



COVID-19 AND OTHER EMERGING PUBLIC HEALTH TOPICS

BOARD OF COMMISSIONER UPDATE

AUGUST 25, 2022

Data as of August 22, 2022

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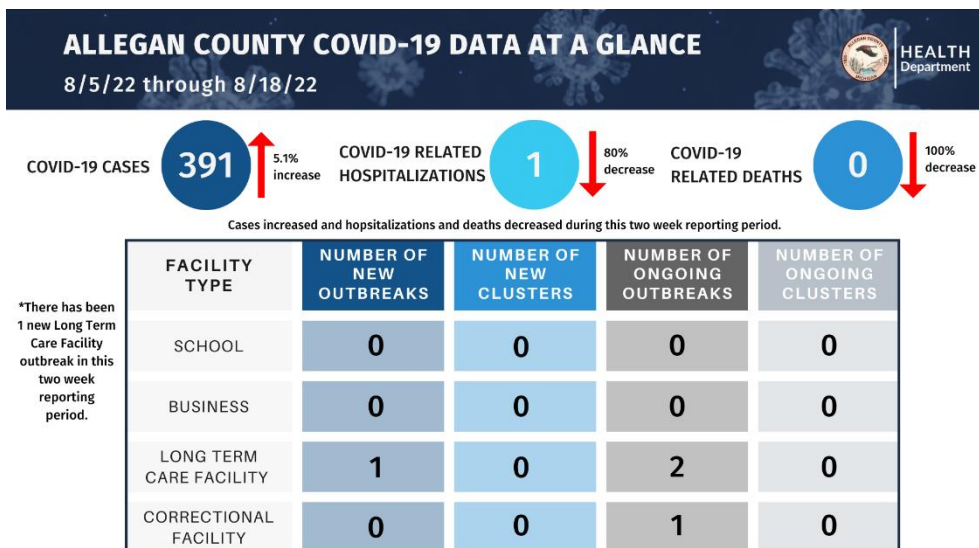
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following report contains COVID-19-related data from **August 5, 2022, to August 18, 2022**, on the 5 mitigation components Allegan County Health Department (ACHD) previously identified. This report includes 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 (MPV), and other regional epidemiological topics at a 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:

- The CDC updated its COVID-19 Guidance on August 11, 2022.
- ACHD has updated our School Guidance documents to align with CDC changes.
- Allegan County COVID-19 Test Positivity Rate is trending **downward**.
- Weekly COVID-19 cases **increased** by more than 5% since the 7/26/2022 to 8/1/2022 reporting period.
- Residents are encouraged to monitor for E. coli symptoms and practice food safety as many outbreak cases have been reported in Michigan.
- Test to Treat resources available for those that test positive for COVID-19.
- MPV vaccination, prevention information, and resources.

An overview of COVID-19 data in Allegan County from **8/5/22 to 8/18/22** can be found in the graphic below:



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



Data as of August 22, 2022

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

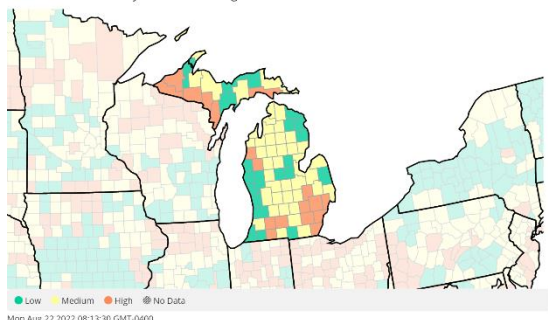
Actions including social distancing, frequent handwashing, wearing a well-fitted face mask, and isolation/quarantine help lessen the level of transmission

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 15, 2022

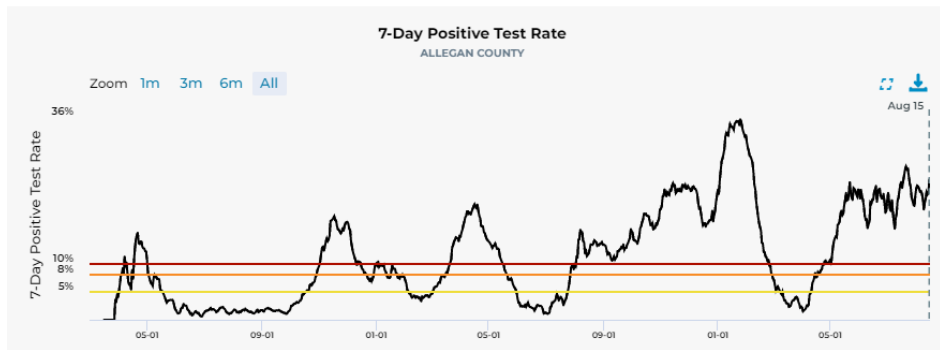
✓ **Test Positivity**
Aug 09 - Aug 15

24.9%
positive tests

526.8
daily tests administered per million

▼ **1 week** ⓘ
Aug 05 - Aug 12

Data Takeaway: The Test Positivity Rate for Allegan County is trending **downward**, after trending upward the week prior.



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 15 was 24.9% with 526.8 daily tests administered per million. This indicates a 1.5% increase in the 7-day positivity compared to the 7/26/2022 to 8/1/2022 reporting period, which had 630.9 daily tests administered per million.**

TEST AVAILABILITY

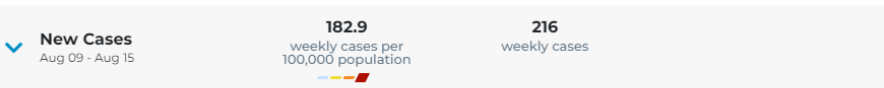
Data as of August 22, 2022



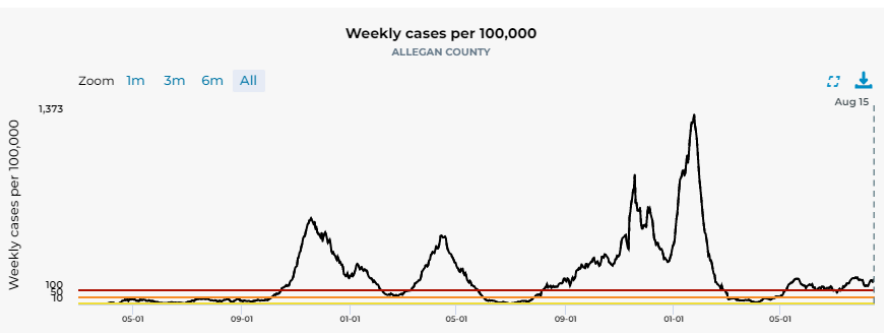
At this time, at-home tests are not reported in the Michigan Disease Surveillance System (MDSS) and therefore, are not included in the test positivity rates or case counts. *See the Appendix for a list of testing resources available to community members.*

