

# Ottawa County COVID-19 Epidemiology

December 1, 2021

Data as of November 27, 2021, unless otherwise indicated

# **Executive Summary**

- Transmission in both the US and Michigan is increasing
- Ottawa community transmission remains elevated
  - Positivity remained elevated at 23.1% last week. The goal is to be less than 8%.
  - Weekly case counts in Ottawa decreased 30%, from 2,231 two weeks ago to 1,564 last week.
  - Cases among children decreased 41%, from 568 two weeks ago to 337 last week.
  - The decreases in case counts and rates through this report are likely an artifact of the Thanksgiving holiday; expect cases to remain high.
- Ottawa area and regional hospitals are experiencing high numbers of COVID-19 patients
  - In Ottawa County, 43% of all available beds and 75% of ICU beds are occupied by COVID-19 patients.\*
  - Regional healthcare systems are extremely strained and asking for the community to take preventive action.
  - One regional healthcare system is receiving a federally assigned healthcare team to assist with surge capacity.
  - Ottawa County hospitals may be repurposing patient care areas and using adaptive staffing strategies.
- Pediatric hospitalizations across the US may be increasing; hospitalizations among children in Michigan continue to increase.
  - At a large West Michigan healthcare system, weekly hospital census for children with COVID-19 reached the highest level seen through the pandemic two weeks ago, and remained elevated last week.
- Of Ottawa County residents aged 5+, 56.8% are completely vaccinated

### Public Health Recommendations

- Get vaccinated (start series or get booster)
- Stay home when sick & get tested
- Wear your mask in public indoor places
- Recent MDHHS Advisory:

As such, on November 19, 2021, MDHHS is issuing the following advisory on the use of face masks. This advisory takes effect immediately and remains in effect until further notice.

All Michiganders, regardless of vaccination status, should take the following actions to protect against COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses:

#### **Public Health Advisory:**

- (a) All persons in indoor public settings are advised to wear a face mask, regardless of their vaccination status.
- (b) Public establishments are advised to implement masking policies and encourage compliance with such policies.
- (c) Individuals who are not fully vaccinated or who are immunocompromised are advised to avoid large crowds or gatherings.

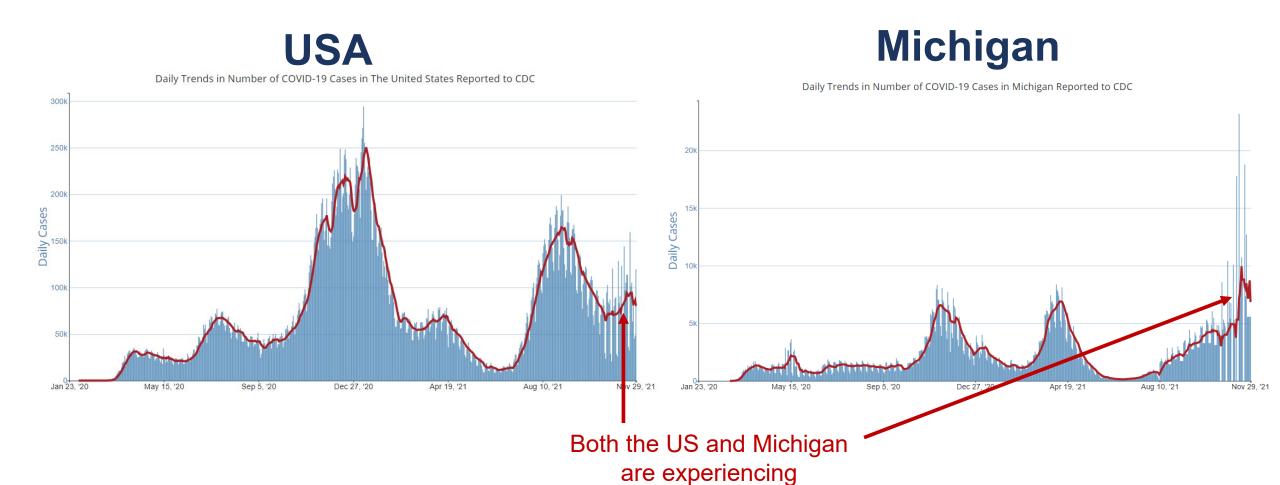
Source:

MDHHS: Nov 19 2021 Public Health Advisory 741750 7.pdf (michigan.gov)

# Ottawa County Metrics by Week

		Week Ending				
Metric	Goal	30-Oct-21	6-Nov-21	13-Nov-21	20-Nov-21	27-Nov-21
Positivity (All Ages)	<8%	17.3%	21.2%	25.5%	23.9%	23.1%
Weekly Cases (All Ages)	<147	935	1342	1948	2231	1565
Weekly Cases in Children (0-17 years of age)	NA	219	351	487	568	337
Total COVID-19 Hospitalizations (All Ages)	0	28	33	36	47	34
Total Deaths (All Ages)	0	7	8	14	21	4
CDC Risk Transmission Level	Moderate	High	High	High	High	High

### Case Trends in the USA and Michigan



Source: https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#trends dailycases

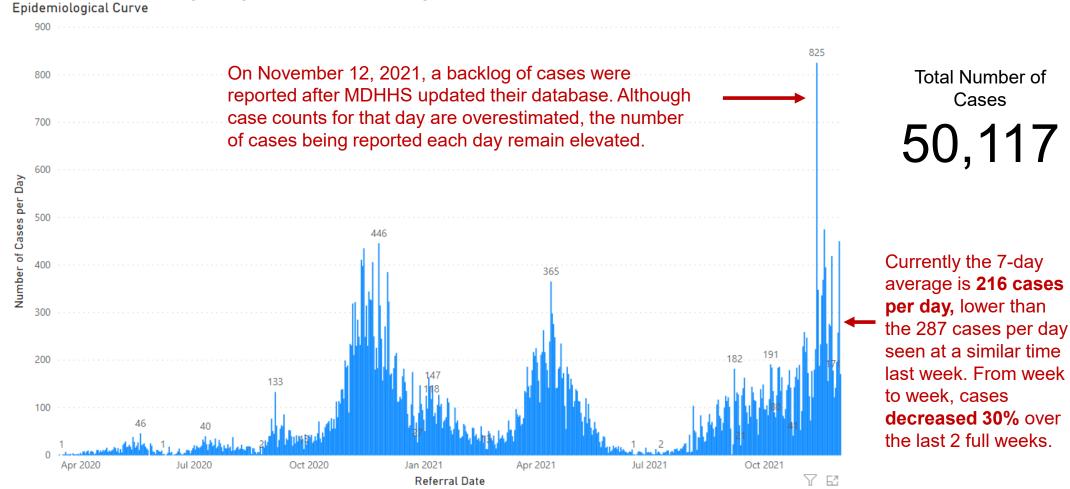
Data through November 29, 2021

increasing trends.

Other

### Case Trends in Ottawa County

#### COVID-19 Cases by Day, Ottawa County, March 15, 2020 – December 1, 2021

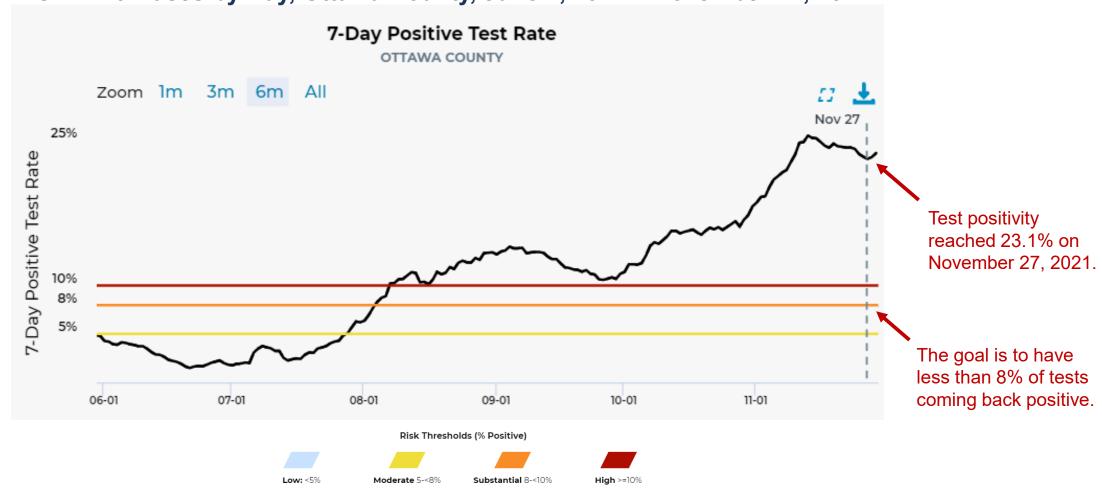


**Note:** As of November 2021, reports from local stores of a large grocery chain and a national pharmacy chain indicate that supplies of at-home COVID-19 tests remain in high demand. Use of at home tests likely reduces the number of positive tests reported to Public Health, resulting in an artificially deflated number of cases. Additionally, OCDPH has received reports of parents refusing COVID-19 testing for their children ill with respiratory symptoms, which may further deflate case data. On November 12, 2021, MDHHS updated their database resulting in a backlog of cases being reported in one day. **Source:** Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Michigan Disease Surveillance System

