



COVID-19 AND OTHER EMERGING PUBLIC HEALTH TOPICS

BOARD OF COMMISSIONER UPDATE

AUGUST 11, 2022

Data as of August 8, 2022

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following report contains COVID-19-related data from **July 22, 2022, to August 4, 2022**, on the 5 mitigation components Allegan County Health Department (ACHD) previously identified. This report contains local COVID-19 data for Allegan County, information on vaccination data, wastewater surveillance, emerging variant updates, and other resources regarding COVID-19 mitigation. This report also contains epidemiological surveillance and health education on other ongoing and emerging public health topics including monkeypox vaccination eligibility, and other regional epidemiological topics at a quick glance. ACHD continues to monitor local, statewide, and global COVID-19 data, and continues to follow the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations.

WHAT'S NEW AT A GLANCE:

- Monkeypox Vaccination Information and eligibility.
- National Immunization Awareness Month and staying up-to-date on vaccinations for back to school.
- Allegan County Test Positivity Rate is trending **downward** again, after a 2-week upward trend.
- Weekly cases in Allegan County increased by more than 8% since the 7/12/2022 to 7/18/2022 reporting period.
- The CDC has an [Interactive School Ventilation Tool](#) to help schools learn how to improve ventilation in classrooms
- The CDC has updated their [Monkeypox Isolation Guidance](#).

An overview of COVID-19 data in Allegan County from **7/22/22 to 8/4/22** can be found in the graphic below:



Cases, hospitalizations, and deaths increased since the previous two-week reporting period.

FACILITY TYPE	NUMBER OF NEW OUTBREAKS	NUMBER OF NEW CLUSTERS	NUMBER OF ONGOING OUTBREAKS	NUMBER OF ONGOING CLUSTERS
SCHOOL	0	0	0	0
BUSINESS	0	0	0	0
LONG TERM CARE FACILITY	0	0	1	0
CORRECTIONAL FACILITY	0	0	3	0

*The number of new outbreaks reported for Long term care and Correctional Facilities has remained plateaued.

Previous BOC reports that may include background information for some of the topics discussed in this current report can be found [here](#).

COVID-19 MITIGATION COMPONENTS



Allegan County currently is at a low community transmission level for COVID-19. **ACHD continues to recommend the following:**

- Staying up-to-date on your COVID-19 vaccines
- Getting tested if you have symptoms, before and after traveling, and before gathering with others.

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

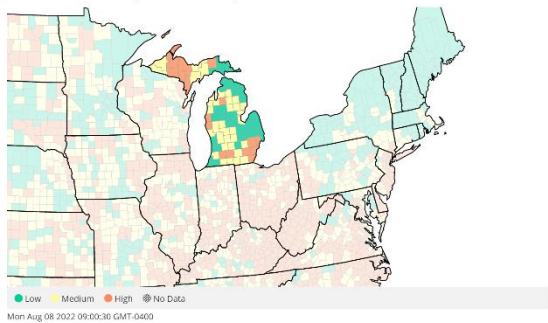
Actions including social distancing, frequent handwashing, wearing a well-fitted face mask, and isolation/quarantine help lessen the level of transmission

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

#DoYourPart

COVID-19 Community Levels are a tool to help communities decide what prevention steps to take based on the latest data. These Community Levels can be low, medium, or high and **are determined by looking at hospital bed utilization, hospital admissions, and the total number of new COVID-19 cases in an area.** Find more about COVID-19 Community Levels [here](#).

COVID-19 Community Levels in Michigan



Note: Counties surrounding Allegan County may be in a medium or high COVID-19 Community Level. If you work or visit other counties often, make sure to take precautions to protect yourself and others such as wearing a mask, washing your hands often, staying home if you feel sick, and social distancing when possible.

Use the CDC's [COVID-19 County Check tool](#) to find out what community level the county you will be visiting is in.

ENHANCED ABILITY TO TEST

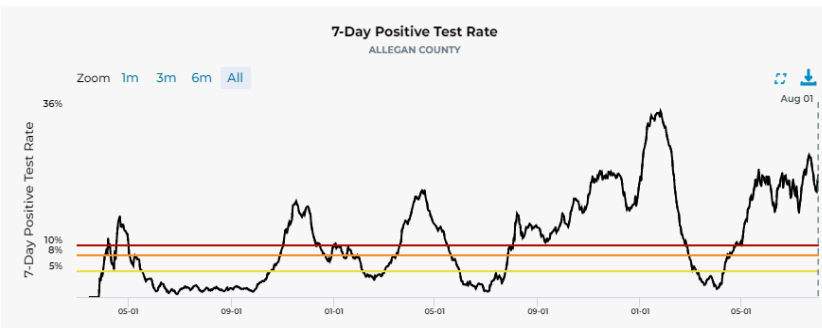
COUNTY-LEVEL DATA AS OF AUGUST 1, 2022

Test Positivity Jul 26 - Aug 01

23.4% positive tests

630.9 daily tests administered per million

1 week Jul 22 - Jul 29



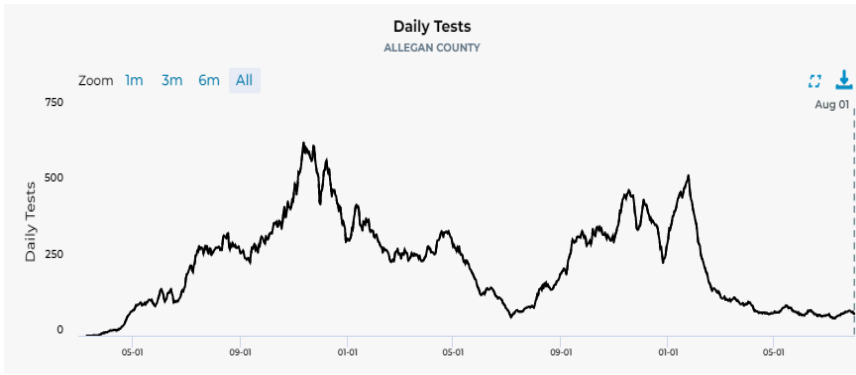
Data Takeaway: The Test Positivity Rate for Allegan County is trending **downward** again, after a 2-week upward trend.

At this stage of the pandemic, percent positivity alone is no longer a strong indicator of the total number of individuals who tested positive, due to several factors – one being at-home testing. It is best to evaluate percent positivity with another metric, such as COVID-19 concentration levels in wastewater, to get a more accurate idea of the prevalence of the virus in an area. **The 7-day positivity rate for Allegan County as of August 1 was 23.4% with 630.9 daily tests**

administered per million. This indicates a 1.2% decrease in the 7-day positivity compared to the 7/12/2022 to 7/18/2022 reporting period, which had 626 daily tests administered per million.

TEST AVAILABILITY

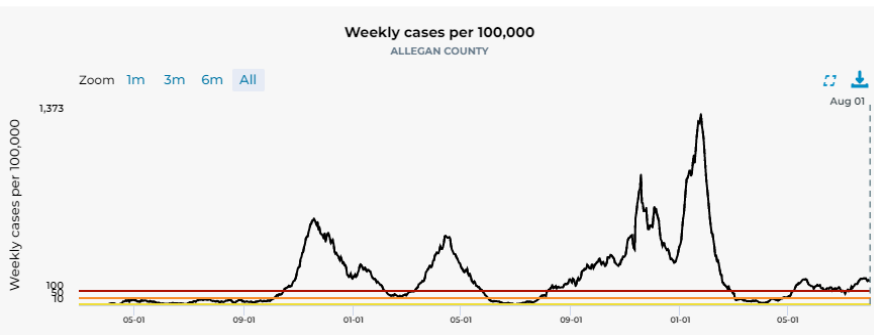
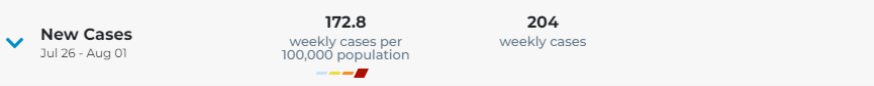
Data as of August 8, 2022



