



## **Stay Vigilant Against COVID-19**

## **VACCINATEWESTMI.COM**

The "go to" site for information on the COVID-19 vaccine.



Despite so much good news about the speed of vaccination efforts, it's important to recognize that COVID-19 is still a very real threat.

With vaccinations underway, many people assume it is now safe to gather without precaution, however this is not the case. Data shows the highest spike in cases in Michigan is currently happening in the 10-19-year-old age group which can be due to unvaccinated individuals gathering for school, sports, and parties without wearing masks and physical distancing. This spike is not limited to age group, data also shows these cases are coming from gathering in the workplace, church, bars, and restaurants as well.

"To slow this surge and prevent a spike in cases from happening again, 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", says Dr. London, Health Officer at the Kent County Health Department.

Doctor London further explains "it's understandable that people are tired of having to follow these precautions and feeling fatigued. With vaccines becoming available to most of the population, we will be able to see the end of restrictions much sooner if we continue to practice these precautions. While we will not be able to eradicate the virus this year, we can stop a highly positivity rate from happening. When there is a high positivity rate, we risk overloading our hospital systems and we begin to see high death rates".



## **Pausing Use of Johnson & Johnson Vaccine**

Of the 6.8 million doses of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine given in the U.S., six women have reported a rare and severe blood clotting condition. Right now, these adverse events appear to be extremely rare. We are following the recommendation of the Centers for Disease Control and U.S. Food and Drug Administration and pausing administration of this vaccine at all of our clinics and sites until a new recommendation is presented. We are grateful to have two other vaccines, manufactured by Pfizer and Moderna, that have proven safe after 100 million doses have been administered in the U.S.

If you have received the Johnson and Johnson vaccine, or any vaccine, and develop severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain or shortness of breath within three weeks after vaccination, contact your health care provider.



## Hope is here.



After rigorous testing and FDA approval, COVID-19 vaccines are authorized and available in West Michigan and throughout the U.S. All Michigan residents age 16 and up are now eligible for the vaccine, so please register now! The vaccine is the way to beat this virus, save lives and restore our economy.

And don't forget - please continue to wear your mask in public, social distance and wash your hands. Thanks for all you are doing to help slow the spread of the coronavirus in our community.

[Click Here for  
Vaccine  
Registration  
Information](#)

## Need A Ride?

If you are 60+ and think you might need a ride to get your COVID-19 vaccine, you may be eligible for a low-cost or donation-based ride.

The Kent County Health Department is teaming up with several local organizations and paid and volunteer drivers to support rides for seniors/elders to get to and from vaccination clinics. If you or someone you know may need a ride, don't wait - register now.

When you are scheduled for your vaccination appointment, you may be connected with a ride through one of the partner agencies assisting with this effort.

[Click here for more information and to register](#)