USA & MI Spread Children Hospitalizations Vaccinations Variants Risk Levels Other Media Science Roundup

### Test Positivity in Ottawa County

COVID-19 Cases by Day, Ottawa County, June 1, 2021 - November 27, 2021



Variants

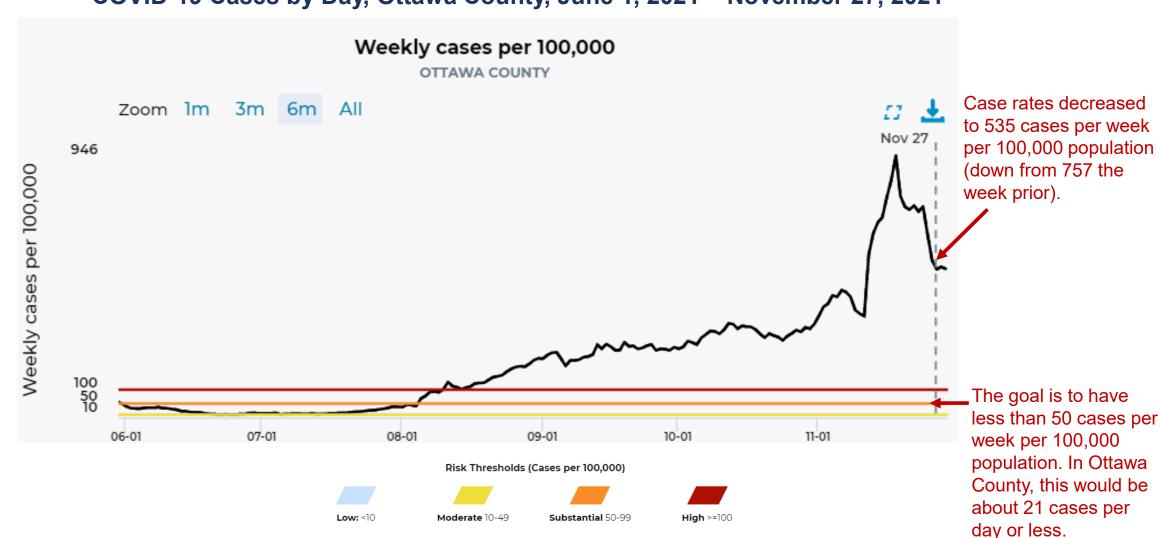
Note: Testing in Ottawa County has remained stable with at least 6000-8000 tests conducted each week over the last 3.5 months; however, in recent weeks testing has increased to 8000-9000 tests each week: <u>Testing Results | Ottawa County Covid-19 Case Summary Data (arcgis.com)</u>

Source: https://www.mistartmap.info/cdc-indicators?area=county%3Aottawa

Other

### Case Rates in Ottawa County – All Ages

COVID-19 Cases by Day, Ottawa County, June 1, 2021 - November 27, 2021



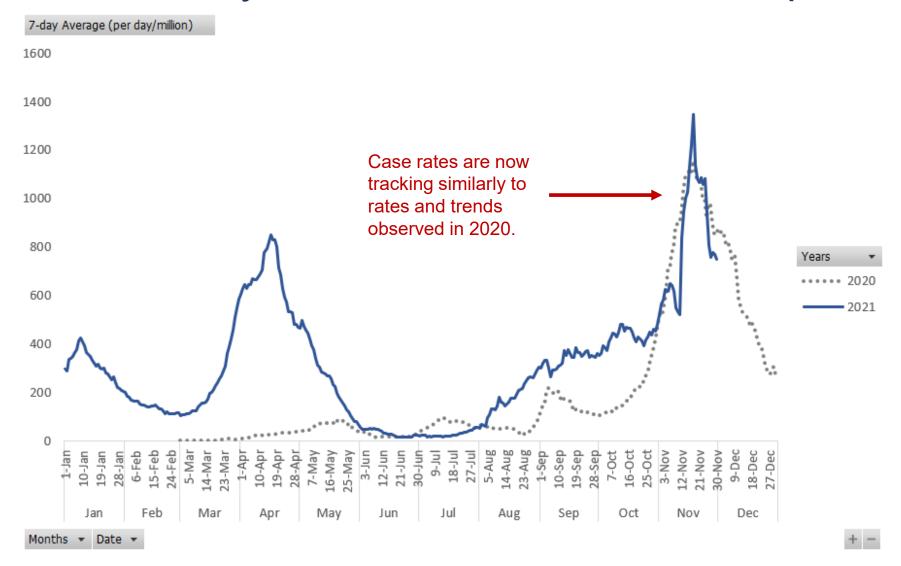
Variants

Source: https://www.mistartmap.info/cdc-indicators?area=county%3Aottawa

USA & MI

Science Roundup

### Ottawa County Time Trends – Annual Comparison



Source: Internal Data Data Data through November 30, 2021

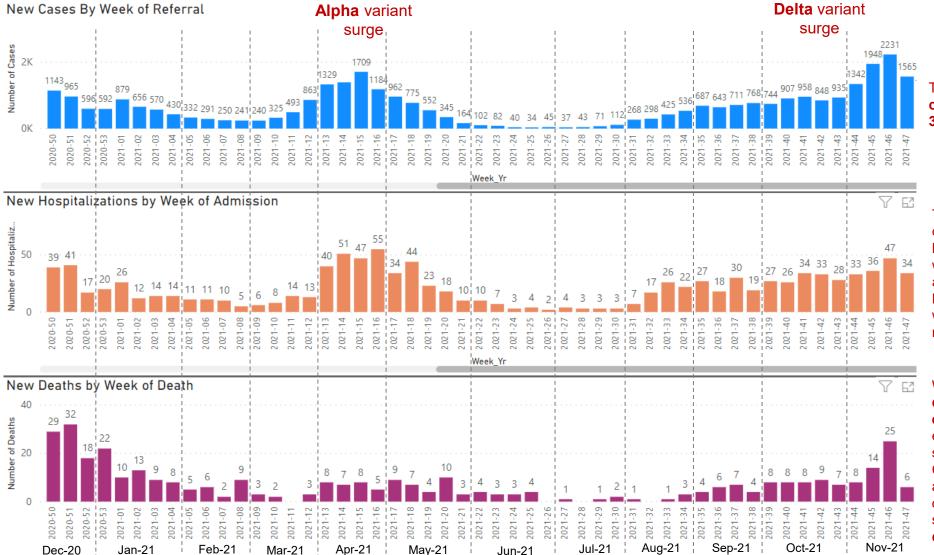
Vaccinations

### Ottawa County - Cases, Hospitalizations, & Deaths by Week, All Ages

Hospitalizations and deaths in recent weeks may increase as data is updated.

#### Hospitalizations are likely underestimated because:

- Hospitalization status is obtained only by manual review, and
- Hospitalization may occur after public health interview.



**Variants** 

The weekly number of cases decreased 30% last week.

The weekly number of hospitalizations has been increasing with an average of about 38 cases hospitalized each week over the last month.

Weekly COVID-19 deaths have exceeded levels experienced in the spring 2021 wave. Current weekly average of deaths over the last 4 weeks stands at about 13 deaths per week.

