



Huron County Public Health COVID-19 Weekly Update

March 12, 2021

COVID-19 Vaccine Update

Huron County Public Health's COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Progress

This week, Governor DeWine announced the eligibility of a new age category as well as two new qualifying medical conditions. Under Phase 2B, Ohioans aged 50+ are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, which has expanded age-eligibility by ten years. Qualifying medical factors included in Phase 1D include type 2 diabetes and end-stage renal (kidney) disease. Both newly announced Phases went into effect Thursday, March 11, 2021. Huron County Public Health (HCPH) is continuing to vaccinate all eligible individuals from Phase 1B and 2A as well, as these individuals will remain eligible under Phase 2B. HCPH asks for continued patience as we expect a surge in interest for the COVID-19 vaccine due to the recent expansion in eligibility.

The graphic below depicts coverage of COVID-19 vaccines administered by HCPH to date. Continued vaccine updates can be found at our website: www.huroncohealth.com/covid19vaccine.

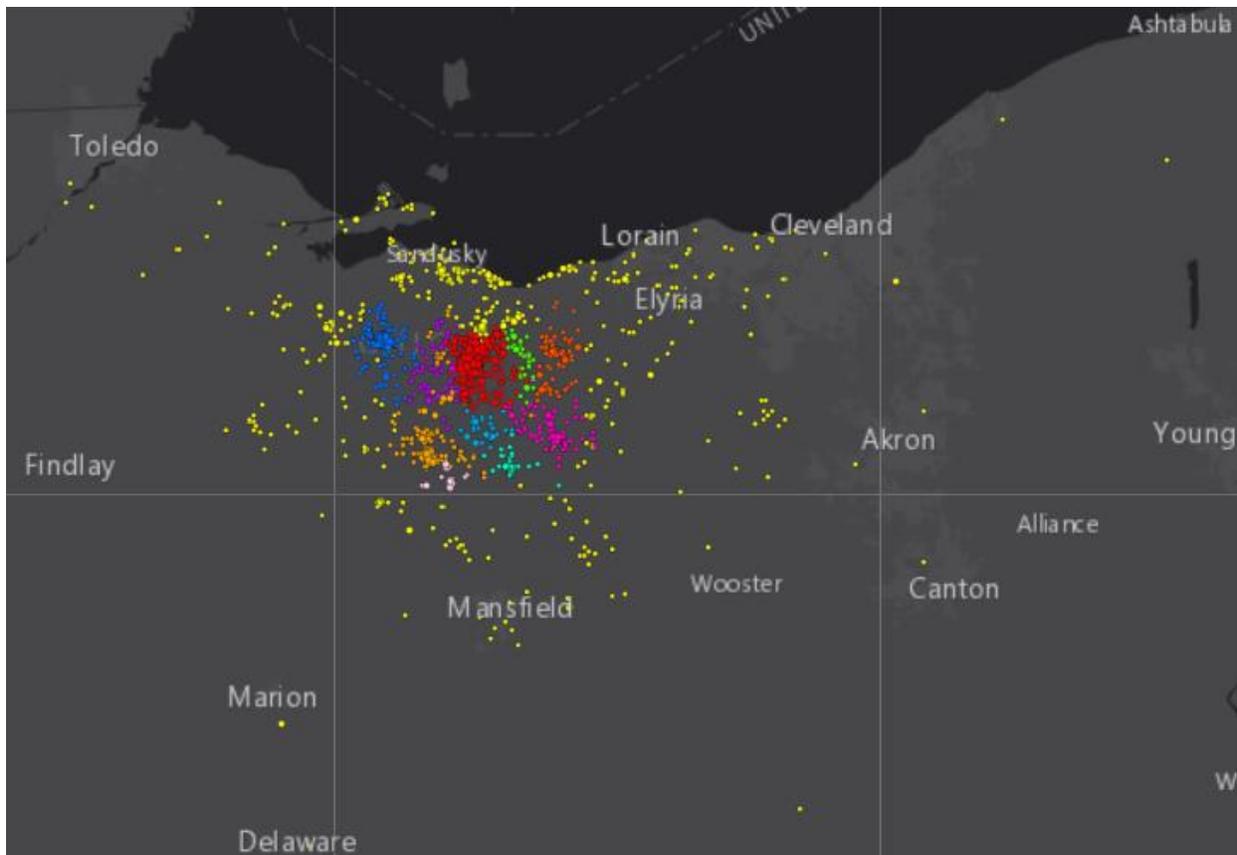
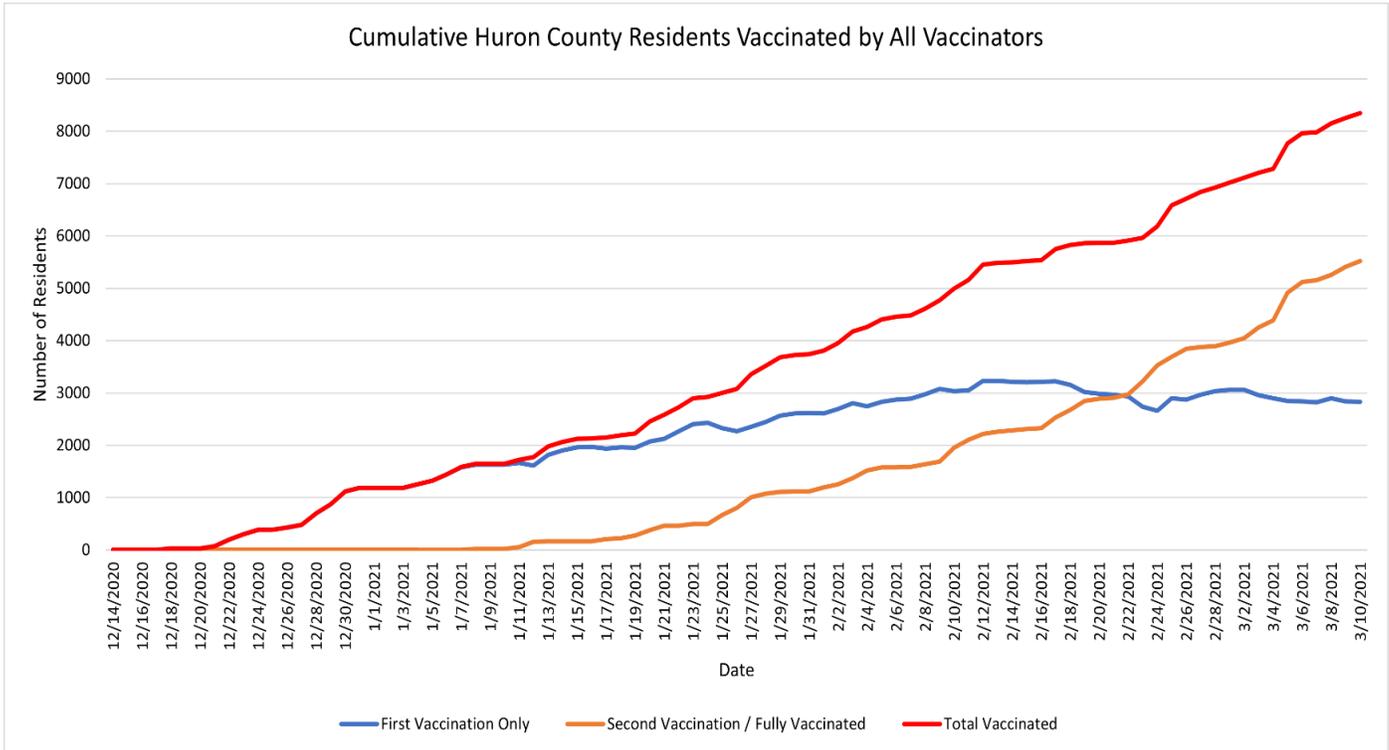


Image updated as of 3/10/2021.

Huron County Resident Vaccination Data

Vaccination data for residents of Huron County, Ohio can be found in the graph and table below. Statewide vaccination data can be found on the Ohio Department of Health's COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard at: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/dashboards/covid-19-vaccine/covid-19-vaccination-dashboard>.

Note: currently authorized Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines require 2 shots to get the most protection, which are given either 21 or 28 days apart, while the newly released Johnson & Johnson vaccine only requires a single-dose shot and is included in the 'Total Vaccinated' category of the graph below.



