



COVID-19 AND OTHER EMERGING PUBLIC HEALTH TOPICS

BOARD OF COMMISSIONER UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 8, 2022

Data as of September 5, 2022

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

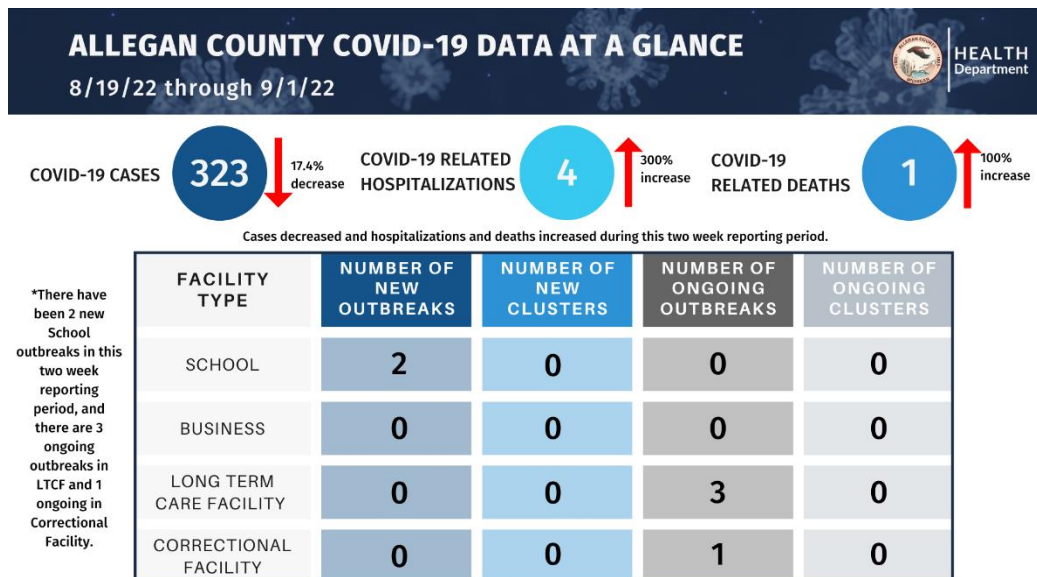
The following report contains COVID-19-related data from **August 19, 2022, to September 1, 2022**, on the 5 mitigation components Allegan County Health Department (ACHD) previously identified. This report contains local COVID-19 data for Allegan County, information on vaccination data, wastewater surveillance, 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 (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.

We are currently evaluating what local data is not available through other entities that help people evaluate individual risks and reviewing website analytics to help determine if these reports are helpful for community members. More information is to come on the future of these updates.

WHAT'S NEW AT A GLANCE:

- Updated bivalent boosters for those 12 years of age and older: the CDC issued new recommendations for COVID-19 boosters, after the FDA authorized updated booster formulas from both Pfizer and Moderna.
- Allegan County COVID-19 Test Positivity Rate is trending **downward**.
- Weekly COVID-19 cases have **decreased** by more than 30% since the 8/9/2022 to 8/15/2022 reporting period.
- MDARD is encouraging residents and bird owners to continue practicing biosecurity measures to help prevent HPAI as wild birds begin to migrate.

An overview of COVID-19 data in Allegan County from **8/19/22 to 9/1/22** 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



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

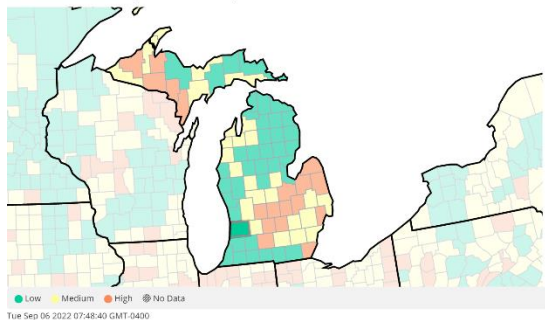
Actions including social distancing, frequent handwashing, wearing a well-fitted face mask, and isolation/quarantine help lessen the level of transmission

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 29, 2022

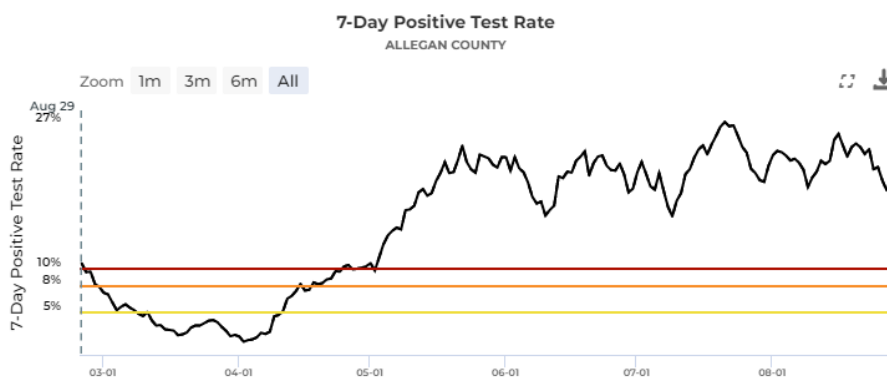
Test Results Aug 23 - Aug 29

19.2% positive tests

612.3 daily tests administered per million

1 week Aug 19 - Aug 26

Data Takeaway: The Test Positivity Rate for Allegan County is trending **downward**, after trending upward the week prior. We've seen this trend pattern for the past 4 weeks, with cases trending upward, then downward.



