



COVID-19 OUTBREAK

COVID-19 BRIEFING - 290.1

JANUARY 18, 2022

For Operational Period: January 10 2021—January 18 2022

WORLDWIDE

332,001,132 Cases

5,565,957 Deaths

UNITED STATES

67,631,191 Cases

874,321 Deaths

MICHIGAN

1,984,056 Cases

30,709 Deaths

OUT-WAYNE COUNTY

220,703 Cases

3,773 Deaths

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

- The outlook for economic growth in the first quarter and 2022 is darkening amid the latest wave of Covid-19, as consumers grapple with high inflation and businesses juggle labor and production disruptions. Forecasters slashed their expectation for growth in the first quarter by more than a percentage point, to a 3% annual rate from their forecast of 4.2% in the October survey. The combination of higher inflation, supply-chain constraints and the fast-spreading Omicron variant caused economists to trim their forecast for growth to 3.3% for the current year as a whole, based on the change in inflation-adjusted gross domestic product in the fourth quarter of 2022 from a year earlier, from 3.6% in October. Last year, output rose 5.2%, economists estimate. The current pandemic-related shortage of workers is expected to keep wages rising at an intense clip over the next few months, as employers offer higher pay packets to retain and hire staff. Economists expect average hourly earnings to be up 4.9% from a year earlier in June; they rose 4.7% in December. - **Wall Street Journal**
- A wave of Omicron cases may be cresting in the northeastern United States, but the number of Covid-19 patients is at a record high and climbing, overwhelming hospitals whose staffs have been hollowed out by the coronavirus. Public health leaders warn that while the number of Americans getting infected every day remains dangerously high, there is no guarantee that the population is building enough natural immunity to hasten the day the virus becomes a manageable part of daily life. The United States is averaging over 790,000 new daily cases, a tally that includes an artificially low count on Monday, when many states did not release new data because of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday. Deaths now exceed 1,900 a day, up 54 percent over the past two weeks. Even before the holiday weekend, daily cases had peaked in New York and other Northeastern states. According to a New York Times database, cases in the region peaked on Jan. 10-11. In due course the immunity from Omicron (or boosters, or both) will wane and breakthrough infections will be possible, but are expected to be milder. This will not establish 'herd immunity,' as outbreaks will be possible. However, their consequences will be much less severe. - **The Guardian**
- Omicron's ubiquity and reduced severity are encouraging some people to drop pandemic precautions, decisions that public-health experts say present new risks for people at risk of severe Covid-19 outcomes. People, including those who got vaccinated and boosted and curtailed their activities for months, are letting their guard down in the face of a variant that appears to be infecting everyone but causing largely mild illness. This is a dangerous way of thinking, doctors and scientists say: Omicron still poses risks to more vulnerable people, including the elderly, immunocompromised and those with underlying health conditions. Some doctors say they are also worried about Omicron resulting in more long-Covid cases, which can result in lingering and worsening symptoms months after infection, as well as questions of new variants arising with such widespread infection. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention encourages people to avoid nonessential travel and eating inside restaurants. But some people say that they are tired of waiting to reconvene with other people and the world, and that they believe the risks of the pandemic have declined. -**CDC**

ACTIONS TAKEN

[MI COVID Alert](#)

[Find a Testing Site Near You](#)

[Return to School Roadmap](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Wayne County](#)

[Michigan.gov/coronavirus](#)

[Small Business Best Practices](#)

[MDHHS Epidemic Orders](#)

[COVID-19 Educational Materials](#)

[Find a Vaccine Site Near You](#)

- The Public Health Emergency Operations Center (PHOC) is at FULL ACTIVATION.

USEFUL RESOURCES



Wayne County Department of
Health, Human & Veterans Services
Public Health Division

Prepared by: Wayne County Emergency Preparedness

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Disaster Distress Helpline: 1-800-985-5990

National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233 and TTY 1-800-787-3224

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Wayne County Department of
Health, Human & Veterans Services
Public Health Division