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Increase in Number of Infections Underscores Likely Spread of Omicron Variant
Residents Urged to Mask Up, Test and Help Limit the Spread of the Virus

PITTSBURGH – Dr. Debra Bogen, Director of the Allegheny County Health Department, today reiterated concern with the growing number of COVID cases in Allegheny County as the department continues to monitor infections, hospitalizations and deaths:

"While the department has moved to weekly reports of infections, we continue to receive and monitor information on a daily basis. From December 27 to 28, infections increased by 654; in the following day, the increase was 1,701, and today, the increase is 1,980. That significant rise only underscores the message that we provided earlier this week about the spread of the omicron variant.

"Through our partnership with Curative, we also know that we are seeing record numbers of individuals being tested. This week alone, at only the Curative sites, some 17,000 people have been tested. The daily positivity rate continues to climb alarmingly, and a significant number of those cases are in people exhibiting no symptoms. This is why it’s imperative to wear a properly fitting mask when out in public, especially indoors.

“We continue to encourage people to get tested. If individuals know they have the virus, they can take measures to prevent the spread of the infection. We have been fortunate to have such a strong partner in Curative which continues to operate four standing test sites as well as the mobile testing sites throughout the county. The company has tripled capacity so far and is working to expand even further. Individuals seeking tests can register online for appointments at https://book.curative.com/allegheny. Those without internet access can call the Curative support number for assistance at 1-888-702-9042.

“I again ask everyone to take this seriously and do their part to slow the spread of this virus. Get your vaccines or your booster vaccine. Wear a properly fitting, quality mask and consider double masking by wearing a surgical mask covered by a cloth mask, two surgical masks, or a KN95 mask. Practice physical distancing. If you are sick, stay home. Get tested if you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you have been a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID, get tested 5-7 days after that exposure.

“And finally, if you don’t need to be out, stay home. If you’re going to participate in events and parties, take precautions including masking up, physically distancing and, when possible, remain outdoors or in well-ventilated areas. We are all in this together and the decisions that we make now will impact our friends, families and neighbors for days and weeks to come.”

For more detail on infections, hospitalizations and deaths, visit https://alleghenycounty.us/coronavirus. The site also contains a testing site locator map, a mobile and fixed site testing schedule, a link to Curative test sites in the county, a vaccine provider search, the pop-up vaccine clinic schedule and more.

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Debra L. Bogen, MD, Director
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