



# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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**NEWS RELEASE FOR  
IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Kalamazoo County Health Department Updates COVID-19 Health Recommendations**

Kalamazoo, MI – Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department (HCS), in accordance with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), is updating [guidance on masking](#) to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in indoor settings, including school settings. The updated guidance outlines phases of the COVID-19 cycle as well as how recommendations to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 may differ during each phase.

MDHHS has classified stages of the COVID-19 cycle in the following three phases:

- **Response** – Local and state public health implement rapid response to a surge. The public may be advised to increase masking, testing and social distancing.
- **Recovery** – Post surge. No immediate resurgence predicted. Local and state public health will monitor conditions that could lead to future surges. Community members are empowered to make best choices for their individual situations.
- **Readiness** – A surge of cases is expected, with implications on severity of illness and hospital capacity. Increased communication to the public regarding possible new risks.

Due to decreases in cases and hospitalizations and increased access to vaccines, testing and treatment indicate that Kalamazoo County and the state of Michigan are entering a post-surge, recovery phase of this cycle.

Kalamazoo County residents should consider their individual and family members' risk factors and vaccination status, as well as the current state of COVID-19 spread in the community when making the personal decision whether to mask. Those with chronic illnesses or who are immunocompromised are at higher risk for poor outcomes from COVID-19 and would benefit most from masking in indoor settings. These risk factors may include age, medical conditions, and vaccination status.

MDHHS and HCS recommend that all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, continue to mask in high-risk congregate settings including long-term care facilities, homeless shelters, correctional facilities, jails and health care facilities. All individuals, regardless of vaccination status, should also wear a mask during isolation and quarantine periods to stop further community spread of COVID-19.

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**HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

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“When the evidence or situation changes, public health recommendations change as well. An example today is with respect to masking recommendations at this stage of the COVID-19 pandemic based on individual or congregate setting risk for COVID-19 spread or severe disease,” said Dr. William Nettleton, Medical Director of Kalamazoo County HCS. “Continued monitoring, including for new COVID-19 variants, will be important to inform readiness and additional response if needed.”

Kalamazoo County HCS will continue to monitor the transmission of COVID-19 closely and will adjust recommendations based on changes in the current phases of COVID-19 outlined by MDHHS. Updated information about guidance can be found at [www.kalcounty.com/covid19](http://www.kalcounty.com/covid19).

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Kalamazoo County Government  
Health & Community Services Department

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