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. *See the Appendix for a list of testing resources available to community members.*

ROBUST CASE INVESTIGATION AND CONTACT TRACING

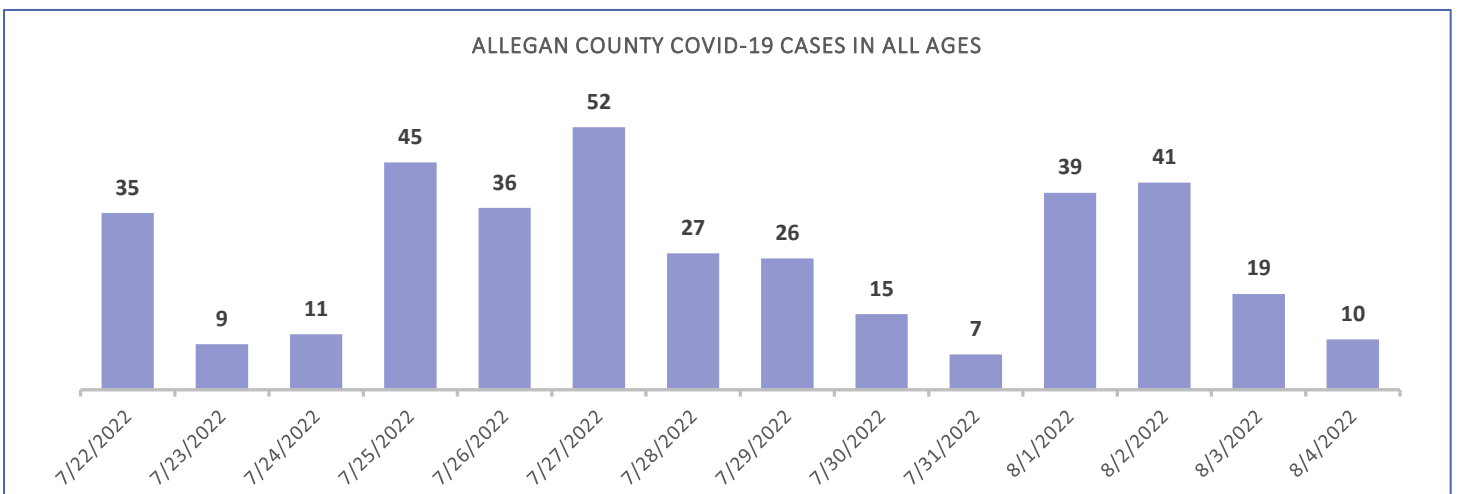
ALLEGAN COUNTY COVID-19 COMMUNITY LEVEL: LOW

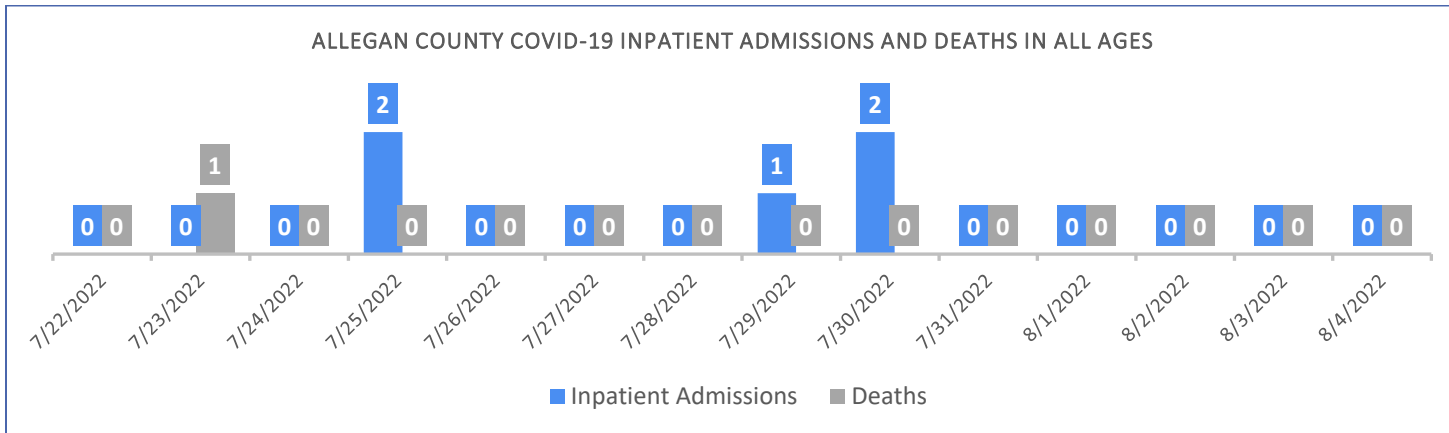


As of 8/1/2022, Allegan County remained at a low COVID-19 community level based on the CDC framework. **Data Takeaway: Models showed an increase in cases compared to the 7/12/2022 to 7/18/2022 reporting period. During the period 7/26/2022 to 8/1/2022, Allegan County's new weekly case rate was 172.8 per 100,000 population with 204 weekly cases.**

Weekly cases increased by more than 8% since the 7/12/2022 to 7/18/2022 reporting period (158.4 per 100,000 - 187 total weekly cases).

OVERVIEW OF COVID-19 CASES AND DEATHS IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS (7/22/2022 to 8/4/22)





DURING 7/22/2022 TO 8/4/2022 FOR ALLEGAN COUNTY:

- **372 total cases** were reported via the Michigan Disease Surveillance System (MDSS)
 - o 236 confirmed cases and 136 probable cases related to SARS-CoV2 infection as reported
- 3.5% of the cases were reported as asymptomatic
- 43.3% of cases were reported as ‘vaccine breakthrough’ cases
- **Five reported hospitalizations¹** related to SARS-CoV-2 infection; most inpatient admissions were reported in individuals aged 50+ years old
- **One reported death** related to SARS-CoV-2 infection
- 10.2% of the cases were reported to be related to international, domestic, and/or in-state travel
- From 7/21/2022 to 8/3/2022, **positivity rate²** was a reported 22.3%
- Cases, hospitalizations, and deaths related to SARS-CoV-2 infection are currently showing as plateaued or increasing, which is synonymous with statewide trends for COVID-19 metrics

ACHD continues to monitor the COVID-19 metrics for hospitalizations and deaths as this can show the risk of a medically significant COVID-19 variant or healthcare system strain.

CASE INVESTIGATION³

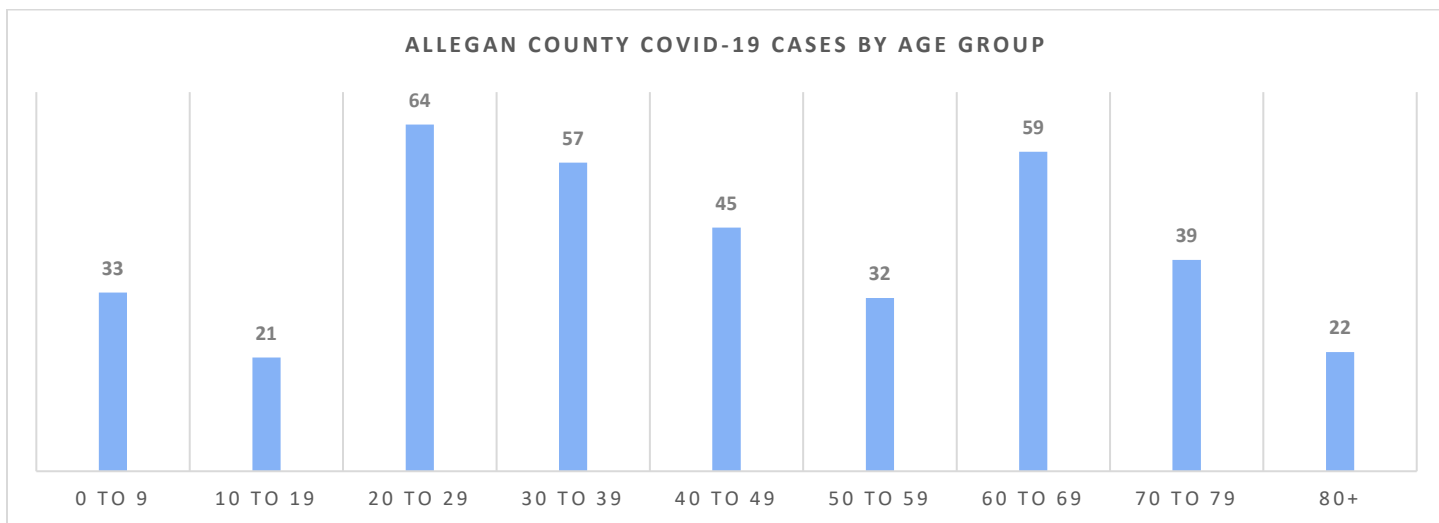
ACHD is currently working to investigate all communicable disease cases. Prioritized groups for case investigation, when applicable, include individuals over the age of 65, school-aged individuals, and individuals that live or work in congregate care settings. During the case investigation process, ACHD 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 provided via email or text messages for a case investigation form.

