



Director's Report

Debra L. Bogen, M.D.
Board of Health Meeting
March 2, 2022





Outline



COVID Update

CDC guidance
Local data



Personnel updates



Public Health Accreditation
Board (PHAB)



Recently released reports /
dashboards / open data

Why refocus efforts for monitoring COVID-19 in communities?

CDC Slide Deck 2/25/22

- **Shift from eliminating SARS-CoV-2 transmission towards more relevant metrics given current levels of population immunity and tools available**
 - **Current high levels of population immunity reduce risk of severe outcomes**
 - High rates of vaccination in population as a whole
 - Availability of boosters, and booster coverage among populations at high risk
 - In unvaccinated, high rates of infection-induced protection
 - **Breadth of tools available for public health and clinical care**
 - Broad access to vaccines, therapeutics, testing
- **Community measures should focus on minimizing the impact of severe COVID-19 illness on health and society**
 - Preventing medically significant illness
 - Minimizing burden on the healthcare system
 - Protecting the most vulnerable through vaccines, therapeutics, and COVID-19 prevention

CDC's Indicators of Community Transmission

Indicator	Low Transmission	Moderate Transmission	Substantial Transmission	High Transmission
Total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days	0-9	10-49	50-99	≥100
Percentage of Nucleic Acid Amplification Test results that are positive during the past 7 days	<5.0%	5.0%-7.9%	8.0%-9.9%	≥10.0%

- First released in September 2020
- Relied on two metrics to define community transmission: Total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days, and percentage of Nucleic Acid Amplification Test results that are positive during the past 7 days
- Used by CDC to inform setting-specific guidance and layered prevention strategies (e.g., screening testing in schools, masking, etc.)
- Public health practitioners, schools, businesses, and community organizations also rely on these metrics to inform decisions about prevention measures

The current state of the pandemic requires a refined approach to monitoring COVID-19

- Community transmission indicators were developed in fall 2020 (prior to availability of vaccines) and reflect goal of limiting transmission in anticipation of vaccines being available
- **Neither of the community transmission indicators reflects medically significant disease or healthcare strain**
- Community transmission levels are largely driven by case incidence, which does not differentiate mild and severe disease

Criteria for Selecting Community Indicators

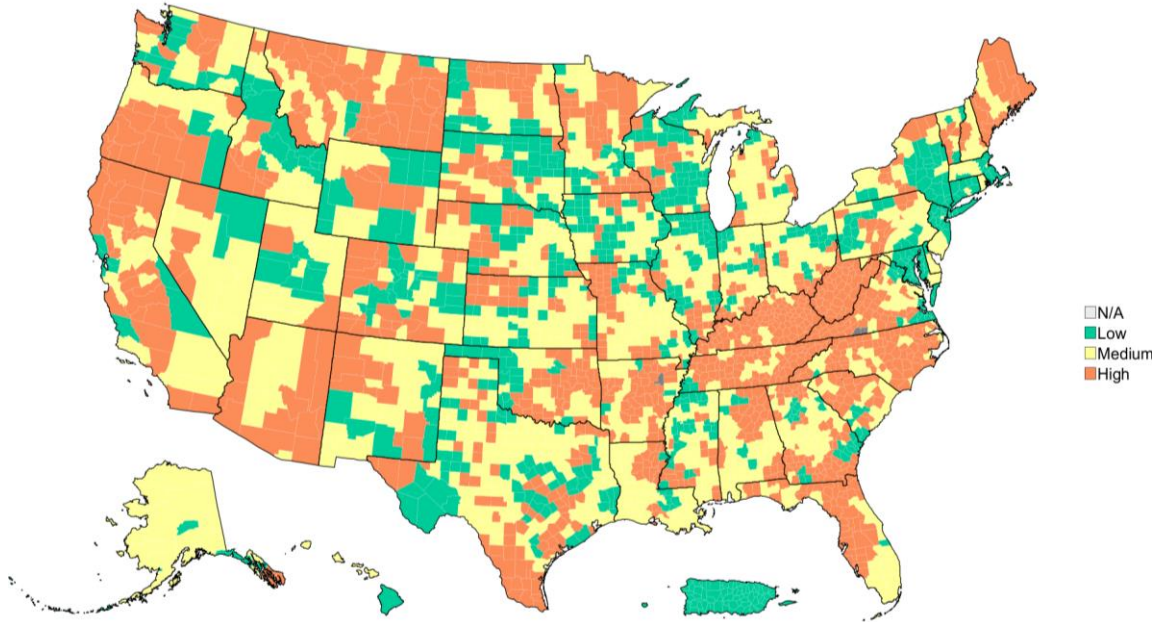
- Indicators had to meet several criteria:
 1. Data available at the county level or allocated to county level from health service areas
 2. Data source provides nation-wide coverage
 3. Data reflect intended goals of emphasizing medically significant disease and healthcare strain
 4. Data reported at least weekly (or more often) with sufficient timeliness to allow data to inform decisions about prevention measures

CDC's COVID-19 Community Levels and Indicators

New Cases (per 100,000 population in the last 7 days)	Indicators	Low	Medium	High
Fewer than 200	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	<10.0	10.0-19.9	≥20.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	<10.0%	10.0-14.9%	≥15.0%
200 or more	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	NA	<10.0	≥10.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	NA	<10.0%	≥10.0%

The COVID-19 community level is determined by the higher of the inpatient beds and new admissions indicators, based on the current level of new cases per 100,000 population in the past 7 days

COVID-19 Community Levels on March 1, 2022



To find Community Level

1. Determine if county has <200 or ≥ 200 new cases per 100,000 people in past 7 days

2. Determine level (low, medium, or high) for new admissions and inpatient beds and indicators using scale for area's number for new cases

COVID-19 Community Level based on higher of new admissions and inpatient beds metrics.



Know Your COVID-19 Community Level

[COVID-19 Community Levels](#) are a new tool to help communities decide what prevention steps to take based on the latest data. Levels can be low, medium, or high and are determined by looking at hospital beds being used, hospital admissions, and the total number of new COVID-19 cases in an area. Take precautions to protect yourself and others from COVID-19 based on the COVID-19 Community Level in your area.



COVID-19 County Check

Find community levels and prevention steps by county.

Select a Location (all fields required)