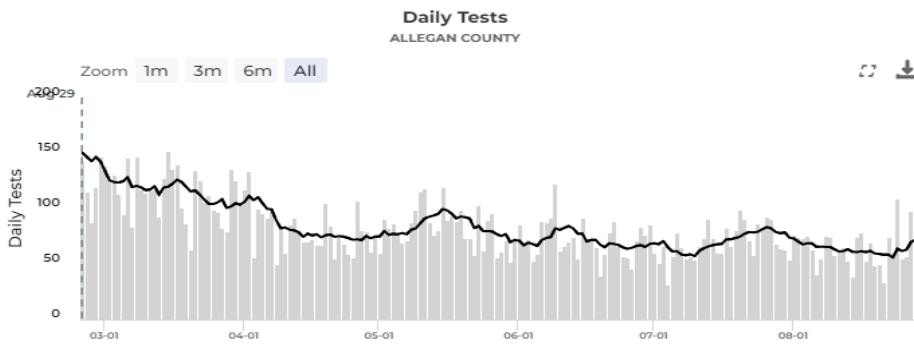
At this stage of the pandemic, percent positivity alone is no longer a strong indicator of the total number of individuals who tested positive, due to several factors – one being at-home testing. It is best to evaluate percent positivity with another metric, such as COVID-19 concentration levels in wastewater, 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 29 was 19.2% with 612.3 daily tests administered per million. This indicates a 5.7% decrease in the 7-day positivity compared to the 8/9/2022 to 8/15/2022 reporting period, which had 526.8 daily tests administered per million.**

TEST AVAILABILITY

Data as of September 5, 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

✓ **New Cases**
 Aug 23 - Aug 29

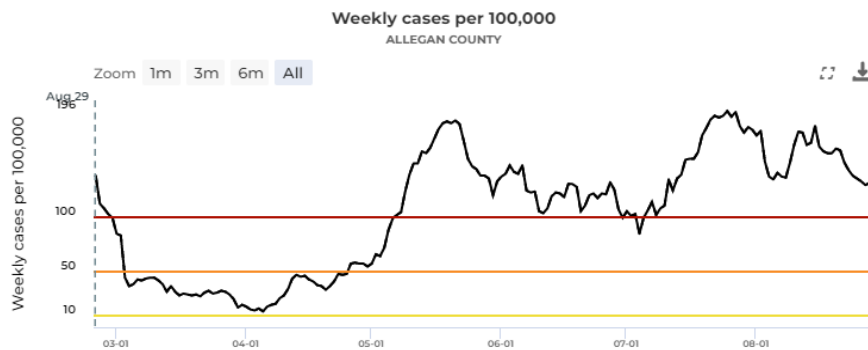
125.3
 weekly cases per 100,000 population

148
 weekly cases

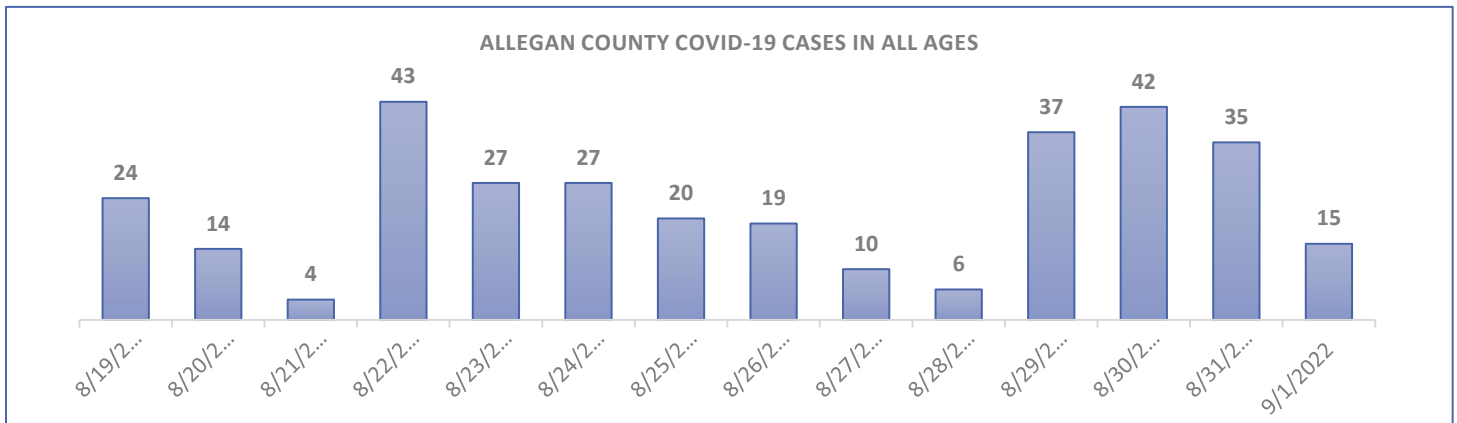
As of 8/29/2022, Allegan County remained at a low COVID-19 community level based on the CDC framework. **Data Takeaway: Models showed a decrease in cases compared to the 8/9/2022 to 8/15/2022 reporting period.**

