



Livingston County COVID-19 Report

Date of report: **12/04/20**

Date range used in report: **11/20/20 – 12/03/20**

This report provides a summary of COVID-19 trends and activities for Livingston County over the last two weeks; when appropriate, the previous two weeks are used as a comparison.

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SUMMARY

Similar to other counties, Livingston County is experiencing sustained high rates of COVID-19 that greatly exceeded the spring. There may have been a slowing of cases at the end of November, but this could also be a problem with data due to the holiday week and delay in testing; the trend over the next one to two weeks will provide more insight. There is still great concern about seeing a dramatic rise in cases after the Thanksgiving holiday given the many small family gatherings.

Unfortunately, this sustained rate of COVID-19 in the community has led to a negative impact on our most vulnerable community members including those with underlying medical conditions and elderly individuals. The negative impacts have included high rates of hospitalizations and deaths which are much higher than the summer and fall seasons.

With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), the Livingston County Health Department (LCHD) has adopted the updated guidance for quarantine period requirements. Evidence from the CDC shows that while a fourteen-day quarantine is the safest practice to mitigate the risk of transmission of COVID-19, individuals have the opportunity to reduce their quarantine period to 10 days given certain criteria are met including remaining without symptoms and monitoring their health for the full fourteen days after exposure. As the shortened quarantine period does carry some risk in certain settings, the LCHD Health Officer and Medical Director may use discretion to implement a fourteen-day quarantine for vulnerable populations or specific settings to avoid outbreaks.

COVID-19 vaccine planning is underway at the LCHD. LCHD nursing and preparedness staff have been working closely with MDHHS and local healthcare system partners on these planning efforts. The first phases of vaccination will focus on healthcare workers, essential workers, and the most vulnerable individuals. Though a COVID-19 vaccine does offer hope and promise to an end of this global pandemic, widely available vaccine is still many months away. Consequently, Livingston County residents will need to maintain their diligence to mitigate the spread of disease and keep our most vulnerable populations safe.

Resources

CDC Quarantine Guidance <https://bit.ly/39JcQ19>



SNAPSHOT

Case Count

Over the past two weeks, there were 1883 total cases (average of 135 cases per day). This is 47% increase over the previous two weeks, which demonstrates a significant increase in the number of total cases in Livingston County.

	11/6-11/19	11/20-12/3
Total Cases	1279	1883
Confirmed	1196	1809
Probable	83	74

There are two classifications of cases that make up the total number of COVID-19 cases; confirmed cases and probable cases. The case count above includes both.

- *Confirmed cases are people who had a nasopharyngeal COVID-19 PCR test that was positive.*
- *Probable cases are people who have COVID-19 symptoms and are close contacts of someone who has COVID-19, but did not have a PCR test done. If someone has a positive rapid COVID-19 antigen test (as well as COVID-19 symptoms and/or are a close contact of a COVID-19 case), they are still a probable case, because they did not have a COVID-19 PCR test done. The COVID-19 PCR test is the most sensitive COVID-19 test and is most likely to correctly diagnose an active COVID-19 infection.*

Hospitalizations

Over the past two weeks, there were 18 new hospitalizations. The previous two-week period had 16 cases with a new hospital admission.