Cumulative Huron County Resident Vaccinations			
Age Group	Approximate Population Size	Number of Individuals Who Have Received ONLY the First Shot (Vaccine Series in Progress)	Number of Individuals Who Have Received BOTH Shots (Vaccination Series Complete)
0-19	15,565	35	27
20-29	6,878	330	273
30-39	6,908	518	391
40-49	7,055	673	540
50-59	8,035	850	640
60-69	7,618	1,962	883
70-79	4,041	2,519	1,535
80+	2,239	1,463	1,232
Total	58,339	8,350	5,521

COVID-19 Case Data

Cumulative Data

Cumulative Data for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases in Huron County, Ohio as of Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 4:30pm.

Total Confirmed & Probable Cases Including Deaths	4,918
Percentage of confirmed cases cleared	96%
Percentage of cases hospitalized at some point in illness	7%
Average age	46
Average age range	<1 – 103 years
Fatalities	117

Residents can monitor daily case counts and school data at the Ohio Department of Health's website at www.coronavirus.ohio.gov.

For the reporting period of 3/5/2021 – 3/11/2021, there were **70 new cases** reported.

State and Local Risk Levels

As of Thursday, March 11, 2021, Huron County remained an Alert Level Red on the Ohio Department of Health's Ohio Public Health Advisory System and had the 4th highest occurrence rate in Ohio for COVID-19. This means Huron County had a higher occurrence rate of COVID-19 than that of the largest cities in Ohio such as Cleveland, Columbus, and Cincinnati. Because of this, HCPH continues to urge all residents to exercise a high degree of caution when in public and to continue to follow all precautionary measures, including social distancing, mask wearing, and hand hygiene. We also continue to encourage eligible residents to call to be scheduled for their COVID-19 vaccination appointment. All of these steps are necessary to help slow the spread and continue to push us towards our return to normal.



Nursing Home Guidance Update as of 3.10.2021

On Wednesday, March 10th, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) revised their guidance for nursing home visitation in light of the COVID-19 pandemic to include the impact of COVID-19 vaccinations. Governor Mike Dewine spoke to this guidance yesterday, March 11th, emphasizing that visitation should be happening in nursing homes.

HCPH would like to extend support for this update in guidance and encourages local nursing homes to adopt this guidance as we recognize the toll that isolation and separation from loved ones over the past year has had on nursing home residents. “I get a call at least once a week, if not more, from a friend or family member of a long-term care resident asking that I push one of our local nursing homes to re-open visitation. The impact that time away from loved ones is having on our long-term care residents is real, and it is impacting families in our communities throughout Huron County. I was very pleased to see the release of the CMS guidance earlier this week and hope that our local nursing homes open up for visitation very soon,” said Tim Hollinger, Health Commissioner.

The main message of the guidance is that indoor visitation at nursing homes should now be allowed, except for a few circumstances when visitation should be limited due to a high risk of COVID-19 transmission, for example:

- Visitations with unvaccinated residents, if the county positivity rate where the nursing home is located is more than 10% and less than 70% of residents in the facility are fully vaccinated;
- Visitations with residents with confirmed COVID-19 infection, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, until they have met the criteria to discontinue transmission-based precautions;
- Some outbreak scenarios, depending on the breadth of the spread of the virus within the facility; or
- Visitations with residents in quarantine, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, until they have met criteria for release from quarantine.

Compassionate care visits should continue to be allowed at all times, regardless of the circumstances listed above.

The guidance also states that if a resident is fully vaccinated, they can choose to have close touch with a visitor, noting that, “there is no substitute for physical contact, such as the warm embrace between a resident and their loved one.”

In light of this guidance, HCPH continues to recommend nursing home facilities, their residents, and resident families adhere to the core principles of COVID-19 prevention, such as social distancing, hand hygiene, and masking up. As we get into the warmer weather of spring, HCPH also encourages outdoor visitation, when practical, as outdoor visitation generally poses a lower risk of transmission of COVID-19 due to increased space and airflow.

The full CMS guidance can be found here: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/qso-20-39-nh-revised.pdf>

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