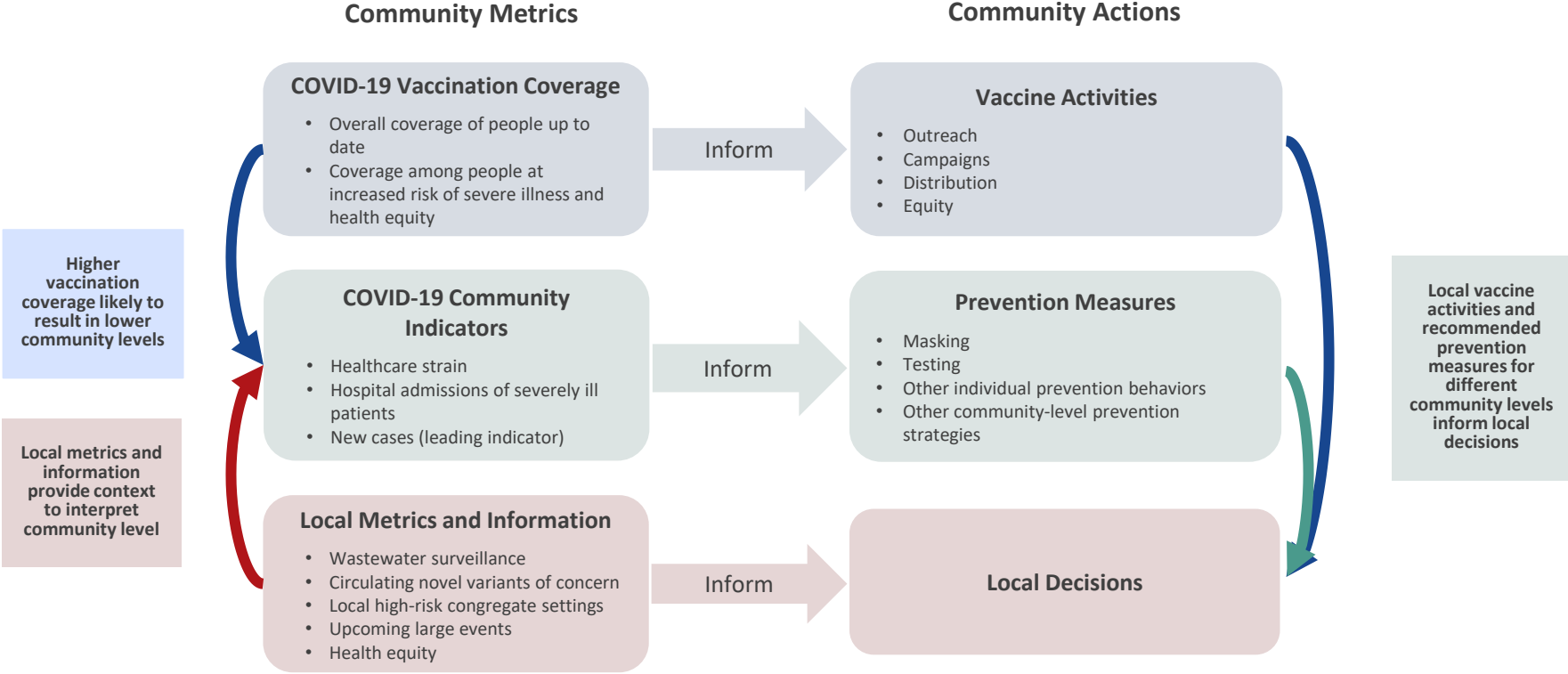


[< Start Over](#)

● **Low**

In **Allegheny County, Pennsylvania**, community level is **Low**.

Proposed Framework for Monitoring and Prevention



Implications for Using COVID-19 Community Levels to Inform Public Health Recommendations

CDC Slide Deck 2/25/22

- COVID-19 community levels can inform recommendations for **community-level preventive strategies** and **individual preventive behaviors**
- At higher COVID-19 community levels recommendation would include:
 - Masking
 - Testing Strategies (e.g., screening testing)
 - High-risk individuals and their household or social contacts (e.g., masking, testing, and access to treatments)
 - Setting-specific recommendations (e.g., K-12 schools, healthcare)
 - High-risk congregate settings (e.g., masking and screening testing)

Key Considerations

- Vaccination is the leading public health prevention strategy to prevent severe disease and deaths from COVID-19.
- People who are up to date on vaccines have much lower risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 compared with unvaccinated people.
- When making decisions about individual preventive behaviors and community prevention strategies in addition to vaccination, people and health officials should consider the COVID-19 community level.
- Health departments should consider health equity, and make use of other surveillance information (wastewater, ED surveillance, etc.), if available, to inform local decisions.
- Layered prevention strategies — like staying up to date on vaccines and wearing masks — can help prevent severe disease and reduce strain on the healthcare system.

What people can do to protect themselves

Low Limited impact on healthcare system, low levels of severe disease	Medium Some impact on healthcare system, more people with severe disease	High High potential for healthcare system strain; high level of severe disease
Get vaccinated, boosted	Get vaccinated, boosted	Get vaccinated, boosted
Get tested if sick	Get tested if sick	Get tested if sick
	If at potential increased risk , talk to your healthcare provider about wearing a mask	Wear a mask in public indoor settings including schools

People may choose to mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask.

COVID-19 Community Level	Community-level prevention strategies (as recommended by state or local authorities)
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vaccinate to achieve high community vaccination coverage and ensure health equity• Maintain improved ventilation in public indoor spaces• Ensure access to testing for all people<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communicate with orgs/places that serve people with immunocompromise or <u>high-risk</u> for severe disease about rapid testing• Ensure access and equity in vaccination, testing, treatment, community outreach, support services for disproportionately affected populations

**COVID-19
Community
Level**

Community-level prevention strategies (as recommended by state or local authorities)

Medium

- Protect people at [high risk](#) for severe illness or death by ensuring equitable access to vaccination, testing, treatment, support services, info
- Consider screening testing or other testing strategies for people who are exposed to COVID-19 in workplaces, schools, or other community settings
- Implement enhanced prevention measures in high-risk congregate settings
- Distribute/administer vaccines to achieve high community coverage and ensure health equity
- Maintain improved ventilation in public indoor spaces
- Ensure access to testing, including through point-of-care and at-home tests for all people
- Ensure access and equity in vaccination, testing, treatment, community outreach, support services for disproportionately affected populations

**COVID-19
Community
Level**

Community-level prevention strategies (as recommended by state or local authorities)

High

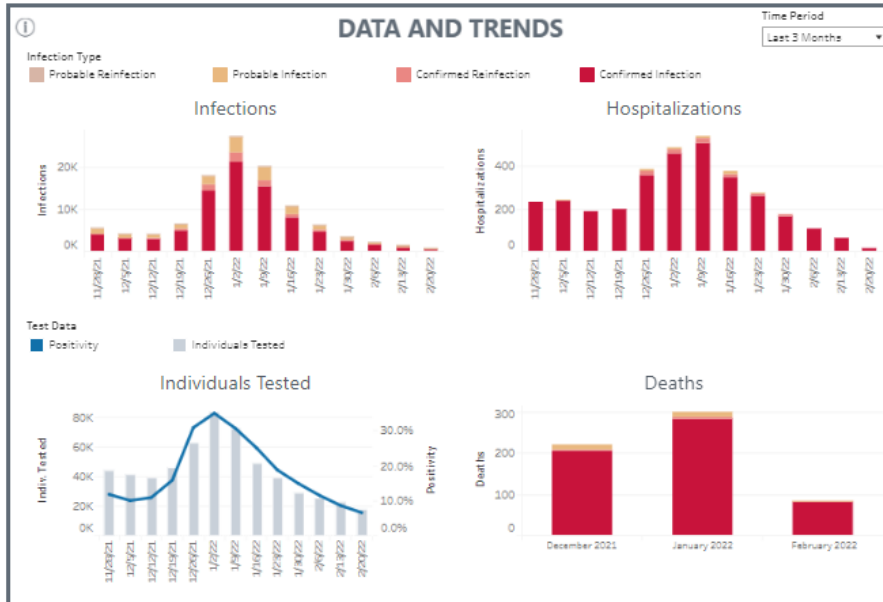
- Consider setting-specific recommendations for prevention strategies based on local factors
- Implement healthcare surge support as needed
- Distribute/administer vaccines to achieve high community coverage
- Maintain improved ventilation in public indoor spaces
- Ensure access to testing (point-of-care and at-home) for all people
 - Communicate with orgs / places that serve those at increased risk for severe disease
 - Ensure access and equity in vaccination, testing, treatment, community outreach, support services for disproportionately affected populations
- Consider implementing screening testing for people exposed to COVID-19 in workplaces, schools, or other community settings as appropriate
- Implement enhanced prevention measures in high-risk congregate settings

