



Jefferson County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management

<http://www.jeffersoncountywv.org/county-government/departments/homeland-security-and-emergency-management>

January 2022

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Dick Myers, Deputy Director/ Planner/ Program Manager
Vacant — Administrative Assistant/ Public Information Officer/Volunteer Coordinator

From the Director's Chair

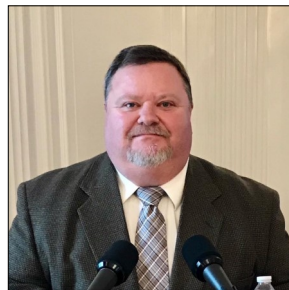
Hello and welcome to the January 2022 edition of the Jefferson County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management's (JCOHSEM) newsletter. We are providing the full newsletter since we are near the beginning of a new month and new year.

First, we are sharing news about Dick Myers, deputy director for JCOHSEM, and his recent recognition by State officials. The newsletter also includes updates of the Coronavirus and its impact on the nation, state and local area, as well as information from Ready.gov about how to Resolve to be Ready, Winter Safety, National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month and Flooding.

So, this edition is full of details about several topics which we hope you find informative.

We also wish you a Happy New Year!

Myers Recipient of Freedom Award



On December 7, 2021, W.Va Governor Jim Justice and the W.Va. Department of Homeland Security honored six county emergency managers with West Virginia Freedom Awards. Dick Myers, Deputy Director, Jefferson County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (JCOHSEM) was one of the recipients.

According to a press release from the W. Va. Department of Homeland Security and Office of the Cabinet Secretary, Jeff Sandy, the Freedom Awards were launched in 2020 to honor the commitment of county emergency managers in West Virginia. The awards recognize emergency officials in six categories: lifesaving, innovation, teamwork, perseverance, leadership and lifetime achievement. Dick was recognized for the teamwork category citing he is always willing to travel to other counties to help in times of disaster and need.

Before joining the JCOHSEM team, Dick served as the Morgan County director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management for seven years. He is a Morgan County native and has spent his entire career working in the field of emergency services in both volunteer and professional capacities.

After graduating from Berkeley Springs High School in 1985, he joined the Morgan County Rescue Service and began training. He became a full-time EMT in 1995. He joined the Berkeley Springs Fire Department in 1991 and was a very active member in both organizations and served in several officer positions.

Dick earned his paramedic license from Shepherd University in 2001 and worked as a professional firefighter/paramedic in Frederick County, Virginia until his retirement in 2012, when he returned to work with 911 in Morgan County. He has also earned an Associate’s Degree from Blue Ridge Community College.

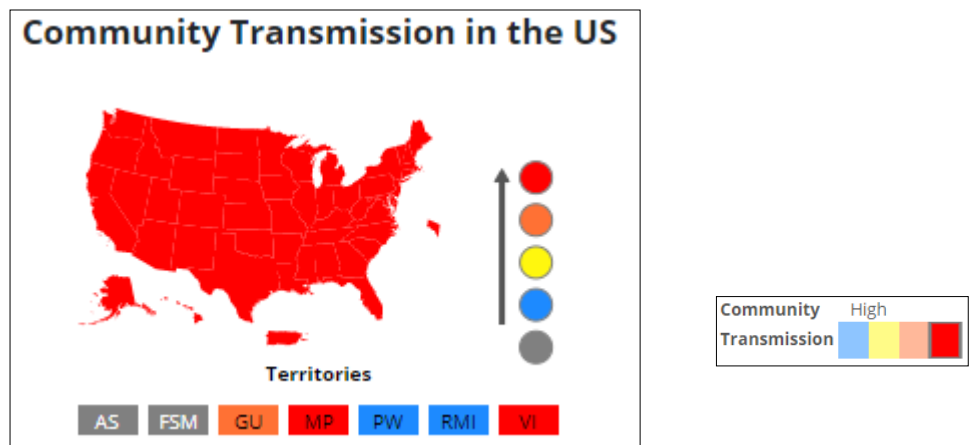
Please join us in congratulating Dick for this honor.

