



Lapeer County
Health Department

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LCHD Communicable Disease Annual Report: 2021

- Communicable disease has always been a prime focus of Public Health.
- In this report we will provide statistical data regarding communicable disease affecting our community, as well as continued discussion regarding COVID-19 and Influenza.

COVID-19

As we moved through 2021, COVID-19 continued to be the primary focus of public health activity, with administration of the new COVID-19 vaccine being the newest tool in our belt for combatting the spread. With the ever changing variants on the scene, preventing serious illness and death was the goal. Early and frequent testing, use of masks and social distancing, and quarantining when ill or exposed, in addition to vaccination, were very much encouraged, amidst a politically charged scene.

Case counts continued to rise. In 2020 the case count for our county was 4,142. In 2021 it had risen to 12,145. As more research was conducted, additional methods for treating the symptoms of those who became seriously ill, or were at risk for serious illness, were identified. This virus has presented many challenges, and will be the subject of research for many years to come.

While the vaccine did prove to significantly reduce the severity of illness in many who received it, at the end of 2021 Lapeer County had lost an additional 247 citizens to COVID-19 related illness.

General Selected Diseases	Lapeer County Year End Totals				
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Novel Coronavirus COVID-19	-	-	-	4142	12145
Tuberculosis	1	0	0	0	0
Latent Tuberculosis	0	3	2	4	5
Flu Like Disease	2080	2639	2535	1250	560
Influenza	13	23	359	347	9
Meningitis - Aseptic	6	16	3	1	1
Meningitis - Bacterial Other	1	3	4	0	2
Meningitis - Streptococcus pneumonia, Inv.	12	5	5	2	6
Strep Throat	606	599	405	185	135

**LAPEER COUNTY
SELECTED REPORTABLE DISEASES FOR 2021**

Viral Hepatitis	Year End Totals				
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Hepatitis A	6	1	2	2	0
Hepatitis B, Acute	1	2	0	1	0
Hepatitis B, Chronic	3	3	4	1	3
Hepatitis, Perinatal	0	0	0	0	0
Hepatitis C, Acute	0	0	0	1	1
Hepatitis C, Chronic	83	54	47	27	20
Hepatitis C, Unknown	0	0	1	0	0

Foodborne	Year End Totals				
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Campylobacter	11	7	17	10	7
Cryptosporidiosis	3	4	6	5	1
Giardiasis	3	1	0	3	2
Norovirus	41	31	3	0	0
Salmonellosis	11	12	18	6	8
Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli (STEC)	2	0	1	3	3
Shigellosis	0	3	1	2	1

Rabies	Year End Totals				
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Animal Bites	100	95	97	66	22
Rabies, Animals	0	1	0	1	1

Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)	Year End Totals				
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Chlamydia (genital)	160	189	168	147	167
Gonorrhea	26	26	32	40	38
Syphilis - Primary	0	0	0	0	0
Syphilis - Secondary	0	2	1	2	1
Syphilis - Early Latent	0	0	0	3	0
Syphilis - Unknown Duration or Late	0	3	1	4	1

Vaccine Preventable Disease (VPD)	Year End Totals				
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Chickenpox (Varicella)	2	6	0	0	8
Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	3	4	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0	0	0
H. Influenzae Disease - Inv.	1	1	2	0	1

Of particular note:

While COVID-19 cases rose in 2021, influenza cases were lower. This was not due to lack of testing, as many who received medical care for respiratory symptoms were not only tested for the Novel Coronavirus, but also for Influenzas A & B, and RSV (respiratory syncytial virus). In 2021 there were 560 confirmed cases of influenza in Lapeer County, as opposed to 1,250 in 2020, and over 2,000 each of the previous 3 years. While all of the reasons are not fully known, the mask use and social distancing could very well have played a role in these decreased numbers. We continue to encourage all eligible individuals to get their annual flu shot, and to stay current with COVID-19 vaccine as recommendations are made.

Resource Information

Communicable Disease Information:

- * **MDHHS** - http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71550_5104---,00.html
- * **CDC** - <https://www.cdc.gov/>

Reliable Vaccine Information:

- * **Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP):** vaccine.chop.edu
- * **Immunization Action Coalition** - <http://www.immunize.org/>
- * **American Academy of Pediatrics** - www.aap.org/immunization