Over-Year Comparison of COVID-19 cases in Allegan County* by AGE GROUP as of 03/21/2022
*based on referral date

Year-Over-Year Comparison of COVID-19 Cases as of 03/21/2022 in Allegan County* by AGE GROUPS that met timeline for vaccine coverage eligibility *based on referral date



Year 1: 03/21/2020 to 03/21/2021
Year 2: 03/22/2021 to 03/21/2022

Source: Michigan Disease Surveillance System (MDSS) data as of 03/21/2022

FROM MARCH 21, 2020 TO MARCH 21, 2022:

- There were a total of **23,991 confirmed** cases and **2,998 probable** cases, and **95.1%** of cases are reported as having **recovered** from the infection.
- 5.3 times more children in the age group of 0 to 9 were reported as COVID-19 positive cases in Year 2 of the pandemic compared to Year 1. This age group had the highest increase in 2021 compared to all other age groups.

- The highest number of cases in Year 2 was reported in the 30-39 age group. There were 2.8 times more COVID-19 infections reported in this age group compared to the first year of the pandemic.
- Vaccine coverage is higher in older age groups, which led to lower case rates for these age groups during the *Omicron* wave.
- There were 19 days in 2020 and 10 days in 2021 when **no cases** were reported in Allegan County.
- 83.6% of individuals in the 65+ age group are fully vaccinated as of March 21, 2022
- 28.1% of the latest eligible 5 to 15 age group have completed their vaccination series as of March 21, 2022
- There were 10 hospitalizations reported in the 0-19 age group, while the highest number of inpatient admissions related to COVID-19 were seen in the 70 to 79 age group.
- All deaths related to SARS-CoV-2 infection was reported in ages 25 older, with the highest number of deaths occurring in the 80+ age group.

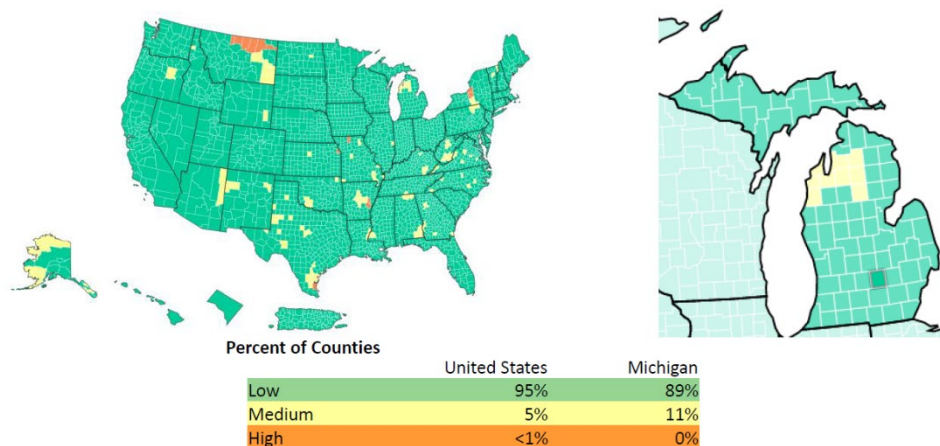
STATEWIDE

In April 5th MDHHS' data and modeling [update](#), **0%** of Michigan counties are at **High COVID-19 Community Levels** and 89% are at Low Community Levels as of March 31, 2022. Overall, all Michigan counties have plateaued with case rates; however, four counties are currently showing a potential increase in case patterns. Michigan remains in the post-surge recovery phase as indicated by current case rates and hospitalizations, and increased access to mitigation measures.

Although the statewide

recommendations for universal masking has dialed down in the recovery phase, masking is still an important component of mitigation and best practice to make informed choices. COVID-19 positive census in hospitals, new admissions, ICU utilization, and pediatric census have plateaued. Overall, there is a decline seen in transmission within school and long-term care settings. Michigan is closely monitoring the current emergence of the Omicron BA.2 wave in Europe. At this time, an increase in BA.2 has been noted for Michigan with limited number of specimen sequencing.

As of March 31st, No Michigan Counties at High COVID-19 Community Levels



NATIONWIDE

Overall, cases, hospitalizations and deaths are on a downward trend nationwide as other parts of the world are seeing increases. Hospitalizations are lower than they were around this time in the previous year (2021). Michigan is currently ranked number ten for COVID-19 case counts. Vermont, the District of Columbia, Wyoming, Maine and South Dakota have the lowest case rates in the Nation. California, Texas, Florida, New York and Illinois have the highest case rates. Approximately 95% of the States are at low community levels. As of April 4, 2022, the United States reported a decrease in the 7-day case average of over 5.82% since the prior week. **984,697** total deaths have been reported as of April 8, 2022; this accounts for more than 15% of total deaths worldwide. Total cases nationwide as of April 8, 2022 is **80,306,143**.

According to MDHHS data and modeling update as of March 31, 2022, all Region 5 (Midwest) states case counts have plateaued. Illinois and **Michigan** have the highest case rates in Region 5.