ROBUST CASE INVESTIGATION AND CONTACT TRACING

ALLEGAN COUNTY COVID-19 COMMUNITY LEVEL: LOW

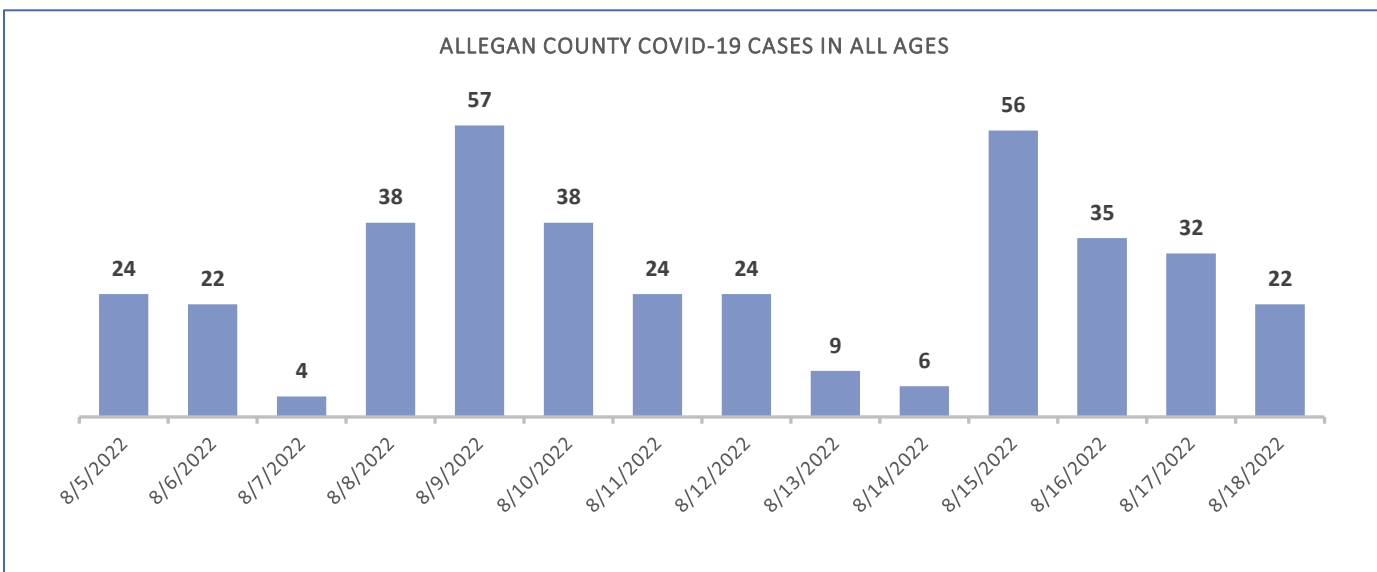


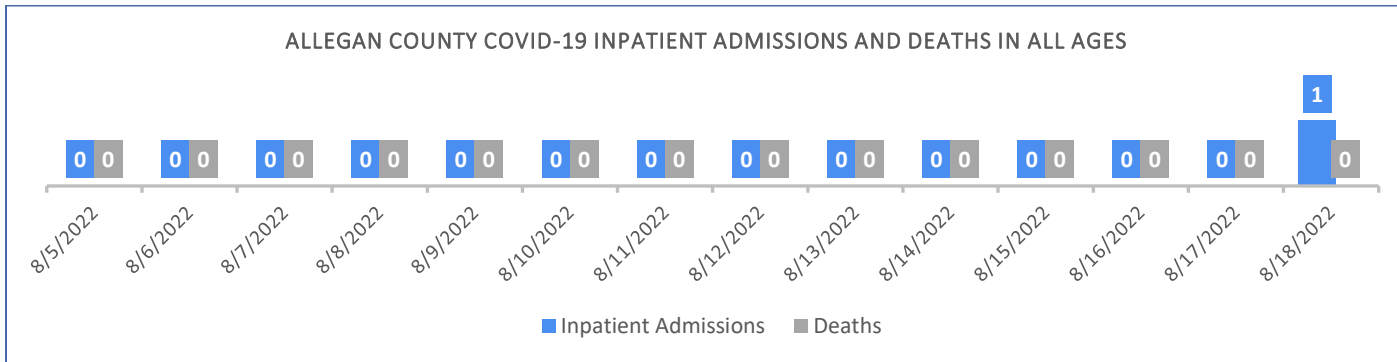
As of 8/15/2022, Allegan County remained at a low COVID-19 community level based on the CDC framework. **Data Takeaway: Models showed an increase in cases compared to the 7/26/2022 to 8/1/2022 reporting period. During the period 8/9/2022 to 8/15/2022, Allegan County's new weekly case rate was 182.9 per 100,000 population with 216 weekly cases.**



Weekly cases increased by more than 5% since the 7/26/2022 to 8/1/2022 reporting period (172.8 per 100,000 - 204 total weekly cases).

