LIVINGSTON COUNTY
Health Department

Livingston County COVID-19 Report

Date of report: **11/20/20**
Date range used in report: **11/6/20 – 11/19/20**

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

Contents

SUMMARY

Similar to counties across the State of Michigan, Livingston County is experiencing a sharp increase in cases that far eclipses the daily number of positive cases from the first wave of COVID-19 earlier this year. This surge in cases is further confirmed by a test positivity rate that has quadrupled from the baseline rate in the summer and has almost doubled this month alone. LCHD continues to observe high hospitalization rates as well as multiple deaths per week. This affects all ages with the majority of cases greater than 18 years of age.

This surge in cases has caused an inability to investigate all positive cases reported to LCHD. This is not unique to Livingston County as all health departments are struggling to keep up with the increased demand for case investigation. At the guidance of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and resulting increase in cases, LCHD staff have consequently realigned the case investigation prioritization strategy. The new strategy includes case investigation only for individuals below 19 years and above 64 years of age, as well as students attending in-person schools and those living in congregate living environments. Others are only notified of their results by the lab or ordering provider and are mailed an isolation packet from LCHD. Additionally, multiple local and statewide campaigns are in place to provide messaging on what to do if an individual tests positive for COVID-19.

With the high levels of community transmission, there is significant concern for an even higher spike in COVID-19 cases following Thanksgiving due to gatherings with individuals from different households. To mitigate the spread of disease, we echo the same messages from public health officials across Michigan and the US: wear a mask, socially distance from others, wash your hands, and this year, spend Thanksgiving at home with those in your household. Without these efforts, Livingston County is likely to continue to see a surge in cases, hospitalizations, and deaths.

SNAPSHOT

Case Count

Over the past two weeks, there were 1,279 total cases (average of 91 cases per day). This is a 53% increase over the previous two weeks, which demonstrates a significant increase in the number of total cases in Livingston County.

	10/23 – 11/5	11/6-11/19
Total Cases	838	1279
Confirmed	756	1196
Probable	82	83

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 16 new hospitalizations. The previous two-week period had 12 cases with a new hospital admission.

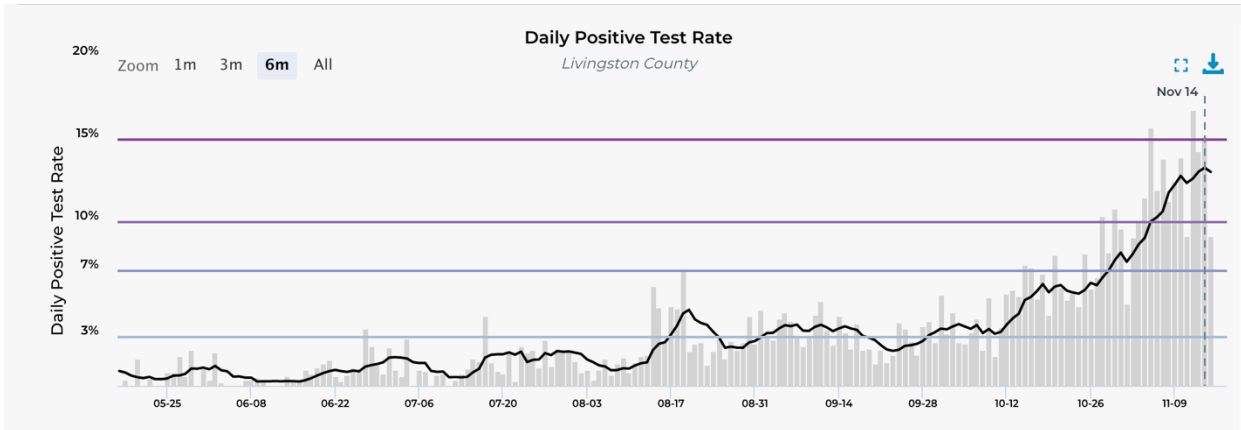|	10/23 – 11/5	11/6-11/19
New Admissions	12	16
Total Current Hospitalizations	14	26

Deaths

Over the past two weeks, there were five deaths in Livingston County. This is a significant increase compared to the past two-week period (one death).