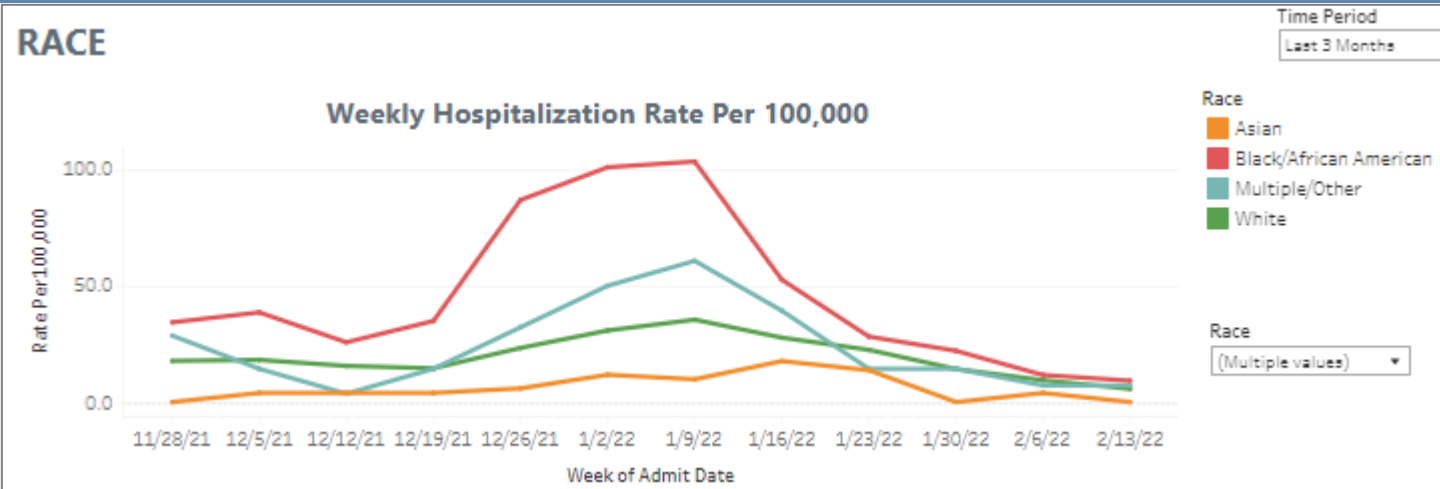


<https://www.alleghenycounty.us/Health-Department/Resources/COVID-19/COVID-19-Dashboards.aspx>

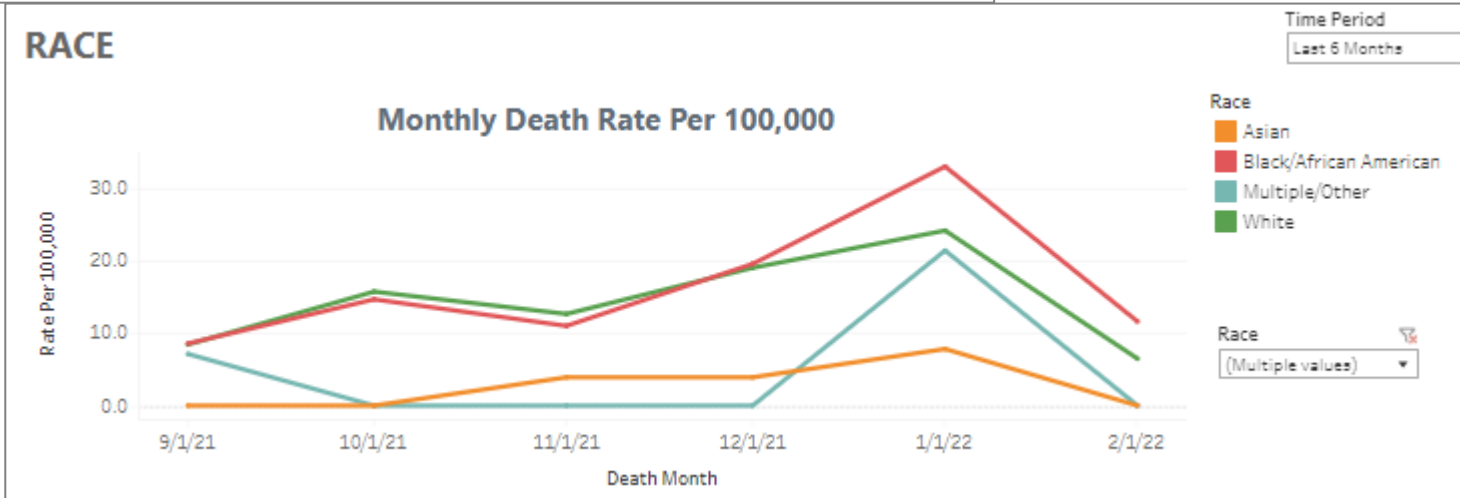
OVERALL				
Infections:	Individuals Tested:	Positivity (PCR):	Hospitalizations:	Deaths:
260,712	902,040	10.8%	12,955	3,122

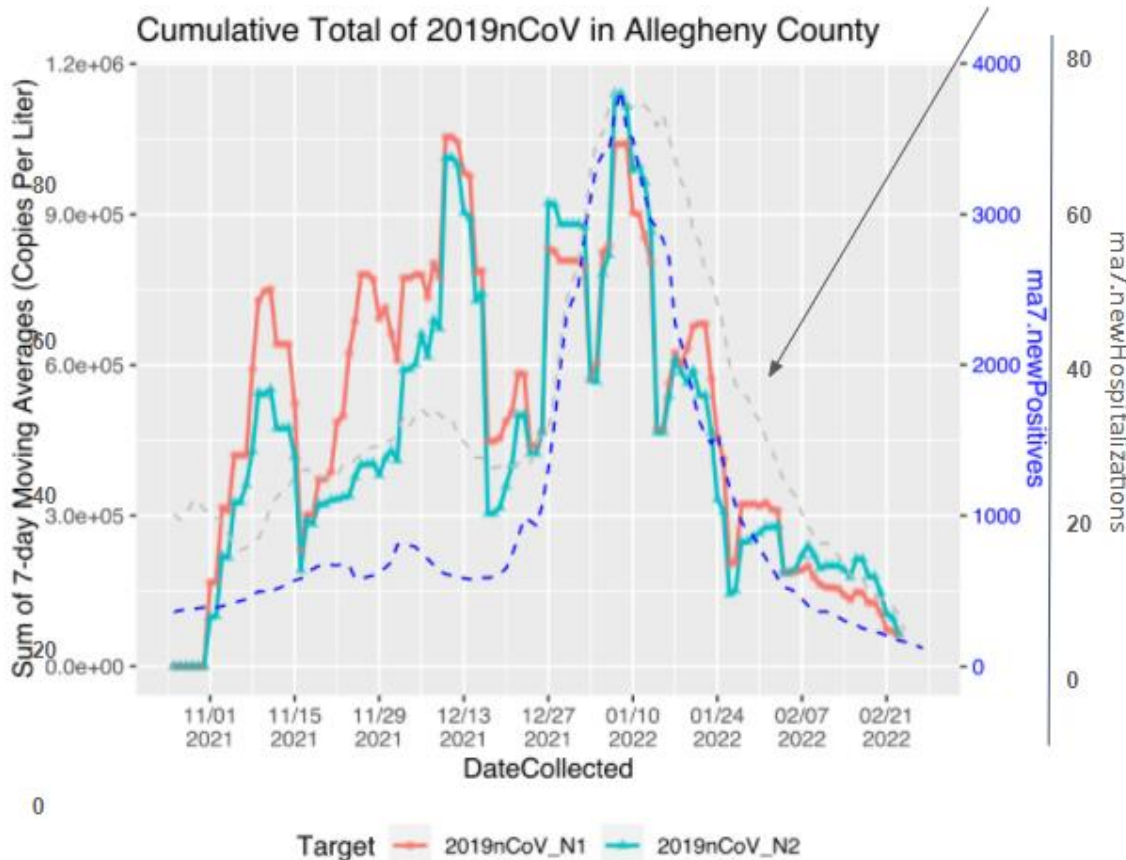
7-DAY MOVING AVERAGE				
Infections:	Individuals Tested:	Positivity (PCR):	Hospitalizations:	Deaths:
207	3,300	9.2%	10	2





