



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 9, 2021

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**The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Classifies Kent County COVID-19  
Risk Level as “Substantial”**

**GRAND RAPIDS, MI. (August 9, 2021)** – The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has raised the risk level of COVID-19 infection from ‘moderate’ to ‘substantial’ for Kent County. The CDC recommends everyone in areas with a risk designation of ‘substantial’ or ‘high’ wear a face mask in indoor public places, regardless of vaccination status. The CDC data tracker can be viewed [here](#).

The CDC defines ‘substantial’ transmission as 50-100 cases per 100,000 people, or a positivity rate between 8 and 9.9 percent in the past seven days. Kent County currently has a seven-day positivity rate of 6.68 percent. The current seven-day average for new cases in Kent County is 52.52 per 100,000.

The COVID-19 vaccine cannot prevent 100% of infections, but it does prevent many of them. Also, infections among vaccinated people are less severe than those who have not been vaccinated.

“The vast majority of people who are becoming infected with COVID-19 in Kent County are unvaccinated,” says Dr. Adam London, Director of the Kent County Health Department. “The vaccines that are available are effective, safe and available. They remain our best tool for ending this pandemic, so we encourage everyone to get vaccinated as soon as possible.”

The CDC and the Kent County Health Department recommend the following guidance to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

- Get vaccinated – find out more [here](#)
- Wear a mask or face covering in all indoor public settings, regardless of vaccination status, especially now that the risk level has changed to substantial
- Practice good handwashing hygiene
- Avoid large crowds and maintain social distance from people outside of your household
- Get tested if you have symptoms or think you may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19

A Spanish version of this release will be posted to <https://www.accesskent.com/News/> when available.

KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 260 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and three satellite clinics located in Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit [www.accesskent.com/health](http://www.accesskent.com/health).