CASES IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS, BY AGE GROUP (7/22/2022 TO 8/4/2022)

¹ COVID-19 may not be a primary cause of hospitalization in some of the reported cases due to MDSS’ current capacity and data limitations; these data reported in MDSS are often limited by factors such as delayed case investigations and data back-filling

² As reported in the MI-HAN Regional Data File; Positivity Rate is calculated for percent positive persons for day and county

³ Case investigation consists of contacting the individual and asking standard questions related to the disease and identifying those who might have been exposed.



From 7/22/2022 to 8/4/2022 in MDSS: 17.2% of cases were reported in the 20 to 29 age group, which had the highest number of cases. In comparison to the previous reporting period (7/8/22 to 7/21/22), case counts have decreased for the 40 to 49, 50 to 59, and 80+ age groups in the current timeframe.

- **12.1%** of cases were **in quarantine** at the time of symptom onset or positive test
- **22.6%** of investigated cases were **household close contacts**⁴
- **0.8%** of cases were reported as **community contacts**⁵
- **7.5%** of cases were close contacts to those who work or live in a **high-risk/congregate facility**

Notifying close contacts helps individuals know about exposure and allows close contacts to make decisions based on their own risk assessment.

372 cases were reported in the MDSS from 7/22/2022 to 8/4/2022

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.

14,436 exposure letters were sent from March 1, 2022 to August 8, 2022

0 close contacts are currently being monitored as of August 8, 2022

OUTBREAKS & CLUSTERS IN ALLEGAN COUNTY

The following table shows the number of outbreaks⁶ that ACHD has identified for high-risk settings as of August 4, 2022. **ACHD has identified 1 new outbreak related to Long-Term Care Facilities⁷ and 0 new outbreaks related to other congregate-care facilities, since the last update.** No new outbreaks or clusters were identified for schools since the last report on May 24, 2022. ACHD has not identified any new outbreaks for businesses since February 17, 2022. ACHD reported **three** ongoing outbreaks to MDHHS as of August 4, 2022.

⁴ Household contact: person lived with someone who tested positive and later tested positive themselves.

⁵ Community contact: person who was identified as a close contact in a setting other than a household

⁶ Outbreak investigation codes are assigned by the first date of onset

⁷ Data from 10/21/2021

Data as of August 8, 2022

ACHD has developed COVID-19 Business Mitigation Strategies Survey for businesses, Long-Term Care Facilities, daycares and schools to provide us with information on the current mitigation strategies they have in place. The surveys are sent out when an outbreak has been identified at a location.

Type of Setting	Total Number of Outbreaks, since October 2021*
School	18
Business	8
Long Term Care ^β	28
Other Congregate Facilities ^α	3

*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

From January 2022 to August 8, 2022, ACHD has connected **16** LTCFs in Allegan County with the iPRAT Team for additional mitigation assistance⁸.

In Michigan, the number of LTCFs reporting three or more cases in a single reporting period has **increased** in Adult Foster Care (AFC)/Home for the Aged (HFA) from 10 to 13, but **decreased** in Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF) from 31 to 26, since the last Michigan Data and Modeling update on July 26, 2022. According to statewide data⁹, the case counts reported for residents and staff in AFC/HFA have remained **plateaued** since the last update. Case counts reported for residents in SNFs have **decreased**, while case counts for staff in SNF have **plateaued**. Cases within LTCFs continue to be higher among staff than among residents, which has been the case throughout the Delta and Omicron surges.

ACHD has shared forecasting wastewater readings with long-term care facilities in the August LTCF Newsletter to help inform their COVID-19 mitigation strategies.

[534 resident cases and 54 resident deaths have been reported from January 1, 2020, to July 26, 2022¹⁰](#)

[846 staff cases have been reported from January 1, 2020, to July 26, 2022](#)

Many of the LTCFs in Allegan County are experiencing staffing shortages. As of August 2, 2022, in Michigan, 29% of SNF reported **nursing shortages**, and 30% of SNFs are reported **aide shortages**; these numbers have been about the same for the past three months.

SUFFICIENT HEALTH CARE CAPACITY

HOSPITALIZATIONS

Allegan County falls in the Region 5 Health Care Coalition. 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.

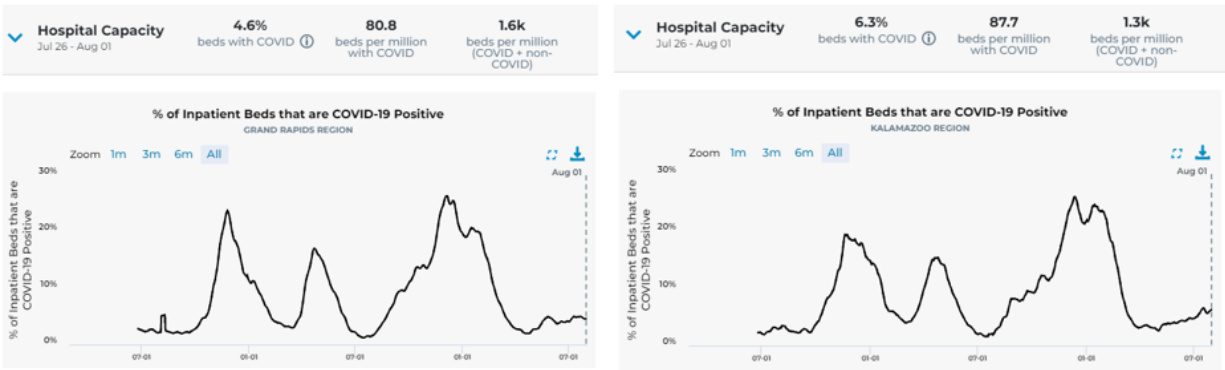
The following figures show the current percentage of inpatient beds treating COVID-19 patients, for the Grand Rapids Region (Region 6), and Kalamazoo Region (Region 5). The **Grand Rapids Region** had **4.6%** of inpatient beds that are COVID-19 positive, as of

⁸ 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 number of positive COVID-19 tests.

⁹ Weekly data reported by facilities with bed occupancy of at least 13 beds

¹⁰ 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 July 26, 2022

August 1, 2022, which is **0.2% lower** than the previous reporting period, July 19 to July 25. The **Kalamazoo Region** had **6.3%** of inpatient beds that are COVID-19 positive, as of August 1, 2022, which is **0.6% higher** than the previous reporting period.



