



LAPEER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
 1800 Imlay City Road
 Lapeer, MI 48446

Date: Monday, April 12, 2021 *Updates are typically posted **Monday & Thursday evenings.***

***For information on COVID-19 Vaccine:** <https://www.michigan.gov/COVIDvaccine>

SPECIAL CLINICS: Tuesday, April 13 – Complete Application found at www.lapeercountyweb.org

- **Johnson & Johnson Vaccine at the Eastern Michigan Fairgrounds, Imlay City**
- **Pfizer Vaccine for 16-17 year olds (parent must be present) – on application select “No Preference” for type of vaccine (based on age, you’ll be scheduled for this clinic)**

2019 Novel Coronavirus Update

Today’s report includes an increase of **289** new cases, **32** new probables, and **4** deaths.

Today’s Data:

- Michigan: Confirmed Cases – **747,697**; Reported Deaths – **16,512**
- Lapeer County: Confirmed Cases – **6,469**; Probable Cases - **1113**; Deaths - **146**
- Daily New Cases per 100K – **107.3** (ranked 6th highest out of 83 counties) – State is 73.9/100K
- Infection Rate – **1.08** (ranked 54th highest out of 83 counties); State is 1.13 (Should be <0.9)
- Lapeer positive test rate – **21.7%** (ranked 16th highest out of 83 counties) – State is 15.7%
- Hospitalization – As of this morning there were **36** confirmed cases hospitalized locally, with **9** in ICU, and **5** on a ventilator
- There are currently no influenza cases hospitalized locally

+++SITUATIONAL UPDATE+++

As case counts continue to rise at an alarming rate both in Lapeer and across the State we’re also watching hospital beds fill with very ill patients. Dr. Hamed, medical director for Lapeer and a number surrounding counties, recently wrote the following for leadership in one of the counties. Lapeer is in the same situation. Note that Dr. Hamed also works emergency departments in a few hospitals, including one in the Thumb:

- “I would like to call attention to the rising hospitalizations and severity of COVID illnesses in Tuscola, Huron and Sanilac Counties. The hospitals are reaching their limits and our neighboring hospitals that they transfer to (Saginaw, Bay City, Flint, and Port Huron) are all reaching their hospital bed capacities as well. Covenant Hospital and Hurley Hospital have closed to any further incoming COVID patient transfers from your local hospitals (Tuscola, Huron, Sanilac). The age ranges are from 30-60 and they are presenting with very atypical findings such as COVID-heart attacks, COVID-strokes, COVID-renal failure, COVID-respiratory failure and COVID pneumonias. It is very reasonable to assume that the new COVID variant strain B117 (the UK strain) is responsible for the severity of the illnesses. It is also at least 50% more contagious than the wild-type COVID-19 that we were previously seeing.”

With the current situation, we do have options. We can continue as we are and take our chances, continue to listen to and follow the myriad of false information that has no scientific basis, and, as a fellow health officer put it, panic and make up our own rules – none of which are viable options..... OR.. we can follow evidence-based guidance. I know that everyone is tired of dealing COVID – I get it. However, that’s not taking us in the right direction. We want to see our kids in school, our businesses open – and both to be healthy environments.

To move forward, we need to pull together as a community:

- **BUSINESSES** – We need you to enforce mask usage and the 6 feet distancing. Contrary to what is thrown around, masks **DO** make a difference! Wear one all the time when at work and in public.

- COMMUNITY – all of us! We may think it won't hurt us, but who are you carrying it back to or sharing it with when out and about.
 - Again, **masks DO** make a difference – but only if worn over mouth AND nose. It doesn't help to wear it below your nose or just on your chin.
 - Physical distance** – the virus travels on droplets in the air. The closer you are and/or the longer you spend in close proximity, the greater your chance of getting or spreading the virus.
 - Stay home if you're sick.** Don't think it's just a cold or sinuses – things we hear daily after someone has gone to work several days and then got tested, after exposing friends and co-workers. There are many places to get tested now, including urgent cares and some pharmacies.
 - Wash hands frequently** – this will help with cold and flu as well!
- **Get your vaccine as soon as possible.** Contrary to much of the misinformation flying around out there –
 - None of the vaccines can give you the virus
 - None of the vaccines will change your DNA or contain microchips – it's just not there
 - ALL of the vaccines are successful in preventing serious illness and death from the virus.**
 - This is not new science. The science behind these vaccines has been around for years. To many it seemed to be developed quickly, however, because of the many years of work, it was ready to move forward at this time when we need it.
- **Quarantine** – This is SO important, because those who properly quarantine, if they DO become ill, will not be out spreading the virus to vulnerable family and community members. This is one of basic principles of disease prevention – If there's no one to pass the virus on to, it stops right there.

***Where we go from here is all up to us – each one of us! We can either step up, follow the science, and help bring this under control, or watch it continue to spread. It's not a harmless disease. Many who contract it continue to have on-going health issues – they've survived, not "recovered."

