

## OH Gov. DeWine COVID-19 update\_2.18.2021

Thurs. Feb. 18	816057 Confirmed Cases	947389 Total Cases (CDC)	2282 New Cases	49061 Number of Hospitalizations	7002 ICU Admissions	14132 Confirmed Deaths	16611 Total Deaths (CDC)
Weds. Feb. 17	814532 Confirmed Cases	945107 Total Cases (CDC)	1816 New Cases	48888 Number of Hospitalizations	6974 ICU Admissions	14046 Confirmed Deaths	16513 Total Deaths (CDC)
Tues. Feb. 16	813465 Confirmed Cases	943291 Total Cases (CDC)	2026 New Cases	48739 Number of Hospitalizations	6949 ICU Admissions	14000 Confirmed Deaths	16453 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, February 23.

There are 1,516 confirmed COVID-19 patients hospitalized today – down from 1,861 one week ago. The 7-day test positivity rate for confirmed tests is 4.9%; down from 6.1% one week ago. This the first time the 7-day test positivity rate has been below 5% since late October. 1,369,627 people have received the first dose of the vaccine; with 539,023 having received both doses. There was no change to the state alert map – 84 counties are at Level 3/red and 4 counties are Level 2/orange. Vinton County has dropped below the CDC’s high incidence rate – the first time any county has been below that mark in months.

Governor DeWine opened by discussing the state of emergency he declared in Lawrence County. The winter ice storm has downed many trees around the county blocking roads and cutting power to many residents. ODOT Director Marchbanks joined briefly to announce that all US and state highways are now open for travel in Lawrence County – crews are continuing to work throughout the county to clear trees and roads and reconnect power. The Governor assured everyone who had a vaccine appointment scheduled that their appointment will be rescheduled.

City and school leaders in Canfield, Ohio joined the briefing to talk about the committee the city put together to encourage deterrence measures in the city and the schools. The Mayor and Superintendent pulled together former mayors, school leaders, the police and fire chiefs and others to promote health measures, purchase supplies and reward community members for following protocols.

The Governor announced that the new nursing home and assisted living vaccine maintenance program has begun. This program will ensure that new hires and residents that enter those facilities in need of the vaccine will be able to receive it as they arrive. Vaccines will also be available for employees and residents who previously declined to take the vaccine. Aging Director McElroy said over 1000 facility leaders joined a webinar this morning on the program and hope to start soon. She also said they are working on new guidelines on visiting residents of facilities and hopes to join the press conference next Thursday to discuss.

Dr. Vanderhoff took some time this afternoon to remind everyone to continue to observe social distancing and mask protocols. While the vaccine roll out continues to go well, we still need many weeks for vaccination rates to grow. He particularly focused on the effectiveness of masking – noting the dramatic decrease in flu infections this winter. The Governor added that continuing these measures might allow us to do more activities this spring, like attending graduations.

Lt. Governor Husted joined the press conference from Richland Public Health in Richland County for another visit with a vaccine clinic.

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 17, the affected states are: Idaho (26.0%); Kansas (22.0%); Alabama (21.0%); South Dakota (19.4%); and Iowa (16.0%). New Jersey and Wyoming 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

Our latest episode features a conversation between Calfee's Tim Day with Diane Newton, Associate Vice President at HNTB, and Mandy Bishop, Deputy Director of Public Services for the City of Columbus. Both Mandy and Diane are actively involved with Smart Columbus, the City of Columbus and Columbus Region's smart city initiative, led by the City of Columbus and the Columbus Partnership, in partnership with The Ohio State University, American Electric Power and many others. <https://www.calfee.com/newsroom-news-calfee-now-episode-21-mandy-bishop-diane-newton>

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/Calfee-NOW> for the latest and upcoming episodes.

#### Other items of note

- Ohioans filed 147,002 initial applications for unemployment compensation last week – a total that state officials believe has been artificially inflated by fraud. The Department of Job and Family Services reported at least 33,000 of the claims, or about 22%, have been flagged as suspicious. Last week marked the second-consecutive week new claims have topped 140,000 amid growing concerns over the prevalence of fraudulent applications in the state's unemployment compensation system. The U.S. Department of Labor reported 861,000 initial claims were filed nationwide last week, up 13,000 compared with the previous week's revised total.

