COVID-19 Outbreak
COVID-19 Briefing - 284.1
November 29, 2021

For Operational Period: November 22, 2021—November 29, 2021

WORLDWIDE
261,900,248 Cases
5,220,255 Deaths

UNITED STATES
49,099,590 Cases
799,414 Deaths

MICHIGAN
1,296,937 Cases
22,096 Deaths

OUT-WAYNE COUNTY
150,293 Cases
3,148 Deaths

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

- Major travel destinations including the European Union, Japan, Australia, the United States and Canada have moved to block flights from African countries following the discovery of the Omicron variant, echoing previous emergency responses that triggered a global freeze on travel. The speed with which the new restrictions were put in place -- just hours after the South African health authorities announced the discovery of the variant, meant passengers have found themselves stranded without a warning. While scientists in South Africa were the first to identify the new variant, it is unclear whether it emerged there or was brought there from another country. Despite the bans, the new variant has already been found in at least a dozen countries. Most of the cases detected have been in travelers returning from the region. At least 13 passengers from South Africa tested positive for the variant after landing at Schiphol Airport in Amsterdam on Friday. This came after the Netherlands imposed new travel restrictions amid concerns over an aggressive mutation of the novel coronavirus. US President Joe Biden will restrict travel from South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Lesotho, Eswatini, Mozambique and Malawi starting Monday, administration officials told CNN. –**CNN**

- The emergence of the newly identified Omicron coronavirus variant feels like a pandemic gut check. Scientists have long known that the world would see emerging coronavirus variants. Viruses mutate constantly. But when South Africa's health minister announced Thursday the discovery of the B.1.1.529 variant, which appears to be spreading rapidly in parts of the country, it was the strongest reminder yet that the pandemic is not over. Inside the government, it is seen as inevitable that the new variant will appear in the US at some point, but the new restrictions should give federal health agencies and their global counterparts more time to learn about the variant, including the severity of the disease it causes. Officials do not believe, based on current surveillance, that the variant is in the US yet. –**CNN**

- The World Health Organization quickly convened a group of advisers and designated the B.1.1.529 strain a "variant of concern," giving it the Greek name Omicron. WHO also called on countries to enhance their surveillance and sequencing efforts to better understand coronavirus variants. Vaccine makers were fast to identify the variant as a concern. Moderna said the Omicron variant represents a 'significant potential risk' to its Covid-19 vaccine. "The recently described Omicron variant includes mutations seen in the Delta variant that are believed to increase transmissibility and mutations seen in the Beta and Delta variants that are believed to promote immune escape. The combination of mutations represents a significant potential risk to accelerate the waning of natural and vaccine-induced immunity," Moderna said. –**CNN**

ACTIONS TAKEN

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

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

USEFUL RESOURCES

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

Prepared by: Wayne County Emergency Preparedness

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