

MDHHS ALIGNS WITH CDC MASK GUIDELINES; GTCHD WAITING ON REVISED EO

Today, Governor Whitmer announced that the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is updating the Gatherings and Mask Order to align with the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's latest guidance on face coverings](#), easing mask and physical distance guidelines for both vaccinated and unvaccinated.

Under the anticipated, updated order, MDHHS says that those who are outdoors will no longer need to wear a mask regardless of vaccination status. While indoors, fully vaccinated residents will no longer need to wear a mask, but residents who are not vaccinated, or have not completed their vaccinations, must continue to wear a mask or face covering to protect themselves and others.

The press release issued from the Governor's office this morning says the changes will go into effect on Saturday, May 15 at 9:00 a.m. However, MDHHS has not formally updated the order to reflect the changes. Grand Traverse County Health Department plans to follow the guidelines as they continue to be updated and made available and will help local community members, businesses, and schools to understand what the changes mean for Grand Traverse County.

"We understand that there are many questions following the recent announcement of the anticipated updates to the epidemic order, including how it will affect areas of our community such as businesses, workplaces, and schools. The health department, continues to remain dedicated to working with our local businesses and schools as we navigate the orders that the State of Michigan distributes," said GTCHD Emergency Preparedness Director, Mike Lahey. "As soon as we know more formal information, we will begin the process of leading the community through the changes."

ACIP APPROVES USE OF PFIZER COVID-19 VACCINE FOR 12-15 AGE GROUP

The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) approved the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for the 12-15 year age group. With the news, the Grand Traverse County Health Department (GTCHD) is now expanding its scheduling survey to include the 12-15 group.

If you are interested in having your child receive a vaccine, please complete the scheduling survey located at www.gtcountycovid19.com/vaccine and click "Scheduling for 12-15". Your child will be placed on a waiting list and you will receive an email with a scheduling link when appointments become available. Some walk-in clinics will be made available. See further below for details.

Any child that is receiving a COVID-19 vaccine must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Verification of date of birth is required.



On Thursday, May 13, the GTCHD began vaccinating the age group at NMC's Hagerty Center. A total of 169 first doses of the Pfizer vaccine were administered to 12 to 15-year-olds. Pictured on the left, Nick Klein, 13, gets his first dose of the Pfizer vaccine at NMC's Hagerty Center.

VACCINE CLINICS THIS WEEK

The GTCHD continues to plan with community partners for outreach clinics across the county to make the COVID-19 vaccine easily accessible to all. Finalized weekly schedules will be released every Monday for outreach clinics and walk-in clinics. Below are dates, times, and locations where walk-in appointments are available.



Walk-ins are welcomed at the following locations for the week of May 17 - 21:

Tuesday, May 18

NMC's Hagerty Center from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
(Johnson & Johnson, 18 and older and Pfizer, 12 and older)

Wednesday, May 19

NMC's Hagerty Center from 9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Cherryland Mall (1700 South Garfield Rd. Traverse City, MI 49686) from 10 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
(Johnson & Johnson, 18 and older and Pfizer, 12 and older)

Thursday, May 20

Cherryland Mall (1700 South Garfield Rd. Traverse City, MI 49686) from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Hagerty Insurance (141 Rivers Edge Dr. Traverse City, 49684) from 3 - 6 p.m.
(Johnson & Johnson, 18 and older and Pfizer, 12 and older)

Friday, May 21

Cherryland Mall (1700 South Garfield Rd. Traverse City, MI 49686) from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
(Johnson & Johnson, 18 and older and Pfizer, 12 and older)

*No appointments or pre-registration necessary.

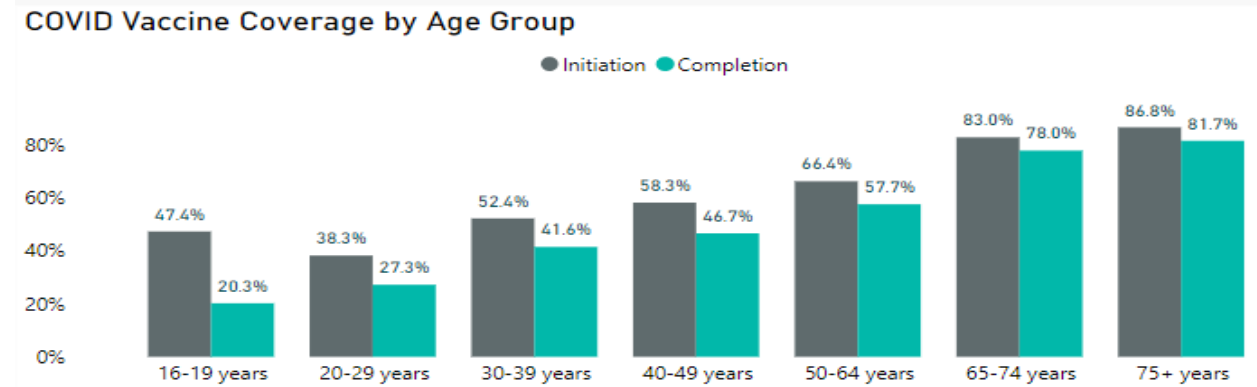
HOMEBOUND VACCINE HOTLINE IS LIVE: 231-995-6084

The GTCHD continues to partner with local agencies to ensure all that want a COVID-19 vaccine and receive a vaccine, including those unable to physically make it to a clinic or office setting. If you or someone you know requires a home visit to receive a COVID-19 vaccine,

please call 231-995-6084. You will have an opportunity to leave a message and someone will get back to you.