OVERVIEW OF COVID-19 CASES AND DEATHS IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS (8/5/2022 to 8/18/22)





DURING 8/5/2022 TO 8/18/2022 FOR ALLEGAN COUNTY:

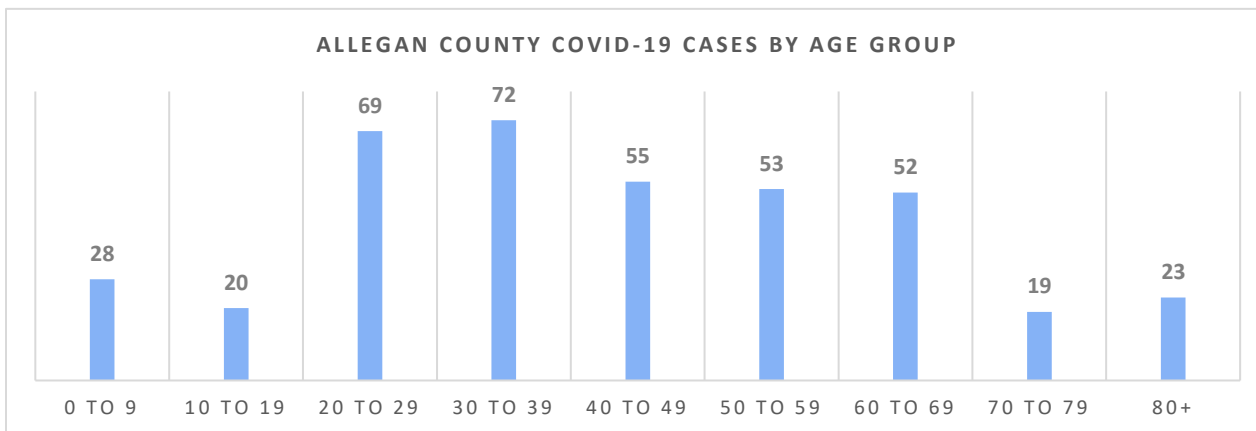
- **391 total cases** were reported via the Michigan Disease Surveillance System (MDSS)
 - o 243 confirmed cases and 148 probable cases related to SARS-CoV2 infection as reported
- 3.3% of the cases were reported as asymptomatic
- 46.3% of cases were reported as ‘vaccine breakthrough’ cases
- **One reported hospitalization¹** related to SARS-CoV-2 infection
- There were **no deaths** related to SARS-CoV-2 infection
- 9.7% of the cases were reported to be related to international, domestic, and/or in-state travel
- From 8/4/2022 to 8/17/2022, positivity rate² was a reported 21.9%

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 (8/5/2022 TO 8/18/2022)



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 8/5/2022 to 8/18/2022 in MDSS: 18.4% of cases were reported in the 30 to 39 age group, which had the highest number of cases and is similar to the current statewide case patterns. In comparison to the previous reporting period (7/22/22 to 8/4/22), case counts have decreased for the 0 to 29 and 60+ age groups during the current timeframe.

- **10.2%** of cases were **in quarantine** at the time of symptom onset or positive test
- **15.9%** of investigated cases were **household close contacts**⁴
- **3.3%** of cases were reported as **community contacts**⁵
- **9.2%** 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.

391 cases were reported in the MDSS from 8/5/2022 to 8/18/2022

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.

14,443 exposure letters were sent from March 1, 2022, to August 15, 2022

0 close contacts are currently being monitored as of August 22, 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 18, 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 18, 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	29
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

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

From January 2022 to August 22, 2022, ACHD has connected **18** 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 steadily **increased** in both Adult Foster Care (AFC)/Home for the Aged (HFA) from 13 to 22, and Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF) from 26 to 33, since the last Michigan Data and Modeling update on August 2, 2022. According to statewide data⁹, the case counts reported for residents and staff in AFC/HFA have **increased** since the last update. Case counts reported for residents in SNFs remain **plateaued**, while case counts for staff in SNF have **increased**. Cases within LTCFs continue to be higher among staff than among residents, which has been the case throughout the Delta and Omicron surges. **These values mirror the case counts for residents and staff of LTCFs in Allegan County.**

ACHD shares forecasting wastewater readings with long-term and congregate care facilities in the monthly LTCF Newsletters, to help inform their COVID-19 mitigation strategies.

545 resident cases and 55 resident deaths have been reported from January 1, 2020, to August 9, 2022¹⁰

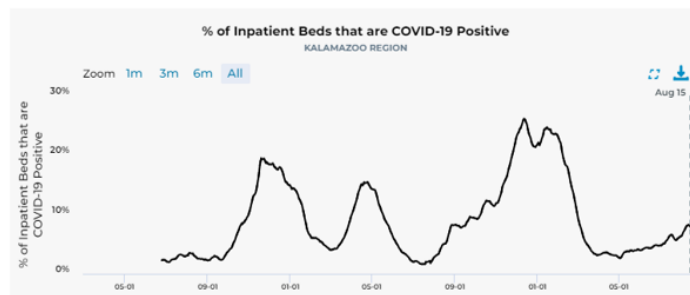
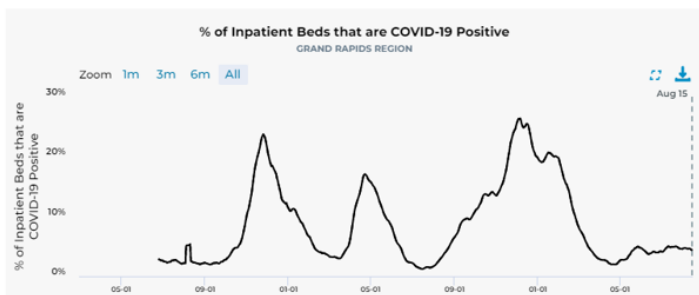
856 staff cases have been reported from January 1, 2020, to August 9, 2022

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 **4.4%** of inpatient beds that are COVID-19 positive, as of August 15, 2022, which is **0.2% lower** than the previous reporting period, July 26 to August 1. The **Kalamazoo Region** had **7.9%** of inpatient beds that are COVID-19 positive, as of August 15, 2022, which is **1.6% higher** than the previous reporting period.



HOSPITALS IN THE ALLEGAN COUNTY AREA

See [previous report from 8/11/22](#) for updates regarding hospital bed capacity.

Hospital bed capacity information can be found on the MDHHS website: [Statewide Available PPE and Bed Tracking \(Michigan.gov\)](#)

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 August 9, 2022

DEATHS (7 DAY AVERAGE)



Vaccinations have been shown to be effective at preventing deaths from COVID-19.