Coronavirus

The Coronavirus update is compiled from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (WV DHHR) websites. Links to the CDC and WV DHHR websites are provided at the end of this section for further information.

National Update

Here is the current United States map, provided by the CDC, showing the community transmission of the COVID-19 virus.



United States COVID-19 Cases, Deaths, and Laboratory Testing (NAATs) by State, Territory, and Jurisdiction

Maps, charts, and data provided by CDC, updated Mon-Sat by 8 pm ET[†]

[View Footnotes and Download Data](#)

TOTAL CASES 53,275,589 +431,567 New Cases	7 DAY CASE RATE PER 100,000 584.6	TOTAL DEATHS 818,444 +2,105 New Deaths
CDC Data as of: December 29, 2021 1:11 PM ET. Posted: December 29, 2021 2:37 PM ET		

COVID DATA TRACKER WEEKLY REVIEW

Interpretive Summary for **December 17, 2021**

Safe and Happy Holidays

The United States recently surpassed 50 million COVID-19 [cases](#) and 800,000 [deaths](#) since the start of the pandemic. This week also marks the first anniversary of the first COVID-19 vaccination in the United States. In recent weeks, COVID-19 [cases](#) and [hospitalizations](#) have increased, with many parts of the country experiencing substantial or high [levels of community transmission](#). These increases and the recent emergence of the [Omicron](#) variant highlight the importance of [prevention strategies](#) to help people stay safe and reduce the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19.

Although we are still learning about Omicron, we've been fighting COVID-19 since last year and have the tools to end the pandemic. The United States saw the highest peak in COVID-19 cases in January 2021, following the 2020 holiday season. But this year, we have the most important protection of all: vaccination. As people start to travel and [gather](#) this year, [COVID-19 vaccination](#), along with [other important prevention strategies](#), continues to be our best defense against severe disease.

- [Get a COVID-19 vaccine](#) as soon as you can. If you're eligible for a [booster shot](#), get one now. [Find a vaccine](#).
- Wear [a mask that covers your nose and mouth](#) when in indoor public places.
- Whenever possible, stay [6 feet apart](#) from people who don't live with you.
- Avoid crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces.
- Consider [self-testing](#) before indoor gatherings. If you are sick or have symptoms, don't go.
- [Wash your hands often](#) with soap and water. Use hand sanitizer if soap and water aren't available.

Holiday traditions are important for many people. Using proven prevention strategies, we can enjoy safer holidays, travel, and protect our own health as well as the health of our family and friends.

Reported Cases

The current 7-day moving average of daily new cases (122,297) increased 1.5% compared with the previous 7-day moving average (120,445). A total of 50,479,372 COVID-19 cases have been reported in the United States as of December 15, 2021.