States with the Highest COVID-19 Case Rates	Cases Reported in the Last 7 Days*	Deaths Reported in the Last 7 Days*
California	20,347	312
Texas	13,485	188
Florida	10,763	22
New York	15,063	42
Illinois	9,983	93

**Data reported by the [CDC COVID-19 Data Tracker](#) as of April 8, 2022

GLOBAL COVID-19 SURVEILLANCE

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 **April 8, 2022**, the World Health Organization (WHO) reports **494,587,638** confirmed cases and **6,170,283** deaths related to the SARS CoV-2 infection. Case rates appear to be declining or plateauing in most European countries following second Omicron wave.

The Johns Hopkins University and Medicine Coronavirus Resource Center reported seeing case surges in the South Korea, Vietnam, Germany. This is indicative of a continued increase in the incidence of the Omicron variant BA.2 cases and higher hospitalization rates.

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	506,083	240
Germany	1,084,012	1,675

*Data reported by the [World Health Organization Coronavirus Dashboard](#) as of April 8, 2022

COVID-19 Risk Level 4	Weekly New Hospital Admissions for COVID-19**	Closest Available Date of Data Point**
South Korea	10,783	April 7, 2022
Vietnam	No data available	No data available
Germany	5,415	April 8, 2022

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

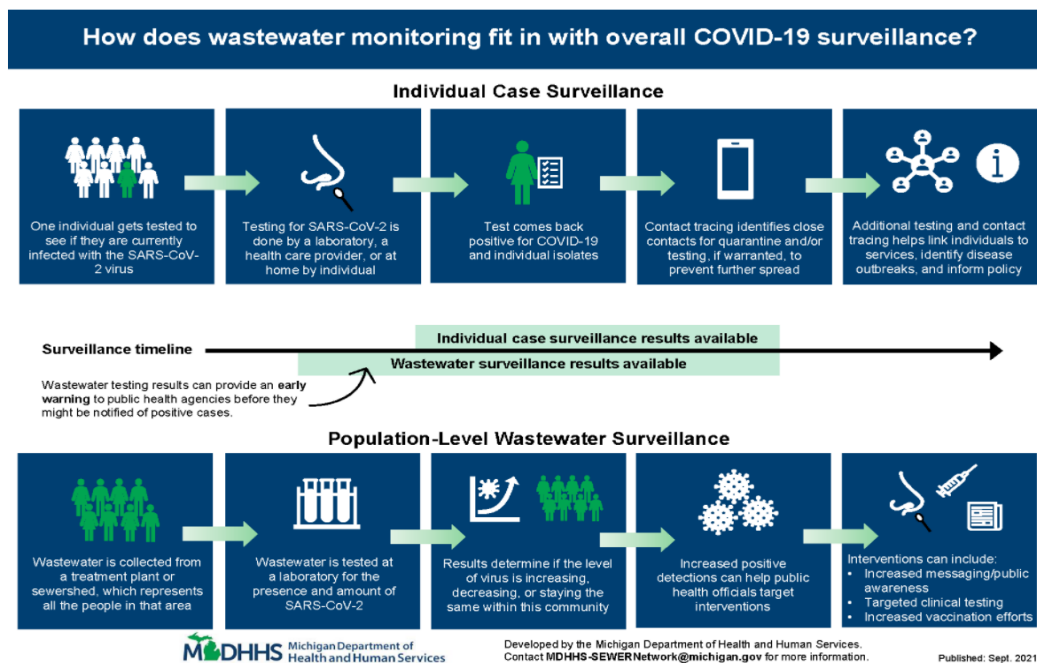
Effective Thursday, April 7, 2022, the CDC released information that the Division of Global Migration and Quarantine will discontinue applying [public health travel restrictions](#) to most COVID-19 cases and contacts with reported air travel. However, the CDC may consider COVID-19 public health travel restrictions in specific situations and can discuss them on a case-by-case basis (e.g., a traveler who may have documented high rates of persistent viral shedding, or to manage a large outbreak with multiple travelers).

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 met to discuss how surges in the South Korea, Vietnam, Germany wastewater data can be used in surveillance. In the last year, sampling has reduced from 7 days a week to 2-3 days a week. According to the CDC, the median incubation period for Omicron is about three days, which will make it more challenging to rely on this preliminary data without the appropriate resources. The Michigan Data and Modeling Update has reported that 65% of the sentinel wastewater surveillance sites are showing increases or plateaus in COVID-19 in the previous 15-days.

Data as of April 7, 2022

There may be some changes in COVID-19 case levels as prevention measures are eased. A modest overall increase in wastewater levels—which may lead to a large percent change—does not necessarily mean we will see major increases in transmission in a community. CDC is providing technical assistance and support to states to ensure they can respond appropriately to this data, and continues to support the jurisdictions building local wastewater surveillance systems. The figure below depicts the method of utilizing wastewater surveillance data to monitor case patterns at individual and population levels as it relates to the SARS-CoV-2 infection.