For a complete view of the 7-day average daily deaths for Allegheny and other counties over the course of the pandemic visit, [Dashboard | CDC | MI Start Map](#)

BEST PRACTICES

UPDATED CDC COVID-19 GUIDANCE

On August 11, 2022 the CDC updated its COVID-19 guidance to help people better understand their risk for COVID-19, how to protect themselves and others, what actions to take if exposed to COVID-19, and what actions to take if they are sick or test positive for the virus. CDC continues to emphasize the importance of being [up to date with vaccination](#) to protect people against serious illness, hospitalization, and death. [Read the full press release here.](#)

Key changes in the guidance:

- Updated guidance for people who are not up to date on COVID-19 vaccines on [what to do if exposed to someone with COVID-19](#). This is consistent with the existing guidance for people who are up to date on COVID-19 vaccines.
 - **Recommending that instead of quarantining if you were exposed to COVID-19, you wear a high-quality mask for 10 days and get tested on day 5.**
- **Regardless of vaccination status, you should isolate from others when you have COVID-19.**
- **You should also isolate if you are sick and suspect that you have COVID-19 but do not yet have test results.**
 - If your results are positive, follow CDC's full isolation recommendations.
 - If your results are negative, you can end your isolation.
- **If you test positive for COVID-19, you stay home for at least 5 days and isolate from others in your home.**
 - Wear a high-quality mask when you must be around others at home and in public.
 - If after 5 days you are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of medication, and your symptoms are improving, or you never had symptoms, you may end isolation after day 5.
 - Regardless of when you end isolation, avoid being around people who are more likely to get very sick from COVID-19 until at least day 11.
 - You should wear a high-quality mask through day 10.
- If you had [moderate illness](#) (if you experienced shortness of breath or had difficulty breathing) or [severe illness](#) (you were hospitalized) due to COVID-19 or you have a weakened immune system, you need to isolate through day 10.
- If you had [severe illness](#) or have a weakened immune system, consult your doctor before ending isolation. Ending isolation without a viral test may not be an option for you. If you are unsure if your symptoms are moderate or severe or if you have a weakened immune system, talk to a healthcare provider for further guidance.
- After you have ended isolation, if your COVID-19 symptoms worsen, restart your isolation at day 0. Talk to a healthcare provider if you have questions about your symptoms or when to end isolation.
- Screening testing of asymptomatic people without known exposures will no longer be recommended in most community settings.

Data as of August 22, 2022

Social distancing (physical distance) is only one component of protecting yourself and others. It’s important to also consider the risk of a particular setting, including local COVID-19 Community Levels, and the role of ventilation when assessing the need to maintain physical distance.

ACHD is working to update our COVID-19 pages and documents to reflect these changes and align with the CDC. For more information, please visit the following resources:

- [CDC What to do if you were exposed to COVID-19](#)
- [CDC If you are sick with COVID-19](#)

SCHOOLS

The CDC released [updated Operational Guidance for K-12 Schools and Early Care and Educational Programs](#). Changes include:

- No longer recommendation to cohort.
- Changed recommendation to conduct screening testing to focus on high-risk activities during high COVID-19 Community Level or in response to an outbreak.
- Removed the recommendation to quarantine, except in high-risk congregate settings.
- Removed information about Test to Stay.
- Added detailed information on when to wear a mask, managing cases and exposures, and responding to outbreaks.

ACHD has updated our School Guidance to align with the COVID-19 guidance changes released by the CDC on August 11, 2022. Updated guidance documents can be found on our [COVID-19 School Resources page](#).

Allegan County School Quarantine Guidance
All students exposed to COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status or previous infection, are recommended to:

- Watch for symptoms for 10 days
- Wear a high quality mask around others indoors for 10 days
- Test 5 days after exposure (or sooner if you develop symptoms)

"Day 0" is the day of the student's last contact with someone who has COVID-19.
If a student develops symptoms, they should isolate. Refer to our "How to Handle Symptoms" flow chart.

How to handle symptoms for students
What should parents/students do if they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 that are similar to other related illnesses/diseases? Use this flow chart to help with decision making on when a student can return to school.

Student has symptom (new/different/worse from baseline of any chronic illness):
 • Temperature of 100A or signs of fever (chills/sweating)
 • Sore throat
 • Uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing
 • Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
 • Severe headache

Exclude student from school

Screen for close contact or potential exposure risk within last 14 days:
 • Student has close contact with a COVID-19 case

yes: Refer to healthcare provider or COVID-19 testing location for possible testing

no: See "Allegan County School Quarantine Guidance" for students exposed to COVID. Student may return based on guidance for their symptoms.

Student diagnosed with COVID-19 via diagnostic test available: Refer to healthcare provider or COVID-19 testing location for possible testing

Student has negative test results: See "Allegan County School Quarantine Guidance" for students exposed to COVID. Student may return based on guidance for their symptoms.

Home isolation, regardless of vaccination status, until:
 • At least 5 days since symptoms first appeared and
 • At least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication and
 • symptoms have improved

Home isolation, regardless of vaccination status, until:
 • Fever at least 24 hours have passed with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medication
 • Sore throat improvement (if sore throat, do not return until at least 2 doses of antibiotic have been taken)
 • Cough/shortness of breath improvement
 • Diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain, no diarrhea or vomiting for 24 hours
 • Severe headache improvement

Student may return based on the guidance for their symptoms:
 • Fever at least 24 hours have passed with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medication
 • Sore throat improvement (if sore throat, do not return until at least 2 doses of antibiotic have been taken)
 • Cough/shortness of breath improvement
 • Diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain: no diarrhea or vomiting for 24 hours
 • Severe headache improvement

updated 8/16/2022

BUSINESSES

The CDC has updated its [COVID-19 guidance](#). Changes can be found on the [CDC What to do if you were exposed page](#) and [CDC If you are sick page](#).

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 8/5/2022 – 8/18/2022:

- 5 Social media posts
- 8 Education materials created/updated
- 1 Community Update sent out
- 1 Provider Update sent out

MPV VACCINATION: UPDATED

As vaccine availability for MPV continues to evolve, so will the vaccination strategy. Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP++) aims to reach recently exposed persons or persons at high-risk for vaccination, even if they have not had documented exposure to someone with confirmed MPV. When combined with other mitigation measures, PEP++ may slow the spread of disease in areas with MPV transmission.