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Michigan Disease Surveillance System

Other

### Ottawa County Weekly Case Counts and % Change, by Age

	Adults (18+)		Children (0-17 years)		Total	
Week Ending	Number	% Change from Previous Week	Number	% Change from Previous Week	Number	% Change from Previous Week
3-Jul-21	40		5		45	
10-Jul-21	32	-20%	5	0%	37	-18%
17-Jul-21	38	19%	5	0%	43	16%
24-Jul-21	60	58%	11	120%	71	65%
31-Jul-21	89	48%	23	109%	112	58%
7-Aug-21	224	152%	43	87%	267	138%
14-Aug-21	259	16%	39	-9%	298	12%
21-Aug-21	365	41%	60	54%	425	43%
28-Aug-21	449	23%	88	47%	537	26%
4-Sep-21	553	23%	134	52%	687	28%
11-Sep-21	496	-10%	148	10%	644	-6%
18-Sep-21	547	10%	165	11%	712	11%
25-Sep-21	620	13%	149	-10%	769	8%
2-Oct-21	608	-2%	136	-9%	744	-3%
9-Oct-21	714	17%	197	45%	907	22%
16-Oct-21	765	7%	199	1%	958	6%
23-Oct-21	685	-10%	163	-18%	848	-11%
30-Oct-21	716	5%	219	34%	935	10%
6-Nov-21	991	38%	351	60%	1342	44%
13-Nov-21	1461	47%	487	39%	1948	45%
20-Nov-21	1663	14%_	568	17%	2231	15%
27-Nov-21	1228	-26%	337	-41%	1565	-30%

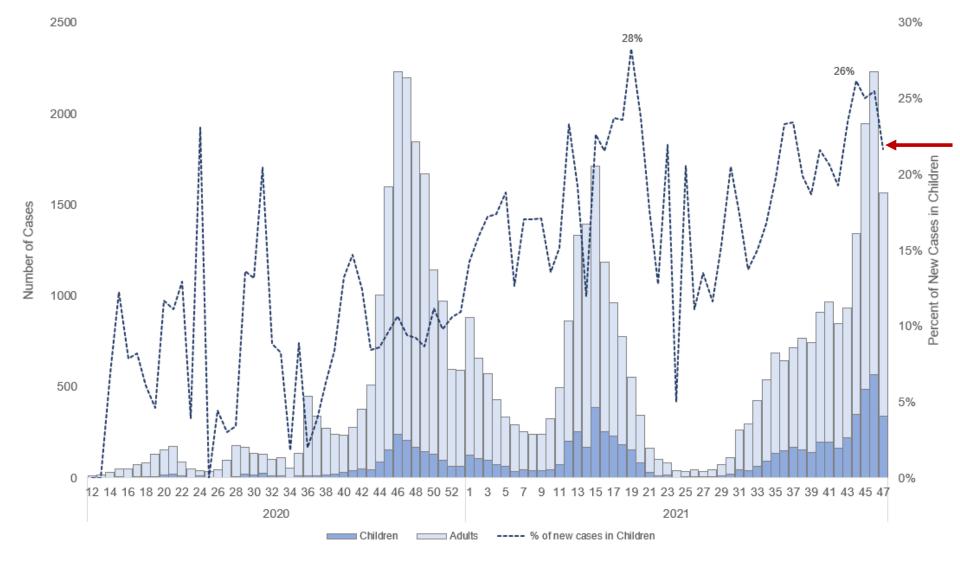
Adults Children

Weekly case counts among children decreased 41% last week, and cases in adults decreased 26%.

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Michigan Disease Surveillance System

USA & MI Spread Children Hospitalizations Vaccinations Variants Risk Levels Other Media Science Roundup

### Ottawa County Weekly Case Counts and % in Children (0-17)



Children make up a large proportion of cases reported. This past week, **21.5% of cases were in children.** 

For comparison, children aged 0-17 make up about 23.5% of the population in Ottawa County.

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Michigan Disease Surveillance System; CDC Wonder 2020

Data through Week 47, 2021

# Ottawa County - Cases, Hospitalizations, & Deaths by Week Among Children (0-17 years)

Through the 2020-2021 school year nearly all school-aged children were in environments with:

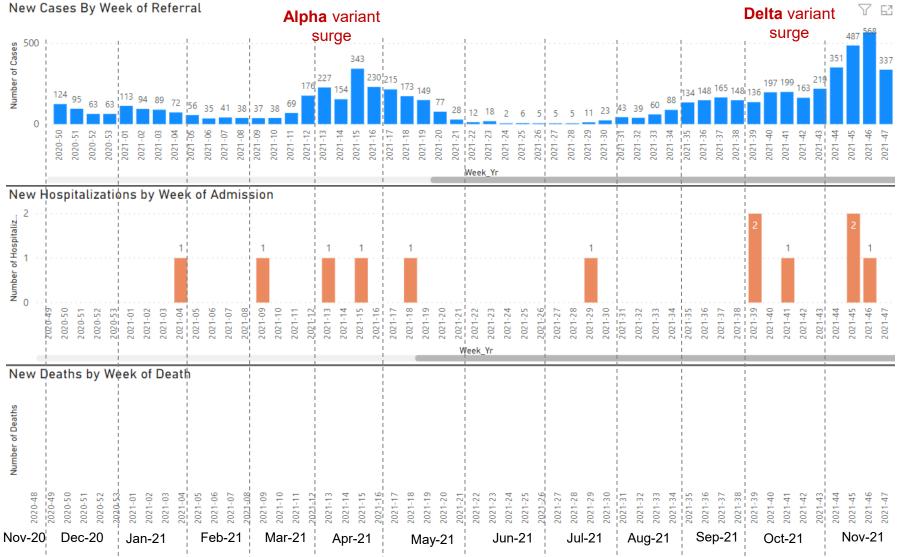
• universal masking
• cohorting
• online learning
• social distancing

 testing (for high school athletes)

These mitigation strategies likely reduced case counts and hospitalizations among children.

mandatory quarantine

for all close contacts



The weekly number of cases among children decreased 41% in the last 2 full weeks.

Hospitalizations are likely **underestimated** because:

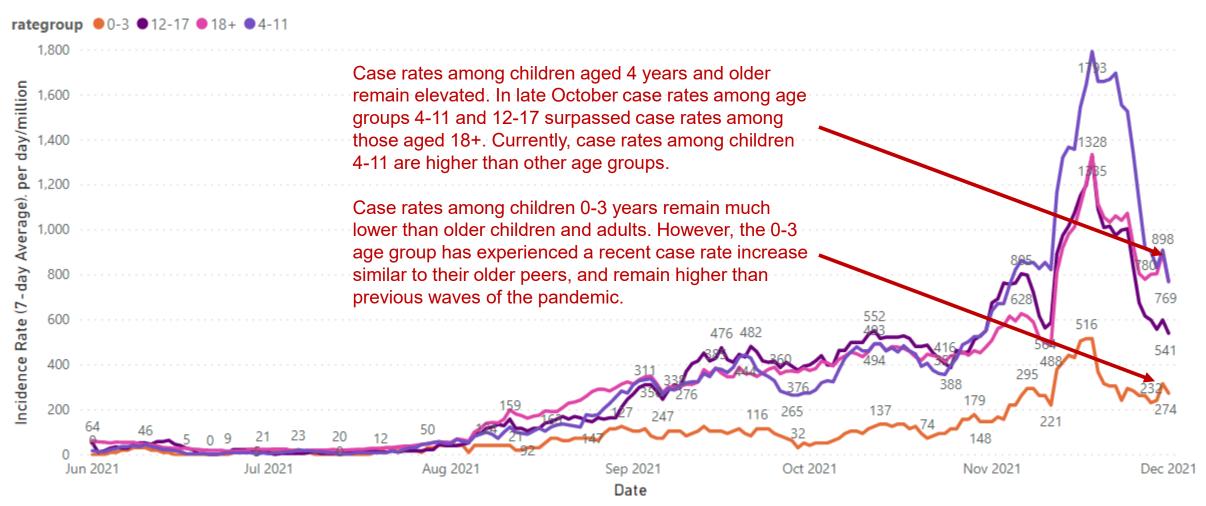
- (i) Hospitalization status is obtained only by manual review, and
- i) Hospitalization may occur after public health interview.