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 7/26/2022

Hospital	COVID-19 Patients	COVID-19 Patients in ICU	Bed Occupancy %
Ascension Borgess Allegan Hospital	0	0	36%
Ascension Borgess Hospital	13	3	77%
Ascension Borgess-Pipp Hospital	0	0	24%
Bronson Methodist Hospital	21	1	87%
Bronson South Haven	0	0	100%
Holland Community Hospital	8	0	64%
Mercy Health Mercy Campus	13	3	70%
Mercy Health St. Mary's Main Campus	22	1	73%
Metro Health Hospital	9	0	82%
Spectrum Health - Blodgett Hospital	14	1	90%
Spectrum Health - Butterworth Hospital	27	2	88%
Spectrum Health Zeeland Hospital	1	0	25%
Spectrum Helen DeVos Children's Hospital	6	0	76%

DEATHS (7 DAY AVERAGE)

The 7-day average for daily deaths has been less than 1 for the last 4 months, and is refelected as 0 on the Michigan Safe Start Map. For a complete view of the 7-day average daily deaths for Allegan and other counties over the course of the pandemic visit, [Dashboard | CDC | MI Start Map](#)

BEST PRACTICES

SCHOOLS

The CDC recommends schools improve their airflow in buildings to help protect students and staff from COVID-19. The CDC has an [Interactive School Ventilation Tool](#) to help schools learn how to improve ventilation in classrooms.

BUSINESSES

There are no COVID-19 updates for this section. Please refer back to the [previous report from 7/28/2022](#).

MONKEYPOX (MPV)

For background, please see the [previous report from 7/26/22](#).

NEW: The CDC has updated guidance to shorten isolation for individuals who have MPV. View updates to MPV guidance and other resources and handouts at [CDC | Monkeypox | Isolation and Prevention Practices](#).

COMMUNICATIONS

COVID-19 Health Education has been a mandated service in this response. The following are metrics related to COVID communication efforts from 7/22/2022 – 8/4/2022:

- 3 Social media posts
- 6 Education materials created/updated
- 1 Community Update created
- 1 Provider Update created
- 1 LTCF Update sent out

MONKEYPOX VACCINATION INFORMATION

As monkeypox (MPV) has been identified within the state of Michigan and cases associated in the Allegan County area, Allegan County Health Department is working with people with certain risk factors with a high likelihood of exposure to MPV in the last 14 days, seeking the MPV vaccine.

Certain risk factors include:

- Gay, bisexual, or other men who have sex with men.
- Transgender, gender non-conforming, or gender non-binary.
- Having multiple sex partners in the last 14 days in an area with known MPV transmission.

MPV can spread to anyone through close, personal, often skin-to-skin contact. The CDC recommends the vaccine be given between four and 14 days after the date of exposure. Vaccination may reduce the symptoms of disease, but may not prevent the disease.

If you think you may be eligible for vaccination, you can request the monkeypox vaccine online by filling out the [ACHD Monkeypox Vaccination Form](#). You can also contact ACHD at 269-673-5411. The vaccine will be administered during ACHD business hours on a case-by-case basis, and appointment only.

If you request the vaccine there is no guarantee that you will receive it, but we will do our best to meet the needs of our residents in an equitable way with the vaccines available. Our limited supply of vaccines are being distributed using risk-based criteria and screening eligibility. If you were exposed to the MPV in Allegan County but are not a resident, please contact [your county's health department](#).

For more information on monkeypox signs and symptoms, prevention, treatment and vaccination:

- [CDC Monkeypox Vaccine page](#)
- [MDHHS MPV page](#)
- [ACHD Monkeypox page](#)

For previous information on monkeypox please refer to the [previous report from 7/26/22](#).

COMMUNITY VACCINATION/HERD IMMUNITY/TREATMENT

Data as of August 8, 2022

NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION AWARENESS MONTH AND STAYING UP-TO-DATE ON VACCINES



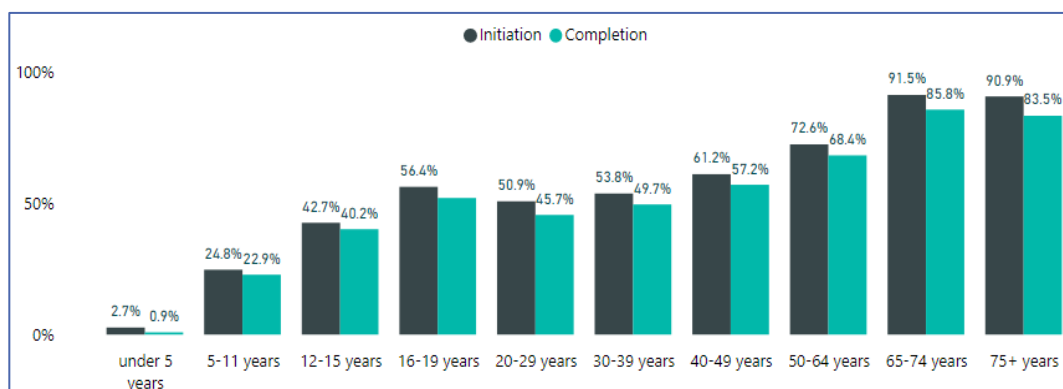
August is National Immunization Awareness Month, and it's important parents make sure to get their child caught up on regularly scheduled immunizations and check-ups that may have been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, before heading back to school. It's also important to make sure that children are up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccination to help protect themselves and classmates from severe COVID-19 illness.

Everyone 6 months and older is eligible for COVID-19 vaccination, and everyone 5 years and older is eligible for a COVID-19 booster. Those in need of getting a COVID-19 vaccination can visit the following:

- www.vaccines.gov
- www.vaccinatewestmi.com

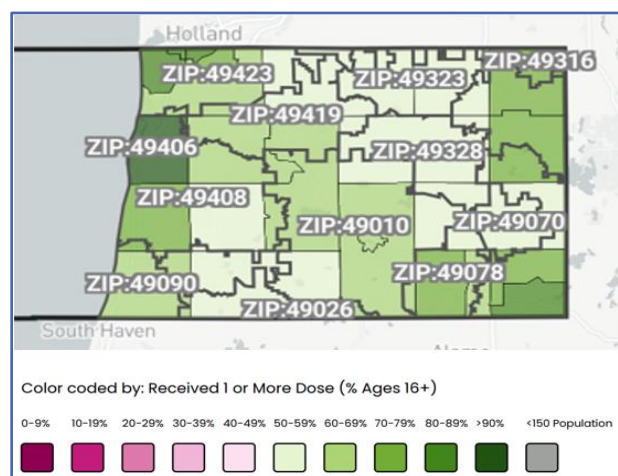
Individuals can also call ACHD at 269-673-5411 to schedule an appointment.

COVID-19 VACCINE COVERAGE



VACCINATION COVERAGE BY AGE GROUP
As of 8/5/2022

The adjacent map displays vaccine coverage for Allegan County. Vaccine rates for the age group 65+ are higher than overall state vaccine rates. See Previous Reports for updates on Vaccine Coverage [here](#).



VACCINATION COVERAGE BY ZIP CODE

The map on the left shows the vaccination rates for residents aged 16 and older who received at least one dose of vaccine. The data is at the census tract¹¹-level (colored sections) with an overlay of Allegan zip codes. This map gives more context for the parts community to focus on when organizing potential vaccination campaigns. Michigan's Chief Medical Officer mentioned via the Best Practices in Rural Test to Treat Initiatives webinar, that **populations with lower vaccine rates may benefit more from COVID therapeutics**. Areas in the center of the county, with lower population counts, appear to have the lowest vaccination rates, while perimeter areas on the East and West sides of

¹¹ Census tracts are geographic entities within counties with similar characteristics such as population traits, school enrollment, poverty level, median household income, housing vacancy, etc.

the county have higher vaccination rates overall. This data is based on a total population count of 115,250 as recorded in the 2018 US Census.

VACCINE AVAILABILITY

Vaccine availability remains high as pharmacies, doctor’s offices, and health care systems are administering vaccines. ACHD has vaccine appointments available on Thursdays each week 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, or call ACHD at 269-673-5411 to schedule an appointment.

VACCINE EFFECTIVENESS

Please refer back to the [previous report from 7/26/22](#).

