



COVID-19 OUTBREAK

COVID-19 BRIEFING - 291.1

JANUARY 24, 2022

For Operational Period: January 18 2021—January 24 2022

WORLDWIDE

352,516,934 Cases

5,616,344 Deaths

UNITED STATES

71,925,931 Cases

889,197 Deaths

MICHIGAN

2,124,225 Cases

31,502 Deaths

OUT-WAYNE COUNTY

236,684 Cases

3,874 Deaths



Wayne County Department of
Health, Human & Veterans Services
Public Health Division

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

- Nearly 800,000 new cases are being reported in the United States each day, according to a New York Times database, most caused by the fast-spreading Omicron variant, and the true number of infections is likely much higher because so many cases go unreported. Although many people are quickly recovering, the Omicron surge poses a particular risk to the unvaccinated and has put enormous strain on hospitals and health care workers. But among the vaccinated and boosted, getting infected with the Omicron variant also appears to be contributing to a psychological shift, as people realize they have probably gained at least a short-term natural boost to their immune system. Scientists call it "hybrid immunity," which results from the combined protection of pre-existing vaccine antibodies and natural antibodies from a breakthrough infection. While some doctors and immunologists agree that hybrid immunity offers an additional layer of defense against the virus, they urge caution, noting that the strength of that protection can vary by individual and may wane over time. The immunity boost of a natural infection may be akin to getting a fourth dose of vaccine. Hybrid immunity may also occur if you get infected before getting vaccinated or a booster. The first time you get vaccinated or infected with a virus, it takes your immune system a little time to respond. But your immune system has a long memory. It reacts more quickly and ramps up more antibodies the next time it detects the virus. The effect appears to be even more pronounced in people who've been both vaccinated and infected. But there isn't enough data yet on how much hybrid immunity protects you from a mild or asymptomatic breakthrough infection or from spreading the virus to others. And you might be susceptible in the future to any new variants that emerge—**New York Times**
- Even if enough people build natural immunity to Covid-19 by catching the highly contagious Omicron variant, it is too soon to say if this will spell an end to the pandemic. While Omicron seems to cause less severe disease than other variants, the sheer volume of cases could have a meaningful effect on collective immunity, but is an open question as to whether or not Omicron is going to be the live virus vaccination that everyone is hoping for, because you have such a great deal of variability with new variants emerging. That would only be the case if we don't get another variant that eludes the immune response. The evolution of the pandemic is still an open question.— **New York Times**
- Omicron's reduced severity compared to previous variants, and the perceived likelihood that individuals will eventually be infected, have contributed to that relaxation in people's mindsets. This has even caused some people to actively seek out the illness to "get it over with" -- a practice experts have strongly warned against. Experts don't expect Covid to fully disappear in any of our lifetimes. Instead, it will eventually reach a period similar to several other illnesses, where "most people will be infected as children, possibly multiple times, and as those infections accumulate, they build up an immunity". Experts generally agree that Omicron moves us closer to that stage with Covid-19. But there is a big caveat that determines how fast we'll get there -- and it depends not on the current strain, but the one that comes next. — **CDC**

ACTIONS TAKEN

[MI COVID Alert](#)

[Return to School Roadmap](#)

[Wayne County](#)

[Small Business Best Practices](#)

[COVID-19 Educational Materials](#)

[Find a Testing Site Near You](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Michigan.gov/coronavirus](#)

[MDHHS Epidemic Orders](#)

[Find a Vaccine Site Near You](#)

- The Public Health Emergency Operations Center (PHOC) is at FULL ACTIVATION.

USEFUL RESOURCES

Prepared by: Wayne County Emergency Preparedness

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Disaster Distress Helpline: 1-800-985-5990

National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233 and TTY 1-800-787-3224

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