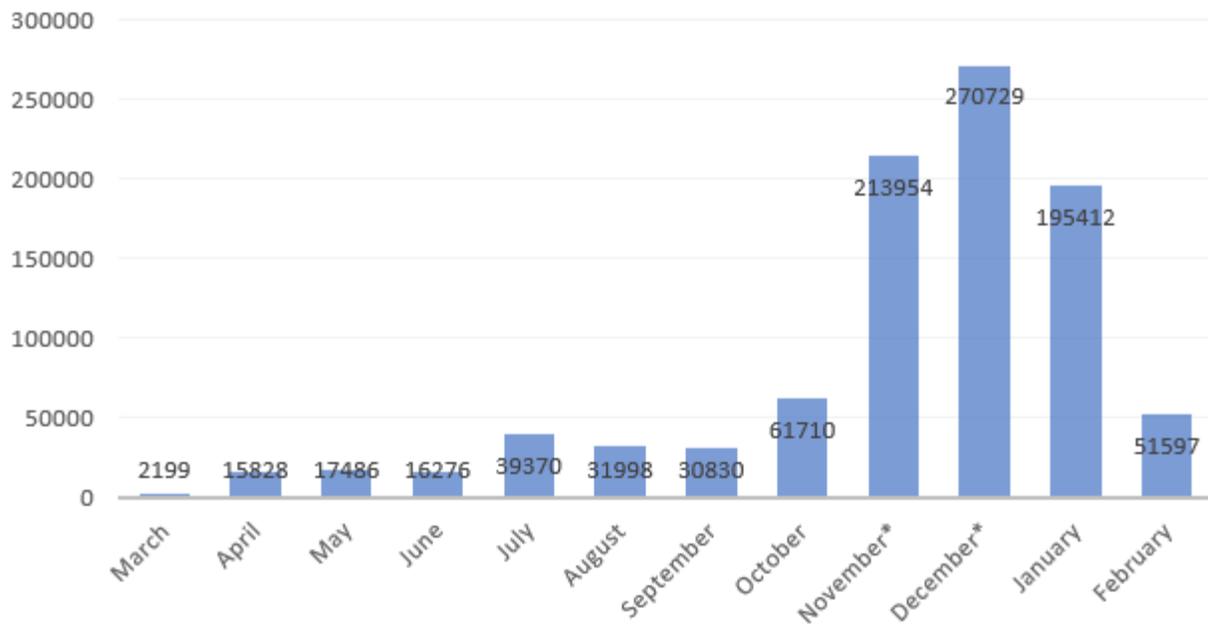
- The Department of Job and Family Services should soon be able to start implementing the additional 11 weeks of benefits in the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program, approved in the Consolidated Appropriation Act passed by Congress in December, according to Director Kim Henderson. Those benefits will first go to people who have currently exhausted their eligibility under the program and are waiting for that extra eligibility, she said. It might take another 10 days once the system is updated to apply it to everyone who is eligible. Providing an update on the unemployment compensation system for reporters, Director Henderson said the state continues to try to balance the need to get benefits out quickly with the need to stop fraud. On fraud, Director Henderson said the state is flagging potentially improper claims for the U.S. Department of Labor, which is tasked with enforcement. "The Department of Labor has jurisdiction over investigating and prosecuting the fraudulent claims that are happening across the nation," the director said. "All states are reporting into the Department of Labor Office of the Inspector General. We know they're very active in that space."
- The two coronavirus vaccines developed by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna appear to be highly effective against the more transmissible variant of the virus first detected in Britain, according to newly published studies in the New England Journal of Medicine, in a potential boost to vaccination efforts around the globe. The vaccines, however, showed a decreased ability to neutralize the strain now dominant in South Africa, worrying some researchers and prompting Pfizer and BioNTech to announce they were taking necessary steps to develop a booster shot or updated vaccine. A day after Pfizer's announcement, a top White House coronavirus adviser said each vaccine developer is planning to update shots to address variants.
- Life expectancy in the United States fell by a full year during the first half of 2020, a staggering decline that reflects the toll of the pandemic as well as a rise in deaths from drug overdoses, heart attacks and diseases that accompanied the outbreak, according to government data released Thursday.