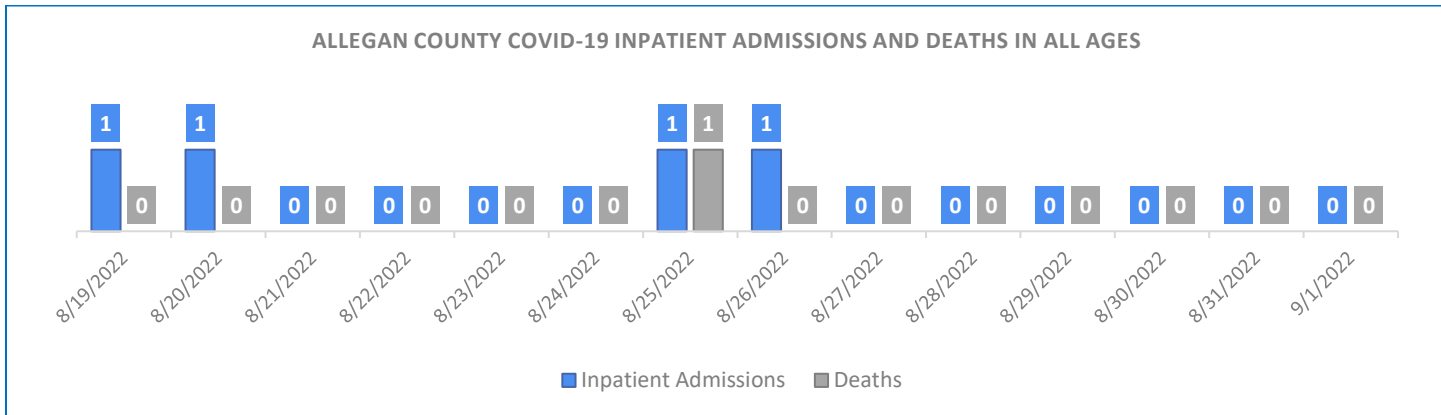
During the period 8/23/2022 to 8/29/2022, Allegan County's new weekly case rate was 125.3 per 100,000 population with 148 weekly cases.

Weekly cases decreased by more than 30% since the 8/9/2022 to 8/15/2022 reporting period (182.9 per 100,000 - 216 total weekly cases).



OVERVIEW OF COVID-19 CASES AND DEATHS IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS (8/19/2022 to 9/1/22)





DURING 8/19/2022 to 9/1/22 FOR ALLEGAN COUNTY:

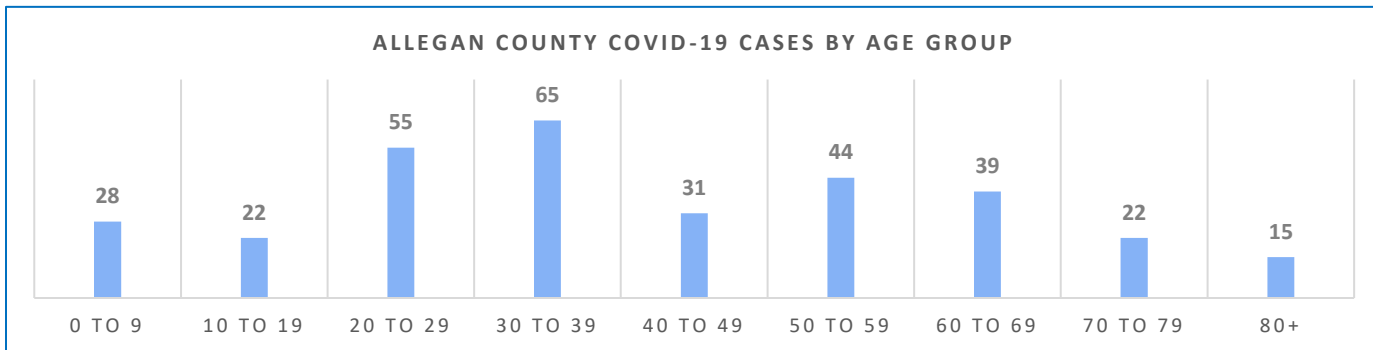
- **323 total cases** were reported via the Michigan Disease Surveillance System (MDSS)
 - o 231 confirmed cases and 92 probable cases related to SARS-CoV2 infection as reported
- 2.2% of the cases were reported as asymptomatic
- 38.4% of cases were reported as ‘vaccine breakthrough’ cases, which has decreased from the previous two weeks
- **Four reported hospitalizations¹** related to SARS-CoV-2 infection
- There was **one death** related to SARS-CoV-2 infection
- 5% of the cases were reported to be related to international, domestic, and/or in-state travel
- From 8/18/2022 to 8/31/2022, positivity rate² was a reported 22.0%

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 (8/19/2022 to 9/1/22)



¹ COVID-19 may not be a primary cause of hospitalization in some of the reported cases in MDSS due to 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 8/19/2022 to 9/1/22 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 (8/5/22 to 8/18/22), case counts have decreased overall for all age groups, with an uptick in the 10 to 19 and 70 to 79 ages for the current timeframe.

- 4% of cases were in **quarantine** at the time of symptom onset or positive test
- 19.2% of investigated cases were **household close contacts**⁴
- 0.3% of cases were reported as **community contacts**⁵
- 6.8% 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.

323 cases were reported in the MDSS from 8/19/2022 to 9/1/22

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.