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Michigan Disease Surveillance System

Science Roundup

### Ottawa County - Case Rate Trends - by Age

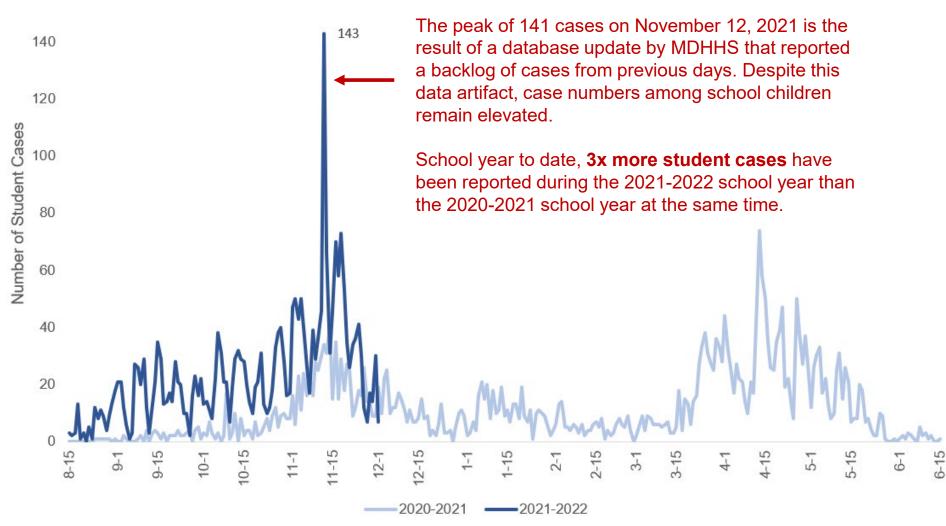
Incidence Rate (7-day Average)



Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Michigan Disease Surveillance System

Data as of December 1, 2021

### Ottawa County Cases in PreK-12 School Students



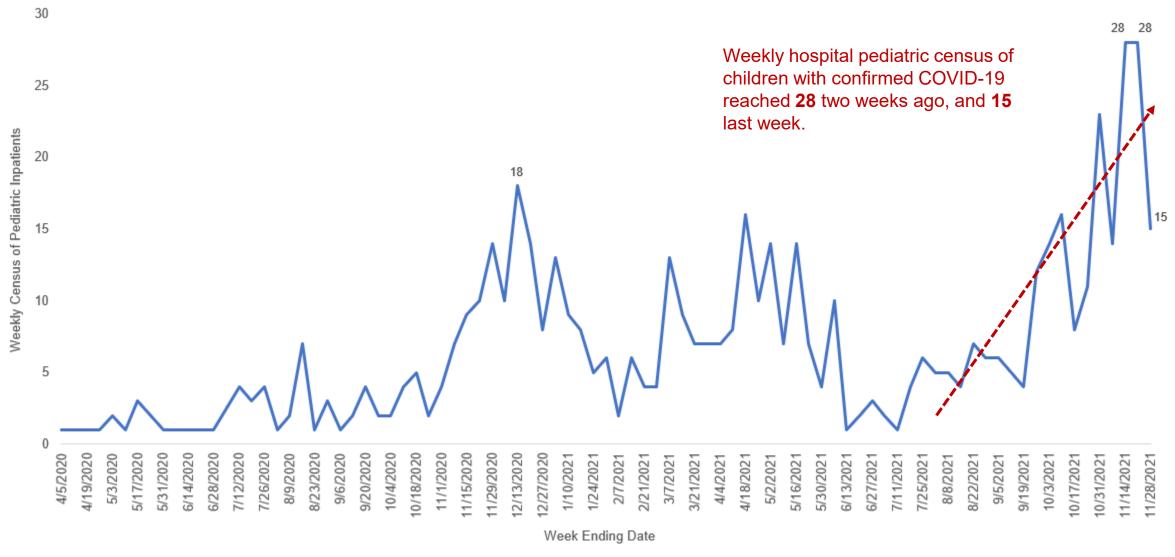
Method: Includes PreK-12 students known to attend a school in Ottawa County who are classified as a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19.

**Note:** Data may change as information is updated and methods are refined. Cases reported in 2021 will likely increase.

Source: Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Michigan Disease Surveillance System; Internal data systems

Data through December 1, 2021

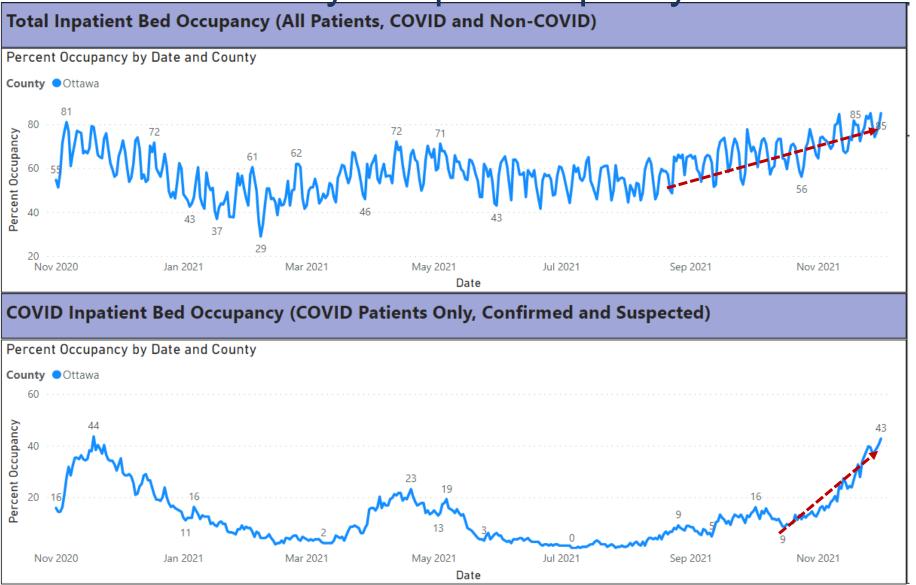
### Weekly Hospital Pediatric Census – A Regional Healthcare System



Note: Data above includes persons younger than 18 years of age with confirmed COVID-19 hospitalized at a large regional healthcare system. Patients may be listed in more than one week. Data may change as information is updated. Includes patients that reside in counties across the region, including Ottawa County.

Data through November 28, 2021

Ottawa County Hospital Capacity – All Beds

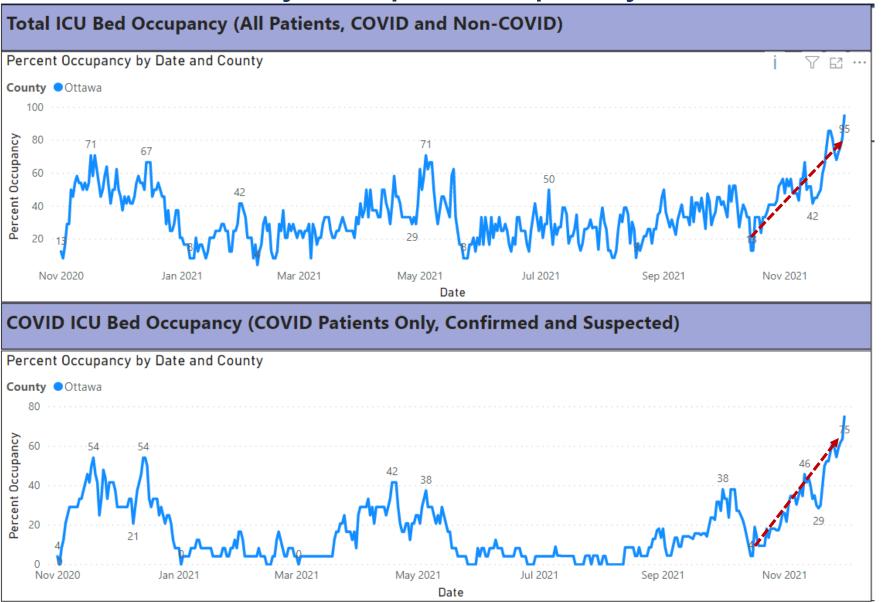


Total hospital bed occupancy is increasing, as is the proportion of beds occupied by COVID-19 patients.

Currently 43% of all inpatient beds are occupied by COVID-19 patients.

Source: EMResources Data through December 1, 2021

### Ottawa County Hospital Capacity – ICU Beds



Overall ICU bed occupancy has reached the highest level of the pandemic.

The proportion of ICU beds occupied by COVID-19 patients is increasing. Currently, 75% of ICU beds are occupied by COVID-19 patients, the highest level of the pandemic.

Data through December 1, 2021

Source: EMResources

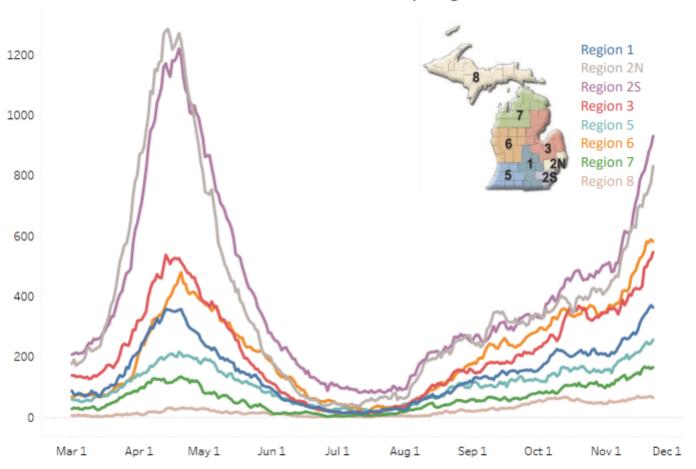
Science Roundup

**Variants** 

Spread

### Statewide Hospitalization Trends: Regional COVID+ Census

#### Hospitalization Trends 3/1/2021 – 11/22/2021 Confirmed Positive by Region



The census of hospitalized COVID+ patients has increased across all regions except Region 8. All Regions outside the Southeast have exceeded their spring wave peaks (Regions 1,3,5,6,7,8)