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Travel Related Recommendations: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html>

*** See information regarding "PEG" – involving text messages for positive cases – below variant information.

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ADDITIONAL CASES OF VARIANT DETECTED IN LAPEER COUNTY

We are currently aware of two variants detected in specimens from Lapeer County residents: the B117 (U.K.) and the B1351 (S. African). There have been at least 26 cases of the B117, and several other cases "epi-linked" to those cases.

The State Lab tests approximately 500 – 600 samples from across the State each day. These variants are concerning because they are associated with increased transmissibility, leading to faster spread of the virus and potentially increasing numbers of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths. Lapeer County, as well as many parts of the State have been experienced rising cases of COVID-19 over the past several weeks.

It is imperative that we continue to take precautions when out and about, and get vaccinated as soon as you are able, to minimize both the known serious consequences of COVID-19 infections, as well as the over-all impacts on our limited healthcare resources. Efforts to slow transmission will allow for more of our population to be protected through vaccination.

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NEW: Patient Education Genius, or "PEG"

The State has rolled out a new case investigation tool called Patient Education Genius, or PEG. With rising cases and staff working to get vaccine out as quickly as possible, this is an important tool in trying to reduce community cases and exposures. When someone tests positive for COVID-19, PEG will text the individual with a link to a questionnaire. By filling out this questionnaire it will greatly reduce the time needed to follow up with the individual. After completing the form, the case investigator will call you to make sure the isolation

timelines are clear and answer any questions. If you are unable to use the tool, please call the main line at the health department: 810-667-0448. The receptionist will connect you to your case investigator. By having a connection at the health department, you will have someone who can be a resource to you during your illness. Your investigator can be a great resource for you. Please help us roll out PEG by responding to the text that you receive.

VACCINE UPDATE

- Lapeer County Health Department (LCHD) is primarily administering the Moderna Vaccine and the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) Vaccine. At the moment you may choose which of these you prefer – as supplies allow. We will also be bringing in some Pfizer vaccine in order to cover our 16-17 year olds.
- Watch website for info on some special clinics. Registration will be on the County Website.
- Due to the expanded options for obtaining vaccine, as well as the increased number of doses we are receiving, most eligible individuals may expect to receive an appointment at the health department within 5-10 days of registering.
- As of April 5, all individuals living or working in Lapeer County and interested in receiving the COVID-19 vaccine should sign up at the County website: www.lapeercountyweb.org and follow the links. The phone # **ONLY** for those who do not have access to computer or assistance with a computer is: 810-245-4163. This is a slower process, so please reserve for those who cannot access computers. As we have vaccine available you will receive notification from LCHD of your appt. date, time, and location.
- **NOTE:** Beginning April 13, we will be offering later appt. times on a regular basis. Tuesdays and Thursdays clinics will run until 7:00 p.m. to help accommodate those working during the day.
- Locations where you may register to obtain vaccine (most are taking requests online):
 - **Lapeer County Health Dept.:** <https://lapeercountyweb.org> (currently scheduling up to 350/day)
 - **Rite Aid:** <https://www.riteaid.com/pharmacy/covid-qualifier>
 - **Meijer Pharmacy:** <https://clinic.meijer.com/> .
 - **Walmart:** (Lapeer location): <https://walmart.com> and put COVID vaccine in the search, or click on https://www.walmart.com/cp/1228302?search_redirect=true&redirect_query=covid%2019%20vacine%20registration&redirectQuery=covid%2019%20vaccine%20registration&typeahead=COVID
 - **Baldwin Rd. Pharmacy,** 944 Baldwin Rd., Lapeer; Register at <https://k8j5m.app.goo.gl/i4Rg> , phoning 810-245-9600 or at their location.
 - **Kroger Pharmacy and Walgreens** are also beginning to provide vaccine.
- **NOTE: IF YOU NEED TO CANCEL A VACCINE APPOINTMENT: To cancel a vaccine for any reason, please either reply back to the email you received, or leave a message at the following phone # - 810-245-5741. Thank you!**
- Those eligible to register for vaccine at this time include healthcare workers, individuals age 50 and above, caregivers of children with special health care needs, and those 16-49 with disabilities/pre-existing conditions will be added to the list.

Public health recommendations for vaccinated persons

Fully vaccinated persons who meet criteria will no longer be required to quarantine following an exposure to someone with COVID-19. Individuals should keep their COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card to confirm their exemption from quarantine. The immune period begins two weeks after vaccination:

- If given a two-dose vaccine series (Pfizer, Moderna) it takes about two weeks after the second dose to build immunity.
- If given one dose of a single-dose vaccine (Johnson & Johnson), it takes about two weeks after the dose to build immunity.

Based on the schedules above, the individual may be exempt from quarantine, provided the individual does not have any COVID-19 symptoms. This exemption does not apply to vaccinated inpatients and residents in healthcare settings.

Fully vaccinated persons who do not quarantine should still watch for [symptoms of COVID-19](#) for 14 days following an exposure. If they experience symptoms, they should be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, including SARS-CoV-2 testing, if indicated. In addition, vaccinated persons should continue to follow [current](#)

guidance to protect themselves and others, including all wearing your mask and social distancing when in public places, etc.

