



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kalamazoo School Superintendents
FROM: Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department
DATE: March 1, 2021
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: D
2. Current County Risk Determination Level: D
 - a. Per the Mi Safe Start Map: https://mistartmap.info/county_risk_levels: Kalamazoo MERC region is at 4.1% positivity, and there are 94.9 cases per million residents. Five percent of inpatient bed are occupied by patients with COVID-19. The death rate is 2.4 deaths per million people, and all four metrics are in decline.
3. From the beginning of the pandemic through 3/1/21 at 10am, there have been a total of 15,076 confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases, 540 hospitalizations, and 319 deaths. Hospital admissions (those that have tested positive for COVID-19) include 22 for the month of February.
4. Kalamazoo County has an upward trend for number of new cases and a one-week upward trend for test positivity rate. The hospital systems do not indicate capacity issues at this time. The Health Department is prioritizing staff resources for COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics: vaccinating those in Phase 1A, adults 65 years and older, and prioritized frontline workers (K-12 employees, early learning centers, first responders not in Phase 1A, corrections workers, and congregate homes staff). For Kalamazoo County K-12 employees that are in face-to-face or hybrid learning, out of the approximate 80% who expressed interest in receiving the vaccine, approximately 87% have received dose 1.

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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B. COVID cases daily average February 16-March1:

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

1. 7-day average of daily cases (Feb. 23 - Mar. 1) = 25
2. 14-day average of daily cases (Feb. 16 – Mar. 1) = 27
 - a. Current risk level for daily case average per million per the Mi Safe Start Map is at D (C level is 70-1500 cases daily per million).

C. The percentage of positive COVID tests for January 20 – February 17:

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

1. On February 24, the 7 day average of % positive rate = 5.0%
2. On February 17, the 7 day average of % positive rate = 3.7%
3. On February 3, the 7 day average of % positive rate = 5.4%
4. On January 27, the 7 day average of % positive rate = 6.2%
 - a. This information tells us that the percent positivity is on a one-week upward trend. Current risk level per Mi Safe Start Map is an A (A level is 3-7% 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. Maintaining conditions for in-person/hybrid education in schools (following the MDHHS Epidemic Order) continues to be a high priority for the Health Department.
3. School districts' data dashboards reports (cumulative totals for 20-21 school year):
 - a. 3/1 as of 10am: 398 positive COVID-19 cases within schools out of 15,076 cases countywide. This represent **2.64%** of Kalamazoo County's total positive cases.
 - b. 2/22 as of 10am: 398 positive COVID-19 cases within schools out of 14,798 cases countywide. This represent **2.69%** of Kalamazoo County's total positive cases.

- c. 2/8 as of 10am: 390 positive COVID-19 cases within schools out of 14,490 cases countywide. This represent **2.69%** of Kalamazoo County's total positive cases.
- d. 2/1 as of 10am: 379 positive COVID-19 cases within schools out of 14,303 cases countywide. This represent **2.65%** of Kalamazoo County's total positive cases.

G. COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution & Administration

1. Kalamazoo County health department is following the MDHHS Vaccine Prioritization Guidance with the limited vaccine supply we are receiving. Our focus remains on vaccinating Phase 1A, adults 65 years and older, and prioritized frontline workers (K-12 employees, early learning centers, first responders not in Phase 1A, corrections workers, and congregate homes staff). We have not made it to vaccinating other frontline essential workers, those considered Phase 1B, Group C. This is due to the limited vaccine supply we are receiving. In MDHHS's preliminary vaccination timeline, they estimate May 2021 for this group - other frontline essential workers - to expect vaccine administration to begin. This timeline could change based on vaccine availability. To learn more about MDHHS Vaccine Prioritization Guidance and their timeline, visit: https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178_103214---,00.html
2. Vaccination is dependent on vaccine supply received from the State. Shipment of vaccine supply has been limited. Vaccine supply will largely be the determining factor for when Kalamazoo County can move into the next phase.
3. Kalamazoo County Health Department is exhausting 90% of vaccine supply within 7 days of receiving it.

Resources:

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

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

https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178_103214---,00.html