



COVID-19 BOARD OF COMMISSIONER UPDATE

MAY 10, 2022

Data as of May 9, 2022

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following report contains COVID-19 related data from April 22, 2022, to May 5, 2022, on the 5 mitigation components Allegan County Health Department (ACHD) previously identified. Allegan County has remained at a low COVID-19 community level. Data shows an increase in cases and test positivity in the last two weeks, however, there have been no hospitalizations or deaths during this timeframe. While it is still important to monitor the transmission of the virus (case counts and test positivity) within the community, more focus is on the impact of COVID-19 in terms of hospitalizations and healthcare system strain. In this update, ACHD has education for residents on treatment options available to them if they test positive for COVID-19 as well as education on the importance of staying up-to-date on COVID-19 vaccinations to prevent severe illness and hospitalizations.

Therapeutics are an important tool to help reduce severe illness and hospitalization in those that test positive for COVID-19. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has announced a [new tool](#) for Michigan residents and health care providers to help locate COVID-19 treatments across the state. Residents can use the tool to locate COVID-19 therapeutic options such as monoclonal antibody treatment (MAB), oral antivirals, and EVUSHELD™—a preventative treatment for those who are moderately to severely immunocompromised. More information on COVID-19 therapeutics can be found on the [MDHHS COVID-19 resources page](#). ACHD continues to share treatment options and resources to residents and community members on social media and in our monthly [Community Newsletter](#) so that they are prepared if they test positive for COVID-19.

ACHD reminds community members that second booster doses are available for those who are moderately to severely immunocompromised and individuals 50 years of age and older, as an added layer of protection from COVID-19, as data indicates cases are expected to rise in the upcoming weeks. COVID-19 vaccines are effective and work with your immune system to prevent severe illness if you contract the virus. COVID-19 boosters can provide further protection that might have waned over time after your primary series of COVID-19 vaccination. It is also recommended that immunocompromised nursing home residents receive an additional primary dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, and all nursing home residents should receive a booster dose to protect against COVID-19 infection. A Mortality and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) released on May 6, 2022, by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that nursing home residents who received an additional dose or booster dose compared to only completing their primary vaccine series had greater protection against COVID-19 infection during the Omicron variant surge. Read the full study [here](#).

ACHD continues to monitor the status of COVID-19 vaccine availability for the children under 5 age group. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has scheduled dates in June to meet to discuss updates to the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech Emergency Use Authorizations (EUA) for their COVID-19 vaccines to include children under 5. When more information becomes available, ACHD will share information with residents. In the meantime, ACHD encourages residents to consider making personal decisions on masking based on [family and community risk factors](#) and [staying up-to-date](#) on COVID-19 vaccinations for those aged 5 years and older. Residents can find vaccination locations near them by visiting www.vaccinefinder.org and www.vaccinatewestmi.com.

COVID-19 MITIGATION COMPONENTS



Allegheny County currently is at 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, be tested if they develop symptoms, and consider wearing a mask when needed.

Allegheny County COVID-19 Community Level: Low

Allegheny 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
Apr 27 - May 03

11.3%
positive tests

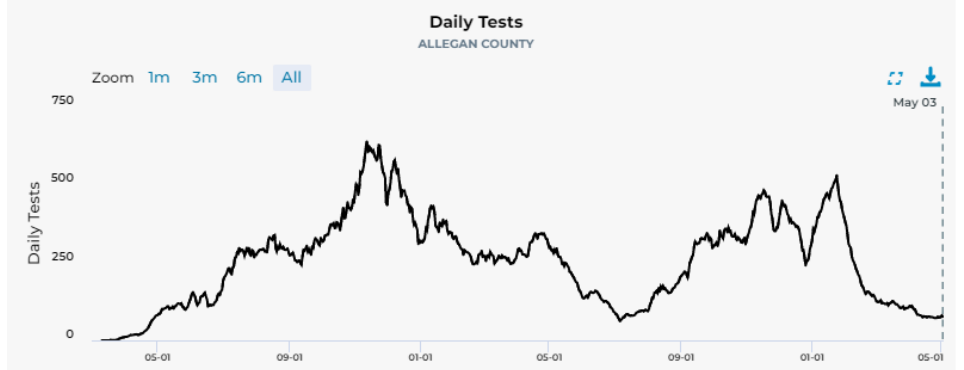
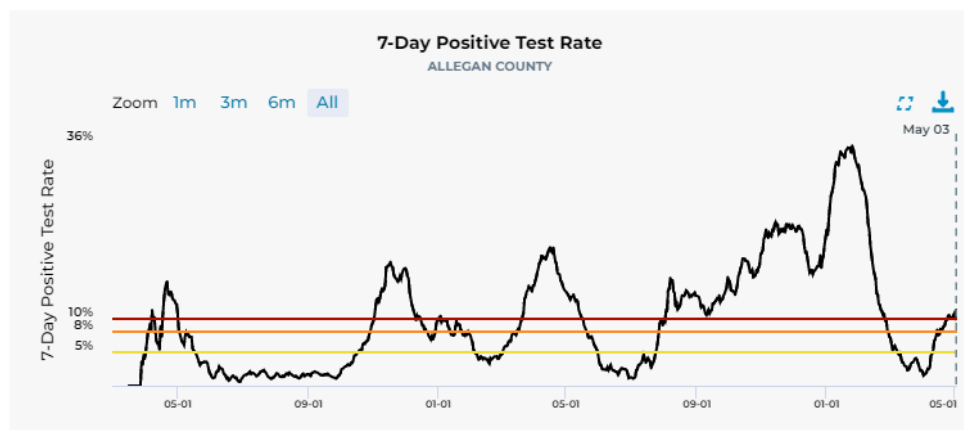


660.7
daily tests administered per million

4 weeks ⓘ
Apr 01 - Apr 29



The Test Positivity Rate for Allegheny County has been showing an **upward** trend for the past four weeks. **Allegheny County is currently at 11.3% 7-day positivity, with 660.7 daily administered tests per million. This is a 3% increase in 7-day positivity compared to the reporting period April 13 - April 19, with 660.7 daily tests administered per million in the two weeks prior.**



TEST AVAILABILITY

Demand for testing has remained low since the Omicron surge. Daily tests administered in Allegan County have also remained low since the Omicron surge. Currently, there are multiple options in Allegan County where residents can obtain at-home testing kits or get tested for COVID-19. At this time, at-home tests are not reported in the Michigan Disease Surveillance System (MDSS) and therefore, are not included in the test positivity rates or case counts.

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)

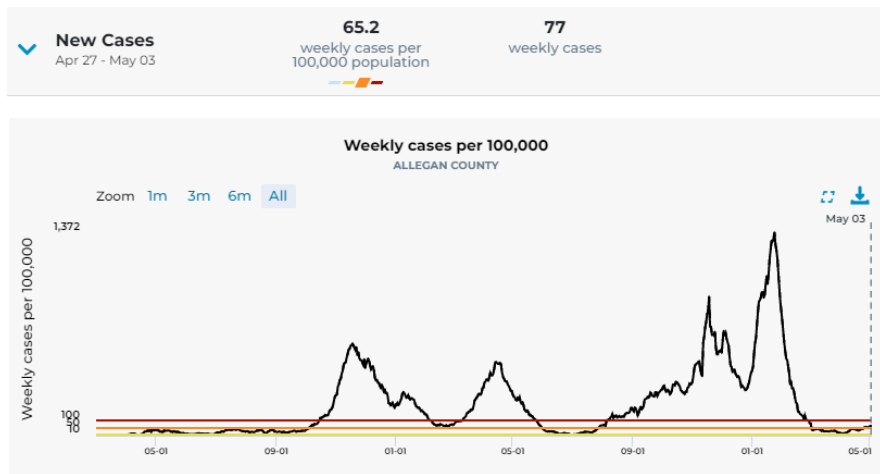
FREE COMMUNITY TESTING EVENTS ARE HELD EVERY WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY AT THE ALLEGAN COUNTY TRANSPORTATION BUILDING FROM 12 PM – 5 PM. THESE EVENTS OFFER PCR AND RAPID TESTING OPTIONS.