### Ohio COVID-19 Data Curves

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

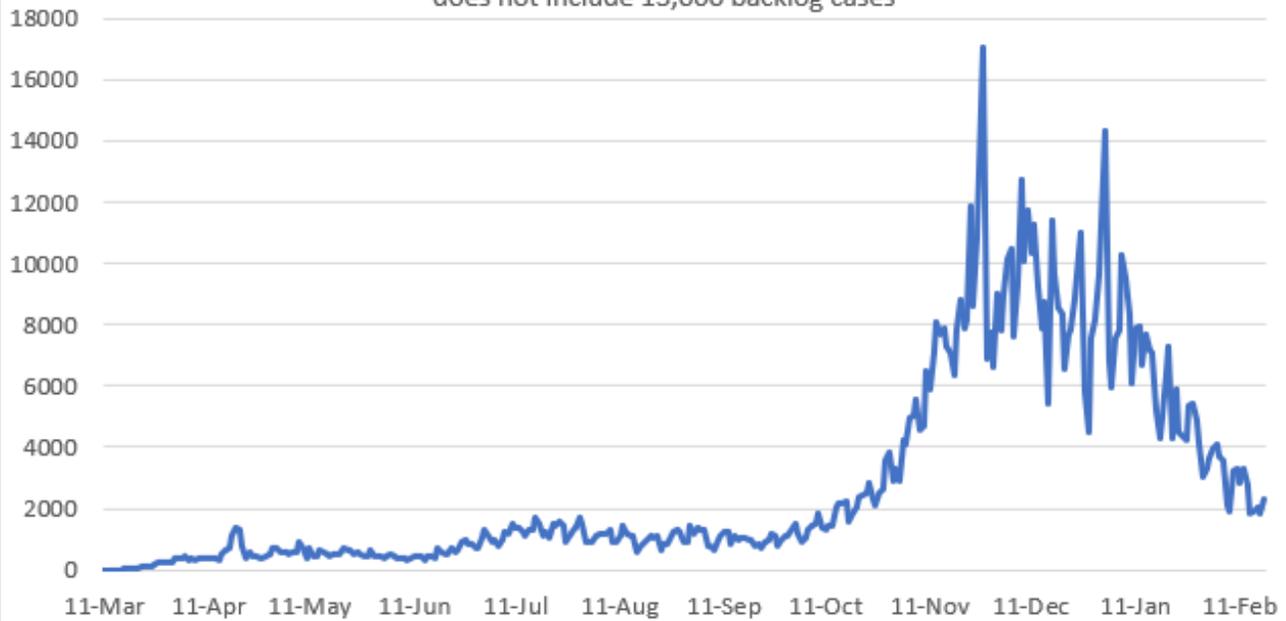
## Cumulative New Cases by Month

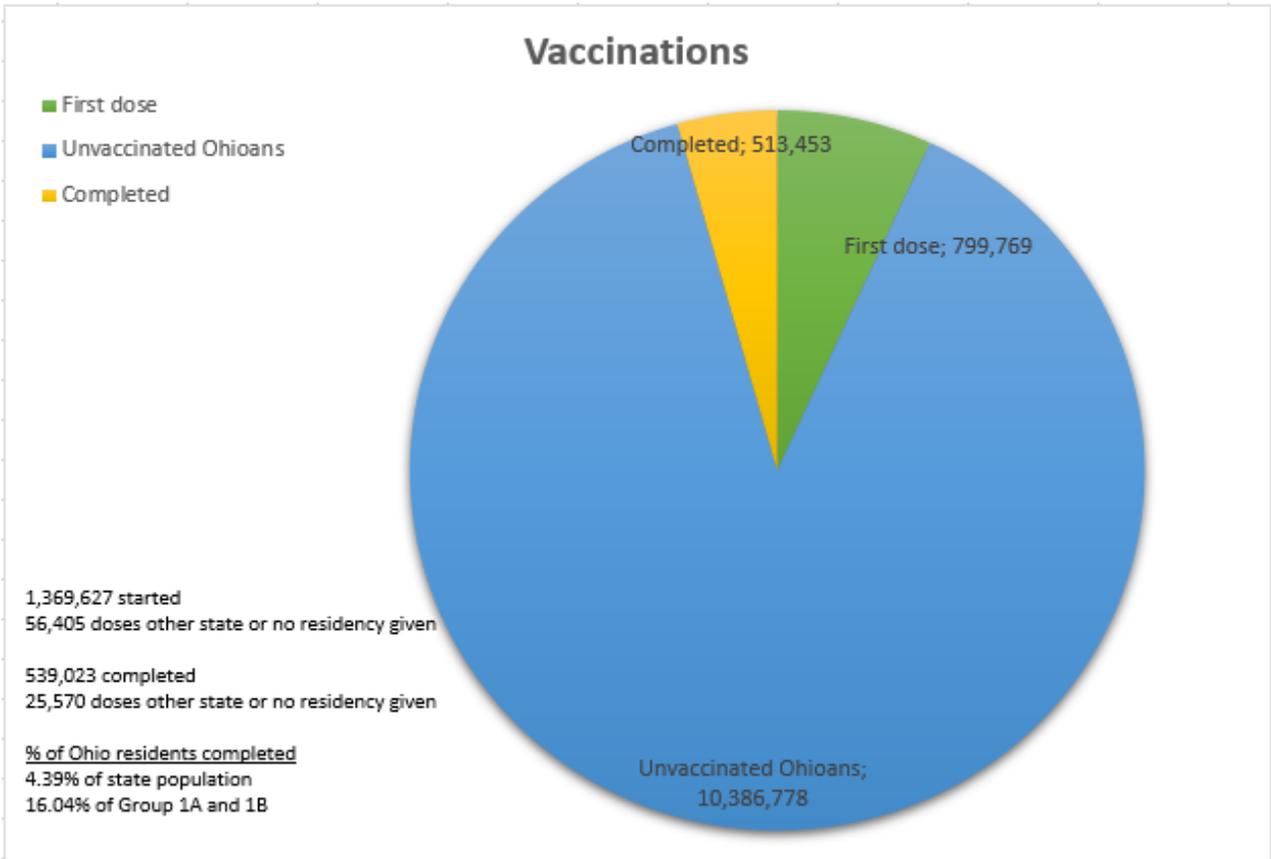
\*approximation



## 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>