

OH Gov. DeWine COVID-19 update_2.25.2021

Thurs. Feb. 25	826149 Confirmed Cases	962404 Total Cases (CDC)	2409 New Cases	49951 Number of Hospitalizations	7104 ICU Admissions	14573 Confirmed Deaths	17125 Total Deaths (CDC)
Weds. Feb. 24	824401 Confirmed Cases	959995 Total Cases (CDC)	1842 New Cases	49788 Number of Hospitalizations	7083 ICU Admissions	14500 Confirmed Deaths	17045 Total Deaths (CDC)
Tues. Feb. 23	823091 Confirmed Cases	958153 Total Cases (CDC)	2775 New Cases	49651 Number of Hospitalizations	7073 ICU Admissions	14430 Confirmed Deaths	16968 Total Deaths (CDC)

Updated daily at 2 p.m. - <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/>

New orders/actions

- The next press conference will be Tuesday, March 2.

There are 1,262 confirmed COVID-19 patients hospitalized today – down from 1,517 one week ago. The 7-day test positivity rate for confirmed tests is 4.5%; down from 4.9% one week ago. 1,530,823 people have received the first dose of the vaccine; with 772,126 having received both doses. 5 counties are now under the CDC's high incidence level. Morgan County has the highest incidence level at 344.6 cases/100,000 residents – as recently as January 7 the highest rate in the state was 1,120 cases/100,000 residents. 8 counties are now at Level 2/orange, an increase of 4 counties over last week.

Governor DeWine opened by thanking all of the health workers and school districts participating in the school employee vaccination program. As of this week, all doses requested by schools through the program have been allocated to local providers. He said that while not all school districts will meet the March 1 opening deadline, many will and the remaining few should begin in-person instruction shortly. Currently, for public schools:

- Full in-person = 416 districts, 68.3% of districts; 770,737 students, 50.8% of students
- Full Hybrid = 178 districts, 29.2% of districts; 553,260 students, 36.5% of students
- Partial Hybrid = 5 districts; 0.8% of districts; 89,456 students; 5.9% of students
- Full remote = 10 districts; 1.6% of districts; 103,805 students, 6.8% of students

The Governor noted that decreasing trends continue among COVID hospitalizations overall, but especially for those 80+. In December, this population made up more than 25% of COVID hospitalizations, a number that has dropped to 18% this month. Similarly, active cases in nursing homes have dropped dramatically, from more than 5,000 cases in mid-December, to around 1,000 active cases last week.

Beginning March 1, the state is lifting restrictions on visitors to the state's behavioral health hospitals. Safety guidelines will be in place to ensure safe visitation. The state veterans homes have resumed new admissions as of today – admissions ceased in March 2020. More than 90% of residents at the veterans homes accepted the vaccine and there are no current cases in either home.

The state has launched a new health equity page to centralize coronavirus data and demographics, resources and education materials targeted to minority populations: <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/health-equity>

Governor DeWine discussed how spring events might be conducted. He said there is a “bridge” to getting back to what life was before the pandemic, which includes the vaccine and keeping to the safe protocols. Ohio will be receiving approximately 310,000 doses next week and will be adding new sites in certain Wal-Mart and Meijer location and more independent pharmacies. The state will also be able to distribute more doses to Kroger, CVS, Walgreens, hospitals and public health departments. In regards to the impending Johnson & Johnson approval, the Governor said he believes Ohio will receive approximately 90,000 doses next week, a figure not included in the 310,000 figure. The next two weeks, the Johnson & Johnson allocation will be somewhat lower. Those doses will not be allocated to providers until the state receives the official word from the federal government.

The Governor added that for spring events, the state will allow sporting and entertainment events to reopen with indoor capacity at 25% and outdoor capacity at 30% provided they follow established precautions – mandatory masks; physical distancing; pod seating; sufficient distancing in hallways/ingress/egress areas; etc. General admission seating (lawns, standing room, infields) will be allowed as long as masks are worn and 6-foot distancing can be marked and maintained. This applies to sports events, graduations, proms, wedding receptions, etc. The state is also planning to issue orders for fairs and festivals. Amusement parks are still subject to existing orders on their operations. This is a starting point and if the situation improves in the spring or summer, the capacity numbers could be increased. Full details will be available soon.