- 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

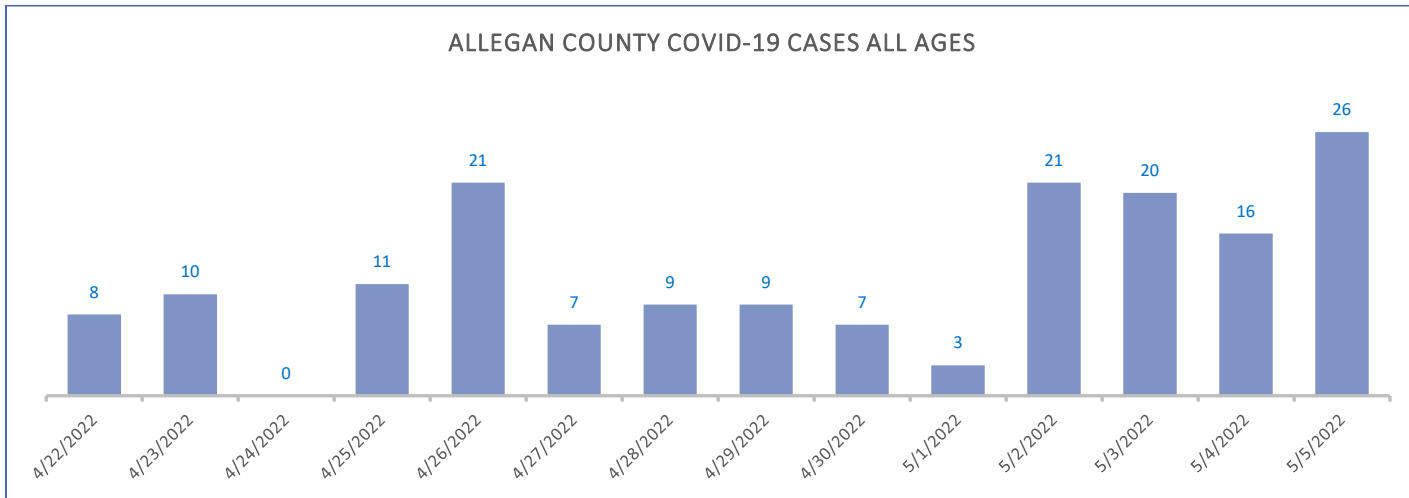
ALLEGAN COUNTY COVID-19 COMMUNITY LEVEL: LOW



Allegan County remains at a low COVID-19 community level based on the CDC framework. **Models continue to show an increase in actual cases for the last two weeks. During the period 4/27/2022 - 5/3/2022, Allegan County's new weekly case rate was 65.2 per 100,000 population.**

This represents more than a 45% increase in new weekly cases compared to the 4/13/2022 - 4/19/2022 reporting period (34.7 per 100,000).

OVERVIEW OF COVID-19 CASES AND DEATHS IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS (4/22/2022 – 5/5/2022)



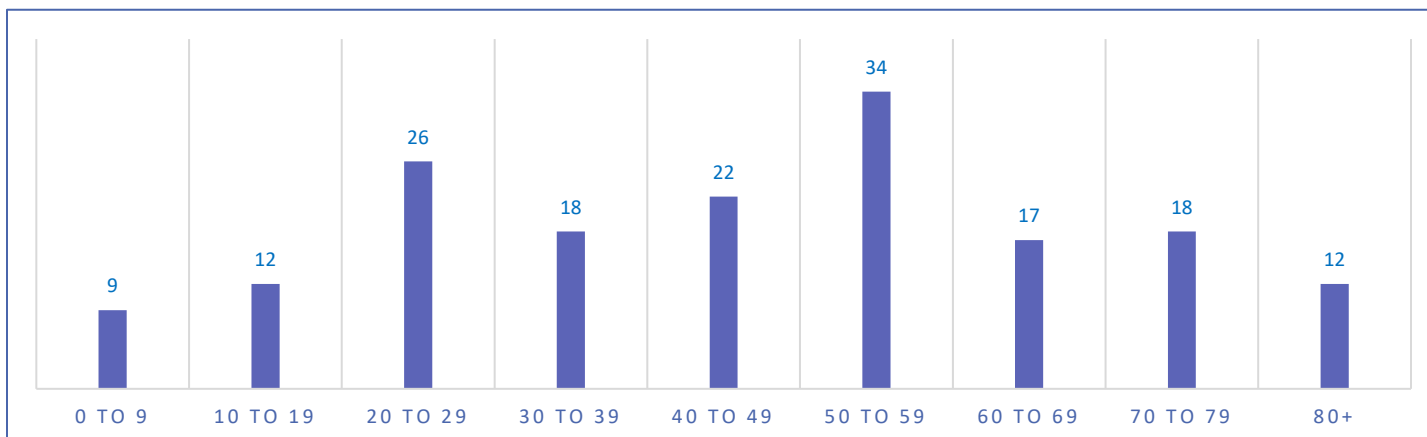
DURING 4/22/2022 TO 5/5/2022:

- **168 total cases** were reported via the Michigan Disease Surveillance System (MDSS) for Allegan County.
- 20.2% of the cases were reported in the 50 to 59 age group, which group had the highest number of cases during this timeframe.
- There were **no hospitalizations** and **no deaths** related to SARS-CoV-2 infection that were reported during this timeframe. ACHD continues to monitor these metrics as this can show the risk of a medically significant COVID-19 variant or healthcare system strain.
- There were 66 cases reported during this timeframe in MDSS, which was identified as a ‘vaccine breakthrough’ case related to SARS-CoV-2 infection.
- From 4/21/2022 to 5/4/2022, Allegan County had a reported positivity rate of 11.5%, which is up from 7.5% in the previous 14-day time period of 04/07/2022 to 04/20/2022.

CASE INVESTIGATION

Case investigation consists of contacting the individual and asking standard questions related to the disease and identifying those who might have been exposed. ACHD is currently working to investigate all communicable disease cases. Prioritized groups for case investigation, when applicable, include individuals over the age of 65, school-aged individuals, and individuals that live or work in congregate care settings. During the case investigation process, ACHD works to ensure all basic needs are being met for individuals and their families. All cases receive a Patient Education Genius (PEG) notification that is given via email or text messages for a case investigation form.

CASES IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS, BY AGE GROUP (4/22/2022 – 5/5/2022)



From 4/21/2022 to 5/4/2022, nearly 4% of cases were reported as asymptomatic in the Michigan Disease Surveillance System (MDSS). **8.3%** 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 exposure and allows close contacts to make decisions that are more informed on their day-to-day lives. During the same timeframe, **1.2%** of cases were reported as **community contacts** (meaning close contacts who were in a setting other than a household), and **7.7%** of cases were **close contacts to those who work or live in a high-risk/congregate facility** in Allegan County.

168 cases were reported in the MDSS from 4/22/2022 to 5/5/2022

EXPOSURE LETTERS AND CLOSE CONTACTS

ACHD sends potential Exposure Letters for COVID-19, similar to other communicable disease letters. Potential Exposure Letters are sent to school-aged 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 if Allegan County moves to a high level of community transmission, based on the CDC framework.

2,442 exposure letters were sent out as of 5/9/2022

4 close contacts are currently being monitored as of May 6, 2022, compared to 0 for the previous report on April 25, 2022

OUTBREAKS & CLUSTERS

The following table shows the number of outbreaks that ACHD has identified for high-risk settings in Allegan County as of May 5, 2022. ACHD has identified one new outbreak and one new cluster related to schools as of May 3, 2022. ACHD has not identified any new outbreaks for businesses since February 17, 2022. No new outbreaks were identified at long-term and congregate-care facilities during the reporting from May 2, 2022, to May 5, 2022. ACHD reported one new cluster and four ongoing outbreaks in MDHHS' Situation Report as of May 5, 2022.

Type of Setting	Total Number of Outbreaks*
School	16
Business	8
Long Term Care ^β	18
Other Congregate Facilities ^α	2

*Includes clusters per requirement indicated in MDSS' outbreak investigation fields to assign an outbreak code for 'clusters'

^βIncludes Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF), Adult Foster Care (AFC), Home For the Aged (HFA), Assisted Living, and Independent Living facilities

^αIncludes 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 (LTCF) 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 May 6, 2022, ACHD has connected four LTCFs in Allegan County with the iPRAT Team for additional mitigation assistance.

443 resident cases and 52 resident deaths have been reported from January 1, 2020, to April 26, 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 April 26, 2022.

Data as of May 9, 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 LTCFs continue to be higher among staff than among residents, as has been the case throughout the Delta and Omicron surges.

753 staff cases have been reported from January 1, 2020, to April 26, 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-19 and non-COVID-19-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 **2.8%** of inpatient beds that are COVID-19 positive, as of May 3, 2022, which is **.8 % higher** than the previous reporting period, April 13 – April 19. The **Kalamazoo Region** has **2.6%** of inpatient beds that are COVID-19 positive, as of May 3, 2022, which is **.7 % lower** than the previous reporting period, April 13 – April 19.