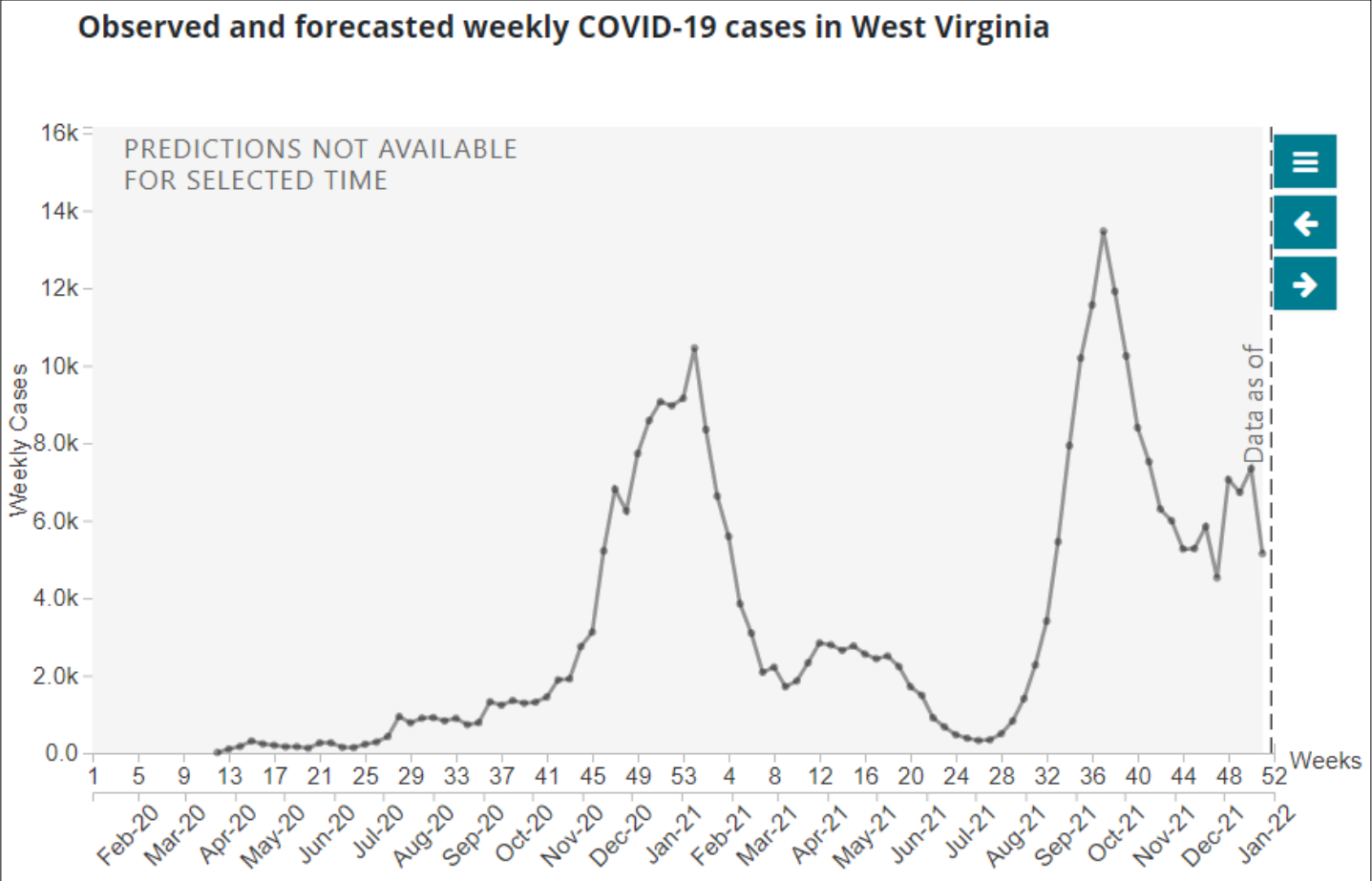
Currently two variants, [Omicron](#) and [Delta](#), are classified as [Variants of Concern](#) (VOC) in the United States. CDC's [COVID Data Tracker](#) shows that the proportion of the Omicron variant circulating in the United States is predicted to increase from last week. Delta remains the predominant variant in the United States. [Nowcast projections](#)* for the week ending December 11, 2021, predict the national proportion of Omicron to be 2.9% and Delta to be 96.7%. The [proportion of Omicron](#) is predicted to be higher than the

national proportion in HHS regions 2 and 7. The proportions of Delta are predicted to be greater than 86% in all HHS regions.

CDC has been actively monitoring and preparing for the Omicron variant and will continue to work with other U.S. and global public health and industry partners to learn more. For more information on variant proportions, visit [COVID Data Tracker](#).

United States Forecasting: West Virginia, per the CDC

Updated December 29, 2021.




Omicron Variant

Get vaccinated and boosted, wear a mask, and get tested.