COVID-19 vaccines continue to be an important layer in reducing the severity of illness, and the burden of hospitalizations and deaths in children, adolescents, and adults, even with the emergence of the BA.5 variant.

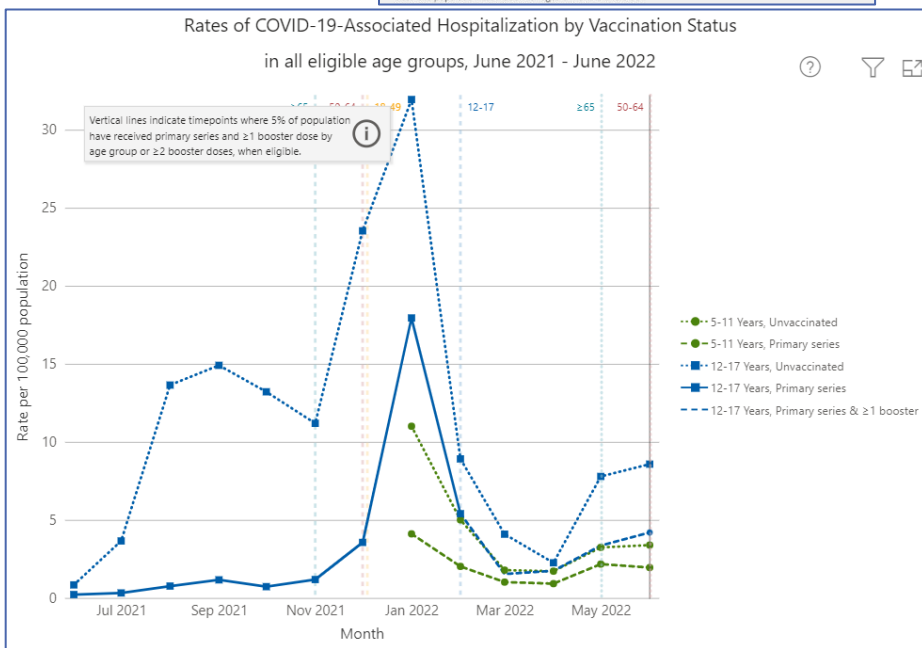
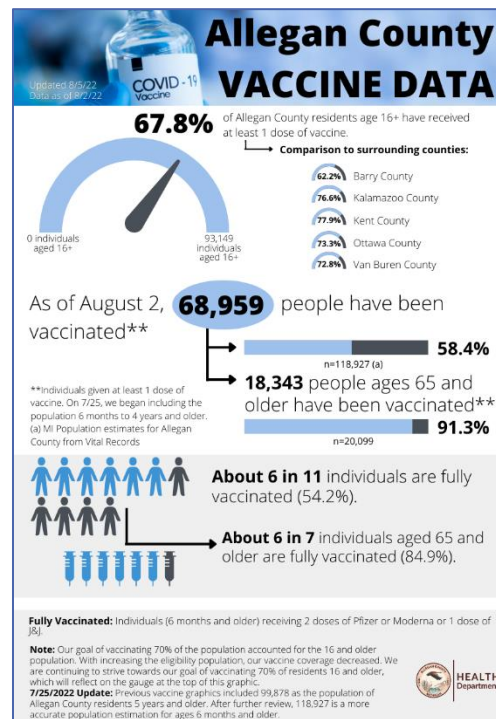
Being [up to date](#) on COVID-19 vaccines is crucial in reducing the burden of hospitalizations. According to the data¹² observed in June 2022, **unvaccinated adults had 4.6 times higher the risk of hospitalizations** associated with COVID-19 compared to those who are up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines.

The adjacent [chart](#) shows the rates of COVID-19 associated hospitalizations by vaccination status in individuals 5 to 17 years of age. Data is collected via CDC’s COVID-NET¹³ surveillance unit and reflect nationwide hospitalizations through June 2022.

As shown in the chart, hospitalizations in unvaccinated individuals of the 5-11 age group (dotted green line) and 12-17 ages (dotted blue line) are significantly higher compared to those who had received a primary series¹⁴ in 5-11 ages (dashed green line) and 12-17 ages (dashed blue line.) For additional information on specific data coverages, visit [COVID-NET](#).

Data Takeaway: Similar to COVID-19 hospitalizations, COVID-19 vaccines are effective in reducing the burden of deaths.

The nationwide data on monthly rates for [deaths associated with COVID-19](#) in May 2022 showed that unvaccinated individuals 50 years and older had 29 times the risk of dying from COVID-19, compared to those who were up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines. In Michigan, [data](#) shows that **unvaccinated individuals 12 years and older had 28 times the risk of dying** from COVID-19, compared



¹² This data is collected and updated by CDC to study monthly rates of nationwide hospitalizations related to COVID-19

¹³ COVID-NET (CDC) is a population-based surveillance system of data collection on hospitalizations associated with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases in children and adults

¹⁴ Primary series is defined as “vaccine administered as the first dose for 1-dose series and second dose for 2-dose series.”

Data as of August 8, 2022

to those who were [up to date](#) on the COVID-19 vaccination schedule. Based on the cumulative total incidence of death rates, **COVID-19 is the leading cause of death among infectious diseases** for people **ages 0 to 19**.

BREAKTHROUGH SURVEILLANCE DATA: For more information and the latest data on the rates of COVID-19 breakthrough cases, hospitalizations, and deaths, please refer to [CDC COVID Data Tracker: Rates of COVID-19 Cases and Deaths by Vaccination Status](#).

LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT (LHD) BREAKTHROUGH DATA DISTRIBUTION

Refer to the [previous report from 6/21/22](#) for updates regarding breakthrough data distribution.

COVID-19 SURVEILLANCE

7-DAY METRICS ¹⁵	STATEWIDE	NATIONWIDE	GLOBAL
Cases	20,173	117,351	7,220,000
Hospital Admissions	149.14	6,112	No data available
Deaths	106	378	17,622
Percent Population Fully Vaccinated	64.4%	No data available ¹⁶	No data available
Percent Positivity	20-24.9%	18.1%	No data available

STATEWIDE (MICHIGAN)

- As of **August 2, 2022**, [Michigan Coronavirus Data](#) reports a total of **2,692,485 cases** and **37,534 deaths** related to the SARS-CoV-2 infection.
- In the August 2, 2022 MDHHS [data and modeling update](#), it is reported that the Rt¹⁷ for Michigan is currently ≥ 1 , thus, indicating that COVID-19 cases are plateaued or increasing. Currently, there are 58 counties showing increases and 16 counties are at elevated incidence plateaus. As of July 28, 2022, 14% (12/83) of Michigan counties are at High COVID-19 Community Levels, which is 48% of the population; 34% of these counties are classified as Medium and 52% as Low per CDC's community transmission levels.
 - Cases:** Case rates by age, race, and ethnicity are increasing; currently case counts are highest for the 30 to 39 age group followed by the 80+ and 70 to 79 age groups. As of July 27, 2022 statewide case counts among individuals of the K-12 school age groups have plateaued, with 28% of school district areas reporting between 1 to 5 cases/week.
 - Hospitalizations:** During the current week of August 1, 2022, all regions have seen an increase in hospitalizations except for Region 1. There were an average of 142.9 hospital admissions per day related to COVID-19 through August 1, 2022. The COVID+ census in hospitals have increased by 9% (overall census = 945 patients), and the COVID+ patients in ICUs have increased by 24% since the prior week of July 24, 2022.
 - Deaths:** Based on data in the past 30 days, both confirmed and probable COVID-19 deaths continues to be fewer than 15 under the age group of 50. Data through the end of July 2022 shows that the 7-day average death rate have decreased for individuals 80 years and older.
- Of note, past surges in both 2020 and 2021 have seen case plateaus or increases around late summer/fall. For more information regarding seasonal projections of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths, visit [COVID-19 Scenario Modeling Hub](#).