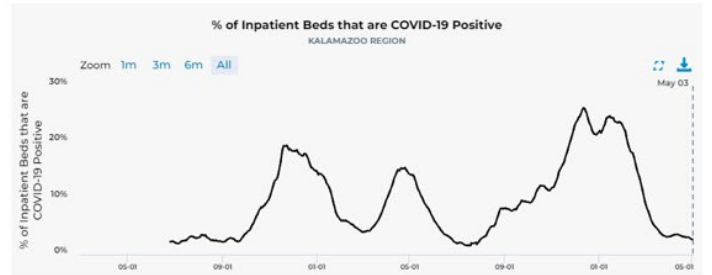
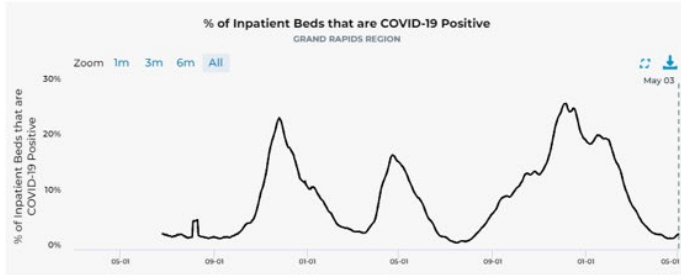
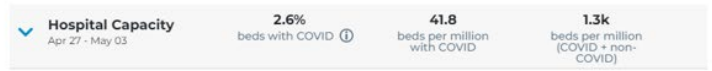
HOSPITALS IN THE ALLEGAN COUNTY AREA

Note: Some smaller hospitals might not have ICU beds for COVID-19 or non-COVID-19 patients

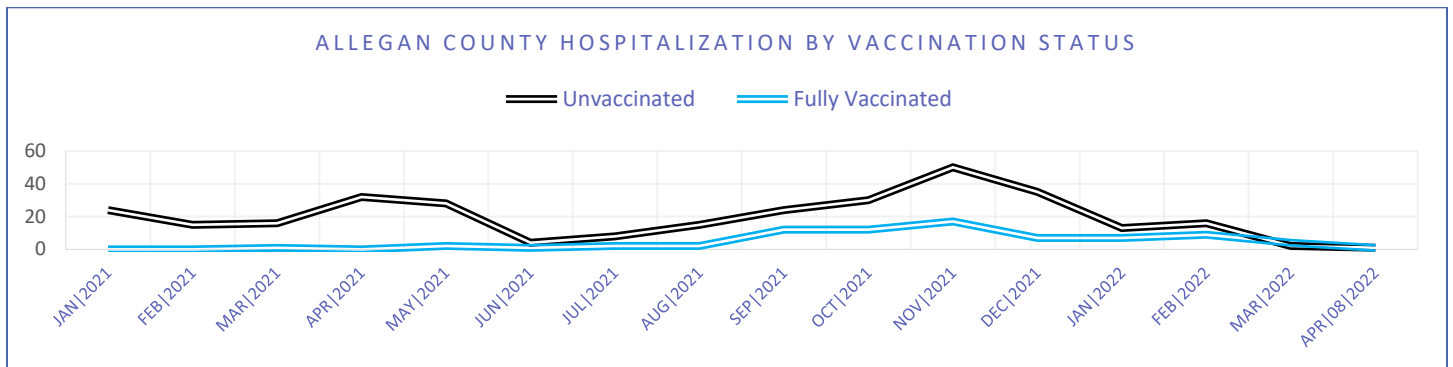
As of 5/2/2022

Hospital	COVID-19 Patients	COVID-19 Patients in ICU	Bed Occupancy %
Ascension Borgess Allegan Hospital	0	0	32%
Ascension Borgess Hospital	2	0	93%
Ascension Borgess-Pipp Hospital	1	0	65%
Bronson Methodist Hospital	9	1	95%
Bronson South Haven	0	0	50%
Holland Community Hospital	0	0	73%
Mercy Health Mercy Campus	9	2	82%
Mercy Health St. Mary's Main Campus	6	2	67%
Metro Health Hospital	0	0	60%
Spectrum Health - Blodgett Hospital	12	1	96%
Spectrum Health - Butterworth Hospital	16	3	88%
Spectrum Health Zeeland Hospital	3	0	27%
Spectrum Helen DeVos Children's Hospital	1	0	79%

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



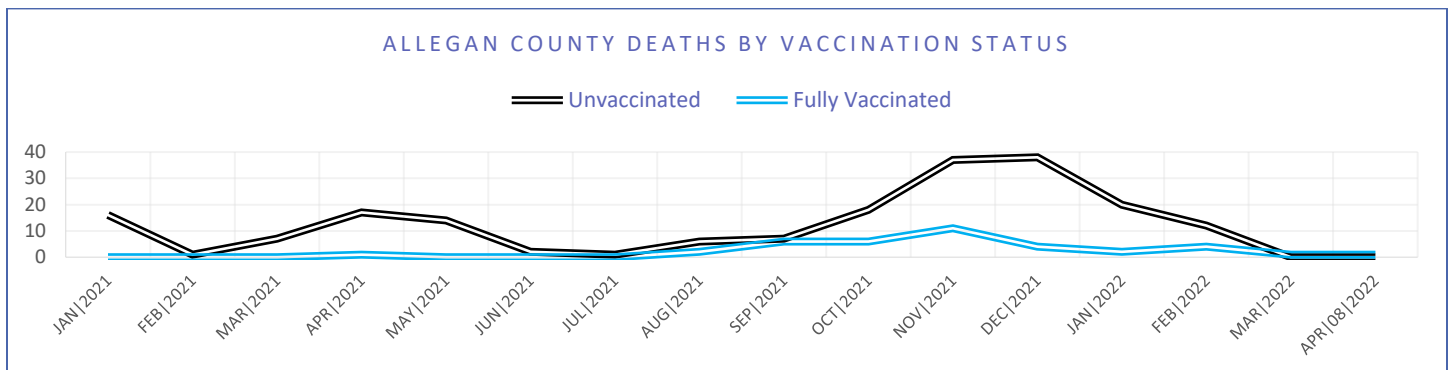
Vaccinations are effective at reducing hospitalizations from COVID-19. In Allegan County, **80.3%** of the **hospitalizations** from 1/1/2021 to 4/8/2022 have been in those that are **unvaccinated**.



DEATHS



Similarly, vaccinations are effective at preventing deaths from COVID-19. From 1/1/2021 to 4/8/2022, **83.8%** of **COVID-19 deaths** were identified in **unvaccinated** Allegan County individuals.



BEST PRACTICES

SCHOOLS

ACHD is working on solutions to mitigate future outbreaks, including creating a Communicable Disease Template for school-district leadership. This template will include evidence-based procedures that each school district could modify to meet their individual needs to include as an addendum in their Emergency Operation Plans (EOPs). Illness is considered a risk in the school setting and having procedures identified in the future, for any communicable disease, will help speed up the response to mitigate any communicable disease illness. Our goal is to work with all Allegan County School Districts to encourage putting a plan in place by the 22-23 school year.

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 businesses to fill out and provide us with information on what current mitigation strategies they have in place. Businesses can access the survey [here](#).

NEW COVID-19 TREATMENT LOCATOR TOOL

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has announced a [new tool](#) for Michigan residents and health care providers to help locate COVID-19 treatments across the state. Residents can use [this tool](#) by SolvHealth to locate COVID-19 therapeutic options such as monoclonal antibody treatment (MAB) (Bebtelovimab and EVUSHELD™), and oral antivirals (Paxlovid and Molnupiravir), by typing in the name of the specific treatment. More information on COVID-19 therapeutics can be found on the [MDHHS COVID-19 resources page](#).

Therapeutics are an important tool to help reduce severe illness and hospitalization in those that test positive for COVID-19. All individuals who test positive for COVID-19 should talk to their doctor to see if they are eligible to receive one of the COVID-19 therapeutics. ACHD continues to share treatment options and resources to residents and community members on social media and in our monthly [Community Newsletter](#) so that they are prepared if they test positive for COVID-19.

FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR CHILDREN WHOSE ACCESS TO FREE OR REDUCED-COST SCHOOL MEALS WAS AFFECTED BY COVID-19

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) announced on May 4, 2022, that about 90,000 children in Michigan whose access to free or reduced-cost school meals was affected by learning from home due to the pandemic can now receive assistance benefits that their families can use to pay for food at stores or online.

Students in grades pre-kindergarten through 12 are eligible if:

- They qualify for free or reduced-price lunches at school AND
- Attended an in-person school AND
- In-person learning is or was not available at their school for either a full or a partial month.

Each child receives \$7.10 for each day the school is virtual or the student is absent due to COVID. Payments will be paid automatically, so families do not need to apply to receive the assistance. Households that already receive food assistance benefits will receive the Pandemic-EBT payments on their Bridge Cards. Families that do not already receive food assistance will receive Pandemic-EBT cards in the mail that they can use to purchase food.

Payments began last week, with benefits being issued for September through December 2021. Benefits will be issued later this month for January and February, in June for March and April, and in July for May and June. Pandemic-EBT cards were mailed this week to eligible families who do not already have Bridge Cards. Families will receive a letter from MDHHS describing how to use the

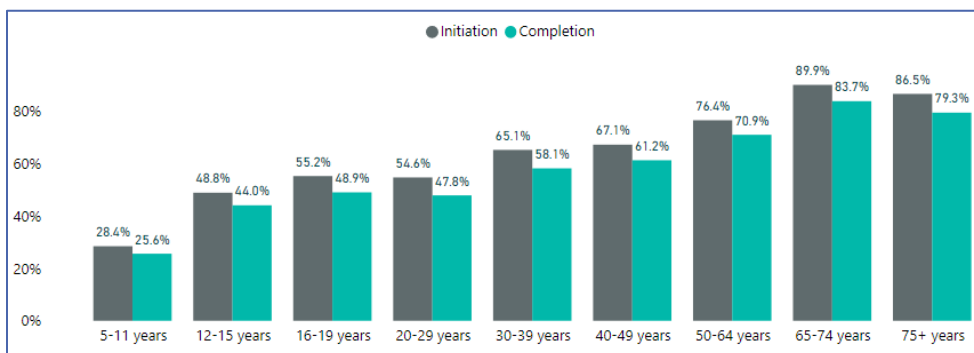
card, how to set up a PIN, and other information about food assistance benefits. Click [here](#) to read more about these assistance benefits.