Allegan County Health Department is working with people with certain risk factors with high likelihood of exposure to MPV in the last 14 days, seeking the MPV vaccine. Certain risk factors include:

- Individuals engaged in any type of sex work.
- Partners of individuals who engage in higher-risk sexual activities.
- Close/household contacts of individuals who have been exposed to MPV or engaged in higher-risk activities.
- Men who have sex with men and have a history of STI in the last year.
- Individuals who plan to have multiple sex partners.
- Individuals who plan to have close contact at a high-risk event or high-risk venue.
- Individuals taking HIV PreP or those living with HIV.

The CDC recommends the vaccine be given between 4 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 by completing [this 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 previous information on monkeypox please refer to the [previous report from 7/26/22](#).

MMWR: SURFACE CONTAMINATION IN A HOUSEHOLD OF MPV PATIENTS

A new Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on August 19, 2022, looked at the contamination of objects and surfaces in a household of two patients with monkeypox (MPV). The patients were isolated at home for 20 days before objects and surfaces were sampled, and the patients reported washing their hands frequently, using multi-surface spray on objects and surfaces daily, and conducting other routine household cleaning. None of the samples taken from the household contained live virus that could cause infection at the time they were sampled. Read the full report here: <https://bit.ly/MMWR7134e1>.

Data as of August 22, 2022

The takeaway from the study: If you live with someone who has MPV, it's important to take precautions to protect yourself and others.

Precautions to take include:

- Wearing a well-fitting face mask
- Avoiding touching contaminated surfaces
- Washing your hands frequently
- Avoiding sharing eating utensils, clothing, bedding, or towels
- Following home disinfection recommendations

For more information visit: [cdc.gov/monkeypox](https://www.cdc.gov/monkeypox).

MONITORING FOR E. COLI SYMPTOMS AND PRACTICING FOOD SAFETY

There has been an increase in cases of [Shiga-toxin-producing E.coli \(STEC\)](#) infections in Michigan and surrounding states, including cases in Allegan County. STEC is a pathogenic form of Escherichia coli (E. coli) that is often associated with foodborne outbreaks. E. coli bacteria normally live in the intestines of people and animals. Most types of E. coli are harmless and are an important part of a healthy human intestinal tract. However, some types of E. coli are pathogenic, meaning they can cause illness. The types of E. coli that cause illness can be transmitted through contaminated water or food, or contact with animals or persons.

At this time, MDHHS is recommending that people experiencing symptoms of E. coli infection consult a healthcare provider as soon as possible and discuss if testing is recommended. Healthcare providers should contact their local health department to report suspected or confirmed STEC cases. [Read an update from MDHHS on the state E. coli investigation here.](#)

Symptoms of STEC can vary from person to person, but usually include the following:

- Diarrhea, which is often bloody
- Severe stomach cramps
- Vomiting
- Low-grade fever

Symptoms of STEC infection typically appear three to four days after eating or drinking something that contains the bacteria. Most people with mild STEC infection begin to improve within five to seven days after infection, but some individuals, including young children and the elderly, may experience severe or even life-threatening symptoms. Contact your healthcare provider right away if you have:

- Bloody diarrhea
- Diarrhea that lasts more than three days
- A fever higher than 102°F
- So much vomiting that you cannot keep liquids down and you pass very little urine

How to prevent infection:

- **Practice good [handwashing](#) often, especially:**
 - After using the bathroom or changing diapers
 - Before or after preparing food and before eating
 - After contact with animals at petting zoos, fairs, or even in your own backyard.
 - If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. These alcohol-based products can quickly reduce the number of germs on hands in some situations, but they are not a substitute for washing with soap and running water.
- **Wash fruits and vegetables well** under running water, unless the package says the contents have already been washed.

- **Cook meats thoroughly:**
 - Always cook food thoroughly and use a food thermometer to check that the meat has reached a [safe internal temperature](#). You cannot tell whether meat is safely cooked by looking at its color.
- **Do not cause cross-contamination in food preparation areas.** Thoroughly wash hands, counters, cutting boards, and utensils with hot, soapy water after they touch raw meat. If possible, use separate cutting boards for raw meat.
- **Avoid [raw milk, unpasteurized dairy products, and unpasteurized juices](#)** (such as fresh apple cider).
- **Do not swallow water when [swimming](#)** and when playing in lakes, ponds, streams, swimming pools, and backyard “kiddie” pools.
- **Know if you are at higher risk of “food poisoning”.** People with higher chances for foodborne illness are pregnant women, newborns, children, older adults, and those with weak immune systems, such as people with cancer, diabetes, or HIV/AIDS.

Stay home if you are sick. Because STEC can be so contagious, this is especially important for people who work at or attend school or childcare, and for those who work in food handling. For more information visit [cdc.gov/ecoli](https://www.cdc.gov/ecoli).

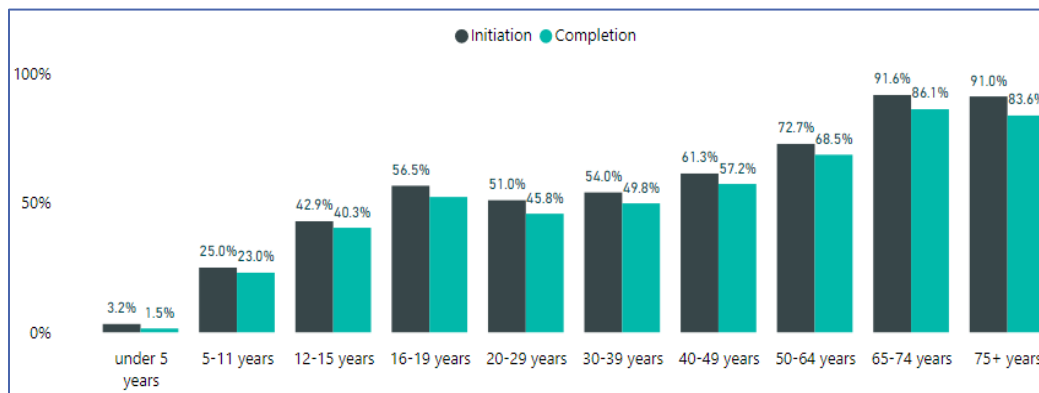
COMMUNITY VACCINATION/HERD IMMUNITY/TREATMENT

TEST TO TREAT RESOURCES FOR COVID-19 ANTIVIRALS

ACHD offers COVID-19 antiviral medications on a case-by-case basis. If you are looking to get antiviral medications, first consult with your primary care provider on your treatment options.