Health Disparities continue, especially during surges



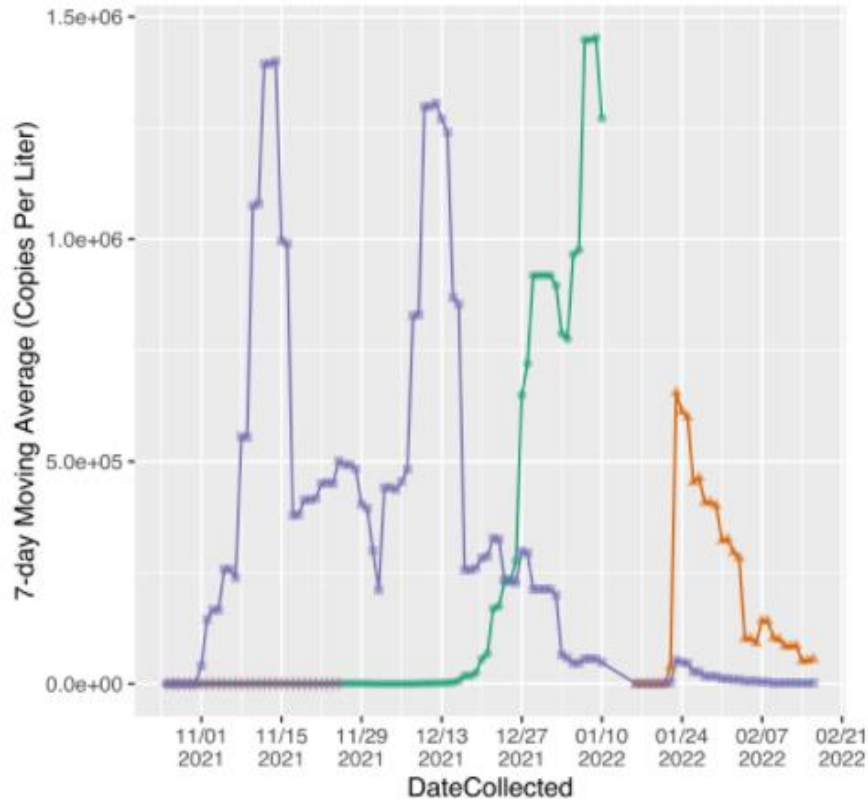


Allegheny County Wastewater Surveillance Data

N1 and N2 show decreasing trend, along with the decreasing trend of cases and hospitalizations

Grey dashed lines represent hospitalizations, with reference to right axis numbers divided by 50.

Cumulative Total of Variants in Allegheny County



Cumulative Total of Variants in Allegheny County

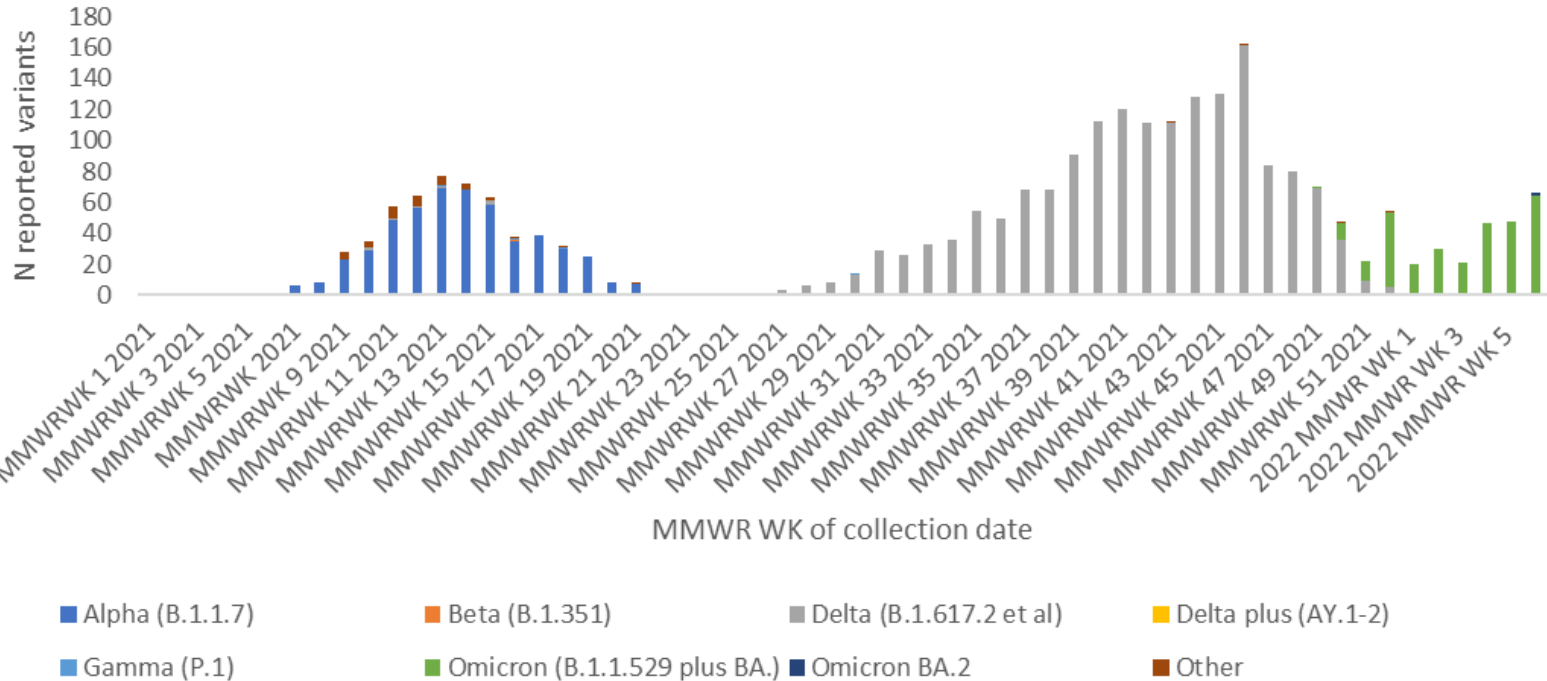
New S-gene targets replaced old ones to indicate Omicron and Delta variants

VariantTarget

- B.1.1.7 (Alpha) and B.1.529 (Omicron)
- B.1.529 (Omicron)
- B.1.617.2 (Delta)
- multiple non-Delta and non-Omicron variants



Reported variants by specimen collection date Allegheny County, PA





Allegheny County Vaccinations



COVID-19 Vaccine/Booster Summary

DIRECTIONS: Hover over each metric in the Overall section to see more details about the vaccine/booster data. In the Trends section, select the Vaccination View parameter (Individuals at Least Partially Vaccinated, Fully Vaccinated, or Fully Vaccinated w/Booster) to view vaccination/booster uptake by Allegheny County residents over a period of time. Adjust the Date filter to reflect the time period of interest.

