



Hancock Public Health

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PRESS RELEASE

DATE: January 28, 2022
TO: Media Outlets
RE: Hancock Public Health Covid-19 update

Hancock County, after weeks of Omicron surge, is showing preliminary signs of the COVID-19 variant peaking in our community. It is expected that the number of infected persons will continue to decline; thus, alleviating the current stress on our local public health partners.

When the COVID-19 pandemic began, our local Public Health mitigating strategies included universal case investigation. This process was instrumental in helping us better understand the lifecycle of the COVID-19 virus through the emergence of the Omicron variant. Now, we will be transitioning toward strategic outbreak and targeted case investigations, especially with vulnerable populations.

Our purpose at Hancock Public Health is to continually provide guidance as well as promote safe practices to the residents of Hancock County. We will be engaging in the following key public health strategies, moving forward:

1. Increasing the number of people who are up to date with their COVID-19 vaccinations, including booster doses, especially for those at higher risk for severe outcomes
2. Strong messaging about the importance of effective mask wearing, especially now during times of increased community transmission
3. Targeting prevention strategies to the most vulnerable persons, populations, and settings, including testing, distribution of higher quality masks, and early access to antivirals and monoclonal antibody treatments
4. Increasing availability of testing to support treatment, as a risk mitigation strategy in congregate residential settings, and individual use to identify their risk of transmission and isolate appropriately
5. Conducting outbreak investigations and targeted case investigations as necessary to prevent or understand disease transmission in high-risk settings, or among those with more severe illness or unusual illness presentations
6. Instituting and improving environmental measures to reduce indoor aerosol transmission of pathogens (e.g., improving indoor air quality through ventilation, filtration, and/or other technologies; and advocating for more formal indoor quality air standards)

Hancock Public Health advises if you are symptomatic,

- Test yourself
- Stay home to prevent transmission to others
- Notify those of close contact
- Seek medical attention should your symptoms worsen

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at (419) 424-7105 or visit us online at www.hancockph.com.

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