



COVID-19 OUTBREAK

COVID-19 BRIEFING - 289.1

JANUARY 03, 2022

For Operational Period: December 27 2021—January 03 2022

WORLDWIDE

290,769,426 Cases

5,462,045 Deaths

UNITED STATES

56,142,175 Cases

847,408 Deaths

MICHIGAN

1,710,271 Cases

29,019 Deaths

OUT-WAYNE COUNTY

183,019 Cases

3,577 Deaths

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

- As hospitals already strained by the Delta variant threaten to buckle under a crush of patients infected with the even more contagious Omicron, Americans should focus more on the threat the winter wave poses to hospitals and less on the record number of cases. Over the past week, an average of more than 401,200 cases has been reported each day in the United States, tripling from two weeks ago and the first time the number has topped 400,000, according to a New York Times database. Hospitalizations were by comparison up 33 percent, however, to 92,300, while deaths had dropped 4 percent to an average of 1,249 daily. It's unclear how many hospitalizations are patients infected with Omicron rather than the Delta variant, which scientists believe is significantly more virulent. According to the latest data from the CDC, for the week ending Dec. 25, Omicron accounted for over 58 percent of new cases versus over 41 percent for Delta. The number of cases has exploded because the Omicron variant seems to be much more contagious and able to evade vaccines than other earlier variants, which has spurred more widespread testing. Also, even if Omicron is milder, as most evidence suggests, a higher caseload means more health care workers who cannot work because they test positive as well as more chances that people could get sick enough to require medical care.— **New York Times**
- The U.S. is considering recommending that individuals exposed to Covid end isolation if they've tested negative for the virus after five days, U.S. infectious disease expert Dr. Anthony Fauci said Sunday. The move could come after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention faced harsh feedback for its decision last week to reduce Covid-19 isolation periods for asymptomatic people to five days from 10, even if the individual continues to test positive. So far, U.S. health officials have been on the defense about the change. "In the second half of the 10-day period, which would normally be a 10-day isolation period, the likelihood of transmissibility is considerably lower in that second half. For that reason, the CDC made the judgment that it would be relatively low risk to get people out," Fauci said on CNN. CDC Director Rochelle Walensky said last week that the agency avoided recommending testing out of isolation because the science was unclear on whether rapid antigen tests are a good indication of transmissibility. Meantime, PCR tests can show the illness for months.—**CNBC**

ACTIONS TAKEN

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

USEFUL RESOURCES

Disaster Distress Helpline: 1-800-985-5990

[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](#)

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

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