



# The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians

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

## **ANNOUNCING FIVE (5) NEW COVID-19 CASES, OMICRON, MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY THERAPY TREATMENTS.**

December 22, 2021

- **The GTB Health Department is reporting five (5) new positive COVID-19 cases through December 21<sup>st</sup>.** The local health departments for Leelanau and Grand Traverse counties were notified as the county of residence. We are continuing to see a sharp increase in cases. Please continue to take measures to reduce spread including vaccination, wearing face masks, avoiding crowded or poorly ventilated settings, staying home when ill, seeking testing if symptomatic or exposed, and frequent handwashing.

**You may obtain an at-home COVID-19 test kit at no cost. Please call 231-534-7200 to make a request, while supplies last. You can use at-home testing to reduce the risk of spreading the virus during this holiday season. Please consider keeping at-home-tests at home or where you may need them. At-home tests may be used if you have COVID-19 symptoms or have been exposed or potentially exposed to an individual with COVID-19. Even if you don't have symptoms and have not been exposed to an individual with COVID-19, using an at-home test before gathering with unvaccinated children, elders, those who are immunocompromised, or individuals at risk of severe disease can reduce the risk of spreading the virus.**

- **It is anticipated that the latest variant of concern, Omicron, will become predominant in our area. In the U.S., Omicron is estimated to account for 73.2% of the total COVID-19 infections. There are 10 Omicron cases currently reported in Michigan.** The rapid increase in Omicron cases has startled public health officials, with cases doubling every 1.5 to 3 days. Healthcare facilities are bracing for impact, with COVID-19 hospitalizations reaching a recent pandemic high accounting for 22.9% of inpatient beds in Michigan.

-Vaccination is still the best tool we have to moderate the impact of COVID-19. All though we anticipate a rise in new cases and breakthrough infections, vaccines continue to protect us from severe disease. Booster doses have been further shown to strengthen and broaden protection against Omicron and other variants. Everyone should get vaccinated and get your booster dose, as soon as you are eligible.

-Please note that the use of an mRNA vaccine for a booster dose is preferred for those who received the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine for their single dose primary series. Persons who are 16 and 17 are approved to receive the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine as a booster.



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-Continue to practice mitigation measures including masking at work/school, indoor public places, crowded outdoor settings.

-Stay at home if you have symptoms such as chills, fever, or mild respiratory/flu-like illness and get tested.

--Pick up a free at home COVID-19 test. Please consider keeping at-home-tests at home or where you may need them.

Please contact the GTB COVID-19 Vaccination Line (231-534-7475) if you would like to schedule a vaccination or for any questions you may have. You may use the following links to self-schedule a booster shot or your primary doses. Alternatively, you can call the GTB COVID-19 Vaccination Line (231-534-7475).

Benzie: <https://www.solvehealth.com/book-online/0xwOwg>

Charlevoix: <https://www.solvehealth.com/book-online/gZJPYg>

Medicine Lodge: <https://www.solvehealth.com/book-online/A6dK1g>

TCC: <https://www.solvehealth.com/book-online/AWoXXA>

Strongheart: <https://www.solvehealth.com/book-online/go5QoA>

The GTB Health Department has now administered 4,783 doses. Currently, 59% of GTB tribal members age 12 and over and 82% of GTB elders age 55 and over in the 6-county service area are vaccinated.

- **\*\*\*The GTB Health Department has now delivered monoclonal antibody therapy treatments to 6 patients.** This treatment is offered to all patients who meet clinical criteria. The treatment is authorized for high-risk patients for treatment of mild to moderate COVID-19 and post-exposure prophylaxis in high-risk patients. Clinical trials in high-risk, positive patients have reported 70% reduction in hospitalizations or deaths. As post-exposure prophylaxis, 98.5% of patients in one trial remained asymptomatic and for those who became symptomatic, symptoms resolved sooner than the placebo group. High-risk criteria for severe disease include older age (e.g. 65 or greater), BMI of 25 or greater, pregnancy, chronic kidney disease, diabetes, immunosuppressive disease, currently receiving immunosuppressive treatment, cardiovascular disease, hypertension, chronic lung diseases, sickle cell disease, neurodevelopment disorders or other conditions that confer medical complexity, having a medical-related technological dependence not related to COVID-19 (e.g. tracheostomy), other medical conditions or factors that place the patient at high risk for progression to severe COVID-19.



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The GTB Health Department is continuing to monitor the effectiveness of its monoclonal antibody treatments against variants of concern. If you have questions about the new monoclonal antibody treatment available at the GTB Health Department, please contact the clinic at 231-534-7200 and request to speak to a medical provider.

- Below is summary information for the 319 cumulative positive cases to-date tested at the GTB Health Department:

## By Age

- 0-20 – 95 cases
- 20-29 yrs – 57 cases
- 30-39 yrs – 56 cases
- 40-49 yrs – 44 case
- 50-59 yrs – 33 cases
- 60-69 yrs – 23 cases
- 70-79 yrs – 6 cases
- 80-89 yrs – 4 cases
- >89 yrs – 1 case

## By County

- Leelanau – 131
- Benzie – 11
- Grand Traverse – 139
- Kalkaska – 5
- Manistee – 2
- Charlevoix – 8
- Antrim -19
- Ingham – 1
- Isabella -3

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



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**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. 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