If you cannot reach your provider, do not have a provider, or antivirals are unavailable to you through your doctor’s office, or pharmacy, please complete our [COVID-19 Antiviral Request Form](#) or call ACHD at 269-673-5411 for assistance. The information collected from this form will help us develop a treatment plan that is individualized based on your needs and situation.

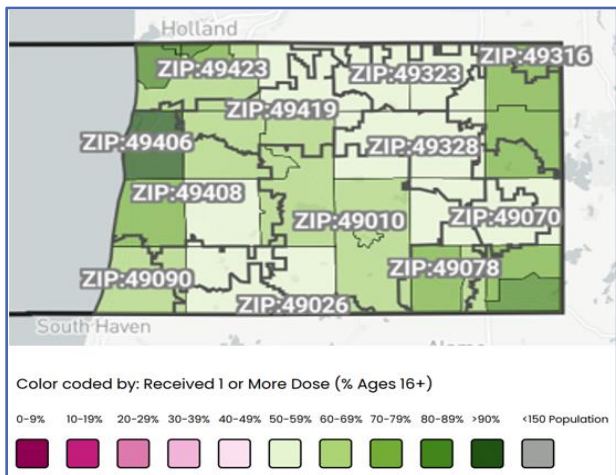
COVID-19 VACCINE COVERAGE



VACCINATION COVERAGE BY AGE GROUP

As of 8/19/2022

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 Allegheny zip codes. This map gives more context for the parts community to focus on when organizing potential vaccination campaigns. 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 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 (VE)

Current [data](#) continues to show that COVID-19 vaccines are **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.

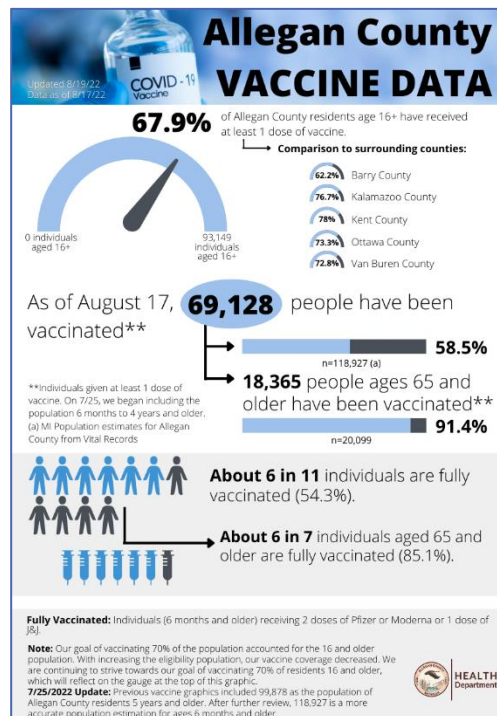
Please refer back to the following previous reports to explore a detailed study of the nationwide COVID-19 breakthrough surveillance:

- [7/26/22: CDC's latest monthly study on VE, released on July 14, 2022](#)
- [8/11/22: CDC's breakthrough data on hospitalizations and deaths associated with COVID-19 by age and vaccination status](#)

Key Data Takeaways from CDC’s Breakthrough Surveillance Unit - COVID-19 Hospitalizations and Deaths, as of June 2022:

- Being [up to date](#) on COVID-19 vaccines is crucial in reducing the burden of hospitalizations and deaths
- Data collected via COVID-NET¹² shows that **unvaccinated adults ages 18 years and older had a 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. In unvaccinated individuals 12 to 17 years of age, the risk of a COVID-19 hospitalization was 2.0 times higher
- Nationwide data shows that in **unvaccinated individuals 5 years and older, the risk of dying from COVID-19 was 5 times higher** compared to individuals vaccinated with at least a primary series¹³
- In Michigan, [data and modeling as of August 9, 2022](#) shows that **unvaccinated individuals 12 years and older had 28 times the risk of dying from COVID-19** compared to those who were up to date on the COVID-19 vaccination schedule

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](#)



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.

¹² [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

¹³ Primary series is defined by the vaccine administered as the first dose for 1-dose series and the second dose for 2-dose series

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 ¹⁴	STATEWIDE	NATIONWIDE	GLOBAL
Cases	23,165	95,652	5.852 M
Hospital Admissions	158.43	5,690	No data available
Deaths	103	394	18,013
Percent Population Fully Vaccinated	64.6%	67.4%	48.428 M ¹⁵
Percent Positivity	20-24.9 %	15.5%	No data available

STATEWIDE (MICHIGAN)

- As of **August 16, 2022**, [Michigan Coronavirus Data](#) reports a total of **2,731,787 cases** and **37,774 deaths** related to the SARS-CoV-2 infection.
- Read the August 9, 2022, MDHHS [data and modeling update](#)
- COVID spread is increasing in Michigan, and the proportion of specimens identified as BA.5 are the most dominant. Of note, **the current Rt¹⁶ for Michigan is ≥ 1** indicating that COVID is currently spreading, however, projecting that the Rt is approaching 1 again (1 indicating plateau).
- 22% (18/83) of Michigan counties are at High COVID-19 Community Levels, which is 51% of the population; 42% of counties are classified as Medium, and 36% as Low per CDC's community transmission levels as of August 4, 2022.
- 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 19, 2022, is **93,240,120 (up 1,252,704 from August 4, 2022)**. **1,034,668 total deaths (up 1,715 from August 4, 2022)** have been reported as of August 19, 2022; which accounts for more than 15% of total deaths worldwide.
- Data Takeaway:** According to the CDC, as of August 11, 2022, COVID-19 cases, deaths, and hospitalizations are **decreasing** in the United States, however, COVID-19 Community Levels for more than 80% of counties are still medium or high. Overall, 51 out of 52 jurisdictions* had high- or medium-level counties this week.
 - For the week ending in August 20, 2022, Omicron BA.5, the predominant variant, accounts for an estimated **88.9%** of new cases
 - Omicron variant BA.4.6, accounts for an estimated **6.3%** of cases
 - According to the CDC, the national proportion of lineages designated as omicron is 100%
- In the U.S., the overall 7-day case average has decreased **13.8%** over the past week (as of 8/11/2022)
 - As of August 9, 2022, the case rate was 242.1 cases/100,000 in last 7 days (week prior: 264.3 cases per/100,000)
- As of August 9, 2022, Midwestern states (Region 5) are increasing or plateaued
- 67.3% of the U.S. population are fully vaccinated as of August 10, 2022, with 78.9% of the total U.S. population, have received at least one dose
 - About 50.0% of the booster-eligible population has not received a booster dose**
- As of August 17, 2022, the 7-day death rate per 100,000 was **.83**