We have the tools to

Fight Omicron



Vaccines & Booster



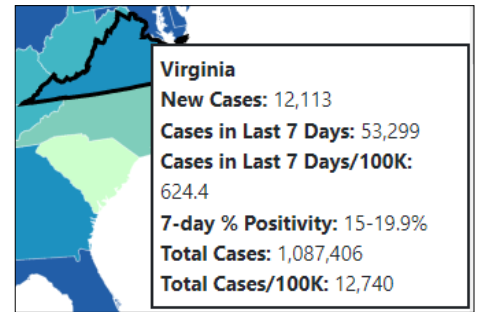
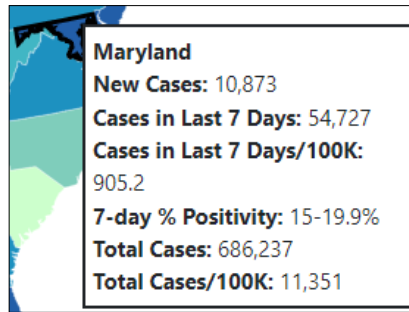
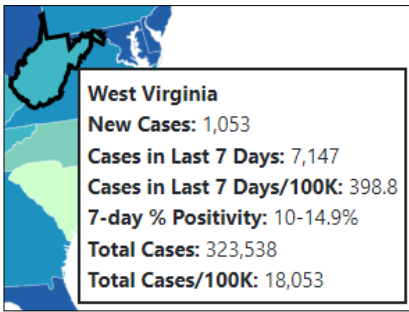
Masks



Testing

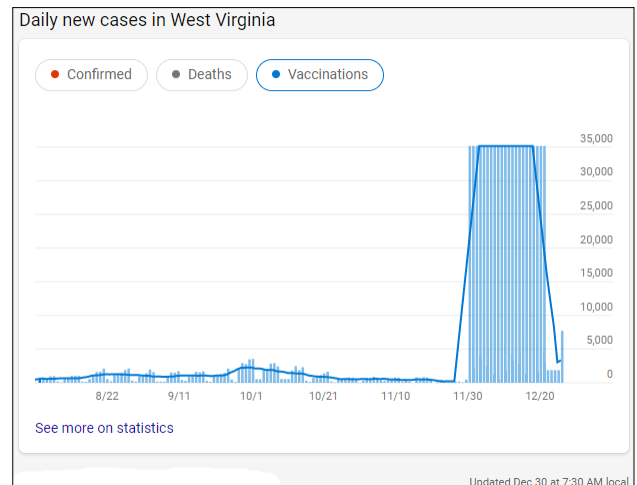
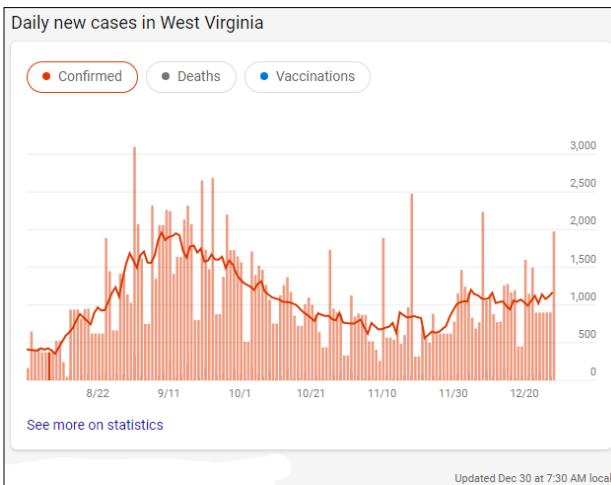
Regional Update From CDC

Below are highlights from the States of West Virginia, Maryland and Virginia.



West Virginia Update

The below West Virginia charts are published by the CDC.