Current Travel Advisory: Those entering Ohio after travel to states reporting positive testing rates of 15% or higher for COVID-19 are advised to self-quarantine for 14 days. Based on a 7-day rolling average of positivity rates on February 24, the affected states are: South Dakota (22.3%); Kansas (22.1%); Alabama (22.0%); Iowa (21.0%); and Idaho (21.0%). Kentucky and Mississippi have experienced reporting irregularities with the total number of tests performed this past week and were not able to calculate an accurate positivity rate.

CalfeeNOW

On episode 22 of Calfee NOW, Leah Pappas Porner, Chair of Calfee's Government Relations and Legislation practice group, and Christine Hesse, Lead Principal, Calfee Strategic Solutions, Federal Government Relations and Policy spoke with U.S. Congresswoman Joyce Beatty (D-OH, District 3). Congresswoman Beatty represents much of Columbus and parts of eastern Franklin County. She currently serves as Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus and on the House Committee on Financial Services. <https://www.calfee.com/blog/calfee-now-episode-22-with-congresswoman-joyce>

CalfeeNOW is a new feature with Calfee government relations specialists and attorneys conducting brief conversations (approx. 15 minutes) with policymakers and industry leaders offering insights on noteworthy topics, associated opportunities and trends to watch for in the near future. See <https://www.calfee.com/blog> for the latest and upcoming episodes.

Other items of note

- Ohioans filed 101,825 initial applications for unemployment compensation last week, although the Department of Job and Family Services believes that total is inflated by fraudulent claims. Of those claims, at least 29,000 have been flagged as suspicious. Last week marked the third consecutive week new claims have hit six figures in the state, as well as the third straight week the agency has pointed to fraud as playing a large role in boosting the number of applications filed. ODJFS reported residents

filed 322,542 continued jobless claims last week, up from 307,923 the previous week. The agency said it has sent more than \$8.6 billion in unemployment compensation payments to more than 941,000 Ohioans over the last 49 weeks. The U.S. Department of Labor reported 730,000 claims were filed nationwide last week, down 111,000 from the previous week's revised level.

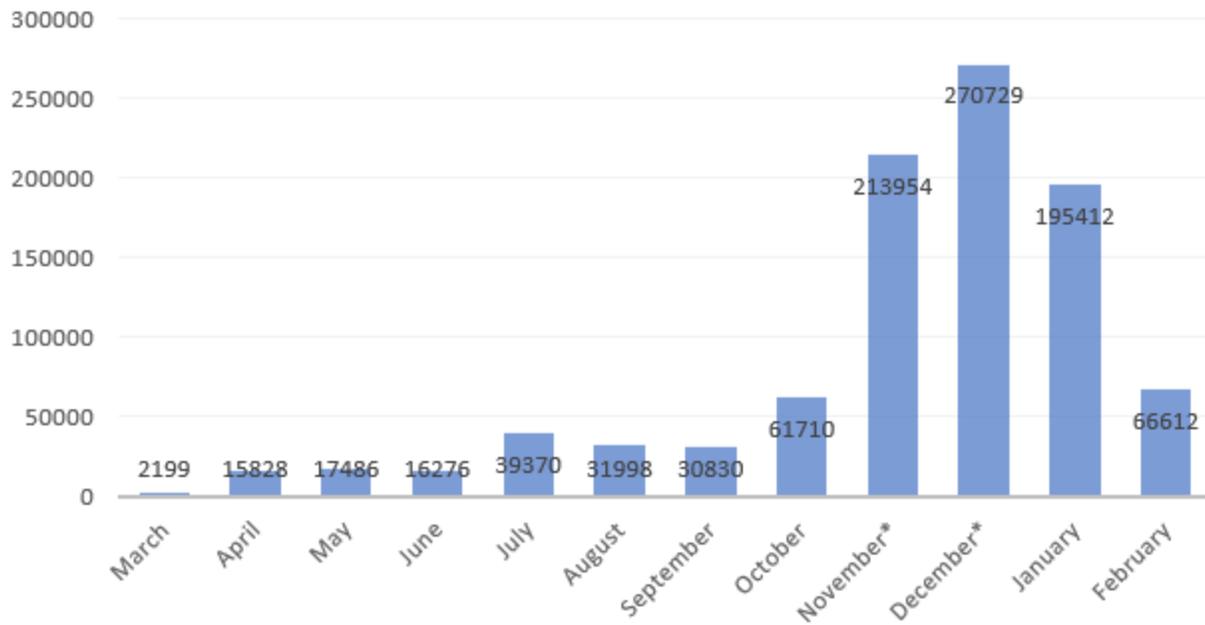
- The Food and Drug Administration has declared Johnson & Johnson's new single-shot vaccine to be safe and effective, setting the stage for it to be authorized as soon as this weekend.
- Costco, which has been paying employees an extra \$2 an hour during the pandemic, is raising its minimum wage from \$15 to \$16 next week, making it the latest major retailer to pump up pay in recent months. Chief executive Craig Jelinek said Thursday during a Senate Budget Committee hearing about worker pay that the average pay among Costco's U.S. hourly employees is \$24, and that they receive regular increases once or twice a year. The warehouse chain, which has 180,000 U.S. employees and \$167 billion in annual revenue, is the nation's second-largest brick and mortar retailer, behind Walmart.
- About one in 10 people who have contracted covid-19 continue to show symptoms three months after infection, the World Health Organization said Thursday, urging policymakers to do more to acknowledge and treat the phenomenon often referred to as "long COVID." Symptoms can include everything from fatigue to chest pain to depression to a loss of smell, the WHO said in a policy brief released Thursday by its Europe division. The head of WHO Europe, Hans Kluge, said "many thousands" are suffering from persistent ill-health with "severe social, economic, health and occupational consequences."

