



# COVID-19 OUTBREAK

## COVID-19 BRIEFING - 283.1

NOVEMBER 22, 2021

For Operational Period: November 15, 2021—November 22, 2021

### WORLDWIDE

257,976,612 Cases

5,170,919 Deaths

### UNITED STATES

48,592,810 Cases

793,651 Deaths

### MICHIGAN

1,408,410 Cases

24,841 Deaths

### OUT-WAYNE COUNTY

144,137 Cases

3,125 Deaths

## SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

- In the hunt for COVID-19 treatments, several drugs have shown promise. Currently, the two oral antivirals, Molnupiravir, from Merck, and Paxlovid, from Pfizer, are being hailed by many as the answer to the pandemic. However, there are still some questions about their efficacy and safety, so the search for safe, effective treatments continues. Now, an observational study has shown that some of the most common prescription antidepressants may reduce both the severity of COVID-19 and mortality from the disease. Researchers from the University of California and Stanford University School of Medicine carried out a retrospective cohort study of 83,584 people with a COVID-19 diagnosis. They discovered that individuals taking SSRIs had a lower relative risk of death than those who were not. This study adds to evidence from previous research into the effects of SSRIs.—**MedicalNewsToday**
- New Zealand will adopt a new system of living with the coronavirus virus from Dec. 3, which will end tough restrictions and allow businesses to operate in its biggest city, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said on Monday. New Zealand remained largely COVID-19 free until August but has been unable to beat an outbreak of the highly infectious Delta variant, forcing Ardern to abandon an elimination strategy and switch to treating the virus as endemic. Its biggest city Auckland has been in lockdown for over 90 days, although some measures were eased recently. The new system will rate regions as red, orange or green depending on their level of exposure to COVID-19 and vaccination rates. Auckland, the epicentre of the Delta outbreak, will start at red, making face masks mandatory and putting limits on gatherings at public places. New Zealand ended quarantine free travel with Australia in August after a new Delta outbreak there, and has kept its borders tightly sealed.— **Reuters**
- Tens of thousands of people have been marching in the Belgian capital, Brussels, to protest against anti-Covid measures. Some protesters threw fireworks at police officers, who intervened with tear gas and water cannon. Demonstrators are mainly opposed to the use of Covid passes, which stops the unvaccinated from entering venues such as restaurants or bars. This comes after fresh protests in the Netherlands against new lockdown rules.— **Reuters**
- Riots broke out in cities across the Netherlands on Sunday, the third night in a row that police clashed with mobs of angry youths who set fires and threw rocks to protest COVID-19 restrictions. Responding to the worst disturbances since a full lockdown led to widespread disorder and more than 500 arrests in January, police said five officers had been injured overnight Saturday and at least 64 people detained in three provinces, including dozens who threw fireworks and fences during a soccer match at Feyenoord Rotterdam's stadium. Among the most serious confrontations on Saturday night were those in The Hague, where the five officers were hurt, one of them seriously, a police statement said. Police carried out charges on horseback and arrested 19 people, one of them for throwing a rock through the window of a passing ambulance.—**Reuters**

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## ACTIONS TAKEN

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



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

Prepared by: Wayne County Emergency Preparedness

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## USEFUL RESOURCES



**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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**Health, Human & Veterans Services**  
*Public Health Division*