

ALLEGAN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ADVISORY: Allegan County Stays at Substantial Level of Transmission, Per CDC

(Allegan) – Per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance, Allegan County Health Department (ACHD) encourages individuals, schools, and business to “mask up” when indoors in public and continue to practice social distancing, frequent handwashing, screening/testing, isolation/quarantine and get vaccinated as soon as possible— given that the County’s Level of Community Transmission stays at Substantial.

On July 27, 2021, CDC updated their mask wearing recommendation. To maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent the spread of COVID-19 to others, the CDC recommends everyone – including fully vaccinated individuals – wear a mask indoors in public if in an area of substantial or high transmission. Given recent evidence on the delta variant, the CDC is also recommending indoor face masks for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status, indicating that children should return to full-time in-person learning in the fall with layered prevention strategies.

ACHD strongly encourage residents to practice behaviors that reduce their risk of getting or spreading COVID-19.

“When transmission in the community increases, we each have to consider using all of our tools to provide stronger protection to our families, our children, and our community,” explains ACHD Health Officer, Angelique Joynes, MPH RN.

Allegan County has been classified at the substantial community transmission level since Friday, July 30. Case rates and test positivity continue to increase. The current 7-day average case rate for Allegan county is 69.2 per 100,000 (7/29/21 to 8/4/21) with a 7-day average test positivity rate of 9.73% (7/26/21 to 8/1/21). Most neighboring counties have also met the substantial transmission threshold.

ACHD recommends face mask wearing for all individuals – fully vaccinated and unvaccinated – while indoors in public. Given the community transmission status change, the health department also encourages schools and businesses to consider the latest public health recommendations when determining risk mitigation strategies for employees and clients within buildings. ACHD also **highly encourages vaccination against COVID-19.** All three available

vaccines prevent serious illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19, even the delta variant. Vaccines are in high supply and are easy and free to receive.

A layered protection strategy should be followed to ensure a healthy environment, allowing all residents the best chance to remain healthy and physically present at work and in the classroom setting. Such a strategy should include the following risk mitigation measures:

- Get the COVID-19 vaccine, if eligible
- Get tested for COVID-19 within 3-5 days if exposed to someone with COVID-19
- Wear your face mask while indoors or in heavily congregated outdoor areas
- Wash your hands frequently
- Maintain a distance of six feet from others
- Enhance ventilation systems within buildings
- Stay home when sick and get tested for COVID-19
- Isolate if you test positive for COVID-19 or quarantine if considered a close contact

For more information on COVID-19 vaccines, visit www.allegancounty.org/covid. To see the CDC COVID-19 data, visit covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view.

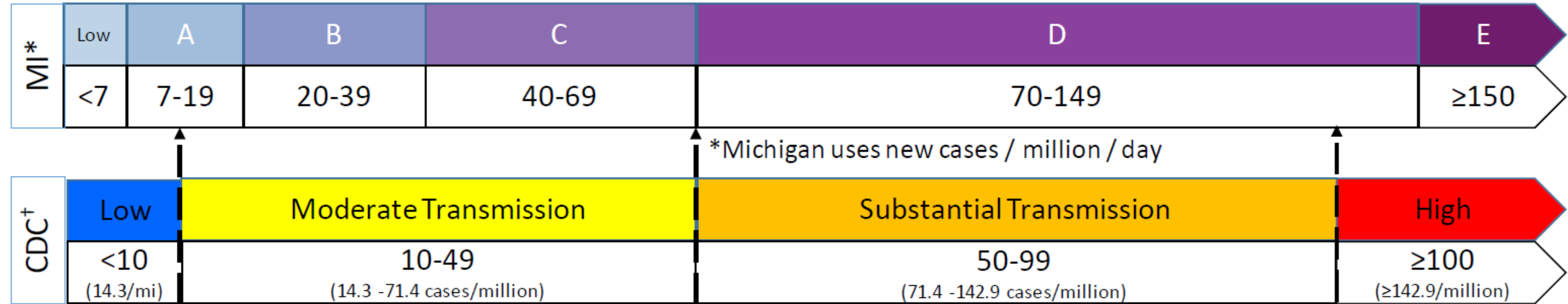
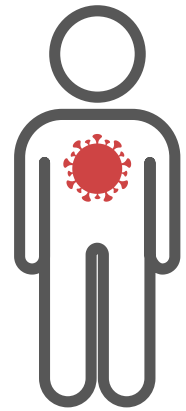
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Attachment: Levels of Community Transmission

LEVELS OF COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION

Comparing CDC community transmission thresholds to MI levels

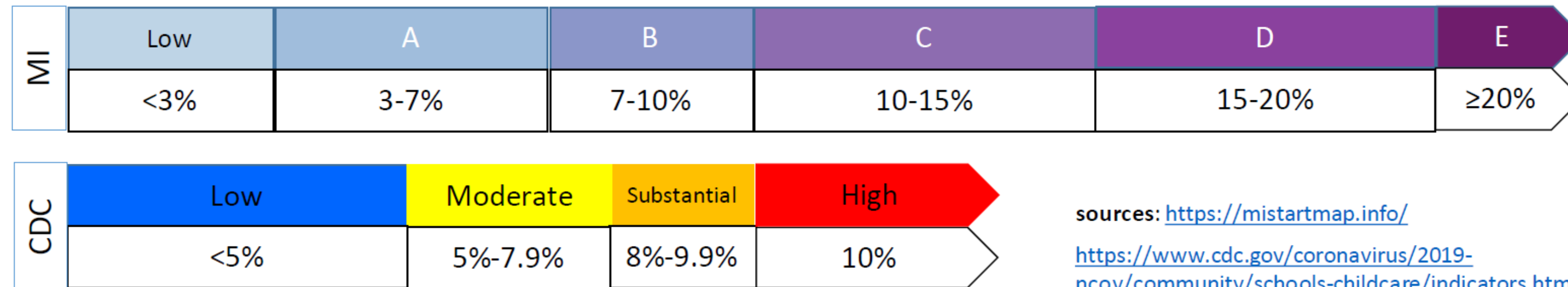
Case Rate*†



*Michigan uses new cases / million / day

† CDC uses cases / 100,000 / week (conversion to MI metrics in paratheses)

Percent Positivity



sources: <https://mistartmap.info/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/indicators.html>

