



COVID-19 OUTBREAK

COVID-19 BRIEFING - 279.1

OCTOBER 18, 2021

For Operational Period: October 12, 2021—October 18, 2021

WORLDWIDE

241,559,175 Cases

4,915,987 Deaths

UNITED STATES

45,792,532 Cases

744,546 Deaths

MICHIGAN

1,219,715 Cases

22,969 Deaths

OUT-WAYNE COUNTY

120,744 Cases

2,660 Deaths

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

- Countries in Asia are rushing to place orders for the latest weapon against Covid-19: an antiviral pill that isn't even authorized for use yet. Molnupiravir -- produced by US pharmaceutical company Merck -- is being heralded as a potential pandemic game changer, especially for those unable to get vaccinated. Merck is seeking US Food and Drug Administration emergency use authorization for the drug -- and if it's granted, the capsule will become the first oral antiviral treatment against Covid-19. And they caution that Asia's race to stock up on the pill could see a repeat of the vaccine grab last year, when wealthier countries were accused of hoarding doses as lower-income countries missed out. — **CNN**
- Talk of the need for coronavirus booster shots has prompted many Americans to seek antibody tests. Both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration advise against using antibody tests to determine one's level of immunity against covid-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus. So does the Infectious Disease Society of America, which represents infectious-disease specialists. Antibody levels do help health-care providers establish whether a patient has immunity against other, more familiar infectious diseases, such as measles and hepatitis A and B. But doctors say our relatively short experience with covid-19 hasn't yet provided the same information. — **Reuters**
- Millions of people in the United States are eligible to get a coronavirus vaccine booster shot, but the confusing regulatory process can make it hard to figure out if you are one of them. Now that most U.S. adults are vaccinated and children under 12 will probably be eligible soon, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has begun to recommend a booster dose for high-risk adults to supercharge the immune system's ability to fight off the coronavirus and protect against its most serious effects. Whether the CDC recommends you get one depends on your age, health, living situation, job, how long ago you were originally vaccinated and which vaccine you received. Not every jurisdiction or health-care provider follows CDC recommendations, so some may use different criteria to determine who can get a booster and which one they should get. —**The Washington Post**

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

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

Prepared by: Wayne County Emergency Preparedness

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