COVID-19 Integrated County View

Maps, charts, and data provided by CDC, updates daily by 8 pm ET[†]

Jefferson County, West Virginia: Community Transmission Rate Is High

According to the CDC, everyone in Jefferson County, West Virginia should wear a mask in public, indoor settings. Mask requirements might vary from place to place. Make sure you follow local laws, rules, regulations or guidance.

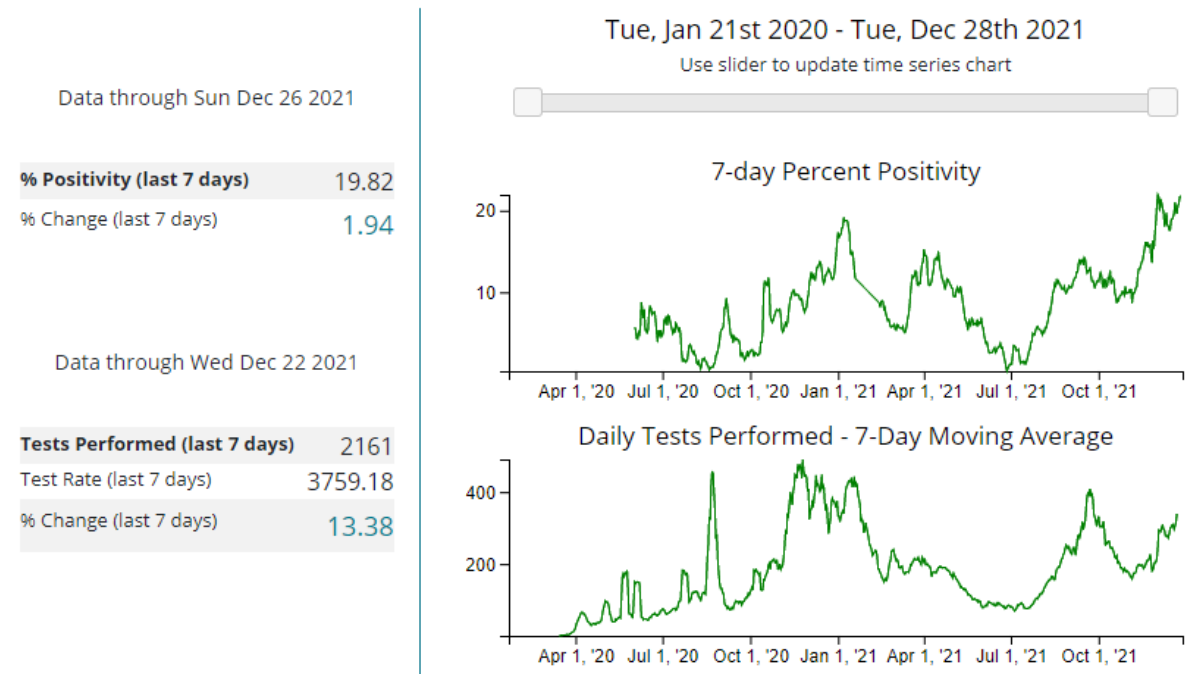
December 30, 2021	
Cases	459
Case Rate per 100k	803.21
% Positivity	19.82%
Deaths	<10
% of population ≥ 5 years of age fully vaccinated	63%
New Hospital Admissions	18

From the CDC:

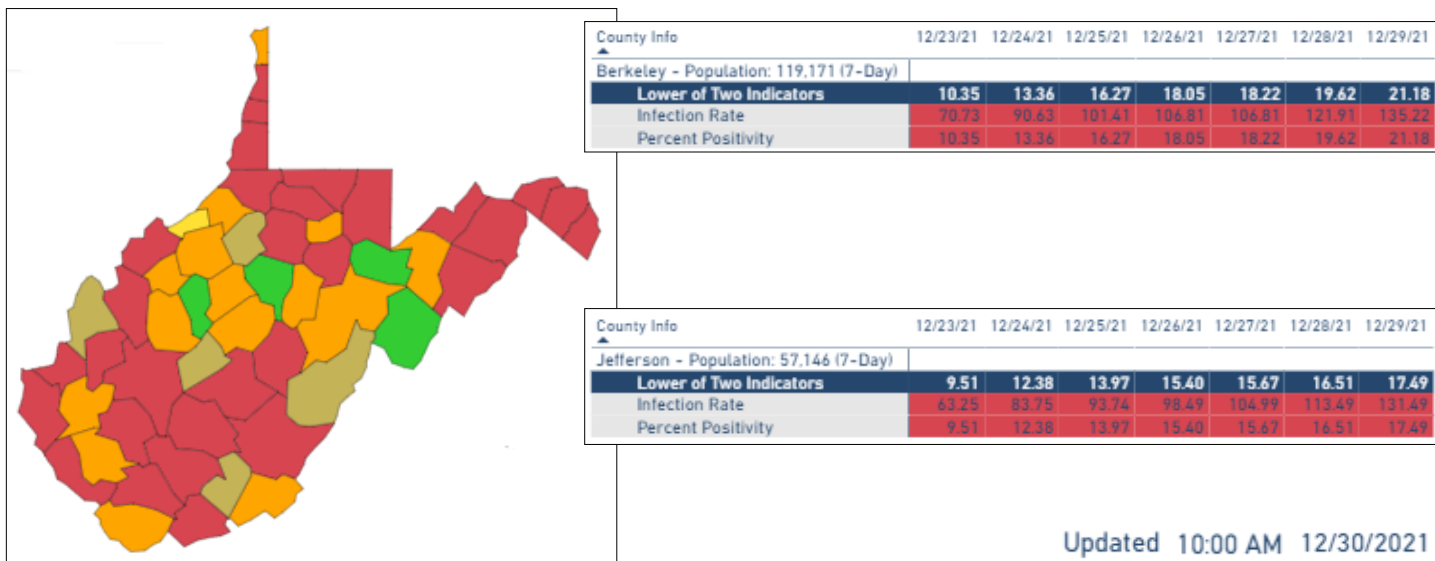
Vaccinations in Jefferson County, West Virginia		
People Vaccinated	At Least One Dose	Fully Vaccinated
Total	40,304	34,077
% of Total Population	70.5%	59.6%
Population ≥ 5 Years of Age	40,295	34,074
% of Population ≥ 5 Years of Age	74.5%	63%
Population ≥ 12 Years of Age	39,318	33,428
% of Population ≥ 12 Years of Age	79.9%	67.9%
Population ≥ 18 Years of Age	36,631	31,036
% of Population ≥ 18 Years of Age	82.2%	69.7%
Population ≥ 65 Years of Age	9,875	8,444
% of Population ≥ 65 Years of Age	95%	88.3%

People Fully Vaccinated with a Booster #	Boosters
Total	10,676
% of Fully Vaccinated Population with a Booster Dose	31.3%
Fully Vaccinated Population ≥ 18 Years of Age with a Booster Dose	10,616
% of Fully Vaccinated Population ≥ 18 Years of Age with a Booster Dose	34.2%
Fully Vaccinated Population ≥ 50 Years of Age with a Booster Dose	7,840
% of Fully Vaccinated Population ≥ 50 Years of Age with a Booster Dose	43.9%
Fully Vaccinated Population ≥ 65 Years of Age with a Booster Dose	4,575
% of Fully Vaccinated Population ≥ 65 Years of Age with a Booster Dose	54.2%

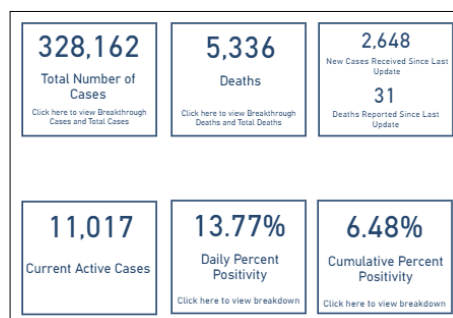
Testing in Jefferson County, West Virginia



The WV DHHR published today, December 30, 2021, the following statewide map and statistics under the *County Alert System* tab of their webpage. Jefferson County and Berkeley County are red. Four counties are green: Calhoun, Lewis, Pendleton and Tucker.