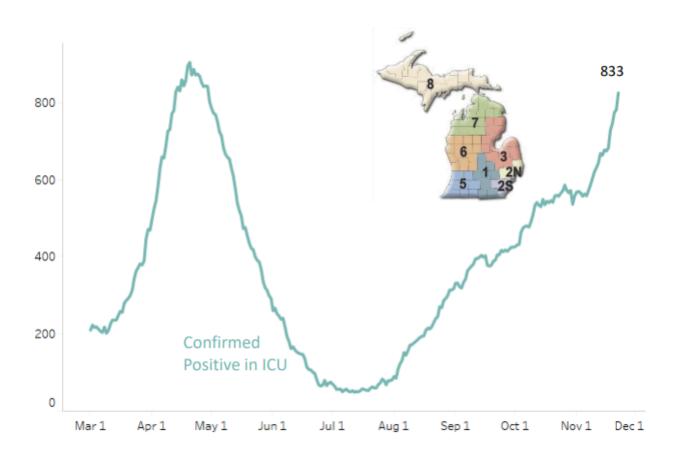
6 regions now have greater than 300/Million population hospitalized. Regions 2S and 3 now have greater than 400/Million population hospitalized.

Region	COVID+ Hospitalizations (% Δ from last week)	COVID+ Hospitalizations / MM
Region 1	363 (26%)	336/M
Region 2N	831 (20%)	375/M
Region 2S	930 (26%)	417/M
Region 3	546 (28%)	482/M
Region 5	256 ( <mark>20%)</mark>	269/M
Region 6	581 (14%)	396/M
Region 7	165 (18%)	330/M
Region 8	64 (-8%)	206/M

Source: MDHHS Data and Modelling: https://www.michigan.gov/documents/coronavirus/20211116\_Data\_and\_modeling\_update\_vMEDIA\_741480\_7.pdf

### Statewide Hospitalization Trends: ICU COVID+ Census

#### Hospitalization Trends 3/1/2021 – 11/22/2021 Confirmed Positive in ICUs



Overall, the census of COVID+ patients in ICUs has increased 23% from last week. ICU census is now >90% of the spring peak.

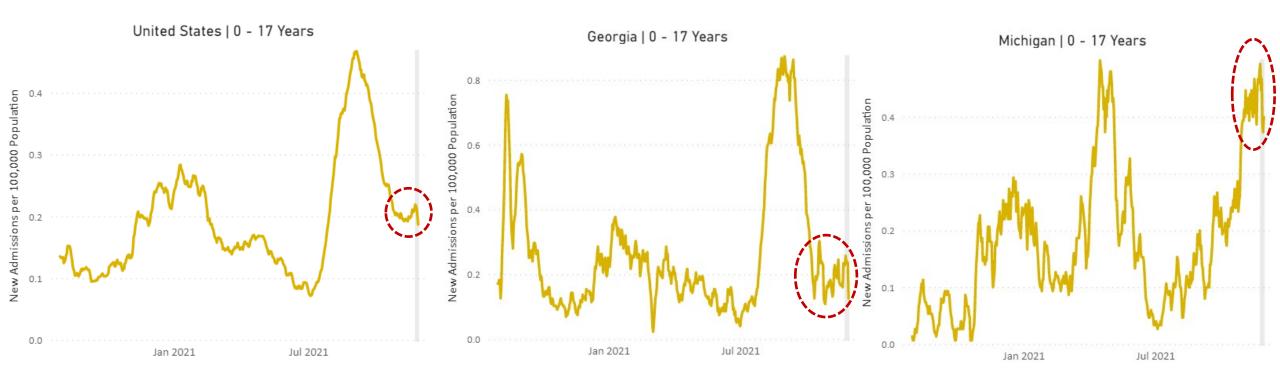
Regions 1, 2S, 3, 6, and 7 have overall adult ICU occupancy greater than or equal to 85%. Regions 1, 6 and 7 have greater than 40% of their adult ICU beds occupied with COVID+ patients.

Region	Adult COVID+ in ICU (% Δ from last week)	Adult ICU Occupancy	% of Adult ICU beds COVID+
Region 1	85 (23%)	90%	43%
Region 2N	142 (19%)	76%	25%
Region 2S	188 (29%)	88%	27%
Region 3	125 (17%)	92%	36%
Region 5	56 (22%)	77%	29%
Region 6	144 (24%)	89%	48%
Region 7	69 (47%)	90%	49%
Region 8	24 (26%)	73%	38%

Source: MDHHS Data and Modelling: https://www.michigan.gov/documents/coronavirus/20211116 Data and modeling update vMEDIA 741480 7.pdf

Other

### Pediatric Hospitalization Rates – USA, Georgia, Michigan



Pediatric hospitalization rates across the United States may be rebounding after a substantial decline. Most southern states (such as Georgia) have much lower rates than recent peaks. Michigan pediatric hospitalization rates continue to remain elevated at pandemic highs.

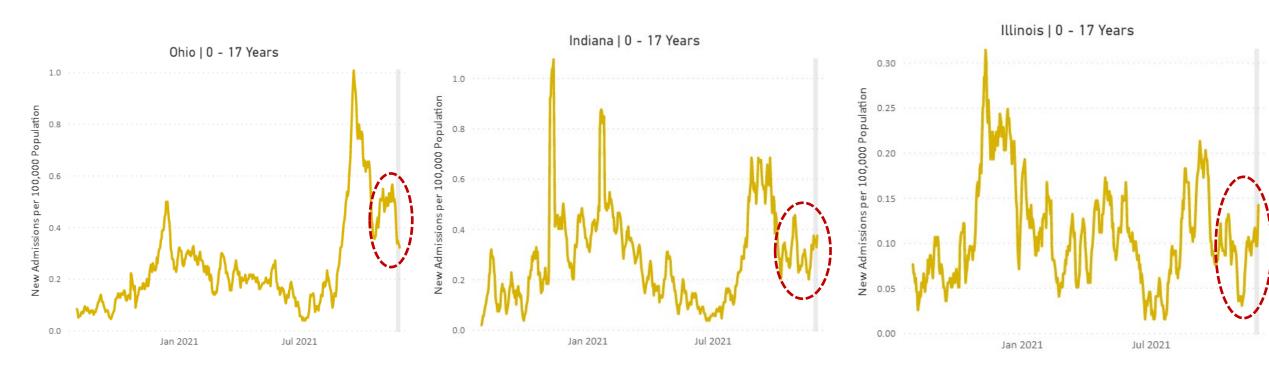
**Source:** https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#new-hospital-admissions

Accessed November 30, 2021

Hospitalizations

Risk Levels

### Pediatric Hospitalization Rates – Select Midwest States



Pediatric hospitalization rates in some states across the Midwest are elevated. Ohio may be decreasing. Indiana has plateaued while Illinois pediatric hospitalization rates may be rebounding.

Variants

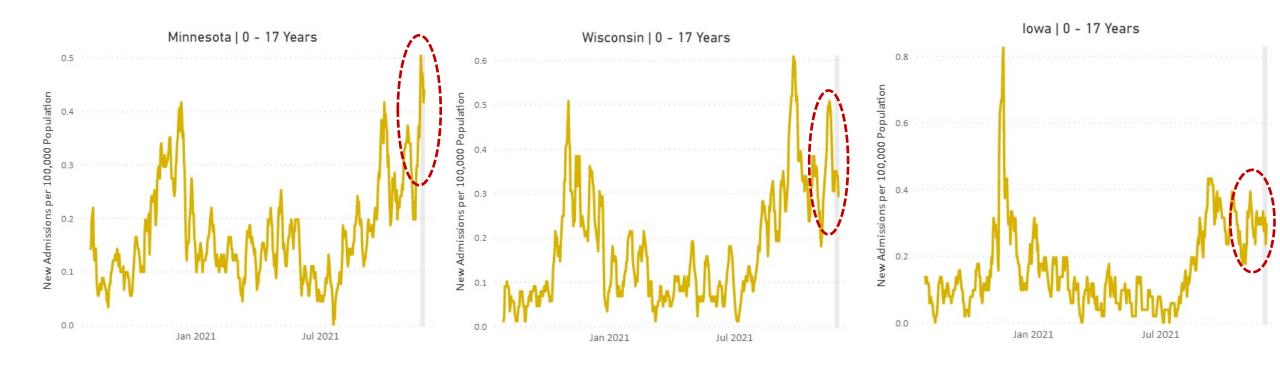
**Source:** https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#new-hospital-admissions

Accessed December 1, 2021

Science

Roundup

### Pediatric Hospitalization Rates – Select Midwest States



Pediatric hospitalization rates in Minnesota have reached pandemic highs, Wisconsin rates are mixed, and lowa continues showing a general plateau.