	11/6-11/19	11/20-12/3
New Admissions	16	18
Total Current Hospitalizations	26	24

Deaths

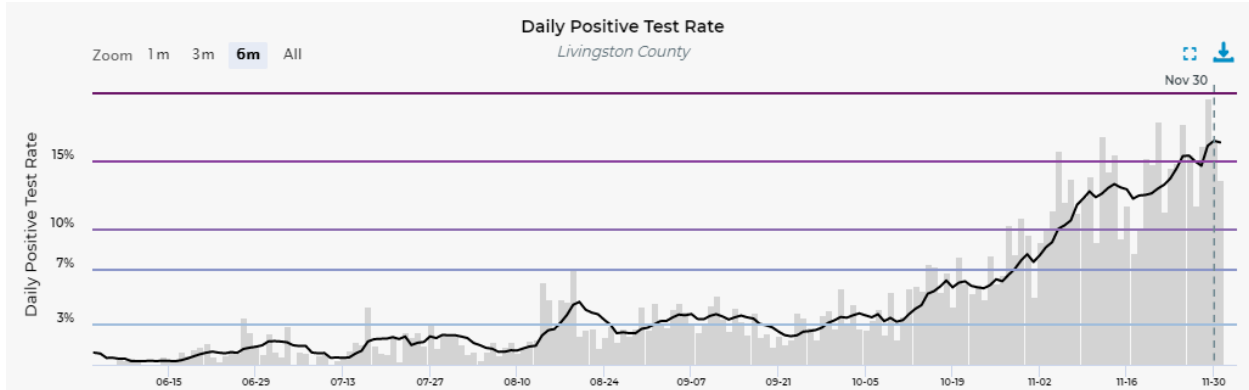
Over the past two weeks, there were 5 deaths in Livingston County. This is the same number of deaths as the last two-week period (5 deaths). The number of deaths in a two-week period has risen dramatically since mid-October, when the average number was one death per two-week period.



Positivity Rate

The current test positivity rate in Livingston County is 16.5%, which has more than doubled since the beginning of the November. The local rate in Livingston County is slightly higher than that of the State of Michigan (14.0%). Additionally, the total number of tests (denominator) has increased over time.

Overall, the higher positivity rate accompanied by higher testing levels indicates significantly increased transmission in the community.



The positivity rate shows what percentage of all COVID-19 tests that were done have come back positive over a certain period of time. The positivity rate depends on the number of COVID-19 cases in a community and the total number of tests that were done. The rate can be high if there are more COVID-19 cases and there is increased spread of COVID-19 in the community; it can also be increased if there are not enough tests being done in the community. A goal that has been adopted across health departments is for the positivity rate to be less than or equal to 3%.

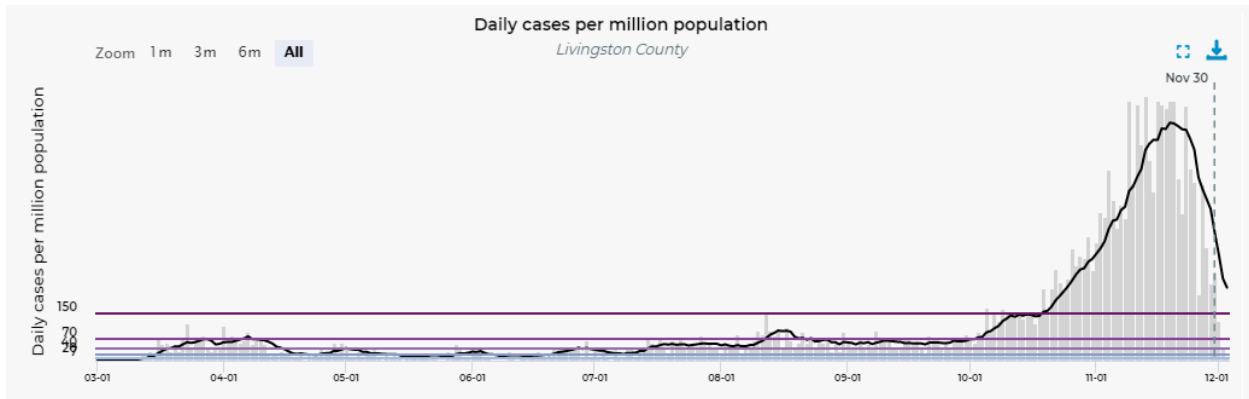
$$\text{Positivity Rate} = \frac{\text{Positive COVID-19 Tests}}{\text{Total COVID-19 Tests}} \times 100\%$$



Epi Curve

There are currently 405 cases per million. Although the growth of cases may be slowing, it may be an artifact from delay in testing due to the holiday week (i.e. individuals putting off testing due to holidays) and a delay in testing processing. More time is needed to evaluate this trend.