OVERALL

% of Population Ages 5+ with at least 1 Dose:
80.3%

% of Population Ages 5+ Fully Vaccinated:
71.3%

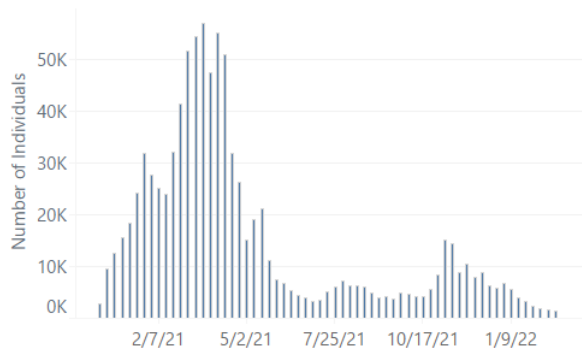
% of Fully Vaccinated Ages 12+ with Booster Dose:
55.2%

TRENDS

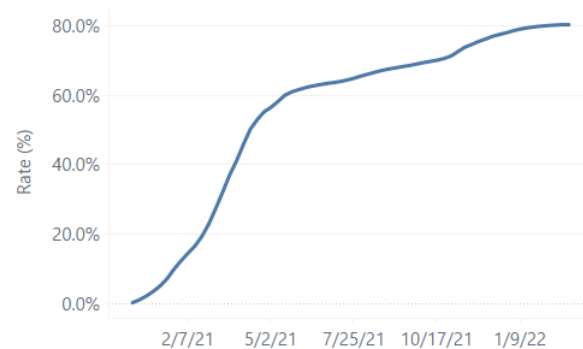
Vaccination View
Individuals at Least Partially Vaccinated

Date
All values

Individuals at Least Partially Vaccinated by Week



Individuals at Least Partially Vaccinated Rate





% Fully Vaccinated by Race and Age			White/ Black
Ages	Black	White	Difference
5-9	13.7%	39.3%	25.6
10-19	33.8%	53.7%	19.9
20-29	36.6%	60.3%	23.7
30-39	49.6%	63.8%	14.2
40-49	58.6%	66.7%	8.1
50-59	67.4%	65.2%	-2.2
60-69	69.6%	72.0%	2.4
70+	58.6%	69.4%	10.8



Impact of Vaccines in Allegheny County

	Hospitalization Rate per 10,000 Residents	Death Rate per 10,000 Residents
Overall	72.4	27.0
Fully Vax + Booster	10.7	1.8
Fully Vax only	44.7	8.1
Partial Vax	32.8	12.5
NO Vax	250.9	47.8



Personnel Updates

Rod Harris, PhD: new Health Commissioner for Cuyahoga County (OH) - <https://www.news5cleveland.com/news/local-news/cleveland-native-to-take-over-as-cuyahoga-county-board-of-health-commissioner>

- Very impactful on growth and success of ACHD
- Inaugural Deputy Director for Community Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
 - Grew Chronic Disease Program from staff of 1 to > 10
 - Relocated all clinical programs and pharmacy
 - Launched and sustained Office of Violence Prevention
 - Diversified department leaders
 - Instrumental in helping ACHD become an accredited public health department
 - Secured grant support for numerous programs (foundation, State and Federal grants) from agencies such as CDC, DOJ, SAMHSA, and PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency



Career Opportunities at ACHD

[Careers | Health Department | Allegheny Home \(alleghenycounty.us\)](#)

- Public Health Educators
- Plumbing Inspectors
- Public Health Nurses
- Surveillance Coordinator for Drug Resistant STDs
- WIC Nutritionists and Other staff
- Public Health Lab Assistant Director
- Microbiologist
- Dental Assistants
- Others

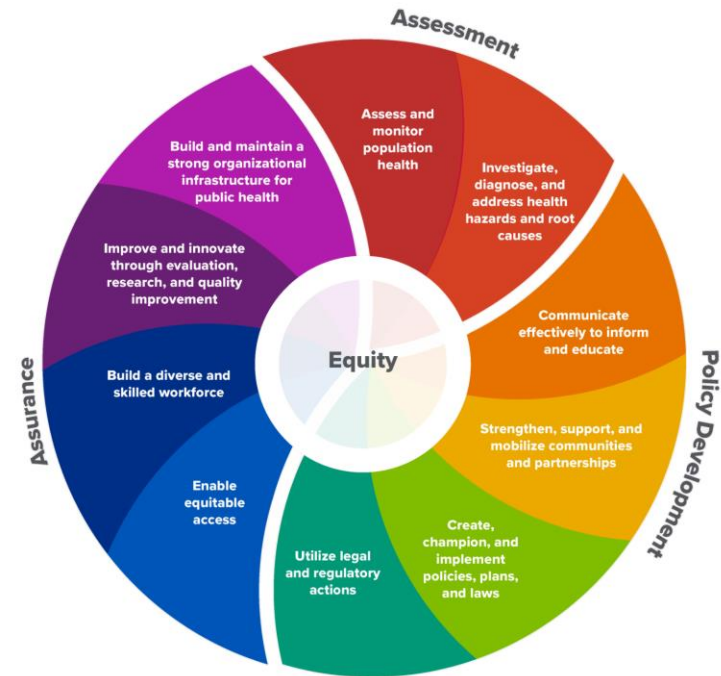


Public Comment

- Explain Public Comment process at start of all meetings
- Public Comment Response
 - Last meeting comment about access
 - Working on plan to increase access to public meeting
 - Will begin to roll out at next BOH meeting and continue to add services over time
 - On Social Media posts, now adding ALT Text, for people who have visual disabilities or use screen-reading devices

PHAB Reaccreditation Planning

- All draft measures on track for completion by end of March
 - Reviewing completed draft narratives / examples
- Community Health Assessment (CHA) draft by end of March
 - CHA engagement April-May: Review key findings with partner organizations, ACHD program staff
- Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) by summer:
 - CHIP engagement May/June: Review data with partners and residents, decide on key metrics, goals, and strategies for improving community health