NATIONWIDE (UNITED STATES)

- Total **cases** nationwide as of August 4, 2022, is **91,987,416 (up 2,163,226 from July 21, 2022)**. **1,032,953 total deaths (up 11,905 from July 21, 2022)** have been reported as of July 21, 2022; which accounts for more than 15% of total deaths worldwide.

¹⁵ Statewide and Nationwide data as of 8/5/2022 [COVID Data Tracker Weekly Review | CDC](#); Global data update as of 8/7/2022 [COVID-19 Map - Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center \(jhu.edu\)](#)

¹⁶ See cumulative vaccine data [here](#)

¹⁷ Rt is a unit of epidemiological unit of measurement to indicate the reproduction number of a virus over a particular time

- **Data Takeaway:** According to the CDC, as of July 28, 2022, COVID-19 cases, deaths, and hospitalizations are on the rise in the United States, driving COVID-19 Community Levels up to medium or high for more than 80% of counties.
 - For the week ending in July 23, 2022, Omicron BA.5, the predominant variant, accounts for an estimated 81.9% of new cases
 - According to the CDC, the national proportion of lineages designated as omicron is 100%
- In the U.S., the overall 7-day average has decreased .9% over the past week (as of 8/2/2022)
 - Case rate is 264.3 cases/100,000 in last 7 days (last week: 265.9 cases per/100,000)
- As of August 2, 2022, Midwestern states (Region 5) are continuing to increase
- 67.1% of the U.S. population are fully vaccinated as of August 4, 2022
- Oregon, West Virginia and New Mexico, reported 7-day death rates of 2+
- The 7-day average for new hospital admissions was 6,113 as of August 4, 2022
- In the US, 46% of counties have high risk for medically significant disease and healthcare strain

GLOBAL

- Globally, as of **August 4, 2022**, the World Health Organization (WHO) reports **579,092,623 confirmed cases (up 13,885,463 from July 22, 2022)** and **6,407,556 deaths (up 33,817 from July 22, 2022)** related to the SARS-CoV-2 infection.
- According to [WHO's weekly Epidemiological Situation Report](#) as of August 3, 2022:
 - Over 6.5 million cases were reported globally during the week of July 25 to July 31 of 2022, and the number of cases decreased by 9% during this timeframe
 - The overall number of **new weekly deaths remained plateaued** with 14,000 fatalities reported. At the regional level, weekly increases in new deaths were observed in Western Pacific Region (+44%), the Eastern Mediterranean Region (+26%), the Southeast Asia Region (+20%), and the African Region (+12%). New weekly deaths have reportedly seen a decrease in the European Region (-26%)
 - The highest numbers of new weekly cases and increases were reported from Japan (+42%), the U.S. (+2%), the Republic of Korea (+25%), Germany (-26%), and Italy (-26%)
 - Among the sequencing of Omicron sublineages, BA.4 and BA.5 continue to be the predominant variants circulating globally. During the weeks of July 10-July 23, 2022, the weekly prevalence of BA.5 has increased from 63.8% to 69.6% while BA.2.12.1 and BA.2 sequences have shown a decline.
 - WHO conducts a routine assessment of variants of concern (VOCs), variants of interest (VOIs), and variants under monitoring (VUMs) in order to determine its risk posed to global public health. For more information on currently circulating variants and its classifications, visit [Tracking SARS-CoV-2 Variants](#).

WASTEWATER SURVEILLANCE

See the most recent [MDHHS data and modeling update](#) for the Michigan SWEEP Sentinel Wastewater Summary

Hope College has collaborated with ACHD to produce a dashboard, which displays the most recent wastewater readings and case counts. The colored circles of differing sizes represent the concentration of COVID-19 in the wastewater as of August 4, 2022 (TPA¹⁸, TPP¹⁹, TPDS²⁰), which have existing data points for the most recent nine calendar days (7/26/2022 – 8/4/2022).

The red circles represent higher COVID-19 concentration levels, yellow circles represent lower concentration levels and green circles indicate virtually no COVID-19 detection in the most recent sample. The areas with red circles (higher concentrations of COVID-19), correlate with the increase in cases at LTCFs and other congregate care facilities during this reporting period. With this dashboard, ACHD has been able to forecast a rise in cases, which has improved mitigation responses. Over the last two weeks, approximately six facilities around these treatment sites have reported 2+ COVID-19 cases.

¹⁸ Allegan Water Resource Recovery Facility

¹⁹ Plainwell Wastewater Treatment Plant

²⁰ Douglas/Saugatuck WWTP

The following three sites have the most current and accurate data readings:

Allegan Sewershed Sites	Trend Dates		Current Trend Patterns
TPA	8/4/2022		Increasing
TPP	8/3/2022		Increasing
TPDS	8/2/2022		Plateaued



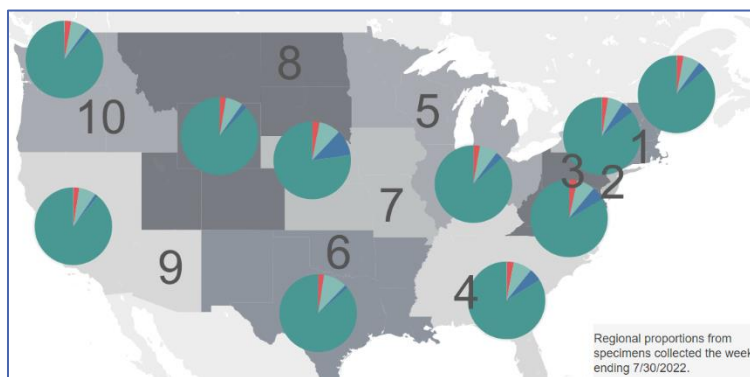
The adjacent map shows current wastewater sewer shed sites that Hope College is monitoring in Allegan County

Data Takeaway: Wastewater surveillance continues to increase in the U.S. There are 1,166 wastewater-sampling sites in the US as of August 2, 2022; an increase of 32 sites from July 19, 2022.

Read more about the [method of using wastewater surveillance data](#), to monitor case patterns at individual and population levels as it relates to the SARS-CoV-2 infection

EMERGING VARIANT UPDATES

- **Data Takeaway:** Omicron continues to be the predominant variant of concern (VOC) with several sub-lineages, including BA.4, BA.5, BA.2.12.1, and recombinants²¹ of these.
- Global, national, and statewide trends are currently indicative of a surge in specimens sequenced and identified as BA.5. However, case rates in several European countries are showing early signs of decline; case rates have decreased by 0.9% within the U.S. over the previous week of July 25, 2022.
- The [CDC Nowcast Projections](#) estimate that the predominant Omicron sublineage BA.5 is projected at 81.9%, BA.4 at 12.9%, and the combined national proportion of all Omicron lineages continues to be at 100% for the week ending on July 23, 2022.
- The adjacent chart shows the U.S. regional proportions from specimens collected the week ending July 30, 2022. Some U.S territories not shown are included in HHS Regions 2 and 9.
 - As can be seen, a majority of the specimens sequenced are BA.5 (dark green), followed by BA.4 (light green), and BA 12.2.1 (orange).
 - **Of note**, this chart shows those specimens identified as the **emerging BA.4.6 Omicron sublineage** (blue). While there has been some [media reports](#) on the prevalence of BA.4.6 cases, the CDC continues to monitor BA.4.6 as a VOC at this time.
- **Michigan:** [updates](#) on current Variant of Concern (VOC) distribution
 - Since July 1, there have been 920 VOC specimens sequenced of which 100% are of the lineage designated as Omicron



²¹ Recombinant occurs in "a process in which the genomes of two SARS-CoV2 variants (that have infected a person at the same time) combine during the viral replication process to form a new variant that is different from both parent lineages."