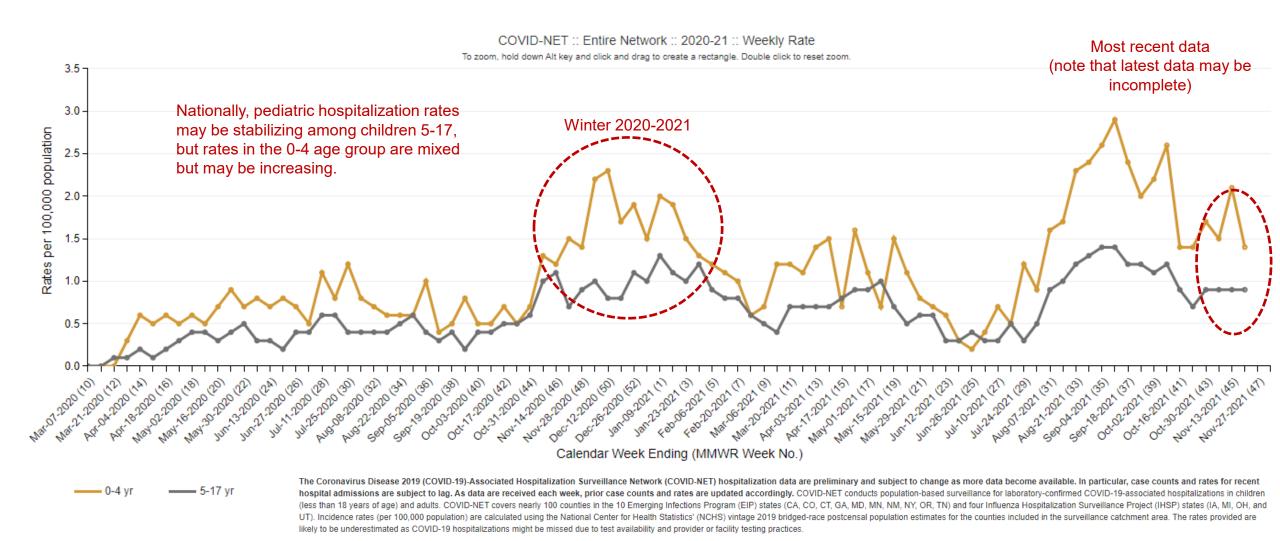
**Variants** 

**Source:** https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#new-hospital-admissions

Accessed December 1, 2021

Other

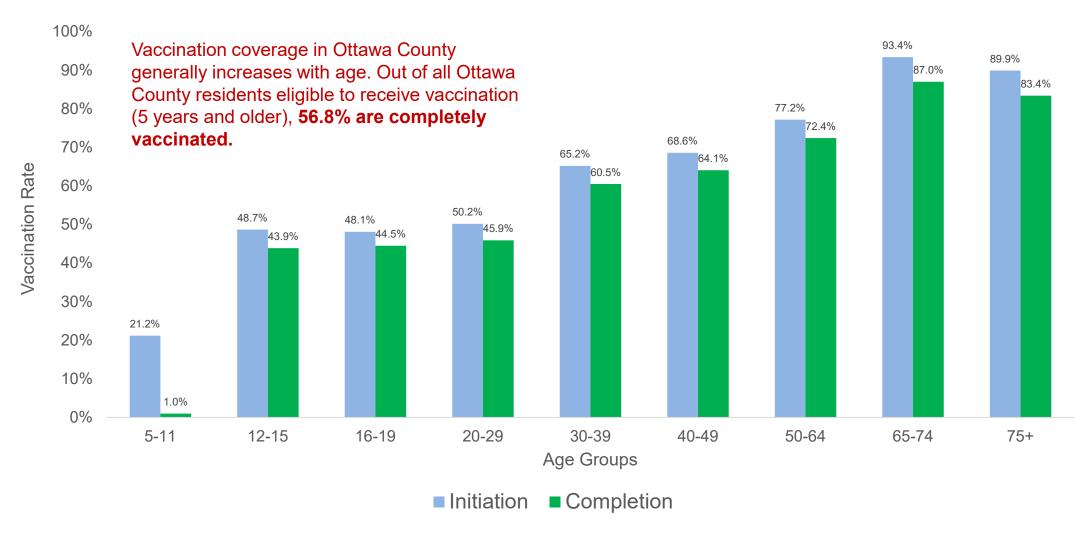
### Pediatric Hospitalization Rates by Age Group – USA



Source: https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#covidnet-hospitalization-network

Accessed November 23, 2021

### Vaccination Coverage by Age



#### Note:

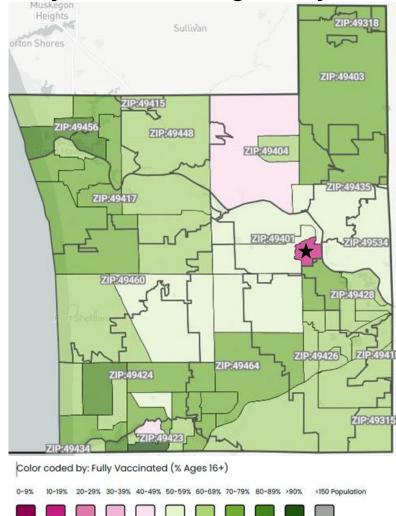
Completion is the percentage of people receiving 2 doses of Pfizer or Moderna or 1 dose of J&J.

Source: https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178 103214 103272-547150--,00.html

Data through November 30, 2021

### Vaccination Coverage by Place of Residence

#### Fully vaccinated: % Ages 16+ years

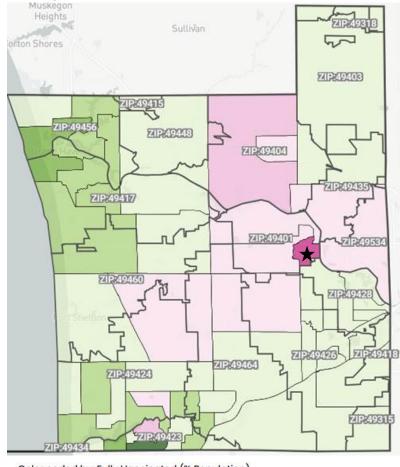


Vaccination rates vary across Ottawa County, but most areas have at least 50% of the population aged 16+ completely vaccinated (left).

When considering the entire population (not just those aged 16+), there are pockets of the county with much higher and much lower vaccination rates (right).

★ The vaccination rate for this census tract is likely underestimated because census estimates in this tract may be inflated by seasonal students at a large university.

#### Fully vaccinated: % Total Population



Color coded by: Fully Vaccinated (% Population)

20-29% 30-39% 40-49% 50-59% 60-69% 70-79% 80-89% >90%

Source: MI-Lighthouse Internal Dashboard

Science Roundup

### Cumulative Cases by Vaccination Status, Ottawa County, January 15, 2021 - November 27, 2021

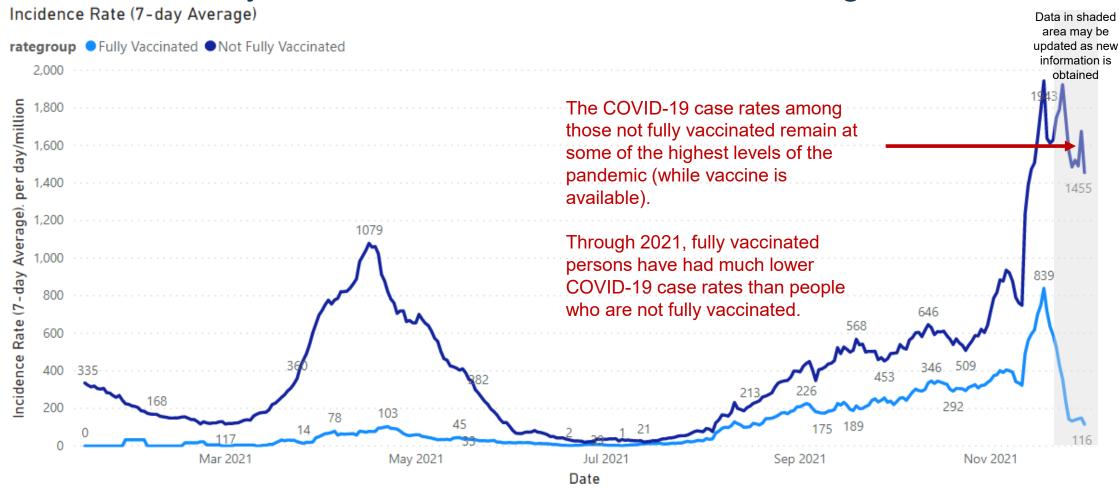
Fully Vaccinated People (154,833 )						
Cases	Hospitalizations	Deaths				
Percent of Cases in People	Percent of Hospitalizations in People	Percent of Deaths in People				
Not Fully Vaccinated	Not Fully Vaccinated	Not Fully Vaccinated				
(23,717 / 28,922)	(750 / 941)	(164 / 222)				
82.0%	79.7%	73.9%				
Total Cases Not Fully Vaccinated 23,717	Total Hospitalized Not Fully Vaccinated <b>750</b>	Total Deaths Not Fully Vaccinated 164				
Total Breakthrough Cases 5,205	Total Breakthrough Hospitalizations 191	Total Breakthrough Deaths 58				
Percent of Fully Vaccinated People who	Percent of Fully Vaccinated People who	Percent of Fully Vaccinated People who				
Developed COVID-19	were Hospitalized for COVID-19	Died of COVID-19				
(5,205 / 154,833)	(191 / 154,833)	(58 / 154,833)				
3.362%	0.123%	0.037%				
Percent of Cases who were	Percent of Hospitalizations who were	Percent of Deaths who were				
Fully Vaccinated	Fully Vaccinated	Fully Vaccinated				
(5,205 / 28,922)	(191 / 941)	(58 / 222)				
18.0%	20.3%	26.1%				
Total Cases	Total Hospitalizations	Total Deaths				
28,922	941	222				