Recently Released Reports

- [Invasive MRSA report for 2018-2020](#) – includes FAQs
- [2020 STD/HIV Annual Report](#) - characteristics of reported cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis and HIV/AIDS
- [2019 Annual STD Report](#) (added 12/7/21)
- [2020 STD Fast Facts Infographic](#) (added 11/23/2021)
- [2018 Allegheny County Mortality Report](#) (added 12/21/21)
- [2020 Air Quality Annual Report](#) (added 12/16/21 - see previous Reports on the [Air Quality Reports and Studies page](#))
- [2019-2020 Legionellosis Report](#) (updated 12/7/2021)



Allegheny County Community Indicators Updates

- Updated demographics link: <https://pittsburgh.thehcn.net/demographicdata>
 - View all possible variables by clicking **yellow** - View all button right corner
 - Explore tabs to get an overview of each topic
- Consumer expenditures accessible through main data dashboard search
 - [the specific source with all indicators](#)
 - Source title is Claritas Consumer Buying Power
 - 16 indicators - available at county, state, zip code, and census tract levels
- Behavior indicators also accessible through main data dashboard search
 - [source with all indicators](#)
 - Source title is Claritas Consumer Profiles
 - 40 indicators - available at county, state, zip code, census tract, and census place levels

Allegheny County Priority Areas

- Access to Care
- Chronic Disease Behaviors
- Mental Health
- Maternal Health
- Environment

Lyme Disease Incidence Rate (Compared to PA Counties)	Adults Who Visited a Cardiologist (Compared to PA State Value)	Workers Commuting by Public Transportation (Compared to PA Counties)	Adults 65+ with a Vision Difficulty (Compared to PA State Value)	Firms Owned by Nonminorities (Compared to PA State Value)
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[Find Health Data](#)



[Find Demographics Data](#)



[Find Disparities](#)



[Track Progress](#)



[Locate Promising Practices](#)



[Compare Indicators](#)



[Find Grants](#)



[Create Reports](#)



[Community Indices](#)

Have Questions?

[Contact Us](#)

Community Health Dashboards

[Build a Custom Dashboard](#)

Learn about your community's health and wellness. Compare indicators for your community against state averages, county values, and target goals. Discover areas of excellence and improvement in your community.

Age-Adjusted Death Rate due to Drug Use OR Find a Location 📍

- Demographics Dashboard**
Learn about the demographics of Allegheny County.
- All Data**
This dashboard contains data for all indicators at all locations
- Disparities Dashboard**
View all indicators that include breakout data by topics such as race/ethnicity, age and gender
- Healthy People 2020 Progress Tracker**
- Healthy People 2030 Progress Tracker**
This dashboard provides comparisons to national objectives set by Healthy People 2030
- Indicator List by Location**
View a list of all indicators and see at what location data is available
- SocioNeeds Index**
- Food Insecurity Index**



Open Data (see Western PA Regional Data Center)

Ongoing ...such as

- COVID-19 Test, Cases, and Deaths (since Aug 2020)
- Food safety inspections (since 2016)
- Asbestos Permits (since 2016)
- Air Quality (since 2015)

Recently Added

- Plumbing inspection and violations (since Nov 2021)
- COVID-19 Vaccination data (by end of this week)
- COVID Wastewater Surveillance data (TBD)

[WPRDC • The Region's Open Data at Your Fingertips](#)



CDC Grant to Chronic Diseases Program

- \$175,000 - participate in *Improving Social Determinants of Health - Getting Further Faster Year 2 Initiative*
- 10-month period supports work of Live Well Allegheny REACH Coalition
- Strategic expansion of our partnerships to increase impact on addressing SDoH in REACH communities
- Address following goals identified by REACH Leadership Team
 - Increased capacity for evaluation of data to guide program implementation
 - Develop a policy plan for implementation of health in all policies,
 - Develop a sustainability plan for coalition (currently in year 4 of 5)
 - Increase capacity for grassroots partners so that they can plan an increasing role in implementation of REACH.

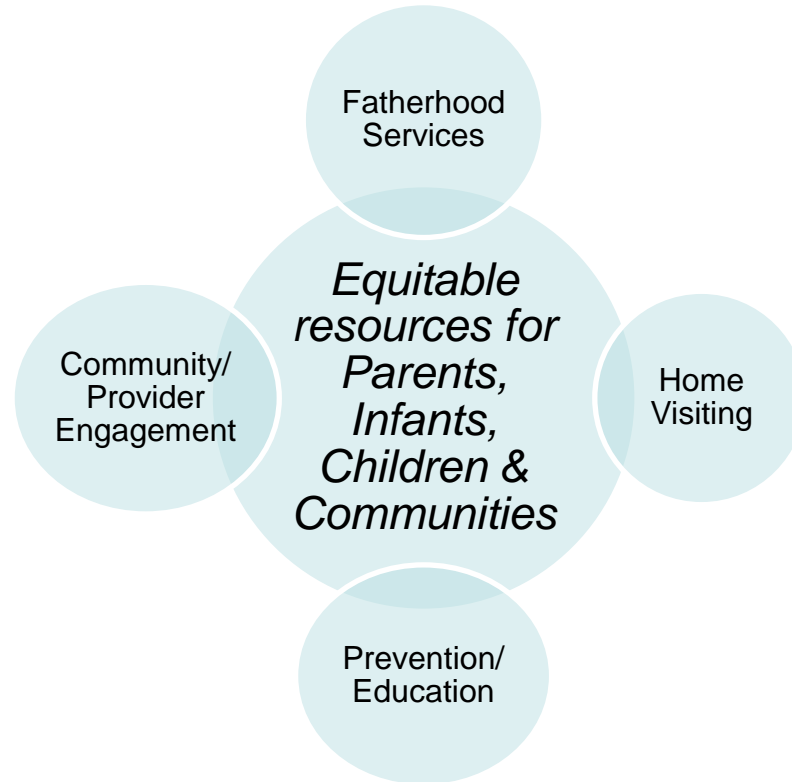


Next Update from

- Danna Wilson -
Program Manager
Office of Family and
Child Health
- Thank you ...



Office of Family Child Health Overview





What our office provides:

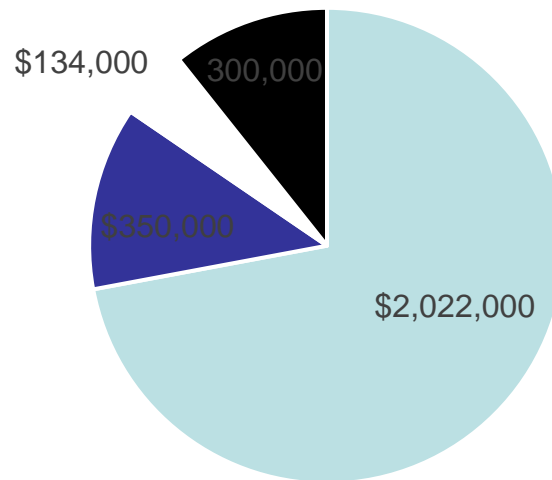
Home Visiting	Community/Provider Engagement	Prevention/Education	Fatherhood Services
Nurse Family Partnership Allegheny	Home Visiting Network	Breastfeeding Helpline	24/7 Dad Group or individual
Healthy Families Allegheny	Allegheny County Breastfeeding Coalition	Smoking Cessation Groups/Individuals	Fathering in 15
Title V Healthy Moms & Healthy Babies	BEST Allegheny	Postpartum Care Kit	
	Child Death Review		
	Fetal Infant Mortality Review		
	CDC Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring Study		

1,000 referrals a year and 300 community/provider partners



How we fund the work...