Positivity Rate

The current test positivity rate in Livingston County is 13.3%, which has almost doubled since the beginning of the November. The local rate in Livingston County is comparable to that of the State of Michigan (13.8%). 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%.
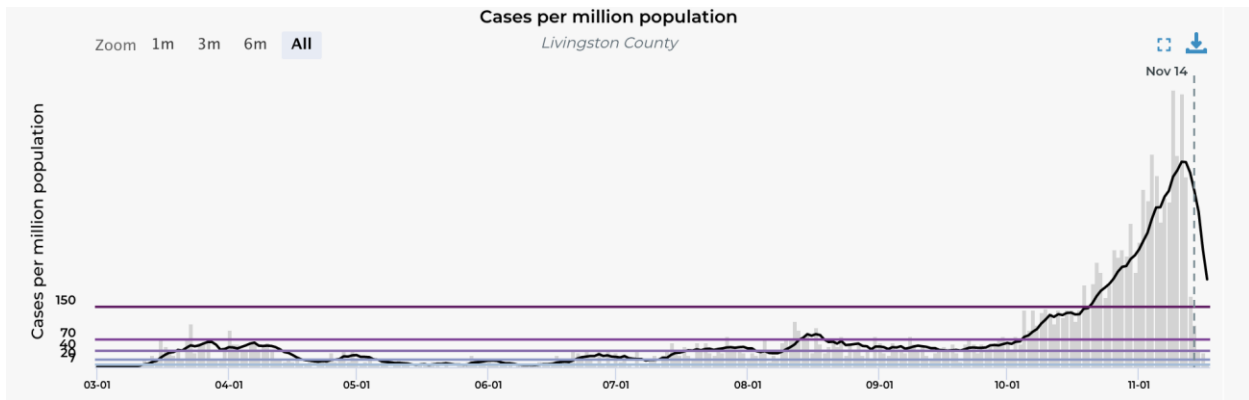
$$Positivity\ Rate = \frac{Positive\ COVID-19\ Tests}{Total\ COVID-19\ Tests} \times 100\%$$

Epi Curve

Livingston County continues to have an exponential growth since early October. Currently, there are 470 cases per million. This is more than twice the number of cases documented in the last report and is more than 600% greater than the peak in the first wave in March.

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 with the exception of Washtenaw County (327 cases per million).

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.
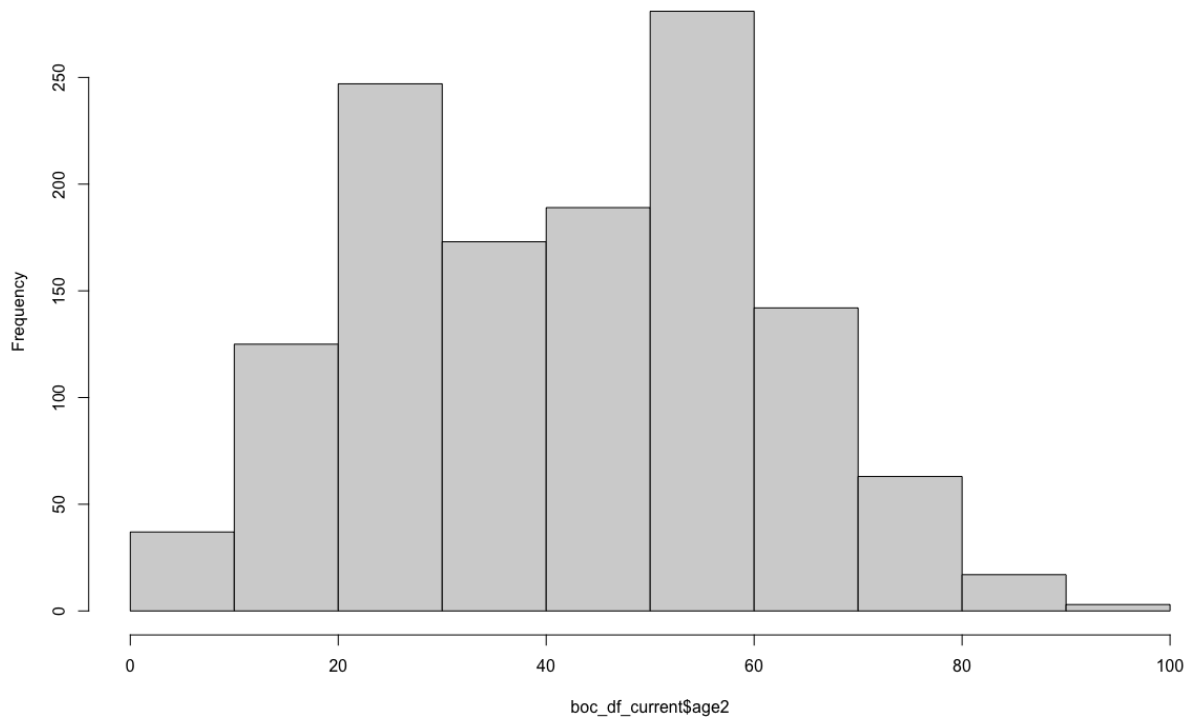
Demographics

Sex

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

Male	Female
49%	51%

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 44 years.

NOTABLE EVENTS AND PRESS RELEASES

Events

- Educational Setting Outbreak at Private School
- Educational Setting Outbreak at College

Press Releases

- November 10, 2020: Livingston County Health Department Shifts Prioritization of COVID-19 Investigations; Asks Residents to Take Personal Action if They Test Positive for COVID-19 or a Close Contact to a Case