17,117 exposure letters were sent from March 1, 2022, to September 5, 2022

1 close contact is currently being monitored as of September 5, 2022

OUTBREAKS & CLUSTERS IN ALLEGAN COUNTY

The following table shows the number of outbreaks⁶ that ACHD has identified for high-risk settings as of September 1, 2022. **ACHD has identified one new outbreak related to Long-Term Care Facilities⁷ and two new outbreaks related to Schools, since the last update on August 25, 2022;** there were **four** ongoing outbreaks reported to MDHHS as of September 1, 2022. ACHD has not identified any new outbreaks for businesses since February 17, 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	20
Business	8
Long Term Care ⁸	30
Other Congregate Facilities ⁹	3

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

⁸Includes Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF), Adult Foster Care (AFC), Home For the Aged (HFA), Assisted Living, and Independent Living facilities

⁹Includes jails, correctional facilities, and shelters

LONG TERM CARE & OTHER CONGREGATE CARE FACILITIES

From January 2022 to September 5, 2022, ACHD has connected **19** LTCFs in Allegan County with the iPRAT Team for additional mitigation assistance⁸.

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

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.

In Michigan, the number of LTCFs reporting three or more cases in a single reporting period is steadily **increasing** for both Adult Foster Care (AFC)/Home for the Aged (HFA) from 24 to 25, and Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF) from 38 to 47, since the last Michigan Data and Modeling update on August 23, 2022. According to statewide data⁹, the case counts reported for residents and staff in AFC/HFA are currently **plateaued**. Case counts reported for residents and staff in SNFs, 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.

565 resident cases and 55 resident deaths reported from January 1, 2020, to August 23, 2022¹⁰

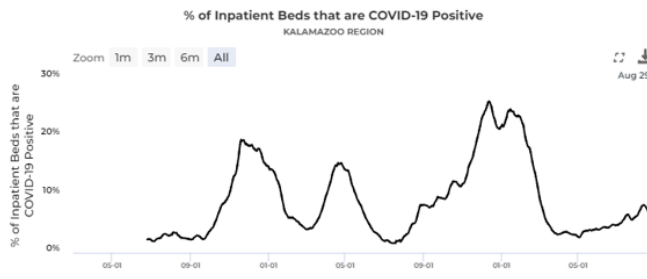
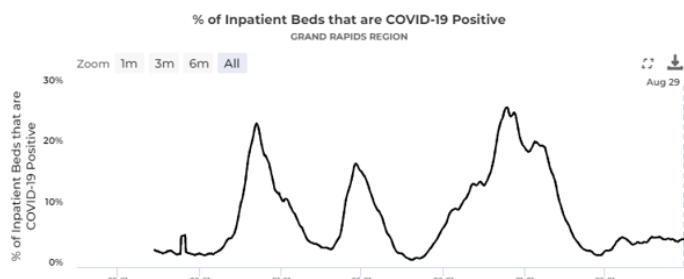
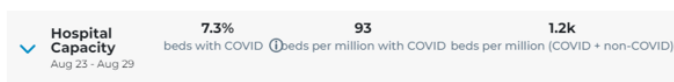
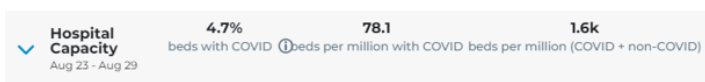
869 staff cases have been reported from January 1, 2020, to August 23, 2022

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 **4.7%** of inpatient beds that are COVID-19 positive, as of August 29, 2022, which is **0.3% higher** than the previous reporting period, August 9 to August 15. The **Kalamazoo Region** had **7.3%** of inpatient beds that are COVID-19 positive, as of August 29, 2022, which is **.6% lower** 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 \(Michigan.gov\)](#)

DEATHS (7 DAY AVERAGE)

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

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 23, 2022

The 7-day average for daily deaths is currently less than 1, and is reflected 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

ACHD has updated our School COVID-19 Guidance documents as of August 26, 2022, to align with the changes CDC made to their COVID-19 recommendations on August 11, 2022. ACHD updated guidance documents can be view on our [School Resources COVID-19 page](#).

MONKEYPOX (MPV)

The CDC has released a new resource page answering frequently asked questions about monkeypox for administrators and staff of K-12 schools, early care and education (ECE) programs, camps, and other community settings serving children or adolescents. ECE programs may include center-based childcare, family childcare, Head Start, or other early learning, early intervention and preschool/pre-kindergarten programs delivered in schools, homes, or other community settings. This information may also be helpful to parents who have questions about monkeypox.

View the [CDC Monkeypox FAQ page](#).

BUSINESSES

No new COVID-19 updates for this section, please see the [previous report from August 25, 2022](#).

MONKEYPOX (MPV)

No new updates, please see the [previous report from August 25, 2022](#).

COMMUNICATIONS

COVID-19 Health Education has been a mandated service in this response. The following are metrics related to COVID communication efforts from 8/19/2022 – 9/1/2022:

- 4 Social media posts
- 9 Education materials created/updated
- 1 School and Childcare Update sent out
- 1 Long Term Care Update sent out

BIRD OWNERS ENCOURAGED TO CONTINUE PRACTICING BIOSECURITY MEASURES TO PROTECT BIRDS FROM HPAI

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) has not reported any new cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in domestic poultry flocks since May 2022, but the virus is still being detected in Michigan's wildlife. These detections added with the fall migration of wild birds means it is important to continue following biosecurity measures to help keep birds healthy.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources regularly updates its [website](#) with the new cases found in wild birds and mammals.