ACHD continues to monitor for future case surges correlating to local wastewater signals. There will be more information regarding this level of data analysis in future updates. Additional information on the statewide wastewater surveillance timeline can be found at [Michigan COVID-19 Wastewater Testing and SWEEP Dashboard](#).

EPIDEMIOLOGIC SURVEILLANCE: BA.2 OMICRON SUB-VARIANT

The Omicron sub variant BA.2 (coined the “stealth omicron” variant) was first detected in the United States (US) on December 21, 2021 from a sample collected in New Jersey, and is now considered a variant of concern (VOC). Current studies show that BA.2 is more transmissible than previous lineages; however, less severe illness is reported to be caused by BA.2 than its predecessors. The CDC now estimates that this new variant makes up the majority of COVID-19 cases in the US and accounts for approximately 35% of SARS-CoV-2 cases nationwide. This lineage is even more prevalent in certain parts of the country. In fact, over 70% of cases in the Northeast United States are BA.2. This increase is remarkable as the variant went from 35% of genetically sequenced cases to 55% in just seven days, per CDC data.

The CDC has released data as of March 29, 2022, to support that the BA.2 variant is circulating with a frequency of greater than 50% in HHS Region 5, which includes the State of Michigan. Of note, the BA.2 Omicron sub variant is indicative of an increased transmission compared to the BA.1 Omicron variant. In Michigan, 378 BA.2 have been confirmed from 40 counties to date, including 2 confirmed cases in Allegan County.

Based on the transmission levels studied in the United Kingdom (UK), the following observations were noted in MDHHS’ data and modeling report as of March 29, 2022:

- The hospitalization rate associated with BA.2 Omicron sub variant is similar to BA.1 Omicron variant.
- Infection rate in household contacts is 14% with BA.2 vs. 11% with BA.1. Non-household contacts is 5% with BA.2 vs 4% with BA.1.
- Nearly 9% of all recent infections as of the end of February are reported as reinfections.

BA.2 has been shown to be more resistant to some monoclonal treatments than BA.1 and BA.1.1 variants. The following therapies are still encouraged as treatments against the BA.2 variant: Paxlovid, Bebtelovimab, Remdesivir and Molnupiravir. For more information about where to obtain these COVID-19 therapies, please visit: www.michigan.gov/covidtherapy. As cases of this new

variant continue to rise, the same preventive measures are recommended to curb its spread and reduce the virus's opportunities for mutation. ACHD will continue to monitor this Omicron sub lineage and deploy response measures accordingly.

PANDEMIC VS. ENDEMIC

Since we have been in a [post-surge recovery phase](#), many might be wondering if we are transitioning from a pandemic to an endemic when it comes to COVID-19. A pandemic is a global epidemic that spreads over several countries or continents affecting a large number of people. An endemic is a disease or condition regularly found among a particular group of people or in a certain area. An example of an endemic is seasonal influenza. We are able to predict the seasons of flu Flu and provide a vaccine yearly that offers a layer of protection. For COVID-19 to become an endemic, the illness will need to become more predictable and stay present at a baseline (steady) level. Currently, it is hard to anticipate what the timeline will be for the expected shift of COVID-19 from a pandemic to endemic, since no patterns have emerged. Past pandemic's can help guide us into what our future with COVID-19 will look like. With protection from the vaccine, along with treatment options such as mAb therapy, Antiviral medication, and Long Covid research (Post Covid Care Centers), researchers are hoping to see improvements in the near future. For more information on what the end of the COVID-19 pandemic would look like, visit the [Johns Hopkins University of Public Health](#) article around the topic. [Click here](#) to view a diagram example of how an infectious disease can move from a pandemic to endemic.

SOURCES

- [AAPM&R PASC Dashboard](#)
- Allegan County Health Department Facebook page
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [CDC Stay Up-to-date on Vaccinations](#)
- [COVID-19 Travel Recommendations by Destination | CDC](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard](#)
- CHN Associates, Student and Family Assistance Program Monthly Report
- [Find a COVID-19 Vaccine Near You](#)
- HONU
- [Long Term Care Data](#)
- [MDHHS Quarantine and Isolation Guidance](#)
- [MI Backpack Home Test Program](#)
- [MI COVID response Data and Modeling](#)
- [MI Safe Start Map and CDC Indicators](#)
- [Michigan Coronavirus: COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
- [Michigan COVID-19 Wastewater Testing and SWEEP Dashboard](#)
- Michigan Disease Surveillance System (MDSS)
- Michigan Health Alert Network (MIHAN)
- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Breakthrough Cases Data File
- [New COVID-19 Cases Worldwide - Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center \(jhu.edu\)](#)
- [National Public Radio \(NPR\)](#)
- [Our World in Data - Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Hospitalizations](#)
- [US Food and Drug Administration](#)
- [Vaccinate West Michigan](#)
- [World Health Organization Coronavirus Dashboard](#)
- [Johns Hopkins University of Public Health, *What does the end of the COVID-19 Pandemic Look Like?*](#)
- [Seasonal Flu vs. Pandemic Flu \(CDC\)](#)
- [Your Local Epidemiologist – The Power of Ventilation and Filtration](#)