#### Sources:

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Michigan Disease Surveillance System MDHHS COVID-19 Dashboard: https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178 103214 103272-547150--,00.html

Roundup

### Ottawa County COVID-19 Vaccination Breakthrough Case Trends



#### Method:

Daily case counts were obtained from the MDSS and summarized by referral date. Cases were compared to data from the State of Michigan immunization database to confirm COVID-19 vaccination status. Counts of persons completely vaccinated in Ottawa County were compiled from the Michigan COVID-19 vaccination dashboard. The total population denominator was obtained from CDC Wonder; the 2019 population estimate was used. Daily COVID-19 case rates were calculated and averaged over the previous 7 days; a rate of cases per day per million population was used. Cases inclinible for vaccination are included in this data.

#### Sources:

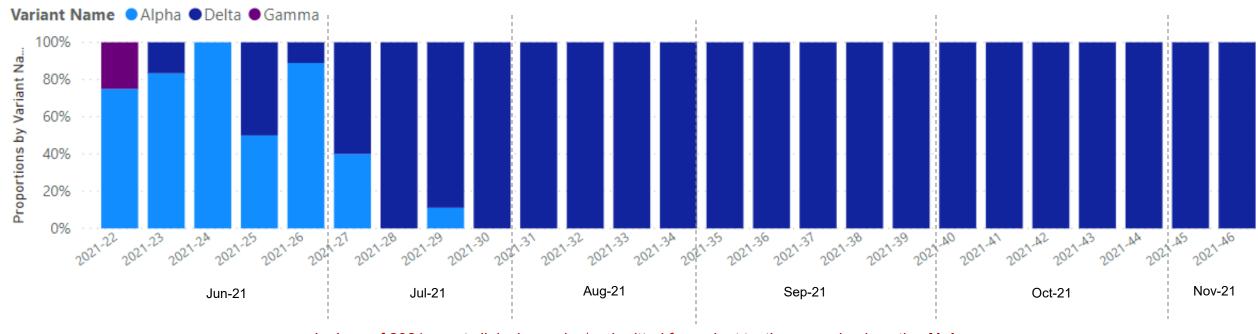
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Michigan Disease Surveillance System MDHHS COVID-19 Dashboard: https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0.9753.7-406-98178 103214 103272-547150--.00.html

> Science Roundup

Other

### Variants – Clinical Samples from Ottawa County Residents

#### Variant Proportions by Week



In June of 2021, most clinical samples\* submitted for variant testing came back as the **Alpha** variant. By the end of July 2021, all clinical samples tested were returned as the **Delta** variant. Since late July 2021 all clinical samples submitted for variant testing came back positive for the **Delta** variant, indicating that **Delta** remains the predominate variant in Ottawa County. Currently, there is little local evidence of any newly emerging variant.

Children

Science Roundup

Vaccinations

Other

<sup>\*</sup> Swabs from Ottawa County residents that tested positive for COVID-19 by PCR **Source:** Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Michigan Disease Surveillance System

Variants – Wastewater Sampling – Holland/Zeeland

		<u> </u>					
Sample Date	Site	Wuhan (parental)	Alpha	Beta	Gamma	Delta	Epsilon
9/2/2021	North Holland	Υ	N	N	N	N	N
9/3/2021	Zeeland	N	N	N	N	/ Y 1	N
9/6/2021	North Holland	Υ	N	N	N	/ Y	N
9/7/2021	Zeeland	N	N	N	N	N	N
9/9/2021	North Holland	N	N	N	N	Υ	N
9/10/2021	Zeeland	N	N	N	N	Υ	N
9/14/2021	Zeeland	N	N	N	N	Υ	N
9/16/2021	North Holland	N	N	N	N	N	N
9/21/2021	Zeeland	N	N	N	N	Υ	N
9/22/2021	North Holland	N	N	N	N	N	N
9/23/2021	Zeeland	N	N	N	N	Υ	N
9/26/2021	North Holland	Υ	N	N	N	Υ	N
9/29/2021	North Holland	N	N	N	N	Υ	N
9/30/2021	Zeeland	N	N	N	N	Υ	N
10/3/2021	North Holland	Υ	N	N	N	Υ	N
10/4/2021	Zeeland	N	N	N	N	Υ	N
10/6/2021	North Holland	N	N	N	N	N	N
10/7/2021	Zeeland	N	N	N	N	Υ	I N
10/10/2021	North Holland	N	N	N	N	Υ	N
10/11/2021	Zeeland	N	N	N	N	Υ	N
10/17/2021	North Holland	Υ	N	N	N	Υ	N
10/18/2021	Zeeland	N	N	N	N	Υ	N
10/20/2021	North Holland	Υ	N	N	N	N	N
10/21/2021	Zeeland	N	N	N	N	Υ	N
10/24/2021	North Holland	N	N	N	N	Υ	N
10/25/2021	Zeeland	N	N	N	N	Υ	N
10/27/2021	North Holland	N	N	N	N	Υ	N
10/28/2021	Zeeland	N	N	N	N I	Υ	I N
10/31/2021	North Holland	N	N	N	N	Υ	I N
11/1/2021	Zeeland	N	N	N	N	Υ	N
11/3/2021	North Holland	N	N	N	N	Υ	N
11/4/2021	Zeeland	N	N	N	N	Υ	N
11/7/2021	North Holland	N	N	N	N	Υ	N
11/8/2021	Zeeland	N	N	N	N	Υ	N
11/10/2021	North Holland	N	N	N	N	Υ	N
11/11/2021	Zeeland	N	N	N	N	Υ	N
11/14/2021	North Holland	Υ	N	N	N	Υ	N
11/15/2021	Zeeland	N	N	N	N	1 Y	N
11/17/2021	North Holland	N	N	N	N	Y	N
11/18/2021	Zeeland	N	N	N	N	N	N
11/21/2021	North Holland	N	N	N	N	Υ	N
11/22/2021	Zeeland	N	N	N	N	N /	N

The **Delta** variant was consistently detected in Holland and Zeeland wastewater samples through all October and most of November 2021, with no other variants detected in that same time frame. This data indicate that Delta remains the dominant variant in Ottawa County; there is little evidence of Delta being supplanted by a competing variant at this time.