The public health risk associated with this disease remains low according to the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#). In addition, no birds or bird products infected with HPAI will enter the commercial food chain. As a reminder, people should [properly handle](#) and cook all poultry and eggs.

Data as of September 5, 2022

Following [a few key steps](#) is still important to help protect Michigan's domestic birds:

- Prevent contact between domestic and wild birds by bringing them indoors or ensuring their outdoor area is fully enclosed.
- Wash your hands before and after handling birds as well as when moving between different coops.
- Disinfect boots and other gear when moving between coops.
- Do not share equipment or other supplies between coops or other farms.
- [Cleaning and disinfecting](#) equipment and other supplies between uses. If it cannot be disinfected, discard it.
- Use well or municipal water as drinking water for birds.
- Keep poultry feed secure to ensure there is no contact between the feed/feed ingredients and wild birds or rodents.

Domestic bird owners and caretakers should watch for multiple sudden deaths in the flock, a drop in egg production, a significant decrease in water consumption, or an increase in sick birds.

- If avian influenza is suspected in domestic birds, contact MDARD immediately at 800-292-3939 (daytime) or 517-373-0440 (after-hours).

If anyone notices what appears to be unusual or unexplained deaths among wild bird populations, please report these cases to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) by:

- Using the DNR's [Eyes in the Field app](#). Choose the "Diseased Wildlife" option among the selections for "Observation Forms."
- Calling the DNR Wildlife Disease Laboratory at 517-336-5030.

Subscribe to receive email notifications by visiting [MDARD's website](#) and clicking on the "Avian Influenza" link. After entering a valid email address, subscribers will receive updates and alerts regarding the status of avian influenza in Michigan whenever there are new developments to report. Additional resources can also be found at [Michigan.gov/BirdFlu](#).

More information on avian influenza and how to protect flocks through biosecurity measures can be found on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's [website](#).

COMMUNITY VACCINATION/HERD IMMUNITY/TREATMENT

UPDATED COVID-19 BIVALENT BOOSTERS FOR THOSE 12 YEARS OF AGE AND UP

On September 1, 2022, the CDC issued new recommendations for COVID-19 boosters, after the FDA authorized updated booster formulas from both Pfizer and Moderna. The CDC recommends that everyone who is eligible stay up-to-date on vaccinations by getting an updated booster dose at least 2 months after their last COVID-19 shot—either since their last booster dose, or since completing their primary series. **Pfizer's updated booster shot is recommended for individuals 12 and older, and Moderna's updated booster shot is recommended for adults 18 and older.**

These new boosters contain an updated bivalent formula that both boosts immunity against the original coronavirus strain and also protects against the newer Omicron variants that account for most of the current cases. Updated boosters are intended to provide optimal protection against the virus and address waning vaccine effectiveness over time.

Eligible individuals can get either the Pfizer or Moderna updated booster, regardless of whether their primary series or most recent dose was with Pfizer, Moderna, Novavax, or the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. **As per the CDC's recommendations, the new bivalent booster replaces the existing monovalent vaccine booster, therefore the monovalent vaccine will no longer be authorized for use as booster doses in people ages 12 and up.**

The Pfizer bivalent booster is currently authorized for ages **12 and older** while Moderna's is currently authorized for ages **18 and older**. Individuals may choose to receive either the Pfizer or the Moderna bivalent booster, regardless of which primary series vaccine or original booster dose they had previously.

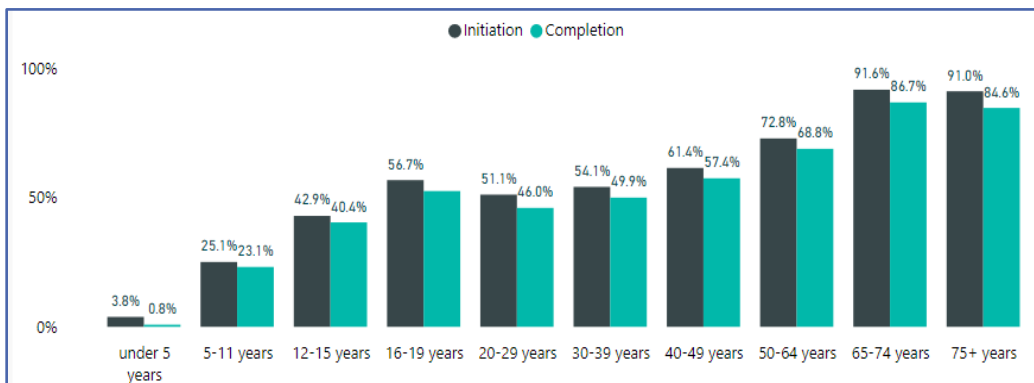
ACHD anticipates starting to give these bivalent boosters within the next two weeks, and will provide further updates when available.

In the coming weeks, CDC also expects to recommend updated COVID-19 boosters for those under the age of 12, per the discussion and evaluation of the data by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) on Sept. 1, 2022. When more information

becomes available, ACHD will provide an update to the public. In the meantime, parents are encouraged to have their children complete the primary series of the current vaccines so that they will be eligible for the bivalent booster in the future. Parents of children under 12 are also encouraged to consider having their children receive the original booster at this time to increase their defenses against the virus with back to school and other group activities now occurring.

For more information, read the [full CDC press release](#) and [full FDA press release](#). Visit the [COVID-19 Bivalent Vaccine Boosters FDA page](#).