- Please see this website for more detail on the vaccine, vaccination plan, etc.: <https://www.michigan.gov/COVIDvaccine>.
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Testing:

- **There are several urgent cares in the county (primarily Lapeer & Imlay City) where individuals may be tested. You do not need a physician's prescription for this, and anyone desiring a test may request one.**
- There is a link on the www.michigan.gov/coronavirus website for testing locations outside the county.
- Locations with testing available at no cost: https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-99891_99912-530161--,00.html
- Reminder: The test is a "snapshot" in time. Depending on exposures, you could test negative one day but come down with the illness the next. You still need to continue to monitor yourself for symptoms, practice social distancing, and wear a cloth face covering when you are out and about.

Current known testing sites in Lapeer County – some, may require you to be a patient of theirs, so call ahead to be sure, as well as to check on days/hours of operation.

- Lapeer Community Urgent Care, 1227 Summit Dr., Lapeer, MI 810-969-4546
- Occupational Health & Convenient Care – McLaren (check ahead); 1181 S. Main, Lapeer 810-667-7040
- Total Urgent Care – 147 N. Almont Ave., Imlay City 810-721-7640
- Convenient Urgent Care (\$25 without insurance – no other charge), 700 S. Main #10, Lapeer, 810-969-4500
- Rite Aid Pharmacies
- We understand that the Washington Urgent Care (Macomb County) & Oxford Urgent Care (Oakland County) both offer the rapid test. Reminder – the closer to symptom onset that you use this test the more accurate the results.

FURTHER CLARIFICATION:

If you tested positive or have symptoms

If you test positive for COVID-19, isolate for a minimum of 10 days from the start of your symptoms or your positive test date if you didn't have symptoms. Notify your close contacts that they may have been exposed. A close contact is someone who has been within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 total minutes with or without a face covering. A person is considered contagious 2 days before their symptoms start or before their positive test if they do not have symptoms.

If you are a close contact (exposed)

Due to the recent rapid spread of virus, close contacts should again quarantine for 14 days. If you are exposed but do not have symptoms, please wait at least 5 days before testing, and remember that a negative test does NOT eliminate the need to quarantine for the full 10 days. Isolation or quarantine requires staying away from others and out of public places, except if seeking medical care or testing. See previous page for recommendations following full vaccination.

Workplaces

The Health Department will continue to assist businesses and workplaces with COVID-19 related questions and positive employees as capacity allows. This includes prioritizing those situations or clusters that may be of greater concern because of their size, setting or impact on more vulnerable individuals. Do not wait for the Health Department to contact your business or organization to act.

Prevention

The virus that causes COVID-19 continues to circulate locally. Risk of exposure is present whenever you are out in public or having any direct contact with others. To reduce the spread of illness, the Health Department recommends wearing a face covering, maintaining 6 feet distance from others not in your household, cleaning hands frequently, and avoiding others if you have any symptoms.

These prevention strategies are most effective when combined. Using them remains vital to slowing the spread of illness and preventing as many cases of COVID-19 as possible – especially as the weather becomes colder, more activities are indoors, and [flu](#) may begin to circulate locally.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has also issued guidance for holiday [activities](#) and [travel](#) during COVID-19.

*For the most current MDHHS Epidemic Orders, go to: https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178_98455-533660--,00.html

QUARANTINE: Recently the CDC put out some “options” regarding quarantine. However, please note that:

- They continue to recommend a quarantine period of 14 days.
 - All quarantine is again a full 14 days.
 - If you develop symptoms at any time during this period, you should get tested and isolate.
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Stress and Coping – there’s help available:

If you, or someone you care about, are feeling overwhelmed with emotions like sadness, depression, or anxiety, or feel like you want to harm yourself or others call 911, or the Disaster Distress Helpline: 1-800-985-5990 or text TalkWithUs to 66746. (TTY 1-800-846-8517). Additionally, the local CMH (Community Mental Health) staff are available to assist county citizens, especially crisis intervention to address feelings of harm to self or others. Their number is [810-667-0500](tel:810-667-0500).

Information/resource links:

- The MDHHS website – www.michigan.gov/coronavirus
- Link to the CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/>
- **“Self-Checker”** - check your symptoms and see if they might meet criteria for COVID-19. Remember, this is only a tool. Your healthcare provider is the best source for additional information. Link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html> . Near the bottom right you’ll see a gold colored, rectangular box that reads, “Self-Checker”. Click on the box and follow the instructions.
- For information on fraudulent coronavirus tests, vaccines, and treatments: <https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/beware-fraudulent-coronavirus-tests-vaccines-and-treatments>
- Website for information regarding severe illness (& death) associated with using Non-Pharmaceutical Chloroquine Phosphate to prevent & treat Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2020/han00431.asp>
- The State has added a **“dashboard”** that illustrates COVID-19 risks and trends in Michigan, to provide residents with important information about the pandemic status where you live and work. The link to this dashboard is: <https://www.mistartmap.info/>
- For filing a work or business related complaint: www.michigan.gov/mioshacomplaint