



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kalamazoo School Superintendents
FROM: Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department
DATE: 12/07/20
RE: Weekly School Communication

Below, you will find our commentary from this week's meeting. As a reminder, there is no one piece of data that can accurately convey the status of COVID-19 in our community. Looking at several trends together gives a more complete picture. This is information you can share with your administration and boards.

Key data points:

A. The overall trend of COVID-19 cases in Kalamazoo County:

1. MERC Region Phase: 4
 - a. Schools open for in-person instruction with more stringent required safety protocols.
2. Current County Risk Determination Level: E
 - a. Per the Mi Safe Start Map: https://mistartmap.info/county_risk_levels. MDHHS assigns the County Risk Determination Level per defined individual indicators for the county or region. Individual indicators include test results (percent positive tests and number of new tests over prior 7 days) and new cases (number of daily cases/million, threshold ranges, and number of daily new cases)
3. From the beginning of the pandemic through 12/07 at 10am, there have been a total of 10,397 confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases, 257 hospitalizations, and 179 deaths. Hospital admissions (those that have tested positive for COVID-19) include 79 for the month of November. To date, there are 12 hospital admissions for the month of December.
4. Kalamazoo County is still experiencing significantly elevated COVID-19 cases within our community. Our hospital system is closely watching the number of hospitalizations. They share the Health Department's concern for the elevated number of cases within the community as we are in flu and cold season. The hospital systems do not indicate further capacity issues at this time. The health department continues to prioritize disease investigation and contact tracing efforts. MDHHS's November 18 Epidemic Order is in effect until December 8 at 11:59 PM. MDHHS's December 7 Epidemic Order is in effect starting December 9

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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at 12:01 AM through December 20 at 11:59 PM). Orders and additional information can be found here: <https://www.kalcounty.com/hcs/covid19.php>. The health department is prioritizing planning efforts for the arrival and administration of the COVID Vaccine.

B. COVID cases daily average November 17 – December 7:

<https://www.kalcounty.com/hcs/datahub/covid19.php>

1. 7-day average of daily cases (Dec. 1-7) = 98
2. 14-day average of daily cases (Nov. 24-Dec. 7) = 131
3. 21-day average of daily cases (Nov. 17-Dec. 7) = 133
 - a. The current data tells us that the daily average number of cases continues to be at a significantly elevated number. There is a slight two-week downward trend occurring. The health department is closely watching the data trend, especially since we are coming off the recent Thanksgiving holiday activities. Current risk level for daily case average per Mi Safe Start Map is at an E (E level is \geq 150 cases daily per million).

C. The percentage of positive COVID tests for November 11 – December 2:

<https://www.mistartmap.info/>

1. On December 2, the 7-day average of % positive rate = 13.1%
2. On November 25, the 7-day average of % positive rate = 10.9%
3. On November 18, the 7-day average of % positive rate = 12.5%
4. On November 11, the 7-day average of % positive rate = 13.5%
 - a. Many factors can influence percent positivity, including the increased use of rapid antigen testing. Negative rapid test results often do not get reported to the health department. As the amount of rapid testing increases, this will influence the percent positivity.
 - b. This information tells us that the percent positivity is still at a significant elevated level. This is a similar trend with our bordering counties as well as the State of Michigan. Current risk level per Mi Safe Start Map has moved to a C (C level is 10-15% positivity).

D. Health care capacity strength:

1. Steady – PPE is in supply and hospital capacity continues to be available.

E. Testing, tracing and containment infrastructure with regard to COVID:

1. Test turnaround times are between 48 hours to 3 days (in some cases we have seen it stretch to up to 5 days). Resources are available for testing. The number of tests available in Kalamazoo County continues to increase.
2. Public health continues case investigation and contact tracing for specific populations. Effective immediately, the health department is prioritizing due to staff resources constraints.

F. Schools:

1. The Health Department is in support of all models selected by school districts.
2. New MDHHS Epidemic Order extends through December 20. High school must stay virtual. All athletics must be cancelled. Pre-kindergarten through grade 8 is permitted stay in-person/hybrid, subject to local health department and school district decision.
3. Maintaining conditions for in-person/hybrid education in schools (following the MDHHS Epidemic Order) continues to be a high priority for the Health Department.
4. School districts' data dashboards reports (cumulative totals for 20-21 school year):
 - a. 12/04 as of 10am: 255 positive COVID-19 cases within schools out of 10,397 cases countywide. This represent **2.45%** of Kalamazoo County's total positive cases.
 - b. 11/30 as of 10am: 234 positive COVID-19 cases within schools out of 9,578 cases countywide. This represent **2.44%** of Kalamazoo County's total positive cases.
 - c. 11/23 as of 10am: 214 positive COVID-19 cases within schools out of 8,578 cases countywide. This represent **2.49%** of Kalamazoo County's total positive cases.
 - d. 11/16 as of 10am: 188 positive COVID-19 cases within schools out of 7,450 cases countywide. This represent **2.52%** of Kalamazoo County's total positive cases.
 - e. 11/09 as of 9am: 156 positive COVID-19 cases within the schools out of 6,382 cases countywide. This represents **2.44%** of Kalamazoo County's total positive cases.
 - f. 11/02 as of 9am: 107 positive COVID-19 cases within the schools out of 5,390 cases countywide. This represents **1.96%** of Kalamazoo County's total positive cases.

Note: After further review, the health department has provided guidance on the reporting requirements. Schools no longer need to report virtual cases. 10/28 through 11/09 include virtual numbers.

Resources:

<https://www.mistartmap.info/>

<https://www.kalcounty.com/hcs/datahub/covid19.php>