VACCINATION NUMBERS IN GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY

Grand Traverse County and the Traverse City region continue to do very well overall with vaccination of everyone eligible (anyone 12+). Our current total cumulative coverage is 60.5% for the initial dose and 53.5% for completed doses. Vaccination coverage rates for GT County residents by age group based on the MDHHS COVID 19 Vaccination Coverage Dashboard.



*percentages include all providers, including Munson, local pharmacies, and providers

DOSES ADMINISTERED AT GTCHD VACCINE CLINICS AS OF 5/14/21: 42,727 Total

DOSE	WEEK OF 5/10-5/14	CUMULATIVE (through 5/14/21)
Initiated	258	21,626
Completed	1107	20,719

CURRENT NUMBERS AND TRENDS

In Grand Traverse County, daily cases continue to drop in the county and region. As of May 14, the 7-day average of new cases was at 10 per day, down from 17 last week. The 7-day average for percent positivity dropped to 7.3% this week. Both metrics have been declining for over 4 weeks To see direct data, [visit our dashboard](#).

Some local trends of note currently are:

- Currently, there are 672 active COVID-19 cases in the county
- This past week we had 2 deaths, bringing the total cumulative deaths for GT County to 87
- Multiple variants have been detected in Grand Traverse County and the Traverse City region at an increasing rate. A new variant, P 1, was detected in 1 testing sample in addition to the previous B.117 and B1.429 (California) variants of Grand Traverse County residents.
- If you have cold-like, allergy-like, or sinus-like symptoms, please get tested.

CASE NUMBERS AND STATISTICS

CASES SINCE 5/7/21	DEATHS SINCE 5/7/21	CUMULATIVE CASES as of 5/14/21	PERCENT POSITIVITY (7-DAY AVERAGE)	CASES PER MILLION (7-DAY AVERAGE)	COUNTY RISK LEVEL
68 ↓	2 ↓	6,202	7.3% ↓	80.9 ↓	D

*arrows reflect an increase or decrease from the previous report

Statistics are available on the [MI Safe Start Map](#) and on the Health Department's [dashboard](#) and [Facebook page](#), which updates new case information daily at 5 p.m., Monday - Friday.

It is now even more important that EVERYONE continue to do what works to slow the spread of the virus by wearing their masks properly, socially distancing, avoiding crowds, washing their hands often, and making a plan to get the safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine you can. We all have a personal responsibility to slow the spread of COVID-19 and end this pandemic.

To find the latest statistics regarding COVID-19 vaccinations across the state, you can visit the MDHHS vaccine [dashboard](#).

TESTING AT CHERRY CAPITAL AIRPORT

Voluntary, free, rapid (antigen) COVID-19 testing is now available at Cherry Capital Airport for incoming travelers. The testing group will require proof of passenger travel on the day of testing (boarding pass or itinerary schedule). There is an approximate 30-minute timeline from registration to result. The registration and collection process takes 15 minutes, with results being emailed/texted to patients approximately 15 minutes after sample collection.

Below is their initial schedule, subject to change as flights activities shift heading into summer:

Sunday – 3:00 to 11:00 p.m.

Wednesday – 2:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Friday – 12:00 to 8:00 p.m.

COVID-19 TESTING IN GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY:

Grand Traverse County testing sites include:

[Munson Healthcare Foster Family Community Health Center](#) (priority 1 & 2 only)

[Northwest Michigan Health Services](#) (testing all by appointment)

[Rite Aid at Chums Corner](#) (testing all by appointment)

[Walgreens at Chums Corner](#) (testing all by appointment)

See [Michigan's COVID-19 test finder](#) for more options

Testing sites have capacity and tests are available. Individuals seeking tests can call:

- Their healthcare provider
- The Munson Healthcare Covid-19 hotline: 231-935-0951
- The Michigan COVID-19 hotline: 888-535-6136

ABOUT THE JOC

Grand Traverse County's Joint Operations Center has been meeting to coordinate efforts and communication on the COVID-19 pandemic since Friday, March 13, 2020. Members include key community partners from health, government, first responders, education, social service, and business sectors.

#

Media Contact: Emmy Schumacher, eschumacher@gtcountymi.gov, 231-493-8376