N = Not Detected

USA & MI

= Detected

Source: Hope College Global Water Research Institute as part of the MDHHS SEWER-Network, Aaron Best, Ph.D. (best@hope.edu)

Risk Levels

### CDC Community Risk Transmission Levels & Metrics

Indicator - If the two indicators suggest different transmission levels, the higher level is selected	Low Transmission Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
Total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days	0-9.99	10-49.99	50-99.99	≥100
Percentage of NAATs <sup>1</sup> that are positive during the past 7 days	0-4.99%	5-7.99%	8-9.99%	≥10.0%

Ottawa's goal is to be in the Moderate category\*

Ottawa is in the High category right now

Variants

Source: https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view

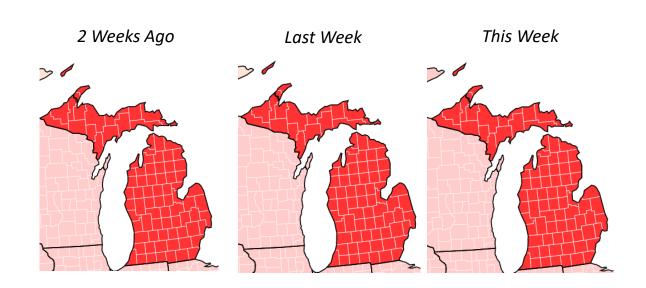
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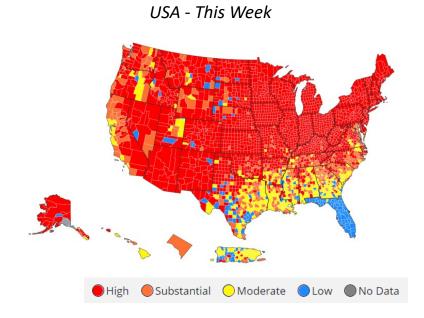
Children

<sup>\*</sup>After further analysis of Ottawa County case rate data, positivity data, and CDC Community Transmission Levels, on October 8, 2021 the Ottawa County Department of Public Health (OCDPH) relaxed one of the criteria that may be used to rescind the current school mask order. The criterion that set a threshold of a CDC Community Transmission Level of Low for 7 consecutive days was changed to a threshold of Moderate for 14 consecutive days.

### CDC Community Transmission Risk Levels – Ottawa County

- Current Risk Level in Ottawa **HIGH** (for last **15+** weeks)
- **Current Data:** 
  - Positivity = 22.72%
  - Case Rate = 554.43 cases per week per 100,000





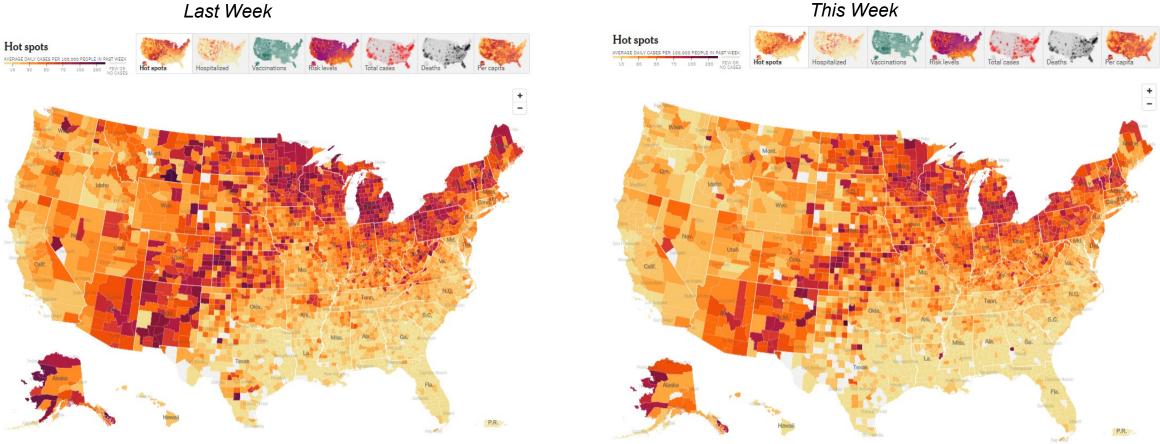
Data through November 27, 2021 for positivity and November 29, 2021 for case rates

Science

Source: https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view

Risk Levels Other Media Roundup

### COVID-19 Case Rates by County Across the US



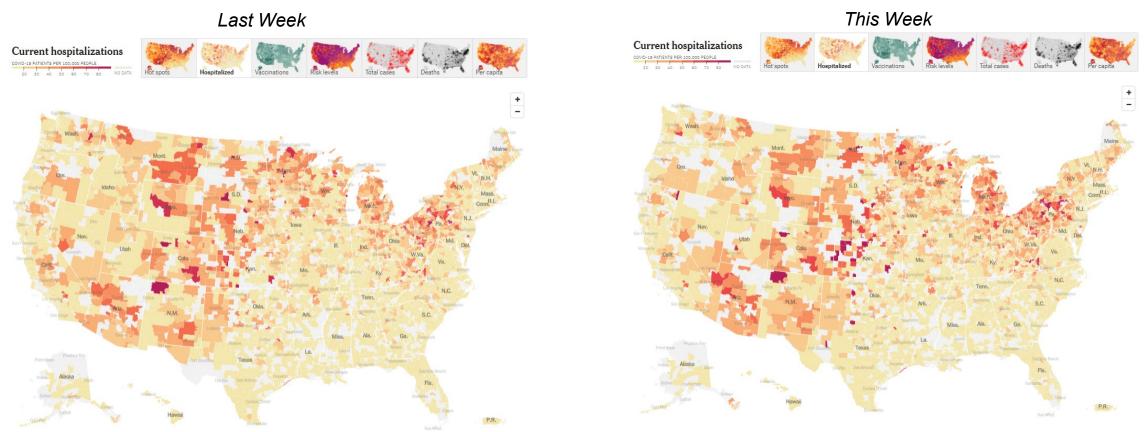
Case rates in the deep South have improved substantially and Appalachia remains stable. Alaska, the upper Midwest, some western states, and New England are experiencing elevated case rates. Michigan continues experiencing elevated case rates.

Variants

**Source:** https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/us/covid-cases.html

Accessed December 1, 2021

### COVID-19 Hospitalization Rates by County Across the US



Hospitalization rates continue to improve in the South and Appalachia, while some western states are experiencing elevated hospitalization rates. Pockets of Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Arizona and Pennsylvania are also seeing elevated hospitalizations. More areas in Michigan are seeing higher hospitalization rates this week.

Source: https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/us/covid-cases.html

# States and Michigan Counties with School Masking Requirements

 States/Districts (18): California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Mexico, New Jersey, New York, Nevada, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia, Washington, & Washington D.C.

### Michigan Counties (15):

- PreK/K-6: Kalamazoo, Kent, Marquette, Ottawa
- K-12: Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Genesee, Ingham, Leelanau, Oakland, Otsego, Washtenaw, and Wayne

### Rescinded County Mask Mandates (6):

Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Eaton, Iron, Dickinson

**Notes:** List may not be comprehensive; because children aged 5-11 years are now eligible for vaccination, Ottawa and Kent County's PreK-6 mask mandate is scheduled for rescinding on January 2, 2022. Kalamazoo County plans to rescind their school mask order on December 17 and Genesee County on December 22, 2021.

Variants

Children

### **COVID-19 News Headlines**

# Spectrum Health adds new visitor restrictions amid COVID surge

https://www.hollandsentinel.com/story/news/coronavirus/2021/11/23/spectrum-health-adds-new-visitor-restrictions-amid-covid-surge/8732179002/

This COVID-19 surge is 'worse, more challenging' for hospitals, Kent County's top health official says

https://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/2021/11/this-covid-19-surge-is-worse-more-challenging-for-hospitals-kent-countys-top-health-official-says.html

**COVID-19** transmission in Allegan County at fastest rate since the start of the pandemic

https://community99.com/covid-19-transmission-in-allegan-county-at-fastest-rate-since-the-start-of-the-pandemic/

## Feds to send staff to Michigan hospitals to treat COVID-19 patients as pandemic rages

https://news.yahoo.com/feds-send-staff-michigan-hospitals-170026885.html

## Ambulances divert to other medical facilities as COVID pushes hospitals to max capacity

https://www.fox17online.com/news/local-news/ambulances-are-being-told-to-divert-because-some-area-hospitals-are-full

#### FDA advisory panel narrowly endorses Merck's oral Covid treatment pill, despite reduced efficacy and safety questions

https://www.cnbc.com/2021/11/30/fda-advisory-panel-narrowly-endorses-mercks-oral-covid-treatment-pill-despite-reduced-efficacy.html

Other

### Science Roundup

Elapsed time since BNT162b2 vaccine and risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection: test negative design study

A large study out of Israel showed that the Pfizer vaccine series may wane over time.

https://www.bmi.com/content/375/bmi-2021-067873

Antibody titers before and after booster doses of SARS-CoV-2 mRNA vaccines in healthy adults

https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.11.19.21266555v1.full.pdf

A small preprint study out of Northwestern University (Chicago, IL) suggests that antibody response after Pfizer booster is strong and may exceed levels induced by infection-induced immunity.

Odds of Testing Positive for SARS-CoV-2 Following Receipt of 3 vs 2 Doses of the BNT162b2 mRNA Vaccine

https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamainternalmedicine/fullarticle/2786890



Variants

Another study out of Israel showed a reduction in the odds of testing positive for COVID-19 after receiving a Pfizer booster, compared to those receiving only 2 doses of the primary series.