Ohio COVID-19 Data Curves

The following are graphic representations of reported cases using Ohio Department of Health data and expanded CDC definitions.

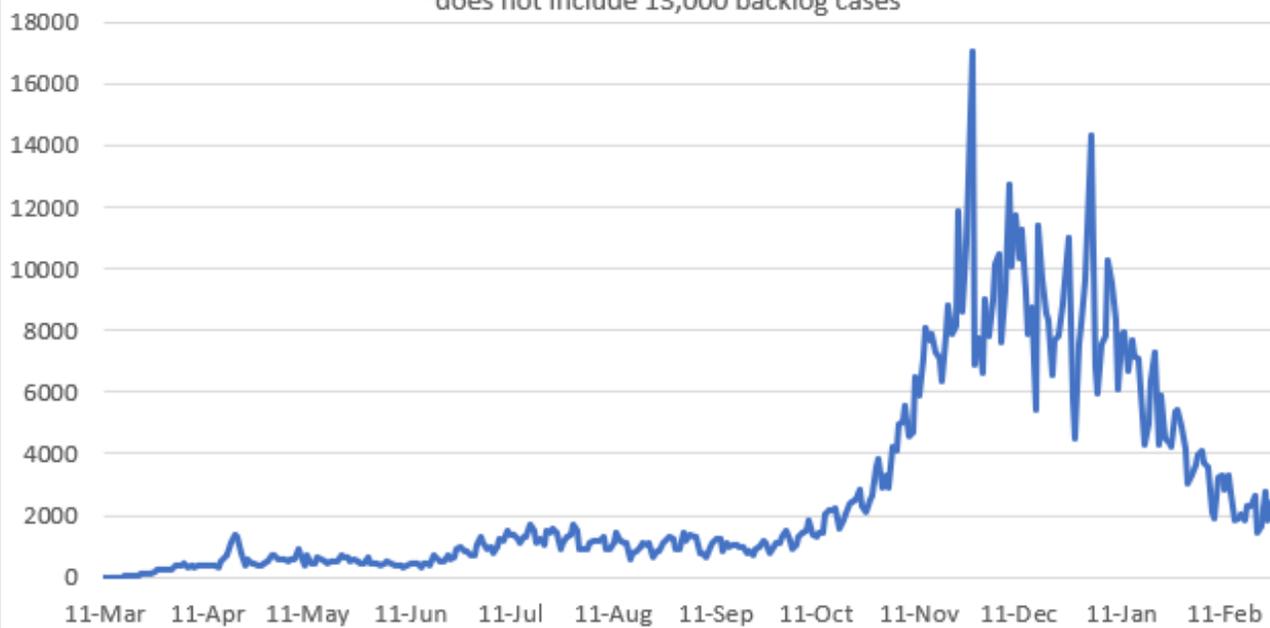
Cumulative New Cases by Month

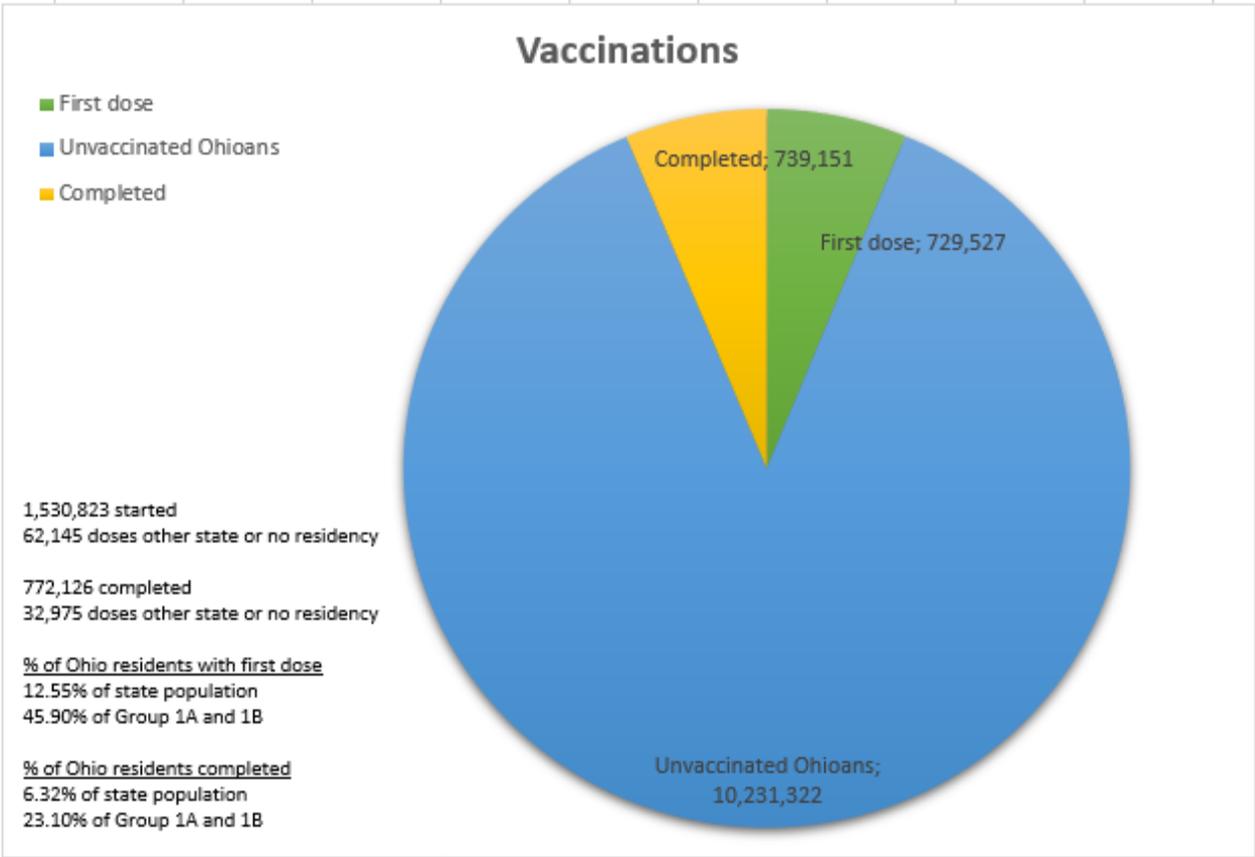
*approximation



Number of New Cases Per Day

*does not include 13,000 backlog cases





Note:

The new cases/day graph removes the 13,000 one day backlog to more accurately reflect the figure for December 8.

The monthly cumulative cases graph includes the 13,000 cases in November and December's totals. An average per day figure for each week was used to allocate a portion of the 13,000 to each month. The totals for November and December are an approximation.

Note: For an archive of all COVID-19 related First Alerts from Calfee, which are separate from these emails and focused on specific business topics, please visit the Calfee COVID-19 Resource Center:

<https://www.calfee.com/covid-19-resource-center>