



# The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians

2605 N. West Bay Shore Drive · Peshawbestown, MI 49682-9275 · (231) 534-7211

## **ANNOUNCING EIGHT (8) NEW COVID-19 CASE, UP-TO-DATE PROTECTION, FREE PULSE OXIMETERS, AT-HOME TESTS, KN95 MASKS, and N95 MASKS.**

May 5, 2022

- **The GTB Health Department is reporting eight (8) new positive COVID-19 cases in the workweek of May 2, 2022 thus far.** This is a significant increase in new cases and increases our 7-day positivity rate to 23.7% (compared to 12.4% for the State of Michigan). We reported 96 new cases for January 2022, 22 new cases for February 2022, 3 new cases for March 2022, and 3 new cases for April 2022.

Currently, all GTB service areas are in low or medium community level risk, however, new cases are increasing in all regions in Michigan. You can check your CDC COVID-19 community levels at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>.

In Michigan, new cases, hospital admissions and hospital census are showing an increase, although ICU census continues to decline. We continue to closely monitor the spread of Omicron BA.2 in Michigan. In the U.S., BA.2 remains most predominant but the proportion of BA.2.12.1 is increasing faster than other lineages. BA.2.12.1 is the most common circulating strain in Northeastern U.S. In Michigan, since March 15, there have been 947 Omicron BA.2 specimens identified from 57 counties and City of Detroit.

- **With the increasing spread of the Omicron variant, please assure your protection is up-to-date.** Please see attached handout “Thinking About Getting a Second COVID-19 Booster Dose”. Please call the COVID-19 Vaccination Line (231-534-7475) to get scheduled for a booster shot, vaccination, or for any questions.

Upcoming dates include:

- May 10<sup>th</sup> at 3 Mile Office 10am to 3pm.
  - May 11<sup>th</sup> at Medicine Lodge 9:30am to 3:30pm.
  - May 17<sup>th</sup> at Benzie Office 11am to 2pm.
  - May 18<sup>th</sup> at Medicine Lodge 9:30am to 3:30pm.
- \*Also offered individually at each patient encounter.*

The GTB Health Department has now administered 5,337 doses. Currently, 63% of GTB tribal members age 12 and over, 82% of GTB elders age 55 and over, and 19% of GTB tribal members age 5 to 11 years in the 6-county service area are vaccinated. Additionally, 65% of eligible GTB Elders have received their 1<sup>st</sup> booster and 50% of eligible GTB Elders have received their 2<sup>nd</sup> booster.



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- A reminder that GTB is providing free COVID-19 testing supplies, pulse oximeters, KN95 and N95 masks (while supplies last).
  - Please call the clinic at (231) 534-7200 to make a request, or
  - Nearest CHR:
    - Saija McClellan, Charlevoix, (231) 534-7062
    - Elizabeth Elliott, Benzie (231) 534-7826
    - Raneé Compo, Traverse City (231) 534-7772
    - Tamra Newton, Peshawbestown (231) 534-7205
  - Or, tribal satellite office:
    - GTB Administration, (231) 534-7000
    - Benzie Office, (231) 534-7820
    - Charlevoix Office, (231) 534-7060
    - Traverse City Office, (231) 534-7760
- Below is summary information for the 466 cumulative positive cases to-date tested at the GTB Health Department:

By Age	CY2021	CY2021 %	CY2022	CY2022%
0-20 years	97	29%	37	28%
20-29 years	61	18%	18	14%
30-39 years	60	18%	26	20%
40-49 years	47	14%	18	14%
50-59 years	34	10%	16	12%
60-69 years	24	7%	8	6%
70-79 years	6	2%	8	6%
80-89 years	4	1%	1	1%
>89 years	1	0%	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>100%</b>



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### By County

- Leelanau – 223
- Benzie – 16
- Grand Traverse – 180
- Kalkaska – 7
- Manistee – 4
- Charlevoix – 9
- Antrim -21
- Ingham – 1
- Isabella -3
- Wexford -1
- Out of State – 1

\*\*\*There may be more active cases in the community that were tested at other facilities that are not included in this tally.

**If you would like to get tested for COVID-19, please call the clinic at (231)-534-7200 to get on the daily testing schedule. Our test times are currently 8:15am and 1:15pm. We ask that all individuals tested appear on the testing schedule.** Please note, the GTB Health Department tests tribal members and families, government employees, government entities, and essential support groups to GTB when possible.

Respectfully,

Soumit Pendharkar, MHA, FACHE  
Health Administrator



# Thinking About Getting a Second COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Dose

In March 2022, CDC updated its COVID-19 vaccination guidance to say that certain groups of people *may* get second boosters. If you're in one of those groups, it's up to you whether or not to get a second booster right now, based on the benefits and risks the vaccine may provide to you. Your healthcare provider can help you review your options. Here are factors to think about as you consider a second booster.

## 1. Are you eligible?

Right now, you're eligible for a 2nd COVID-19 booster if you're:

- 50 years of age and older *and* received an initial booster at least 4 months ago.
- 12 years of age and older *and* moderately or severely immunocompromised *and* received an initial booster at least 4 months ago
- Received 2 doses of Janssen vaccine at least 4 months ago

## 2. Are you (or is someone you live with) more likely to get very sick?

Certain factors can make it more likely someone will get very sick from COVID-19. If you are eligible for a second booster (see above), it may be helpful to get a second booster now if you are (or if someone you live with is):

- Moderately or severely immunocompromised
- More likely to get very sick from COVID-19
- More likely to be exposed to COVID-19 through your job, where you live, or other factors (such as frequent travel or large gatherings)
- In an area with medium to high COVID-19 community levels
- Or if someone you live with is unvaccinated.

## 3. Can you wait?

Even if you are eligible for a second booster, you may consider waiting to get a second booster if you:

- Had COVID-19 within the past 3 months
- Feel that getting a second booster now would make you not want to get another booster in the future (a second booster may be more important in fall of 2022, or if a new vaccine for a future COVID-19 variant becomes available).

## If you get a second booster:

- Make sure it's been at least 4 months since your last COVID-19 booster.
- Remember that second boosters can only be Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech (and for 12-17 year-olds, only Pfizer-BioNTech).
- You can self-attest that you have a moderately or severely weakened immune system. This means you do not need any documentation that you have a weakened immune system to receive COVID-19 vaccines (including boosters) wherever they're offered.

### CDC References and Resources:

COVID-19 by County [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html)

Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Approved or Authorized in the United States: [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/interim-considerations-us.html](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/interim-considerations-us.html)

Interim COVID-19 Immunization Schedule for Ages 5 Years and Older:

[www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/COVID-19-immunization-schedule-ages-5yrs-older.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/COVID-19-immunization-schedule-ages-5yrs-older.pdf)

People with Certain Medical Conditions

[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html)

U.S. COVID-19 Vaccine Product Information: [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/index.html)

