



COVID-19 OUTBREAK

COVID-19 BRIEFING - 285.1

NOVEMBER 07, 2021

For Operational Period: November 29, 2021—November 07, 2021

WORLDWIDE

266,886,892 Cases

5,281,562 Deaths

UNITED STATES

50,149,325 Cases

810,254 Deaths

MICHIGAN

1,535,147 Cases

26,239 Deaths

OUT-WAYNE COUNTY

159,793 Cases

3,266 Deaths

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

- Early reports from South Africa seem to indicate the omicron variant of coronavirus is much more contagious than previous variants while causing milder disease, though experts there warn definitive data won't be available for weeks. COVID-19 cases in South Africa's Gauteng province are doubling every day and 75% of infections are due to omicron. There is also a week-over-week increase in hospital admissions. But so far there have not been an increase in deaths or even hospitalized people who require oxygen, said Greene, who spoke on a call with reporters Monday. As of Monday, it has been detected in more than 38 countries and one-third of U.S. states. Omicron had more than 50 mutations and appears to be far more contagious than the delta variant. Overall, news of the variant's transmissibility and virulence could be good news, with the understanding that certainty is weeks away, say experts. "It would be a great thing if, in fact, omicron crowded out delta. If omicron was a less pathogenic virus, that would be very good news for the human race," said Greene. It also makes sense for the virus to evolve in the direction of being less dangerous, said Dr. Paul Offit, director of the Vaccine Education Center at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia —**USA Today**
- The Michigan health department updated quarantine recommendations for schools to help prevent transmission of the coronavirus and keep students in the classroom. State health officials continue to recommend universal masking in all K-12 school settings, but have not issued a mask mandate, leaving individual school districts or counties to decide whether to have such a rule. Last month, the health officials issued a public health advisory recommending everyone over the age of 2 wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status, at indoor gatherings as the state is in the throes of its fourth coronavirus surge. There were 46 new coronavirus outbreaks statewide in K-12 schools and 511 ongoing outbreaks in these settings, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services reported Monday. The updated guidance, released Friday, indicates students exposed to coronavirus cases may not have to quarantine at home and can stay in the classroom. —**Detroit Free Press**
- The omicron variant of the virus that causes COVID-19 has been found in Houston's wastewater, the Houston Health Department announced Monday night. "The detection is the first indication the new variant is in Houston, although a case has not yet been confirmed in the city," the department said. Wastewater samples collected between Nov. 29 and Nov. 30 showed omicron at eight of the city's 39 wastewater treatment plants, and the genomic sequencing results confirming the variant were received Monday evening. "Vaccines help protect us, our loved ones, friends, and colleagues in the work environment. As the holidays approach, I encourage everyone to remain vigilant about their health and safety." The health department said it routinely tests the city's wastewater for COVID-19, including variants, and recently started testing samples for omicron, as "people infected with COVID-19 shed the virus in their feces." "The wastewater data helps to more quickly identify emerging outbreaks and hotspots needing interventions to help stop the spread of the virus," the health department added. — **abc NEWS**

ACTIONS TAKEN

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

USEFUL RESOURCES

[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](#)

Disaster Distress Helpline: 1-800-985-5990

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



Wayne County Department of
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Public Health Division

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