- 77.1% of the specimens sequenced from July 10-July 23, 2022 were identified as the Omicron sublineage BA.5
- The total number of specimens sequenced and reported remains low (n=288)
- **United States:** [updates](#) on the proportion of SARS-CoV-2 circulating variants June 4-July 30, 2022
 - 85.5% were associated with the BA.5 Omicron sublineage; 7.7% were of the BA.4 sublineage
 - The Omicron subvariant BA.2.12.1 which was the predominant variant surge in April 2022, is currently projected to be 5%
- **Quick [Excerpts from a recent Q & A released by Johns Hopkins University](#) on emerging COVID-19 sub-variants:**
 - Reinfection is common with the newer Omicron subvariants due to the high rate of transmission, with the ability to evade a large portion of vaccine-induced immunity. However, vaccination is crucial in protecting against severe disease.
 - Some theories suggest that individuals with “slightly compromised immune systems are generating variants over time,” which may explain the accelerated evolving characteristic of newer Omicron sublineages.
 - Moderna and Pfizer are looking into data that shows that vaccine formulations combining Omicron variants may provide a broader range of immune response.
- ACHD continues to monitor all Omicron sub-lineages and deploy response measures accordingly.

EPIDEMIOLOGIC SURVEILLANCE

MONKEYPOX (MPV)

For background information on MPV and previous information discussed, please refer to the [6/21/22 report](#)

UPDATES: As of August 4, 2022, the CDC’s MPV Situation Summary has released the following data:

- [Michigan:](#)
 - 71 total MPV cases identified (which is up from 19 cases reported in the previous update)
- [United States:](#)
 - 7,102 total MPV/orthopoxvirus cases in 52 states (transmission has increased in 6 more states compared to the last report)
 - New York has the largest number of cases (n=1748) followed by California (n=826), Florida (n=577), and Illinois (n=571), Texas (n=559), and Georgia (n=544)
- [Global:](#)
 - 26,864 cases in 88 countries (81 of these countries have not historically reported MPV cases)
 - The United States has the largest number of cases (n=7101), followed by Spain (n=4577), Germany (n=2839), United Kingdom (n=2759), and France (n=2239)
 - For a detailed list of the outbreaks reported in non-endemic countries, refer to: [Multi-country monkeypox outbreak in non-endemic countries \(who.int\)](#)
- MDHHS’ webpage for MPV-related education and information for public view can be accessed [here](#)
- On August 2, 2022, [President Biden announced the Team to lead MPV Response](#) to strengthen the action and adequacy of monkeypox mitigation, treatment, testing, and vaccination for local, state, national, and international stakeholders.

HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI)

No new updates, please refer to [previous BOC updates on HPAI](#).

RECENT EMERGING HEALTH THREATS: AT A QUICK GLANCE

[Adenovirus and Acute Hepatitis](#)

- Updates according to the CDC National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD):

Data as of August 8, 2022

- 357 persons under investigation (PUI)²² in the US as of August 3, 2022
- As of August 3, 2022, 43 states and jurisdictions reported at least one PUI
- The US has the highest number of probable cases, with a total of 334
- The World Health Organization has declared a moderate risk level for acute pediatric hepatitis. See the [previous BOC report from 7/12/22](#) and the [WHO Disease Outbreak News \(DONs\)](#) for updates on Adenovirus and Acute Hepatitis.

Arboviruses

- No new updates, please refer to [previous BOC updates](#) on Arbovirus.

Candida auris

- No new updates, please refer to [previous BOC updates](#), or visit [CDC | Outbreaks](#) for more information.

Rabies

- Rabies-positive animals in Michigan, as of August 4, 2022: **24 bats** from Alcona (1), **Allegan (1)**, Bay (1), Delta (1), Huron (2), Kalamazoo (1), Kent (5), Oakland (2), Ottawa (2), Newaygo (1), Tuscola (2), Washtenaw (4), Ingham (1).

Salmonella Outbreaks Linked to Backyard Poultry

- No new updates, please refer to [previous BOC updates](#) on Salmonella Outbreaks

Salmonella Outbreaks Linked to Small Turtles

NEW:

- As of July 21, 2022: 15 cases reported from 11 states (none in Michigan)
- 5 hospitalizations, 0 deaths
- Illness onset dates range: January 3, 2022 to June 24, 2022; the median age range for individuals that became ill is 7 years of age and 71% of the ill individuals were female
- Epidemiologic data show from individuals interviewed, 88% of people became ill by touching turtles; 86% reported contact with a pet turtle with shell less than 4 inches long

Listeria Outbreaks Linked to Big Olaf Ice-cream

- As of August 4, 2022: 25 cases reported from 11 states (none in Michigan). Majority of the ill people were reported from Florida, with 10 of those traveling to Florida
- 24 hospitalizations, 1 deaths
- Illness onset dates range: January 24, 2022 to June 24, 2022; the median age range for individuals that became ill is 72 years old and 56% of the ill individuals were male
- Epidemiologic data show from individuals interviewed, 5 individuals became ill during their pregnancy, and one individual's illness had resulted in a fetal loss

²² PUI does not mean this person is a confirmed case

SOURCES

- [Allegan County Health Department Facebook page](#)
- [American Academy of Pediatrics: Hepatitis Cases Possibly Associated with Adenoviral Infection](#)
- [American Community Survey 5-Year Data \(2009-2020\) \(census.gov\)](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [CDC COVID-19 Booster Interactive Tool](#)
- [CDC COVID-19 Data Tracker](#)
- [CDC COVID-19 Travel Guidance](#)
- [CDC Current Outbreak List | CDC](#)
- [CDC Frequently Asked COVID-19 Questions for K-12 Settings and ECE](#)
- [CDC Health Alert Network](#)
- [CDC Monkeypox Fact Sheet](#)
- [CDC Monkeypox Signs and Symptoms](#)
- [CDC Monkeypox Transmission](#)
- [CDC Provisional COVID-19 Deaths: Focus on Ages 0-18 Years](#)
- [CDC Stay Up-to-date on Vaccinations](#)
- [COVID Data Tracker Weekly Review](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard](#)
- CHN Associates, Student, and Family Assistance Program Monthly Report
- [Division of Vector-Borne Diseases \(DVBD\) | Division of Vector-Borne Diseases | NCEZID | CDC](#)
- [FDA: Investigations of Foodborne Illness Outbreaks](#)
- [Find a COVID-19 Vaccine Near You](#)
- HONU
- [Is the pediatric hepatitis outbreak real? A top WHO physician weighs in | Science | AAAS](#)
- [Lighthouse \(mi-lighthouse.org\)](#)
- [Long Term Care Data](#)
- [MDHHS Monkeypox Page](#)
- [MDHHS School Outbreak Reporting](#)
- [MDHHS: School Age Case Data Dashboard](#)
- [MI Bridges](#)
- [MI COVID response Data and Modeling](#)
- [Michigan Coronavirus: COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
- [Michigan COVID-19 Wastewater Testing and SWEEP Dashboard](#)
- [Michigan Coronavirus Data](#)
- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Breakthrough Cases Data File
- Michigan Disease Surveillance System (MDSS)
- [Michigan DNR Eyes in the Field](#)
- Michigan Health Alert Network (MIHAN)
- [MI Safe Start Map and CDC Indicators](#)
- [New COVID-19 Cases Worldwide - Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center \(jhu.edu\)](#)
- [Office of International Health and Biodefense - United States Department of State](#)
- [Our World in Data - Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Hospitalizations](#)
- [Sewer Coronavirus Alert Network \(SCAN\) \(wastewaterscan.org\)](#)
- [Technical Report: Acute Hepatitis of Unknown Cause | CDC](#)
- [US Food and Drug Administration](#)
- [Vaccinate West Michigan](#)
- [World Health Organization Coronavirus Dashboard](#)
- <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-who> Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) Weekly Epidemiological Update and Weekly Operational Update2019/situation-reports

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, before and after traveling, and before gathering with others.

Actions including social distancing, frequent handwashing, wearing a well-fitted face mask, and isolation/quarantine help lessen the level of transmission. People may choose to mask at any time.

People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask.