COVID-19 VACCINE COVERAGE



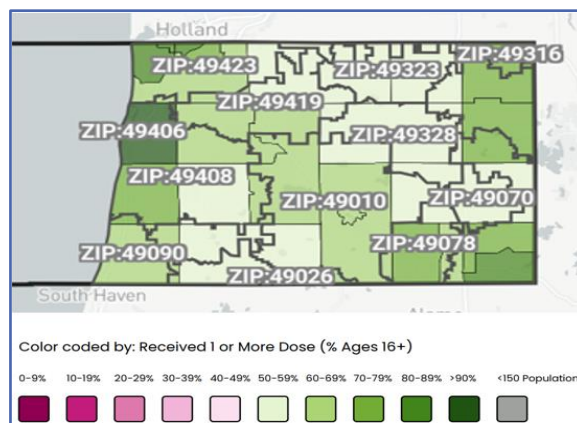
VACCINATION COVERAGE BY AGE GROUP

Data as of 9/2/2022

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. 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



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.

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 predominant new Omicron variants** such as BA.4 and BA.5.

Being [up to date](#) on COVID-19 vaccines is crucial in reducing the burden of hospitalizations and deaths. Please refer to key data takeaways from the [previous report](#) on studies conducted by the CDC's Breakthrough Surveillance Unit on Hospitalizations and Deaths associated with COVID-29, as of June 2022.

In Michigan, [data and modeling as of August 30, 2022](#) shows that **unvaccinated individuals 12 years and older had 6.1 times the risk of dying from COVID-19** compared to those who were up to date on the COVID-19 vaccination schedule. Please refer to the [updated CDC studies published in July 2022](#), as released on August 25, 2022 on the nationwide COVID-19 VE surveillance among adults:

Data Takeaway: The protection level of COVID-19 infection has waned across all age groups; protection is highest in adults who have received [all recommended vaccine doses](#).

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 ¹²	STATEWIDE	NATIONWIDE	GLOBAL
Cases	19,158	90,676	4.989 M
Hospital Admissions	151.43	5314	No data available
Deaths	129	390	15,474
Percent Population Fully Vaccinated	64.7%	67.4%	53.062 M ¹³
Percent Positivity	20-24.9 %	15.5%	No data available

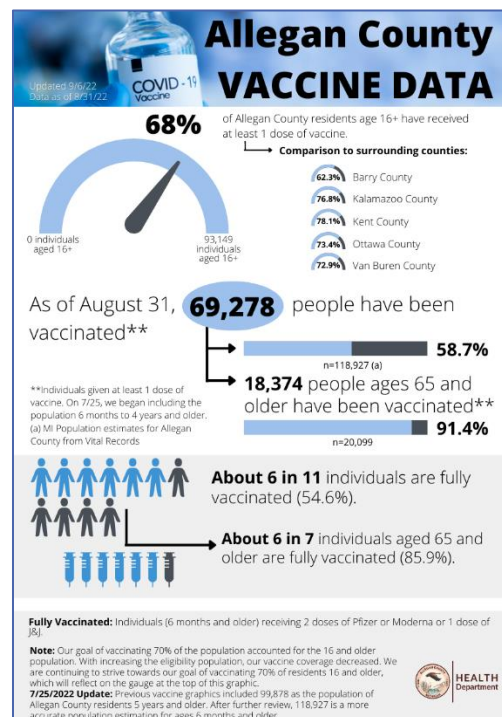
STATEWIDE (MICHIGAN)

- As of **August 30, 2022**, [Michigan Coronavirus Data](#) reports a total of **2,770,359 cases** and **38,038 deaths** related to the SARS-CoV-2 infection.

¹² Statewide and Nationwide data as of 9/2/2022 [COVID Data Tracker Weekly Review | CDC](#); Global data update as of 8/28/2022 [COVID-19 Map - Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center \(jhu.edu\)](#)

¹³ This is not a percentage but a 7-day average of weekly doses administered globally

Data as of September 5, 2022



- Refer to the [August 30, 2022 MDHHS data and modeling](#) for current trends on cases, hospitalizations, and deaths associated with COVID-19.
- The **current R_t^{14} for Michigan has fallen slightly below 1**, thus indicating that **COVID spread is currently plateaued**.
- **11%** (9/83) of Michigan **counties** are at **High COVID-19 Community Levels** comprising of 31% of the population [as of August 25, 2022](#). Majority of the counties are at Medium or Low levels at present compared to the previous reporting week of August 15, 2022.
- Current statewide community levels are not as high as the first Omicron wave but are higher than the second Omicron (BA.2.12.1) wave that was around the months of April-May.
- Recent scenario hub projections suggest plateau or a smaller surge in the Fall and potential surge in the Winter. 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 September 1, 2022, is **94,385,669 (up 1,145,549 from August 19, 2022)**. **1,041,280 total deaths (up 8,327 from August 19, 2022)** have been reported as of September 1, 2022; which accounts for more than 15% of total deaths worldwide.
- According to the CDC, as of August 26, 2022, COVID-19 cases, deaths, and hospitalizations are **starting to plateau** after their rise in the summer, however, COVID-19 Community Levels for more than 72.4% of counties are still medium or high. Overall, 48 out of 52 jurisdictions (50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories) had counties with high or medium-level transmission week.
 - The District of Columbia, Massachusetts, Nevada, and Rhode Island are the only jurisdictions that have all counties at low Community Levels.
 - For the week ending in August 27, 2022, Omicron BA.5, the predominant variant, accounts for an estimated **88.7%** of new cases
 - Omicron variant BA.4.6, accounts for an estimated **7.5%** of cases
 - According to the CDC, the national proportion of lineages designated as omicron is 100%
- The 7-day average has decreased **6.7%** over the past week, which is slower than last week (data as of 8/30/2022)
 - As of August 30, 2022, the case rate was 186.8 cases/100,000 in last 7 days (week prior: 197.7 cases per/100,000)
- As of August 30 Nearly all Midwestern states (region 5) are showing signs of a plateau or decreases
- *29% of counties have high risk for medically significant disease and healthcare strain*