Currently, Livingston County is in the highest risk category, “E”, as is the rest of Michigan. Livingston County has a similar incidence to the rest of the neighboring counties.



An epi curve is a way to visually show the onset of cases in a community during an outbreak. It shows us how many COVID-19 cases had the onset of symptoms on each day over a period of time. It is a way to illustrate the spread of COVID-19 in the community and how the number of cases has been trending.



Demographics

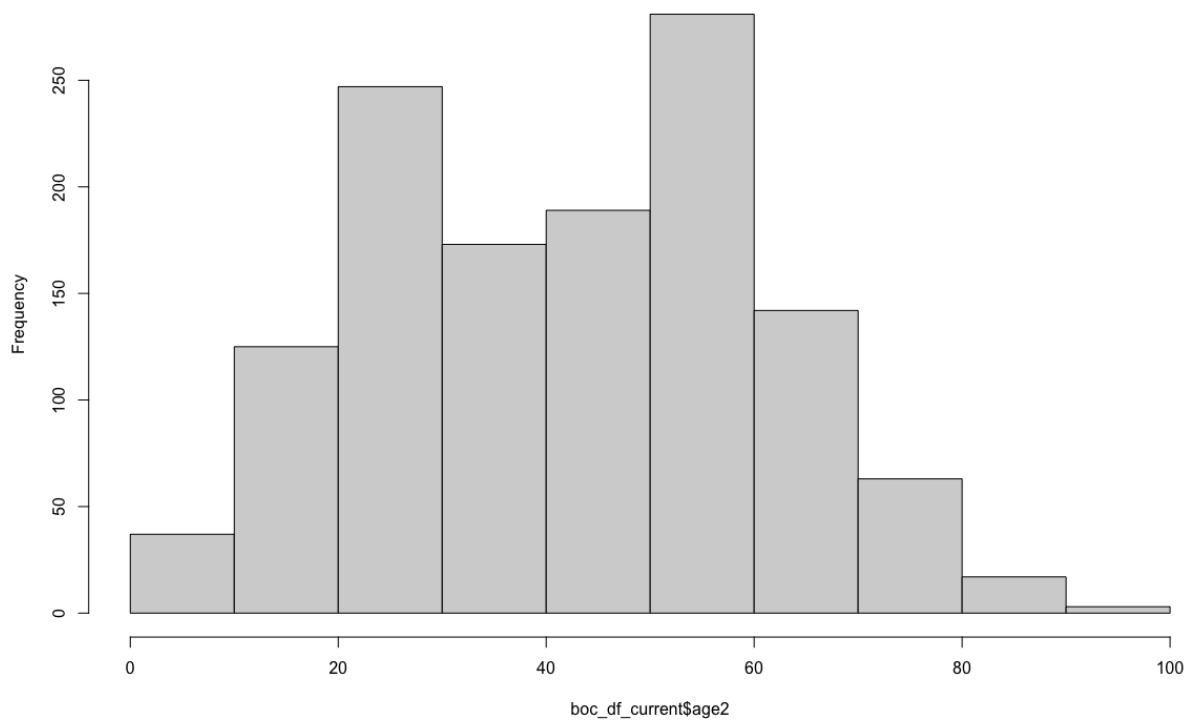
Sex

Over the past two weeks, there have been a similar percentage of males and females affected by COVID-19.

Male	Female
48%	52%

Age

There is a bimodal distribution with one peak between 20-30 years of age and another peak at 50-60 years of age. The average age is 43 years.



NOTABLE EVENTS AND PRESS RELEASES

Events

- COVID-19 Vaccine Planning
- New Educational Setting Outbreak in two Public High Schools
- New Educational Setting in two Public Elementary Schools
- Ongoing Educational Setting Outbreak at Private School (no ongoing transmission)
- Ongoing Educational Setting Outbreak at College (no ongoing transmission)