Programs and Services



■ Home Visiting ■ Community Engagement ■ Prevention/Education ■ Other

What we are most proud of...

BEST Allegheny

Building Equity Strategies Together Allegheny

Three- Year Initiative to Reduce Racial Disparities in Preterm Birth in Allegheny County

DATA



PPOR
Perinatal Periods of Risk Study
Priority Area: 0 - 1 year

PRAMS
Pregnancy Risk Assessment
Monitoring Study
Priority Area: Pregnancy

CDR
Child Death Review
Priority Area: 1 year -20 years

FIMR
Fetal Infant Mortality Review
Priority Area: 0 - 1 year



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



**CityMatCH Action
Team Members**
community members, community-based
organizations, researchers, healthcare providers,
and policymakers

Equity Team
**Alignment for
Action Collaborative**

**Healthy Baby Team
(Wilkesburg)**



ACTION



- Results**
- Healthy Development**
 - Walking Path
 - Breast/Chestfeeding Friendly Community Designation
 - Educational Development**
 - Educate community on MCH policies
 - Economic Development**
 - Support local postpartum doulas
 - Support local mental health practitioners
 - Community Development**
 - Train community residents as MCH Champions
 - Equity**
 - Implicit Bias training
 - Prioritize efforts in communities experiencing inequities



A Year of Firsts:

Established a **Fetal Infant Mortality Review**

Hired a Full-Time Coordinator to manage our Child Death Review and FIMR projects

Awarded a \$300,000 **Perinatal Periods of Risk** grant from the PA Department of Health, Bureau of Family Health

Awarded a \$350,000 grant from the Heinz Endowments.

Established an agreement to conduct a survey of Allegheny County residents using the **CDC Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring Study**

Awarded \$134,000 in American Recovery Plan funds for Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting–Nurse Family Partnership

March of Dimes Breaking Through Bias in Maternity Care training for healthcare providers–120 participants

