



# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Kalamazoo School Superintendents  
FROM: Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department  
DATE: 11/02/2020  
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](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 11/2 at 10am, there have been a total of 5,390 confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases, 238 hospitalizations, and 114 deaths. There are 42 hospital admissions for the month of October who have tested positive for COVID-19.
4. From October 27-November 2, Kalamazoo County has seen an average of 66 new cases per day. This is a very slight decrease from the 14-day trend of 68 new cases per day.
5. While Kalamazoo County is experiencing significantly elevated COVID-19 cases within our community, we have remained at a plateaued level over the course of the past two weeks and the entire month of October. Our hospital system is closely watching the increase in number of hospitalizations. They share the Health Department's concern for the elevated number of cases within the community as we enter flu and cold season. Of note, most of the positive cases that the Health

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Department is investigating are occurring outside of the workplace and school setting and in social environments including churches, social gatherings, and other venues where mask wearing and distancing were overlooked.

**B. COVID cases daily average October 6-November 2:**

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

1. 7-day average of daily cases (Oct.27-Nov.2) = 66
2. 14-day average of daily cases (Oct.20-Nov.2) = 68
3. 21-day average of daily cases (Oct.13-Nov.2) = 67
4. 28-day average of daily cases (Oct.6-Nov.2) = 67
  - a. The current data tells us that the daily average number of cases has increased over the last month to a significantly elevated number. There is some minor fluctuation occurring over the last 28 days. 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 October 1-28:**

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

1. On October 28, the 7-day average % positivity rate = 8.8%
2. On October 21, the 7-day average % positivity rate = 7.3%
3. On October 14, the 7-day average % positivity rate = 7.6%
4. On October 1, the 7-day average of % positivity rate = 4.9%
  - 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 increasing over the last month. Since October 10, Kalamazoo County has been hovering close to the 7% positive test rate line and appeared to have a slight plateau occurring. In the last week, there has been an increase. Current risk level per Mi Safe Start Map is at a B (B level is 7-10% positivity).

**D. Health care capacity strength:**

1. Steady – 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, PPE is in supply, and hospital capacity is available.

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

1. Public health continues case investigation for all residents who are confirmed positive or identified as a probable case. Contact tracing continues for all person with exposure to a person known to have COVID-19.

2. Public health continues to work with cases, contacts, and other stakeholders, particularly in high-risk settings to lower the risk of ongoing transmission.
3. The number of tests available in Kalamazoo County continues to increase.

**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 continues to be a high priority for the Health Department.
3. School districts' data dashboards reports (cumulative totals for 20-21 school year):
  - a. 11/02 as of 9am: 107 positive COVID-19 cases out of 5,390. This represents 1.96% of Kalamazoo County's total positive cases.
  - b. 10/28 as of 3pm: 83 positive COVID-19 cases out of 4,897. This represents 1.69% of Kalamazoo County's total positive cases.

Resources:

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

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