GLOBAL

- Globally, as of **September 1, 2022**, the World Health Organization (WHO) reports **600,555,262 confirmed cases (up 8,871,643 from August 19, 2022)** and **6,472,914 deaths (up 29,608 from August 19, 2022)** related to the SARS-CoV-2 infection.
- According to [WHO's weekly Epidemiological Situation Report](#) as of August 28, 2022:
 - Over 4.5 million new cases were reported globally during the week of August 22 to August 28 of 2022, and the **number of cases decreased by 16%** during this timeframe.
 - The overall number of **new weekly deaths decreased by 13%** with over 13,500 fatalities reported.
 - At the country level, the highest numbers of new weekly cases were reported from Japan (-15%), the Republic of Korea (-16%), U.S. (-10%), the Russian Federation (+23%), and Germany (-22%); the highest numbers of new weekly deaths were in U.S. (-6%), Japan (+23%), Brazil (-6%), Italy (-4%), and the Republic of Korea (+25%)
 - A comparison of global weekly sequencing of variants of concern between August 7 to August 20 of 2022 shows that BA.5 Omicron descendent lineages continue to be dominant globally, with an increase in weekly prevalence from 72.4% to 78.2%
 - BA.2.75 is currently an Omicron sub variant under monitoring, which continues to show a relatively low weekly prevalence globally

¹⁴ R_t is a unit of epidemiological unit of measurement to indicate the reproduction number of a virus over a particular time

- 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 September 1, 2022 (TPA¹⁵, TPE¹⁶, TPP¹⁷), which have existing data points for the most recent nine calendar days (8/23/2022 – 9/1/2022).

The areas with red circles 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, **six** facilities around these treatment sites have reported 2+ COVID-19 cases.

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

Allegan Sewershed Sites	Trend Dates		Current Trend Patterns
TPA	9/1/2022	↔	Plateaued
TPE	9/1/2022	↗	Increasing
TPP	8/31/2022	↗	Increasing



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

Key:

- Red circles represent higher COVID-19 concentration levels
- Yellow circles represent lower concentration levels
- Green circles indicate virtually no COVID-19 detection

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

- 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 recombinants¹⁸ of these.
- The [CDC Nowcast Projections](#) (nationwide) estimate that the predominant Omicron sublineages BA.5 is projected at 88.7%, followed by BA.4.6 at 7.5%, BA.4 at 3.6%, and BA.2.12.1 at 0.2%. The combined national proportion of all Omicron lineages continues to be at 100% for the week ending on August 27, 2022. Refer to additional information on the CDC monitoring of nationwide variant proportions [here](#). For routine updates on the original Omicron lineage B.1.1.529 and its descendant lineages, refer to [Variants of the Virus | CDC](#).

Data Takeaways:

¹⁵ Allegan Water Resource Recovery Facility

¹⁶ Allegan/Perrigo East Lift Station

¹⁷ Plainwell Wastewater Treatment Plant

¹⁸ 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 as of September 5, 2022

- The proportion of specimens sequenced and identified as BA.5 in the U.S. and Michigan continues to remain the most dominant.
- *Michigan*: Since July 15, there have been 2,649 VOC specimens sequenced of which 100% are of the Omicron lineage and 84% of the Omicron sublineage BA.5
- Data trends for the SARS-CoV-2 virus shows that some variant will emerge and disappear, while others will emerge and continue to spread and may replace previous variants.
- *Quick excerpts from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) on new technologies used for detection of emerging variants*:
 - Recent studies and data shows that BA.4 and BA.5 subvariants require a larger viral load to be detected on Antigen tests, thus, making it possible to produce pseudo-negative results.
 - NIH oversees the Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics (RADx) program, which aims at advancing the current testing equipment utilized for detecting SARS-CoV-2 infection.
 - The RADx initiative collaborates with scientists and organizations' innovative methods in **an effort to minimize false negatives with the newer omicron sublineages**.
- 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, refer to the [6/21/22 report](#).

UPDATES: As of September 1, 2022, MDHHS and the CDC's MPV Situation Summary has released the following data:

- **Michigan:**
 - 199 total MPV cases identified (which is up from 126 cases reported in the previous update)
- **United States:**
 - 19,465 total MPV/orthopoxvirus cases
 - California has the largest number of cases (n=3629) followed by New York (n=3367), Florida (n=1957), Texas (n=1698), Georgia (n=1418), and Illinois (n=1081)
- **Global:**
 - 52,090 cases in 100 countries (93 of these countries have not historically reported MPV cases)
 - The United States has the largest number of cases (n=19,464), followed by Spain (n=6,543), Brazil (n=4,876), France (n=3,547), Germany (n=3,480), and United Kingdom (n=3,279)
 - 15 total Deaths have been reported from Nigeria (n=4), Ghana (n=3), Spain (n=2), Central African Republic (n=2), Brazil (n=1), and Ecuador (n=1), India (n=1), and Cuba (n=1)
 - For a detailed list of the outbreaks reported in non-endemic countries, refer to: [Multi-country monkeypox outbreak in non-endemic countries \(who.int\)](#)

HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI)

No new updates; refer to [previous BOC updates on HPAI](#) and the section above on HPAI best practices in this report.