COMMUNICATIONS

COVID-19 Health Education has been a mandated service in this response. The following are metrics related to COVID communication efforts from 4/22/2022 – 5/5/2022:

- 6 Social media posts
- 1 Provider Update created
- 9 Education materials created/updated

COMMUNITY VACCINATION/HERD IMMUNITY/TREATMENT



COVID-19 VACCINE COVERAGE BY AGE GROUP

As of 5/6/2022

Residents aged 50+ have the highest percentage of vaccination, with these individuals meeting the 70% vaccination goal. Low vaccine rates seen in young children and adolescents may be because

emergency use was not authorized for this cohort until later on. Vaccine rates for ages 5-19 have been relatively stagnant since March 2022 with an approximately a 1% increase.

VACCINE AVAILABILITY

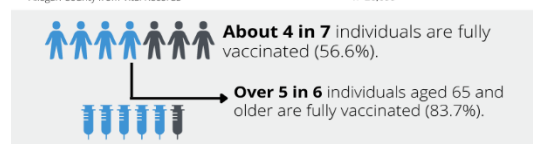
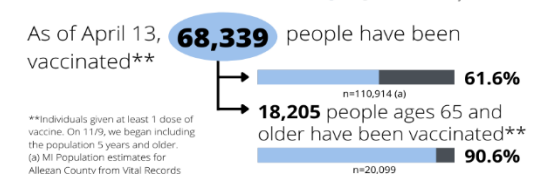
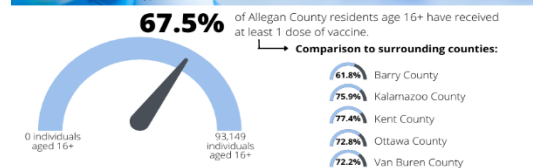
Vaccine availability remains high as pharmacies, doctor’s offices, and health care systems are administering vaccines. ACHD has vaccine appointments available for vulnerable populations or children in the Vaccine for Children program.

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.

Second booster doses are available for immunocompromised individuals over the age of 12 and adults 50 years of age and older. 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). For more information about second booster dose authorization, visit [here](#).

Allegan County VACCINE DATA



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

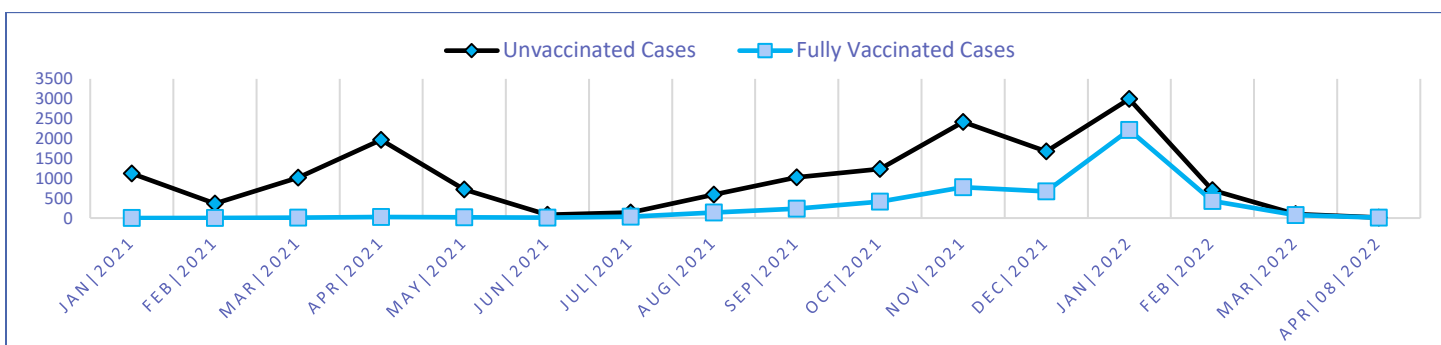
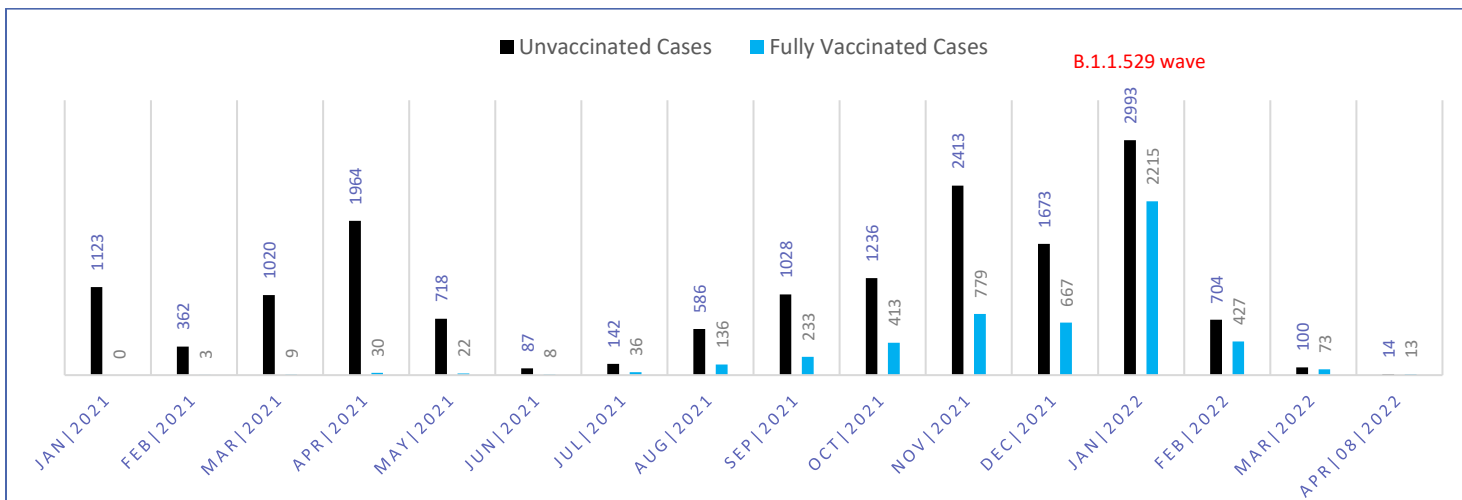
Note: Our goal of vaccinating 70% of the population accounted for the 16 and older population. With increasing the eligibility population, our vaccine coverage decreased. We are continuing to strive towards our goal of vaccinating 70% of residents 16 and older, which will reflect on the gauge at the 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 04/08/2022

Data as of May 9, 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) has more cases compared to the fully vaccinated (blue line).

AS OF APRIL 08, 2022:

- 76% of the cases reported during this timeframe were identified as unvaccinated persons and 24% of cases met the CDC’s case definition of a *breakthrough case*²
- Overall case rates as of April 8, 2022, indicate a continuation of Michigan in the *recovery phase*³
- Both unvaccinated and vaccinated cases saw an increase across all age groups during the *Omicron variant (B.1.1.529) wave* and plateauing during the *recovery phase*
- There were **no hospitalizations and deaths** that were reported in the 0 to 27 age group in fully vaccinated cases
- The [data and modeling](#) completed by MDHHS as of May 3, 2022, observed that through March (2022), unvaccinated individuals had a 1.8 times higher risk of testing positive for SARS-CoV-2 infection compared to individuals who were [up to date](#) on vaccinations. Individuals that were unvaccinated in the age group of 12 years and older had 2.8 times the risk of testing positive for COVID-19.