Learn more about CDC's COVID-19 Community Levels by visiting www.covid.cdc.gov

#DoYourPart

Allegan County COVID-19 Community Level: LOW

Pick-up Free Masks

- Monday-Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm at the Allegan County Health Department (3255 122nd Ave, Allegan)
- At select local units of government and libraries.
 - Visit allegancounty.org/covid to view the list of agencies under our Mask Information page.

Find COVID-19 Treatments

- Find information and options near you: michigan.gov/covid19therapy
- View a test to treat location near you: aspr.hhs.gov/TestToTreat
- Talk to your doctor about treatment options if you test positive for COVID-19.

Follow CDC's isolation and quarantine guidelines and stay home if you develop symptoms or test positive.

Get Tested:

- Order free at-home test kits online at:
 - www.covidtests.gov
 - www.accesscovidtests.org
- Pick-up test kits locally:
 - Visit www.allegancounty.org/covid to view pick-up locations under our Testing page.
- Find a community testing site near you at:
 - Allegan County Transportation Building (750 Airway Dr, Allegan) on Wednesdays and Fridays from 12 pm to 5 pm.
 - Visit www.solvehealth.com for more locations near you.

Stay up-to-date on COVID-19 Vaccines

- Find vaccine clinics near you at:
 - vaccinatewestmi.com
 - vaccines.gov
- Or call ACHD at 269-673-5411 to schedule an appointment



#DoYourPart

COVID-19 VACCINE FOR KIDS <5

Top 6 parental concerns answered

June 2022

- For children **under 5 years old**, parents have two options for a COVID-19 vaccine:
 - **Moderna:** 2-dose series taken 4 weeks apart. Each dose is 25 µg, which is 1/4 the dosage of the adult vaccine.
 - **Pfizer:** 3-dose series. Dose 2 is 3 weeks after Dose 1. Dose 3 is 8 weeks after Dose 2. Each dose is 3 µg.

The vaccines are effective

- Moderna's** clinical trial included 6,300 children.
- Antibodies after Dose 2 were the same or exceeded those in adults.
 - Efficacy against infection was 51% for 6–23 month olds and 37% for 2–5 year olds.
 - Efficacy was consistent with vaccine effectiveness for adults during Omicron.
 - A booster will likely be needed. Studies are underway and results are expected at end of summer.
- Pfizer's** clinical trial included 1,400 children.
- Antibodies after Dose 3 exceeded adults.
 - Efficacy against infection after Dose 3 was 75% for 6–23 month olds and 82% for 2-4 year olds.
 - There were extremely few cases during the trial, so there is significant uncertainty around these efficacy numbers.
 - Note: Efficacy for these two vaccines cannot be directly compared due to varying length of follow-up, months the study was conducted (and thus, circulating virus), and different number of doses.
 - Vaccines can prevent infection and transmission, especially in the first few months. Unfortunately, as the virus continues to mutate, this timeline can be shortened. The **vaccines' primary purpose is to prevent severe disease and death.** Both vaccines are expected to decrease hospitalizations and ICU stays among this age group.

The vaccines are safe

- During both clinical trials:
- Temporary pain at injection site was common.
 - Fevers were more common after vaccine than placebo.
 - Fatigue and headache was most common in children ages 2–5 years; irritability and sleepiness was more common in children ages 6–23 months.
 - Side effects were more common with Moderna compared to Pfizer.
 - Serious adverse events were rare. No deaths occurred.
 - A child in each trial had a high fever which led to seizure or hospitalization.

Myocarditis is rare

- Myocarditis (heart inflammation) has been linked to mRNA vaccines in *adolescents*, but remains rare. Risk of myocarditis after mRNA COVID-19 vaccination, if any, in young children is unknown.
- No cases of myocarditis were reported in clinical trials. But the clinical trials were not large enough to capture such rare events.
 - Based on the epidemiology of classic myocarditis and safety monitoring in children ages 5–11 years, myocarditis after mRNA COVID-19 vaccination in young children is expected to be rare due to smaller doses and myocarditis being fundamentally different in young children.
 - Kids can get myocarditis from the virus, and it can be more severe.

There is a need

- COVID-19 disease in kids can range from asymptomatic to severe illness.
- The majority of children have mild-to-moderate disease.
 - COVID-19 can cause severe disease, even among healthy children.
 - **Deaths:** Since 2020, 442 children aged 0–4 years old have died from COVID-19. While this is lower than adults, COVID-19 is a top 10 leading cause of death for kids.
 - **Hospitalizations:** During the first Omicron wave, COVID-19 hospitalization among kids under 5 were higher than for any other child age group.
 - 86% of hospitalizations were *for* COVID-19 (as opposed to *with* COVID-19)
 - Hospitalizations passed previous flu peaks and previous COVID-19 peaks.
 - Of toddlers hospitalized for COVID-19, 1 in 4 went to the ICU.
 - 30–50% of hospitalized children had **no** underlying medical condition
 - Long COVID-19 occurs among kids. Vaccines reduce the risk of long COVID-19.

Previously recovered still need the vaccine

- As of February 2022, 75% of children had been infected with SARS-CoV-2 in the U.S.
- Getting a vaccine, even for people who have already recovered from COVID-19, strengthens their immune response. CDC states vaccinations **can** be delayed up to 3 months after infection.
 - Protection from infections can be effective, but a recent study showed some children *failed* to make antibodies after infection (the immune system's first line of defense) and had mediocre T-cell responses (the immune system's second line of defense).
 - Reinfection should be expected. SARS-CoV-2 is changing quickly.
 - Omicron infections do not elicit antibodies against *other* variants of concern. While Omicron may be the dominant variant right now, this could change in the future.

Long-term side effects, like infertility, are highly unlikely

- We do not know the long-term effects of mRNA COVID19 vaccines. However, based on our knowledge of mRNA and the human body, we do not expect them:
- It's biologically impossible for mRNA to alter DNA.
 - Previous research on other mRNA vaccines show no long term effects. mRNA research started in 1961. The first clinical trial with mRNA was in 2001.
 - Vaccine ingredients are cleared from the body very quickly. mRNA is very fragile and degrades within 72 hours of injection. Fat bubbles that carry the mRNA degrade within 4 days. Ingredients do not linger in the body.
 - mRNA vaccines are not made of the actual pathogen. This means that they don't contain weakened, dead, or noninfectious parts of a virus.
 - In the history of vaccines, serious adverse side effects only occur within the first 2 months of rollout. We have more than 24 months of vaccine follow-up data by now.
 - Thousands of people have gotten pregnant after vaccination.
 - There are reports that menstrual cycles change after a COVID19 vaccine. The body is mounting an immune response, and this is likely a temporary side effect, like a fever.

FREE AT-HOME TEST KITS TO ORDER ONLINE:

- www.Covidtests.gov - order 3 sets of 4 free at-home test kits from the federal government. (If you already ordered your first set, order a second or third 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](#)

MONKEYPOX: What to Know



How it spreads:

- Direct contact with the infectious rash, scabs, or body fluids
- Respiratory secretions during prolonged, face-to-face contact, or during intimate physical contact, such as kissing, cuddling, or sex
- Touching items (such as clothing or linens) that previously touched the infectious rash or body fluids
- Pregnant people can spread the virus to their fetus through the placenta

The illness typically lasts 2-4 weeks. People who do not have monkeypox symptoms cannot spread the virus to others.



Symptoms:

- Fever
- Headache
- Muscle aches and backaches
- Chills
- Exhaustion
- Swollen lymph nodes
- A rash that can look like pimples or blisters

Prevention:

- Avoid close, skin-to-skin contact with people who have a rash that looks like monkeypox.
- Do not touch the rash or scabs of a person with monkeypox.
- Do not kiss, hug, cuddle or have sex with someone with monkeypox.



- Do not share eating utensils or cups with a person with monkeypox.
- Do not handle or touch the bedding, towels, or clothing of a person with monkeypox.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer

If you feel sick or have symptoms, do not attend any gathering, and contact your healthcare provider.