¹⁴ Statewide and Nationwide data as of 8/19/2022 [COVID Data Tracker Weekly Review | CDC](#); Global data update as of 8/21/2022 [COVID-19 Map - Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center \(jhu.edu\)](#)

¹⁵ This is not a percentage but a 7-day average of weekly doses administered globally

¹⁶ Rt is a unit of epidemiological unit of measurement to indicate the reproduction number of a virus over a particular time

Data as of August 22, 2022

- The 7-day average for new hospital admissions is 5,690 as of August 16, 2022, (prior 7-day average was 6,059)
- Nationally, over 60% of MIS-C cases under the age of 5 have been reported among Non-Hispanic Blacks and Hispanic/Latino

GLOBAL

- Globally, as of **August 19, 2022**, the World Health Organization (WHO) reports **591,683,619 confirmed cases (up 12,590,996 from August 4, 2022)** and **6,443,306 deaths (up 35,750 from August 4, 2022)** related to the SARS-CoV-2 infection.
- According to [WHO's weekly Epidemiological Situation Report](#) as of August 17, 2022:
 - Over 5.4 million cases were reported globally during the week of August 8 to August 14 of 2022, and the **number of cases decreased by 24%** during this timeframe
 - The overall number of **new weekly deaths decreased by 6%** with over 15,000 fatalities reported. At the regional level, new weekly deaths have increased in Western Pacific Region (+31%) and the Southeast Asia Region (+12%) while it decreased or plateaued for other global regions
 - At the country level, the highest numbers of new weekly cases were reported from Japan (-7%), the Republic of Korea (+22%), U.S. (-14%), Germany (-25%), and Italy (-31%)
 - The Omicron sub variant BA.5 and its descendant lineages continue to rise, and accounting for 74% of specimens sequenced globally during the week of July 31 to August 6, 2022
 - BA.2.75 is currently an Omicron sub variant under monitoring; the majority of reported sequences are from India
 - 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 18, 2022 (TPA¹⁷, TPE¹⁸, TPP¹⁹), which have existing data points for the most recent nine calendar days (8/9/2022 – 8/18/2022).

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. Since the last reporting period, **two** facilities around these treatment sites have reported 2+ COVID-19 cases.

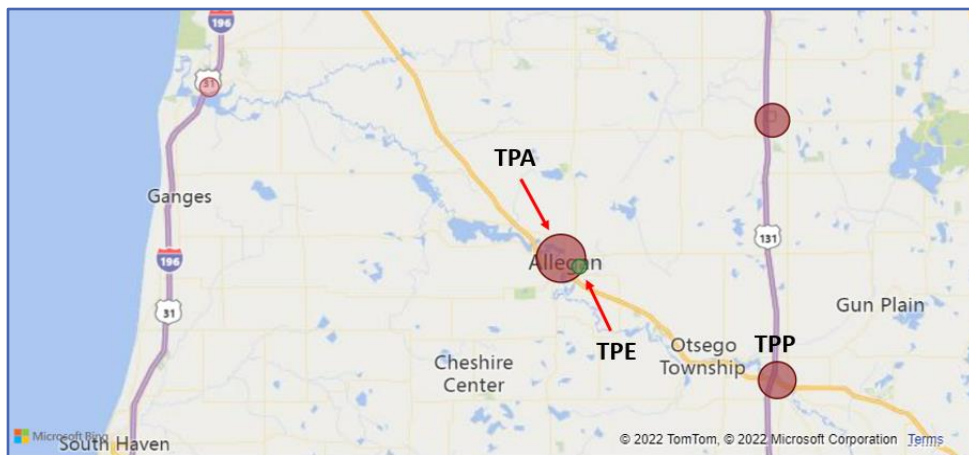
The following three sites have the most current and accurate data readings:

Allegan Sewer shed Sites	Trend Dates		Current Trend Patterns
TPA	8/18/2022		Decreasing
TPE	8/18/2022		Decreasing
TPP	8/17/2022		Decreasing

¹⁷ Allegan Water Resource Recovery Facility

¹⁸ Allegan/Perrigo East Lift Station

¹⁹ Plainwell Wastewater Treatment Plant



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

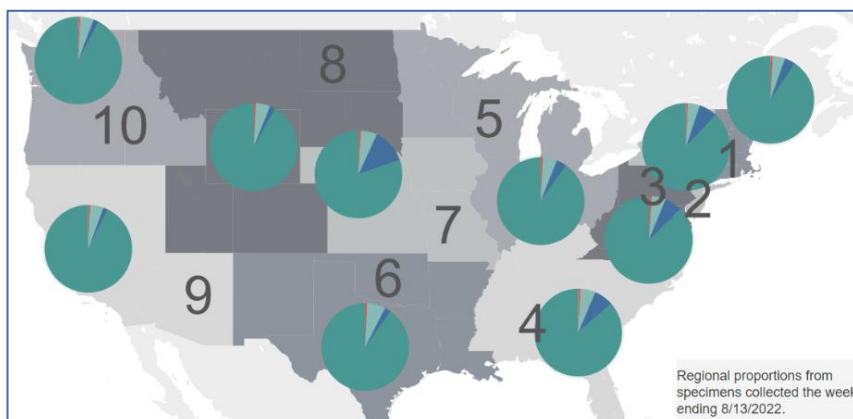
Data Takeaway: Wastewater surveillance continues to increase in the U.S. There are 1,178 wastewater-sampling sites in the US as of August 14, 2022; an increase of 12 sites from August 2, 2022.