OVERVIEW OF ALLEGAN COUNTY COVID-19 BREAKTHROUGH CASES AS OF APRIL 08, 2022

MDHHS COUNTYWIDE BREAKTHROUGH DATA DISTRIBUTION UPDATE

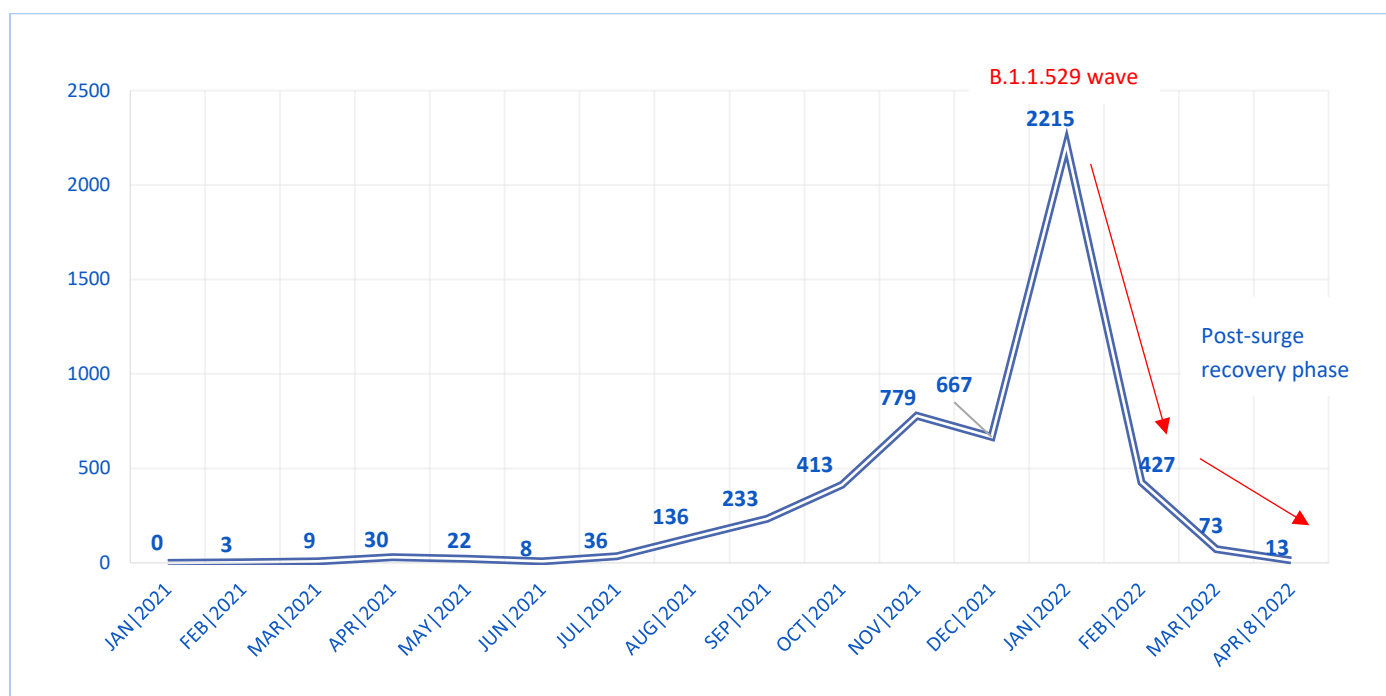
² Breakthrough case is defined as a SARS-CoV-2 infection occurring in an individual who is fully vaccinated (CDC)

³ Recovery phase is the post-surge time period in which no immediate resurgence is predicted, and local and state public health will monitor conditions leading to future surges (MDHHS)

ACHD has been informed by the MDHHS Team that the **last and final breakthrough data files for countywide distribution were reviewed and completed as of 4/8/2022**. The final breakthrough list that ACHD has received from MDHHS is summarized in this report. In the future, we will be looking into ways to provide this level of information utilizing the case data reported via MDSS.

The reason for discontinuing breakthrough data distributions to local health jurisdictions (LHDs) is because MDHHS has determined that calculating incidence risk ratios or vaccine effectiveness using reduced sample sizes is not recommended for LHDs. Moving forward, Michigan is following the recommendation of the CDC and investigating breakthrough COVID-19 cases on a population-level, rather than on a case level. This means that while MDHHS will continue to investigate trends and the overall incidence of breakthrough COVID-19 cases and deaths, MDHHS will not regularly investigate the individual cases for specific identifiers⁴.

Michigan will continue to update statewide trends in the [data and modeling](#) slide deck. CDC's breakthrough analysis provides a better picture of current analyses with breakthrough cases and assesses trends overall rather than looking at individual cases. For more information, please refer to [CDC COVID Data Tracker: Rates of COVID-19 Cases and Deaths by Vaccination Status](#).



AS OF APRIL 08, 2022:

- There were **23.9% (5,064) fully vaccinated cases** identified⁵ from January 01, 2021, to April 08, 2022
- 8% of cases (including all ages) were reported as breakthrough cases
- 5.6% of cases in the 0 to 19 age group were reported as breakthrough cases
- 379 cases in the 0 to 18 age group were persons that met the CDC definition of being fully vaccinated or breakthrough case related to SARS-CoV-2 infection
- There were 1,045 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
- There have been no hospitalizations or deaths related to SARS-CoV-2 infection reported in the 5 to 11 age group.
- 2.8% of the cases in the latest vaccine eligible group of age 5-11 were reported as breakthrough cases
- 18.4% of cases were reported in the 50 to 59 age group, which is the group with the highest number of COVID-19 breakthrough cases

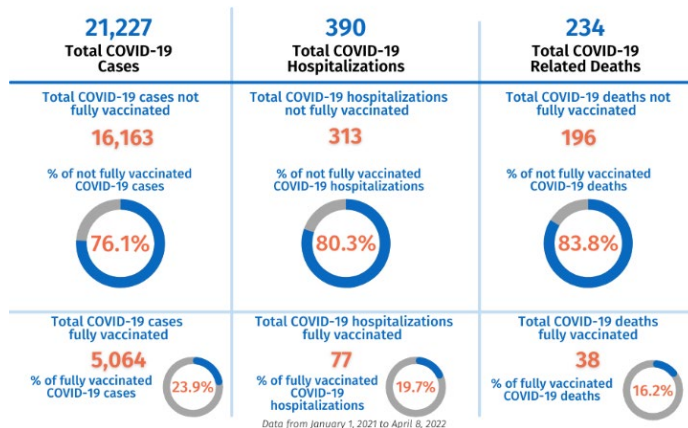
⁴ Metrics for Hospitalization and death

⁵ Identified via the MDSS-MCIR match criteria by referral, onset, diagnosis, or specimen collection dates.

- The youngest fully vaccinated individual hospitalized related to SARS-CoV-2 infection was reported in the 20 to 29 age group
- The youngest fully vaccinated individual that died related to SARS-CoV-2 infection was reported in the 40 to 49 age group
- Both hospitalizations and deaths that had met the CDC’s criteria of ‘breakthrough cases’ related to SARS-CoV-2 infection were seen to plateau during the post-surge recovery phase



Since January 2021, there have been:



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 of an unvaccinated person and a vaccinated person getting COVID-19 from 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 fewer infectious viral particles for a shorter period.

UPDATES ON COVID-19 VACCINES FOR CHILDREN UNDER 5

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has scheduled dates in June for the Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) to meet and discuss updates to the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech Emergency Use Authorizations (EUA) for their COVID-19 vaccines to include children under 5. As the sponsors complete their submissions and the FDA reviews that data and information, it will provide additional details on the scheduling of the VRBPAC meetings to discuss each EUA request.

Although these meeting dates are tentative, there is an urgency to get COVID-19 vaccines authorized for populations that are not currently eligible. However, the FDA plans to follow its normal EUA process to evaluate data promptly before making any final decisions. Once the meeting dates are finalized, the live-streamed VRBPAC meetings will be available to view [here](#).

ACHD is continuing to monitor the status of COVID-19 vaccines for children under 5 years of age, and when more information becomes available, we will share it with the public. In the meantime, ACHD is encouraging residents to consider making personal decisions on masking based on [family and community risk factors](#) and [staying up-to-date](#) on COVID-19 vaccinations.

COVID-19 VACCINATION MAY REDUCE THE RISK OF LONG COVID

It is estimated that 10% to 30% of individuals have lingering symptoms for weeks or months after they begin to recover from COVID-19. This is called “Long COVID” which refers to a wide range of new, returning, or ongoing health problems people may experience more than four weeks after being first infected with SARS-CoV-2. 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.

The United Kingdom’s Health Security Agency analyzed 8 studies from the UK, US, India, Indonesia, and Israel around Long COVID, and reported that of the [8 studies](#), 6 studies found that vaccinated individuals tend to be less likely to develop Long COVID symptoms than unvaccinated individuals. Read the full analysis [here](#).

HEALTH Department

WHAT IS LONG COVID?

Definition: Long COVID—or post-COVID conditions—is a wide range of new, returning or ongoing health problems people may experience more than four weeks after being first infected with SARS-CoV-2.

Symptoms that Long COVID can present:

- Fatigue
- Shortness of Breath
- Loss of Taste or smell
- Muscle pain or headache
- Depression or anxiety
- Worsened symptoms after physical or mental activities
- Fever
- Joint/Chest pain

THE BEST WAY TO PREVENT POST-COVID CONDITIONS IS TO PREVENT COVID-19 ILLNESS BY:

- GETTING VACCINATED,
- GETTING TESTED, AND
- TAKING PRECAUTIONS LIKE WEARING MASKS, SOCIAL DISTANCING, AND AVOIDING CROWDS WHEN YOUR COMMUNITY COVID-19 LEVEL IS HIGH

When someone who is fully vaccinated gets COVID-19, their viral load is reduced because of adaptive immunity elicited by COVID-19 vaccination. Some data also suggest that vaccination may ease Long COVID symptoms even if vaccination occurs after infection.

ACHD encourages residents to stay up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccinations and assess community COVID-19 levels.

(Source: [The Unbiased Science Podcast: Mounting Evidence that vaccines reduce risk of Long COVID](#))

COVID-19 BOOSTERS ARE EFFECTIVE

As additional booster doses are available for immunocompromised individuals aged 12 and older and all individuals aged 50 and older, it is important for residents to get boosted as an added layer of protection against COVID-19 and to help prevent severe illness and hospitalization in the instance they do get COVID-19. Nursing home residents are members of the community who are at high risk for COVID-19 associated illness and death.

