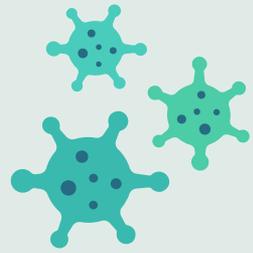
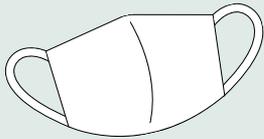


# Michigan Surge FAQ



## What is driving the surge in COVID-19 cases in Michigan?

With vaccinations underway, many people assume it's safe to gather without precaution. That's not the case. The highest spike in cases in Michigan is currently in the 10 to 19-year-old age group due to unvaccinated individuals gathering for school, sports and parties without distancing or wearing masks. But the spike isn't limited to adolescents and teens. Contact tracing shows a rise in cases coming from gatherings in the workplace, churches, bars and restaurants, as well.



## What can we do to slow the spread?

In order to slow this surge, people must remain vigilant and continue to take the necessary precautions to stop the virus from spreading. This includes wearing masks, practicing physical distancing, washing your hands and refraining from large gatherings – particularly indoors. When the positivity rate is high, we risk overloading our hospital systems and we begin to see high death rates.

## "I am tired of having to follow these precautions, I want to go back to living my regular life before the pandemic."

It's understandable that many people feel fatigued by COVID-19 precautions. With vaccines now available to most of the population, we will see the end of restrictions soon – but only if we continue to follow safety guidelines. While we will not be able to eradicate the virus this year, we can dramatically slow the spread and lower the positivity rate if we mask, physically distance, wash our hands and get a vaccine as soon as possible.



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## What is the point of getting the COVID-19 vaccine if these surges are still happening?

This recent spike in cases has no correlation to the effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccine. Those who are able to get vaccinated, should. Stopping a pandemic requires using all the tools we have available. Getting vaccinated can:

- Protect you from getting COVID-19 or from becoming seriously ill or dying due to COVID-19
- Prevent you from spreading the COVID-19 virus to others
- Add to the number of people in the community who are protected from getting COVID-19 — making it harder for the disease to spread and contributing to herd immunity
- Prevent the COVID-19 virus from spreading and replicating, which allows it to mutate and possibly become more resistant to vaccines

## Fast Facts

**Myth:** Since the number of vaccinations is going up and the number of COVID-19 cases is also rising, the vaccine must be causing the new cases.

**Fact:** You cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccine. Vaccinated people are, largely, not among those hospitalized with the virus. Our investigations show no correlation between receiving the vaccine or attending a vaccine clinic and getting sick. Furthermore, cases among those with the highest vaccination rate – people 65 and older—are dropping, while all other age groups are increasing dramatically.

**Myth:** Since some vaccinated people have tested positive for COVID-19, that means the vaccines do not work.

**Fact:** The COVID-19 vaccines are over 90% effective and are among the most effective vaccines on the market. But no vaccine is an absolute shield against illness. In the rare case when a vaccinated individual does become infected with COVID-19, their symptoms are much less severe than those who are not vaccinated, lowering their chances of hospitalization.