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

- The [CDC Nowcast Projections](#) (nationwide) estimate that the predominant Omicron sub lineages BA.5 is projected at 88.8%, BA.4 at 5.3%, BA.4.6 at 5.1%, and BA.2.12.1 at 0.8%. The combined national proportion of all Omicron lineages continues to be at 100% for the week ending on August 13, 2022.
- The adjacent chart shows the U.S. regional proportions²⁰ from specimens collected the week ending August 13, 2022.



- As can be seen, a majority of the specimens sequenced are BA.5 (dark green), followed by BA.4.6 (blue), BA.4 (light green), and BA.2.12.1 (orange).

- Of note**, this chart shows specimens identified as the **emerging BA.4.6 Omicron sub lineage** (blue), which has been **gaining traction** across some Midwestern states in the U.S. The CDC continues to monitor BA.4.6 as a VOC at this time.

Data Takeaway: Omicron continues to be the predominant variant of concern (VOC) both globally and nationally, with several sub-lineages, including BA.4, BA.5, BA.2.12.1, and recombinants²¹ of these.

- Michigan: updates** on current Variant of Concern (VOC) distribution
 - Since July 15, there have been 719 VOC specimens sequenced of which 100% are of the lineage designated as Omicron
 - 85.3% of specimens sequenced from July 24-30, 2022 were identified as the Omicron sub lineage BA.5, which was the majority of all Omicron specimens
- Quick Excerpts from the Center of Infectious Diseases Research and Policy (CIDRAP), University of Minnesota**
 - New Omicron sub variant, BA.4.6, is currently reported as spreading in Midwestern states such as Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska
 - Overall BA.4.6 proportions sequenced nationwide has increased from 4.2% to 4.8% during the week of 8/8/2022

²⁰ Some U.S. territories not shown are included in HHS Region 2 (PR, VI) and Region 9 (AS, FM, GU, MH, MP, PW)

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."

- Data observed by the [American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\)](#) discusses the trending patterns of illnesses in children, with the possibility of seeing a spike in cases ahead of the start of the new school year
- [University of Michigan poll](#) shows that 61% of individuals in the 50+ age group are highly likely to receive a booster this fall. **Variant-specific booster formulations act to target BA.5 and BA.4 strains**
- 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 18, 2022, MDHHS and the CDC's MPV Situation Summary has released the following data:

- [Michigan](#):
 - 126 total MPV cases identified (which is up from 55 cases reported in the previous update)
- [United States](#):
 - 14,115 total MPV/orthopoxvirus cases in 54 states (transmission has increased in 2 more states compared to the last report)
 - New York has the largest number of cases (n=2744) followed by California (n=2663), Florida (n=1372), Texas (n=1079), Georgia (n=1066), and Illinois (n=888)
- [Global](#):
 - 40,399 cases in 94 countries (87 of these countries have not historically reported MPV cases)
 - The United States has the largest number of cases (n=14114), followed by Spain (n=5792), Germany (n=3242), Brazil (n=3184), and United Kingdom (n=3081)
 - For a detailed list of the outbreaks reported in non-endemic countries, refer to: [Multi-country monkeypox outbreak in non-endemic countries \(who.int\)](#)
- Additional resources:
 - [MDHHS' webpage for MPV-related education and information for public view](#)
 - [CDC's webpage on Monkeypox | Poxvirus](#)

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):
 - 358 persons under investigation (PUI)²² in the US as of August 17, 2022
 - As of August 17, 2022, 43 states and jurisdictions reported at least one PUI
- 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](#) (Region 5 Epidemiology Report)

- 11 Mosquito pools positive for arbovirus infection
 - 6 Jamestown Canyon Virus (Bay, Midland, Saginaw)
 - 4 West Nile Virus (Arenac, Genesee, Iosco, Kent)
 - 1 LaCrosse Encephalitis Virus (Saginaw)
- 2 birds from Bay County tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV)

²² PUI does not mean this person is a confirmed case

- 0 human WNV cases in 2022
- Weekly Surveillance reports and the [Annual EZID Surveillance Summary for 2021](#) can be found at www.mi.gov/emergingdiseases

Rabies

- Rabies-positive animals in Michigan as of August 10, 2022, include **25 bats** from the following counties: Alcona (1), **Allegan (1)**, Bay (1), Delta (2), 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
- As of August 12, 2022: 884 cases reported from 48 states and the District of Columbia (13 in Michigan)
- 158 hospitalizations, 2 deaths
- Illness onset dates range: February 3, 2022, to July 23, 2022; the median age range for individuals that became ill is 32 years, 191 are children under 5 years of age
- Epidemiologic data show of 311 cases interviewed, 80 (26%) reported eating eggs from backyard poultry and 12 (4%) reported eating eat from backyard poultry

Salmonella Outbreaks Linked to Small Turtles

- No new updates, please see the [previous BOC report from 8/11/22](#).

Listeria Outbreaks Linked to Big Olaf Ice-cream

- No new updates, please see the [previous BOC report from 8/11/22](#).

NEW

Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli (STEC)

- As of August 19, 2022: 37 cases reported from 4 states (15 in Michigan, **1 in Allegan county**)
- 10 hospitalizations, 0 deaths
- Illness onset dates range: July 26, 2022, to August 8, 2022; the median age range for individuals that became ill is 21 years of age and 62% of the ill individuals were male
- MDHHS issued a press release on August 16, 2022, regarding an increase in STEC infections across the state in addition to a MIHAN message sent late last week. For more information, see [MDARD guidance and recommendations](#)

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 COVID-19 What to do if you were exposed](#)
- [CDC COVID-19 If you are sick](#)
- [CDC COVID-19 Operational Guidance for K-12](#)
- [CDC COVID-19 Guidance Updates](#)
- [CDC Current Outbreak List | CDC](#)
- [CDC Frequently Asked COVID-19 Questions for K-12 Settings and ECE](#)
- [CDC Health Alert Network](#)
- [CDC MMWR: Monkeypox and High Contact Surface Contamination](#)
- [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

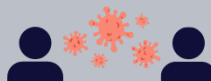


HEALTH Department

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.