Second COVID-19 booster doses are now available!

If you are **50+ years**, you may choose to receive a second booster dose once **4 months** have passed since your last booster.*

If you are 12+ years and are moderately to severely **immunocompromised**, you may choose to receive a second booster dose once **4 months** have passed since your last booster.*

*Talk to your health care provider to decide which booster vaccine is right for you.

MDHHS Michigan Department of Health & Human Services
For help finding a vaccination site, visit Michigan.gov/COVIDVaccine or call 2-1-1.

A new study released from the CDC on May 6, found that out of 15,000 skilled nursing facilities, residents who received an additional dose or booster dose rather than only completing their primary vaccine series had greater protection against COVID-19 infection during the Omicron variant surge. Read the full study [here](#). It is recommended that all immunocompromised nursing home residents should receive an additional primary dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, and all nursing home residents should receive a booster dose to protect against COVID-19 infection.

ACHD also recommends that all other immunocompromised individuals receive an additional primary dose of COVID-19, and all residents aged 50+ receive a second booster dose if eligible. COVID-19 vaccines continue to be safe and effective and work with your immune system to fight against the virus and prevent severe illness and hospitalization if you contract the virus. COVID-19 boosters can provide further protection that might have waned over time after your primary series of COVID-19 vaccination. ACHD recommends individuals [stay up-to-date](#) on their COVID-19 vaccinations and can find vaccination locations at www.vaccinefinder.org and www.vaccinatewestmi.com.

COVID-19 SURVEILLANCE

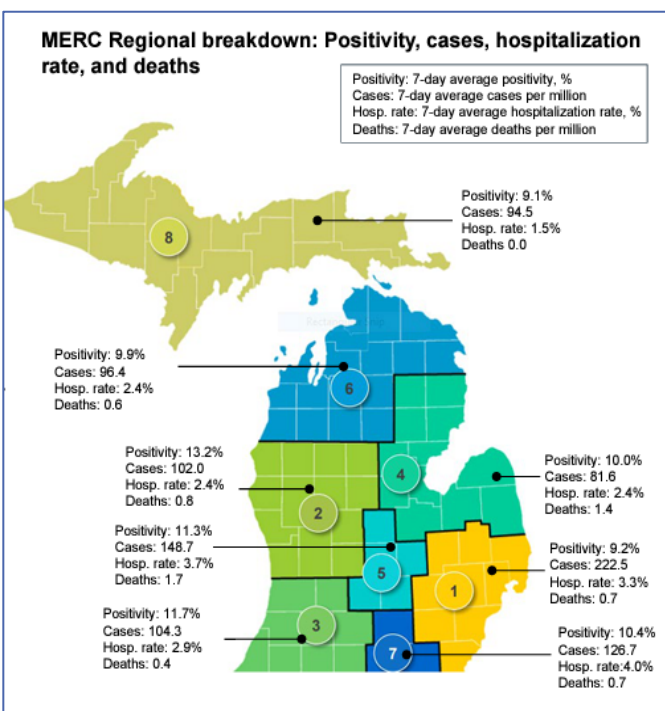
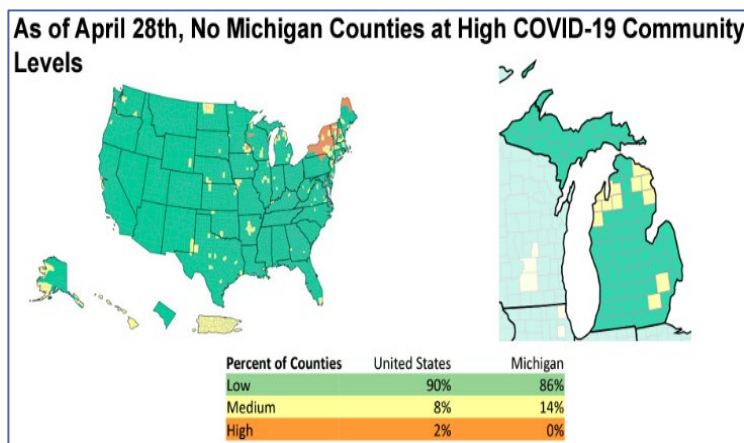
The main component of communicable disease investigation is surveillance, which is used to identify outbreaks or increases in cases regionally, statewide, nationally, and globally. ACHD has noted that there are increases related to COVID-19 activity from the BA.2 Omicron sub-variant in other areas of 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 tends to be seen in the United States. We will continue to monitor these case surges.

STATEWIDE COVID-19 SURVEILLANCE

Statewide, as of **May 4, 2022**, [Michigan Coronavirus Data](#) reports a total of **2,444,891 cases** and **36,064 deaths** related to the SARS-CoV-2 infection.

In the May 3 MDHHS' data and modeling [update](#), **0%** of Michigan counties are at **High COVID-19 Community Levels** and **86%** are at **Low Community Levels** as of April 28, 2022; however, current trends are indicative of more counties transitioning to high COVID-19 levels in the future. Of note, Michigan counties that are at medium COVID-19 community levels are currently at 14% percent, which is an increase from 8.4% during the week of April 11, 2022.

Case rates are increasing in Michigan; however, these increases



are currently seen to occur more in counties in Southeast Michigan, as of May 3, 2022. Both case rates and hospital admissions in Southeast Michigan counties are predictive of reaching High COVID-19 Community Levels soon.

The adjacent map shows data as of May 3, 2022, and indicates that **Region 5**, which includes Allegan County, has a **7-day hospitalization rate of 3.7%** (which is a slight increase from 3.1% per available data on April 18, 2022). As of data and modeling on May 3, 2022, hospital admissions and COVID+ hospital census are following an accelerated rate (+19%) compared to the pattern observed a few weeks before.

Overall, case counts in all age groups are increasing, however, a slow surge in cases continues for the school-aged population. As of data on May 3, 2022, case counts are highest in the 30 to 39 age groups. As of April 22, 2022, case rates by onset date for all age groups are now between 130.8 and 229.2 per million persons compared to 57.1 and 119.5 cases per million persons before the week of April 18, 2022. Cases are highest in the Asian/Pacific Islander race group.

Long Term Care Facilities are showing an increase at a faster rate given the current COVID-19 positive census in hospitals, hospital admissions, and case metrics. Additionally, the metrics surrounding Intensive Care Unit (ICU) admissions and pediatric census are seeing an increase at a faster rate. It has been weeks since Michigan saw a slight increase in COVID+ ICU rates (+4%). Hospitalization rates in children 5 to 11 age groups were approximately twice as high in unvaccinated compared to vaccinated individuals.

MICHIGAN 7-DAY METRICS/DATA SURVEILLANCE⁶ AS OF MAY 6, 2022

Cases	Percent Positivity	Deaths	New Hospital Admissions
18,945	10-14.9%	62	101.57

Michigan remains in the *recovery phase*⁷ due to current case rates and hospitalizations and increased access to mitigation measures. Administration of COVID-19 vaccinations and booster doses remain a critical component during the recovery phase.

NATIONWIDE COVID-19 SURVEILLANCE

Overall, cases, hospitalizations, and deaths are on a downward trend nationwide as other parts of the world are seeing increases. Hospitalizations continue to be 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, South Dakota, and North Dakota have the lowest overall cases in the nation as of May 6, 2022.

In 2020 and 2021 COVID-19 was reported to be the 3rd leading cause of death in the United States

- **994,187 total deaths (up 6,586 from April 22, 2022)** have been reported as of May 5, 2022; which accounts for more than 15% of total deaths worldwide. Total **cases** nationwide as of May 5, 2022, is **81,492,170 (up 843,689 from April 22, 2022)**. Between January and December 2021, COVID-19 infections were associated with approximately 460,000 deaths in the U.S. The overall age-adjusted death rate increased by 0.7% in 2021.
- Death rates were highest among non-Hispanic American Indian or Alaskan Native and non-Hispanic Black or African American populations.
- Older adults are at the highest risk for severe illness with more than 81% of COVID-19 deaths occurring in people over age 65. The number of deaths among people over 65 years is 97 times higher than the number of deaths among people 18-29.

As of April 29, 2022, Region 5 (Midwest) states, which includes Michigan, are either plateaued or increasing with Illinois and Wisconsin having the highest case rates. The 7-day case average has been reported to increase by over 25.9% since the week before April 22, 2022. Approximately 86% of the States are at low community levels.

Region 5 States with the Highest COVID-19 Case Rates	Cases Reported in the Last 7 Days†	Deaths Reported in the Last 7 Days†
Illinois	4,376	8
Wisconsin	1,783	7

†Data reported by the [CDC COVID-19 Data Tracker](#) as of May 6, 2022

GLOBAL COVID-19 SURVEILLANCE

Globally, as of **May 6, 2022**, the World Health Organization (WHO) reports **513,955,910 confirmed cases (up 8,137,957 from April 22, 2022)** and **6,249,700 deaths (up 35,824 from April 22, 2022)** related to the SARS-CoV-2 infection. Case rates appear to be declining or plateauing in most European countries following the second Omicron wave.