New Revenue Stream–Managed Care Organization Contracts

New electronic case management system

New Name and Approach to Equity



Article XXI

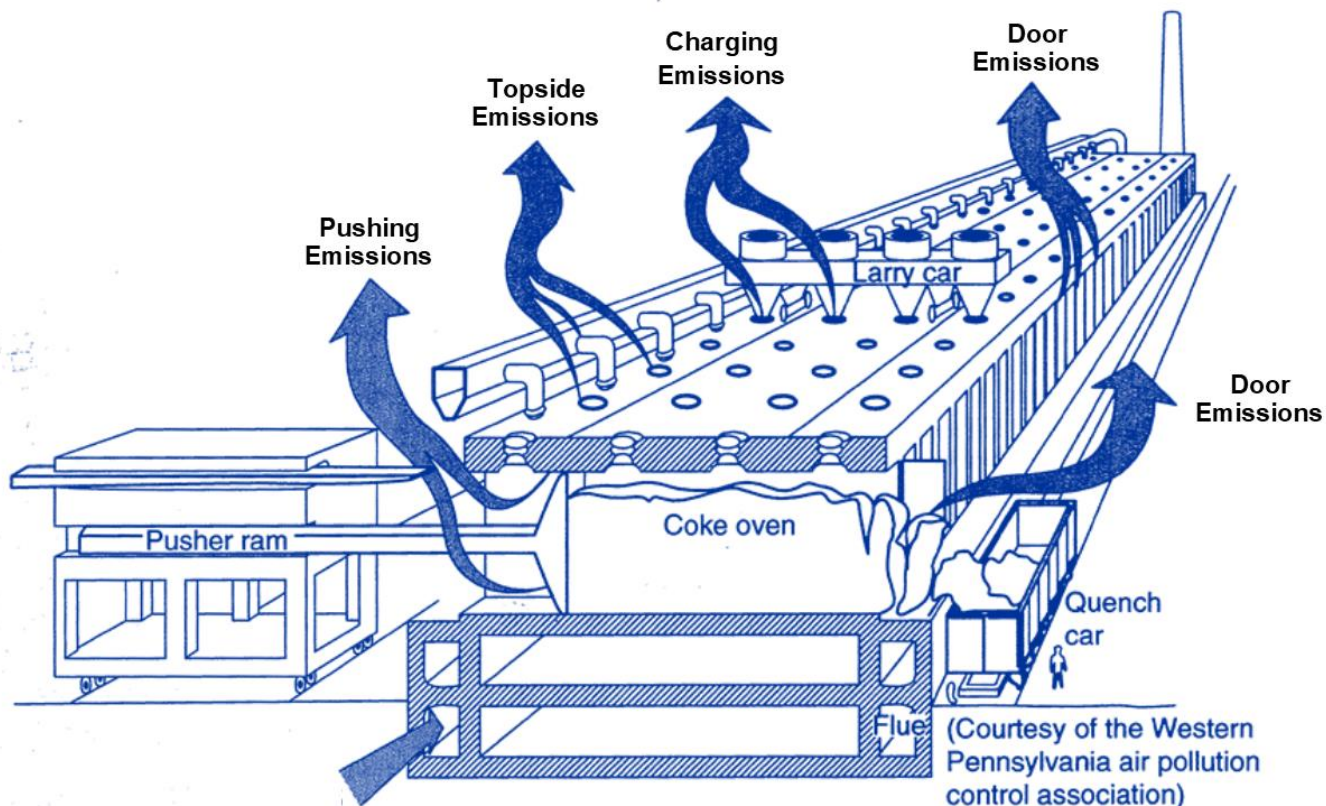
Air Pollution Control

Coke Oven and Inspection Regulation Changes

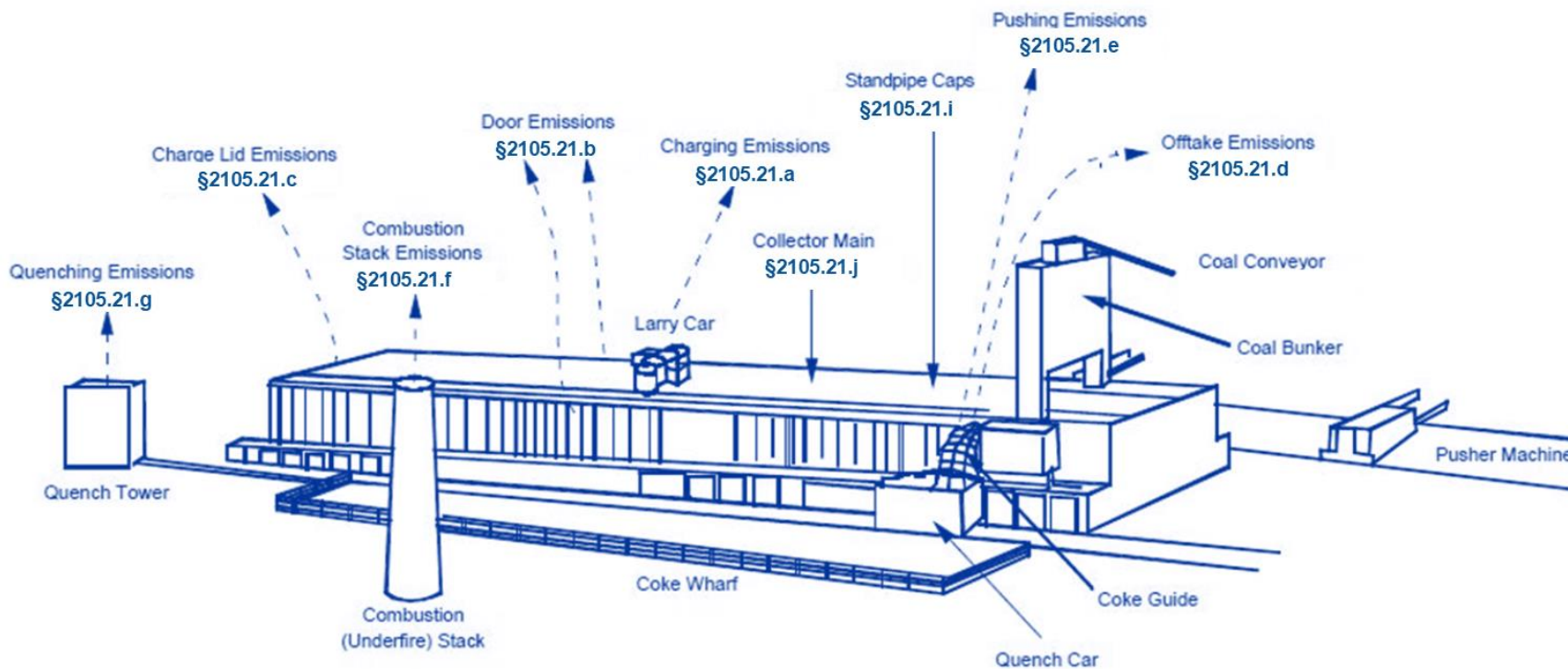
Board of Health
March 2, 2022



Operation of a Coke Battery



Types of air pollution emissions from coke oven batteries regulated by Article XXI





Current Coke Oven Standards and Inspection Procedures

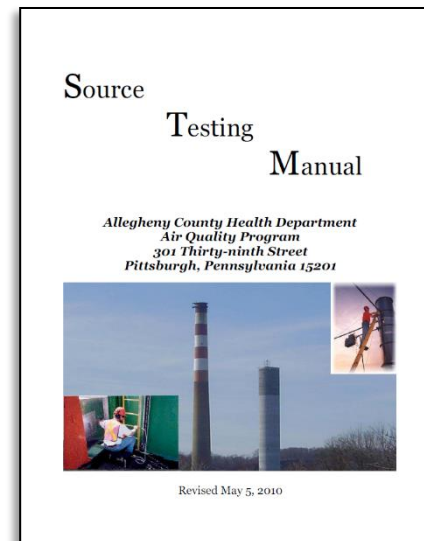
- Article XXI, Section 2105.21, only addresses the emissions standards for coke ovens and coke oven gas.
- The test methods and inspection procedures for coke ovens are provided in the ACHD's Source Testing Manual.

COUNTY OF ALLEGHENY, PENNSYLVANIA,
ORDINANCE NO. 16782, and
ALLEGHENY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
RULES AND REGULATIONS, ARTICLE XXI
AIR POLLUTION CONTROL

Effective Date: February 1, 1994
As Amended by the Board of Health:
Effective October 20, 1995
Amended as noted, through July 16, 2020; Effective July 26, 2020

Summary

Part	Sections	Page
A General	2101.01 et seq.	A-1
B Permits Generally	2102.01 et seq.	B-1
C Operating Permits	2103.01 et seq.	C-1
D Pollutant Emission Standards	2104.01 et seq.	D-1
E Source Emission and Operating Standards	2105.01 et seq.	E-1
F Air Pollution Episodes	2106.01 et seq.	F-1
G Methods	2107.01 et seq.	G-1
H Reporting, Testing, & Monitoring	2108.01 et seq.	H-1
I Enforcement	2109.01 et seq.	I-1





2019 U.S. Steel Settlement Agreement and Order

- ACHD agreed to amend Article XXI to incorporate test methods and inspection procedures for coke batteries.
- Agreement allowed ACHD to adopt more stringent emission standards that are “technically feasible” and meet other criteria.
- Agreement included process to resolve disputes between ACHD and U.S. Steel.
 - **“Informal” dispute resolution** - requires “good faith” efforts to resolve
 - **“Formal” dispute resolution** - decided by Hearing Officer



History of 2020 Proposed Coke Oven Regulation Amendments

- Oct. 5, 2020: Recommendation by Air Advisory Committee for public comment.
- Nov. 4, 2020: BOH approved for public comment.
- Nov. 20, 2020 - Jan. 21, 2021: Public Comment period
- Jan. 20, 2021: Public Hearing
- Received 596 written comments and 65 comments at the hearing.



“Informal” Dispute Resolution Process

- **Jan. 20, 2021:** U.S. Steel notice of informal dispute resolution.
- **Informal dispute resolution: Jan. 20 - April 16, 2021**
 - ACHD agreed to provide further clarification on inspection procedures.
 - Only substantive change by ACHD related to Method 303 inspection procedures that were likely to not meet legal challenge.
 - U.S. Steel agreed to withdraw some issues in dispute resolution notice.
- **April 16, 2021:** “Resolution” Agreement - U.S. Steel agreed to not challenge issues resolved during informal dispute process.
- **Issues not resolved during informal process:**
 - “Pushing” (Sections 2101.20, 2105.21.e)
 - “Coke Oven Gas” (Sections 2101.20, 2105.21.h)
 - “Miscellaneous Topside Emissions” (Section 2105.21.j)



“Formal” Dispute Resolution Process

- May 5 - May 24, 2021: U.S. Steel and ACHD file “Statements of Position”
- June 23, 2021: U.S. Steel files Petition with Hearing Officer
- Sept. 8 - Oct. 22, 2021: U.S. Steel and ACHD file briefs
- Dec. 6, 2021: Hearing Officer issues final decision
 - “Pushing” (Sections 2101.20, 2105.21.e) - **ACHD**
 - “Coke Oven Gas” (Sections 2101.20, 2105.21.h) - **U.S. Steel**
 - “Miscellaneous Topside Emissions” (Section 2105.21.j) - **ACHD**
- All documents available on ACHD Hearing Officer Docket



2022 Proposed Coke Oven Regulation Amendments

- Amendments **ONLY** address changes made to meet requirements of 2019 Agreement and Hearing Officer's decision.
- Documents submitted to Board:
 - “Coke Ovens Regulations - Redlined”: Changes made since the 2020 proposed amendments are shown in red. All other changes to current regulations are bolded and underlined in black.
 - “Coke Ovens Regulations. Proposed Revision”: All changes made to current regulations are bolded and underlined in black - includes changes since 2020 amendments.



Public Comment on 2020 and 2022 Proposed Coke Oven Regulation Amendments

- ACHD to offer comment period and hearing on 2022 amendments.
- All 2022 public comments will be considered and may result in changes to regulations.
- Comments received on 2020 proposed amendments:
 - ACHD drafting comment/response document - available before comment period starts.
 - Comments that specifically address coke oven regulations will be considered after 2022 comment period.
 - ACHD encourages all 2020 commenters to offer comments on 2022 proposed amendments.



Request the approval of the Allegheny County Board of Health for public comment on the proposed amendments to the Article XXI, §2105.21 (“Coke Ovens and Coke Oven Gas”), §2101.20 (“Definitions”) and §2109.01 (“Inspections”).