RECENT EMERGING HEALTH THREATS: AT A QUICK GLANCE

Adenovirus and Acute Hepatitis

- Updates according to situational report from WHO's Dr. Philippa Easterbrook:
 - First cases were reported in Scotland in early April 2022
 - More than 1000 cases from 35 countries worldwide
 - Distinctive feature is rapid progression and severity of liver disease in previously healthy children
 - Approximately 1/3 of cases went to the ICU, with 48 cases requiring a liver transplant
 - 18 deaths
 - No link to COVID vaccination

Data as of September 5, 2022

- **50-75% of all cases were positive for adenovirus. Two likely explanations:**
 - Children may have become more susceptible to adenovirus due to COVID restrictions - less exposure to many infections
 - 70% of children had evidence of past COVID infection which led to hyperactive immune response
- Majority of cases are children less than 5 years
- 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 (Michigan Weekly Arbovirus Summary September 2, 2022)

- 18 mosquito pools positive for arbovirus infection
 - 3 human cases of West Nile Virus (WNV) or other arboviruses reported
- 12 mosquito pools from *Arenac, Genesee, Gladwin, Huron, Iosco and Kent counties* have tested positive for WNV
- 3 birds from Bay County, 1 bird from Saginaw, 1 bird from Shiawassee County, and 1 bird from Wayne have tested positive for WNV
- 6 mosquito pools from *Bay, Midland, and Saginaw counties* have tested positive for Jamestown Canyon Virus
- 1 mosquito pool from Saginaw County tested positive for LaCrosse (LAC) Encephalitis Virus
- One horse from St. Joseph County has died from Eastern Equine encephalitis (EEE)
- 3,345 mosquito Pools tested (50,317 mosquitos)
- Weekly Surveillance reports and the [Annual EZID Surveillance Summary for 2021](#) can be found at www.mi.gov/emergingdiseases

Rabies

- As of August 30, 2022, Rabies-positive animals in Michigan include **29 Bats** and **1 Skunk** from the following counties: Alcona (1), **Allegan (1)**, Bay (1), Delta (2), Huron (2), Kalamazoo (1), Kent (5), Oakland (2 bats and 1 skunk), Ottawa (2), Newaygo (1), Tuscola (2), Washtenaw (4), Ingham (1), Eaton (1), Shiawassee (1), Emmet (1), Berrien (1)

Salmonella Outbreaks Linked to Backyard Poultry

- No new updates; see the [previous BOC report from 8/25/22](#).

Salmonella Outbreaks Linked to Small Turtles

- As of August 31, 2022: 21 cases reported from 14 states (none in Michigan)
- 8 hospitalizations, 0 deaths
- Illness onset dates range: January 3, 2022 to July 15, 2022; the median age range for individuals that became ill is 14 years, and 60% of the individuals reporting ill are female
- Epidemiologic data shows of 9 cases interviewed, all 9 (100%) reported contact with a pet turtle with a shell < 4 inches long

Listeria Outbreaks Linked to Big Olaf Ice-cream

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

Shiga toxin-producing Escherchia coli (STEC)

- As of September 1, 2022: 97 cases reported from 6 states (58 in Michigan)
- 43 hospitalizations, 0 deaths
- Illness onset dates range: July 26, 2022 to August 15, 2022; the median age range for individuals that became ill is now 22 years of age and 52% of the ill individuals are male
- Epidemiologic data shows of the 43 individuals hospitalized, 10 developed [hemolytic uremic syndrome](#)
- 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 Recommends the First Updated COVID-19 Booster](#)
- [CDC Current Outbreak List | CDC](#)
- [CDC Health Alert Network](#)
- [CDC Provisional COVID-19 Deaths: Focus on Ages 0-18 Years](#)
- [CDC Stay Up-to-date on Vaccinations](#)
- [COVID-19 Bivalent Vaccine Boosters FDA page](#)
- [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 Authorizes Bivalent Booster Doses](#)
- [FDA: Investigations of Foodborne Illness Outbreaks](#)
- [Find a COVID-19 Vaccine Near You](#)
- [Hepatitis outbreak in children](#)
- HONU
- [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](#)
- [MI Weekly Arbovirus Summary, 2022 \(michigan.gov\)](#)
- [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](#)
- [Previous BOC report from August 25, 2022](#)
- [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

FREE AT-HOME TEST KITS FROM MDHHS AVAILABLE AT 2 LIBRARIES IN ALLEGAN COUNTY:

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

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

VISIT THE [MDHHS COMMUNITY BASED POP-UP TESTING PAGE](#) TO SIGN UP FOR THE TESTING EVENTS AT ALLEGAN TRANSPORTATION BUILDING AND TO FIND OTHER TESTING SITES NEAR YOU.

Visit <https://www.solvehealth.com/covid-testing> to find additional COVID-19 sites near you.

COVID-19 testing location finder: [Coronavirus - Test](#)

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

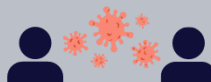
MONKEYPOX: What to Know



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.