As of May 6, 2022, there are no countries indicated at COVID-19 risk level 4 with special circumstances and/or travel precautions. Johns Hopkins University and Medicine Coronavirus Resource Center (JHU) has reported case surges in Germany, Australia, Italy, and South Korea as of May 6, 2022. This is indicative of a continued increase in the incidence of the Omicron variant BA.2 cases.

COVID-19 Risk Level 3 (High)	Cases Reported in the Last 7 Days*	Deaths Reported in the Last 7 Days*
------------------------------	------------------------------------	-------------------------------------

⁶ [CDC COVID-19 Data Tracker](#)

⁷ Recovery phase is the post-surge time period in which no immediate resurgence is predicted, and local and state public health will monitor conditions leading to future surges (MDHHS)

Germany	460,700	76
Australia	No data available	No data available
Italy	332,838	935
South Korea	No data available	No data available

*Data reported by the [World Health Organization Coronavirus Dashboard](#) as of May 6, 2022

COVID-19 Risk Level 3 (High)	Weekly New Hospital Admissions for COVID-19**	Closest Available Date of Data Point**
Germany	3,550	May 6, 2022
Australia	No data available	No data available
Italy	4,174	April 26, 2022
South Korea	3,251	May 3, 2022

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

WASTEWATER SURVEILLANCE

UPDATE: MDHHS Wastewater Surveillance as of April 27, 2022

- 50% (10/20) of Sentinel Wastewater Epidemiology Evaluation Project (SWEEP) sites saw an increase in the most recent week ending on April 27, 2022 and another 30% of sites saw a plateau in trends.
- 20% (4/20) of sentinel sites are showing declines in the previous 15- days.

ACHD has been working with Hope College over the last year as they sample wastewater for COVID-19 to determine future directions for its use.

Background: There are

municipal water supply systems and one large business participating in wastewater sampling. ACHD, Hope College, and Ottawa County Department of Public Health are meeting regularly to discuss how wastewater data can be used in surveillance. Anticipatory wastewater data would be particularly useful during this current reporting period where we are seeing an increase in case positivity with lower testing rates. In the last year, sampling was 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. There are a total of 20 sewer-shed sites that are reporting positive and negative test results to MDHHS every week. For more information, please visit [Coronavirus - Sentinel Wastewater Epidemiology Evaluation Project \(SWEEP\) \(michigan.gov\)](#).

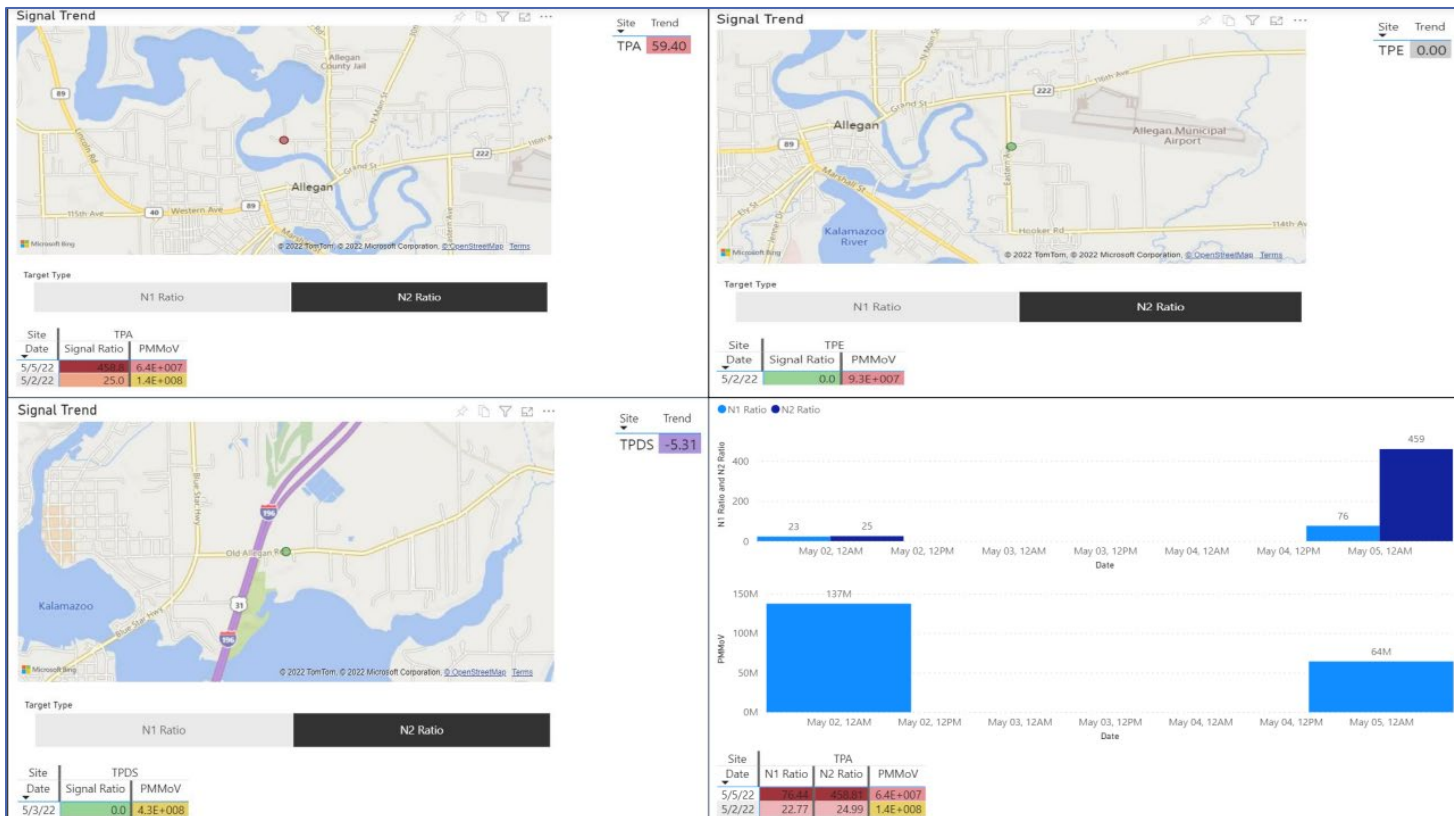
Hope College has done the groundwork by partnering with several local health departments to produce a dashboard, which displays the most recent wastewater readings and the case counts for participating counties. Currently, Hope College is working on creating a shared wastewater dashboard configuration for sister counties Ottawa and Allegan as they have been working in tandem to evaluate wastewater levels. This is a time-intensive process, so there will be more updates to follow in the future. Below are screenshots of what the dashboard currently looks like; however, this is a new project and is still in progress. The figure below depicts examples of signal readings from various Allegan sewer-shed sites (TPA⁸, TPE⁹, TPDS¹⁰) that have existing data points for the most recent nine calendar days (4/24/2022 to 5/3/2022).

⁸ Allegan Water Resource Recovery Facility

⁹ Allegan/Perrigo East Lift Station

¹⁰ Douglas/Saugatuck WWTP - Kalamazoo Lake Sewer and Water Authority Wastewater Treatment Plant

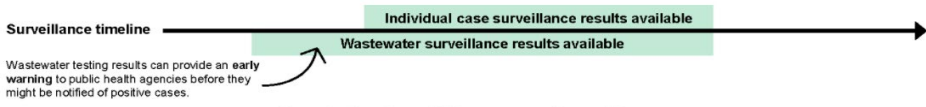
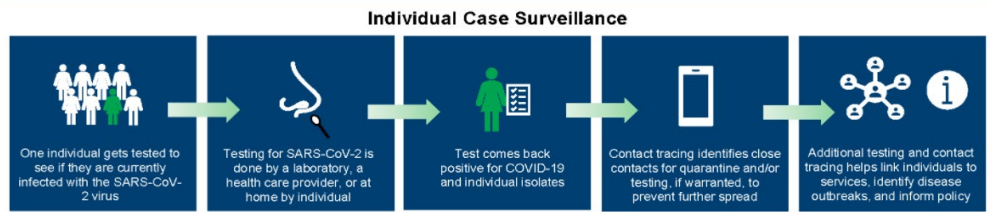
*As seen in the figure below, the trend fields/numbers are indicated by different colors. **Purple** indicates a decreasing trend, **Gray** indicates a flat trend, and **Red** indicates an increasing trend.



The bar graph with the light blue and dark blue columns shows N1 and N2¹¹ signals. These signals are expected to be different because we are detecting different portions of the N gene using different detection. The difference in detection efficiency is also consistently seen by other labs around the United States.

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. The figure to the right 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.

How does wastewater monitoring fit in with overall COVID-19 surveillance?



¹¹ N1 and N2 are gene markers that are unique to a virus, and have been identified by the CDC as suitable targets for identifying SARS-CoV-2

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. MDHHS continues to work toward including wastewater surveillance for Allegan County in the SWEEP dashboard.

EPIDEMIOLOGIC SURVEILLANCE: BA.2OMICRON SUB-VARIANT

UPDATE: MDHHS Communicable Disease Division as of April 19 and 20, 2022

- The proportion of BA.2 in the U.S. and Michigan continues to rise
- Cases are steadily increasing, with increases continuing more in Southeast Michigan
- A slower rise and fall is predicted with BA.2 cases with a peak that is still likely to double Michigan's current case rate in early May
- Current predictions are still not indicative of moving into the Readiness or Response phase of the pandemic cycle

Many countries in Europe continue to show early signs of decline; however, cases in the U.S. continue to increase at a faster rate than the week of April 25, 2022. Given the levels of vaccination/boosters and immunity from recent Omicron infection, a significant rise in hospitalization and mortality is not expected to occur. **Cumulatively, 1,280 Omicron BA.2 specimens were identified from 57 counties and the City of Detroit (3 in Allegan County).**

The CDC has not updated the data that was released as of April 15, 2022, to support that BA.2 is the predominant Omicron lineage in the United States and the national proportion of the BA.2 variant is projected to be 85.9%. As of May 3, 2022, MDHHS data slides have indicated that the National proportion of BA.2 specimens sequenced is greater than 90%.

BA.2 is 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, Remdesivir, and Molnupiravir. For more information about where to obtain these COVID-19 therapies, please visit <https://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' opportunities for mutation. ACHD will continue to monitor this Omicron sub-lineage and deploy response measures accordingly.

The figure to the right was included in the CDC Health Alert Network (HAN) update on April 25, 2022. "The *bebtelovimab* is an alternative therapy that is active *in vitro* against all circulating Omicron subvariants, but there are no clinical efficacy data from placebo-controlled trials that evaluated the use of *bebtelovimab* in patients who are at high risk of progressing to severe COVID-19. *Molnupiravir* has lower efficacy than the preferred treatment options. Therefore, it should be used only when the preferred options are not available, feasible to use, or clinically appropriate."

Figure. Therapeutic Management of Nonhospitalized Adults with COVID-19 (from NIH COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines [\[7\]](#), last updated: April 8, 2022)

PATIENT DISPOSITION	PANEL'S RECOMMENDATIONS
Does Not Require Hospitalization or Supplemental Oxygen	<p>All patients should be offered symptomatic management (AIII).</p> <p>For patients who are at high risk of progressing to severe COVID-19,^a use 1 of the following treatment options:</p> <p>Preferred Therapies Listed in order of preference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ritonavir-boosted nirmatrelvir (Paxlovid)^{b,c} (AIIa) • Remdesivir^d (BIIa) <p>Alternative Therapies For use <i>ONLY</i> when neither of the preferred therapies are available, feasible to use, or clinically appropriate. Listed in alphabetical order:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bebtelovimab^e (CIII) • Molnupiravir^{e,f} (CIIa) <p>The Panel recommends against the use of dexamethasone^g or other systemic corticosteroids in the absence of another indication (AIII).</p>
<p><small>Rating of Recommendations: A = Strong; B = Moderate; C = Weak</small></p> <p><small>Rating of Evidence: I = One or more randomized trials without major limitations; IIa = Other randomized trials or subgroup analyses of randomized trials; IIb = Nonrandomized trials or observational cohort studies; III = Expert opinion</small></p>	

STUDIES ON EMERGING VARIANT AS OF MAY 03, 2022 DATA AND MODELING

- Omicron continues to be the predominant variant of concern (VOC) with several sub-lineages, including BA.4, BA.5, BA.2.12.1, and recombinants of BA.1 and BA.2, most notable XE recombinant.
- **The United States is currently seeing the proportion of BA.2.12.1 increasing at a faster rate than the other lineages, which has the highest frequency of circulation in Northeastern U.S.**
- The XE recombinant is growing at a slightly faster rate compared to BA.2 in the UK; however, it still comprises less than 1% of all cases.
- Globally, around 200 specimens underwent sequencing for BA.4 and BA.5 in a few countries.

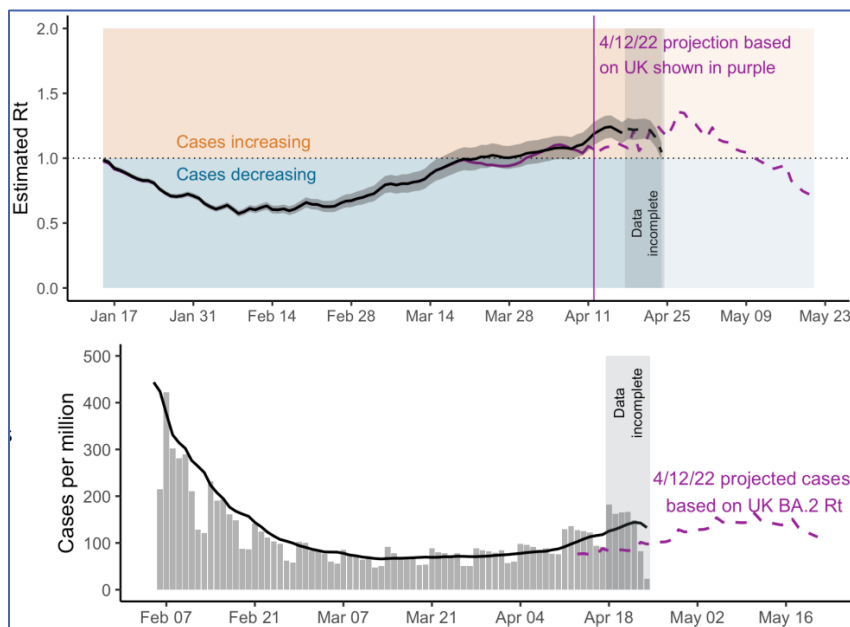


Figure 1

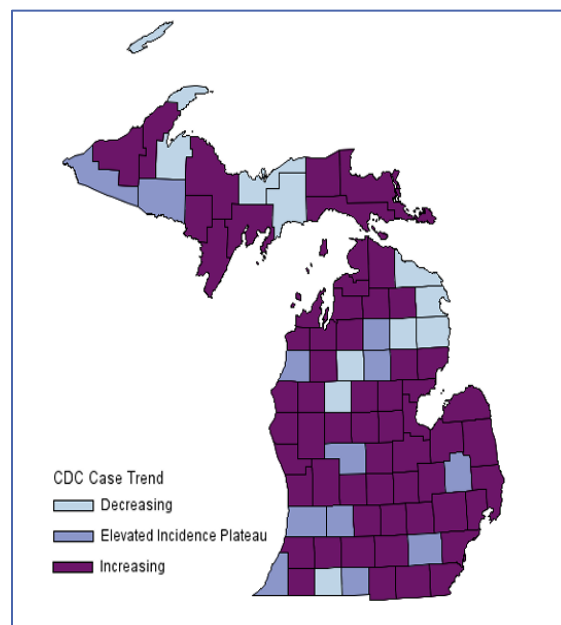


Figure 2

- Current studies and data still do not indicate any increases specific to the nature of transmissibility, change in hospital epidemiology, or additional evasion of current countermeasures to the predominant Omicron variant.
- Figure 1 shows data and modeling as of April 12, 2022, in which Michigan R_t^{12} /cases and projections based on UK R_t are shown in purple; Current Michigan R_t /cases are shown in black.
- As of May 3, 2022, the data suggests that the current R_t of the BA.2 virus in Michigan is similar to the observations made in the United Kingdom R_t .
- In figure 2, presented by MDHHS Data and Modeling update (via [MISafeStartMap](#)), 60 counties are currently showing increases. Twelve counties are indicating elevated incidence plateaus (as of 5/3/22, data through 4/24/22.)
- Case rates increase when the R_t^+ is greater than 1 and decrease when the R_t is less than 1.
- **STUDY LIMITATIONS**
 - This modeling continues to suggest a case acceleration is to occur through late April/early May; however, this is subject to change as MDHHS continues to follow Michigan data closely.
 - Michigan may have different contact patterns than the UK (e.g. due to policy differences, summer/school patterns, etc.), and the UK projections don't account for the effects of newer sub-variants (e.g. BA.2.12.1)

¹² R_t is a unit of epidemiological unit of measurement to indicate the reproduction number of a virus over a particular time

SOURCES

- Allegan County Health Department Facebook page
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [CDC COVID-19 Data Tracker](#)
- [CDC Health Alert Network](#)
- [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
- [FDA Authorizes Breathalyzer COVID-19 Testing](#)
- [FDA Emergency Use Authorization for COVID-19 Breathalyzer Tests](#)
- [Find a COVID-19 Vaccine Near You](#)
- HONU
- [Long Term Care Data](#)
- [MDHHS Quarantine and Isolation Guidance](#)
- [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 Coronavirus Data](#)
- 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](#)
- [Michigan approved food assistance for children whose access to free or reduced-cost school meals was affected by COVID-19](#)
- [The Unbiased Science Podcast: Mounting Evidence that Vaccines Reduce Risk of Long COVID](#)
- [CDC MMWR – Booster Dose Effectiveness in Nursing Homes](#)