In comparing the statistics published in the December 23rd *Extra* edition of our newsletter, and the data from the below chart published by the WV DHHR today, there is an increase of 9,127 in total number of cases statewide; 85 additional statewide deaths; an increase of 1,732 in current active cases; 2.84% increase in daily percent positivity; and, .09% increase in cumulative percent positivity.



The current statewide vaccination dosage chart.

Note: Boost Doses % is calculated with respect to the number of people fully vaccinated.

Vaccine Doses Administered Into Arms of West Virginia Residents			
Key Metric	Doses	Population	%
At Least One Dose	1,103,314	1,792,147	61.6%
Fully Vaccinated	919,042	1,792,147	51.3%
Boost Doses	317,638	919,042	34.6%
5+ At Least One Dose	1,103,314	1,699,122	64.9%
5+ Fully Vaccinated	919,042	1,699,122	54.1%
5+ Boost Doses	317,638	919,042	34.6%
18+ At Least One Dose	1,019,325	1,432,580	71.2%
18+ Fully Vaccinated	852,241	1,432,580	59.5%
18+ Boost Doses	315,797	852,241	37.1%
50+ At Least One Dose	614,294	736,823	83.4%
50+ Fully Vaccinated	529,397	736,823	71.8%
50+ Boost Doses	240,829	529,397	45.5%
65+ At Least One Dose	334,298	367,011	91.1%
65+ Fully Vaccinated	291,527	367,011	79.4%
65+ Boost Doses	149,396	291,527	51.2%
Total Doses Administered to WV Residents	2,336,639		

Data Source: HHS, CDC and WV DHHR Updated 10:00 AM 12/30/2021

Individuals counted are West Virginia residents vaccinated in-state or out-of-state through State Allocations, Federal Pharmacy Program, Federal FQHC Program and Federal Entities

The current 7-day trend for Cases and Deaths statewide are:



Statewide hospitalization information:



Below are the Delta and Omicron variant totals for all 55 counties, per WV DHHR:

County	Delta (India)	Omicron (South Africa)
Barbour	172	0
Berkeley	946	9
Boone	40	0
Braxton	140	0
Brooke	107	0
Cabell	203	0
Calhoun	12	0
Clay	54	0
Doddridge	55	0
Fayette	366	1
Gilmer	81	0
Grant	115	0
Greenbrier	194	0
Hampshire	163	0
Hancock	117	0
Hardy	44	0
Harrison	708	1
Jackson	173	0

County	Delta (India)	Omicron (South Africa)
Jefferson	500	0
Kanawha	589	1
Lewis	266	0
Lincoln	195	0
Logan	128	0
Marion	563	1
Marshall	154	0
Mason	22	0
McDowell	132	0
Mercer	410	0
Mineral	210	0
Mingo	72	0
Monongalia	1,143	5
Monroe	72	0
Morgan	131	0
Nicholas	337	0
Ohio	244	0
Pendleton	26	0

County	Delta (India)	Omicron (South Africa)
Pleasants	29	0
Pocahontas	29	0
Preston	321	0
Putnam	233	0
Raleigh	411	0
Randolph	265	0
Ritchie	62	0
Roane	20	0
Summers	17	0
Taylor	157	0
Tucker	65	0
Tyler	31	0
Upshur	247	0
Wayne	119	0
Webster	77	0
Wetzel	146	0
Wirt	24	0
Wood	351	0
Wyoming	233	0
Total	11,721	18

Local Update

December 30th Hospitalization Information From WVU Medicine.

Total COVID Collected 437
 Total Positive COVID 102
 % Positive 23.3%

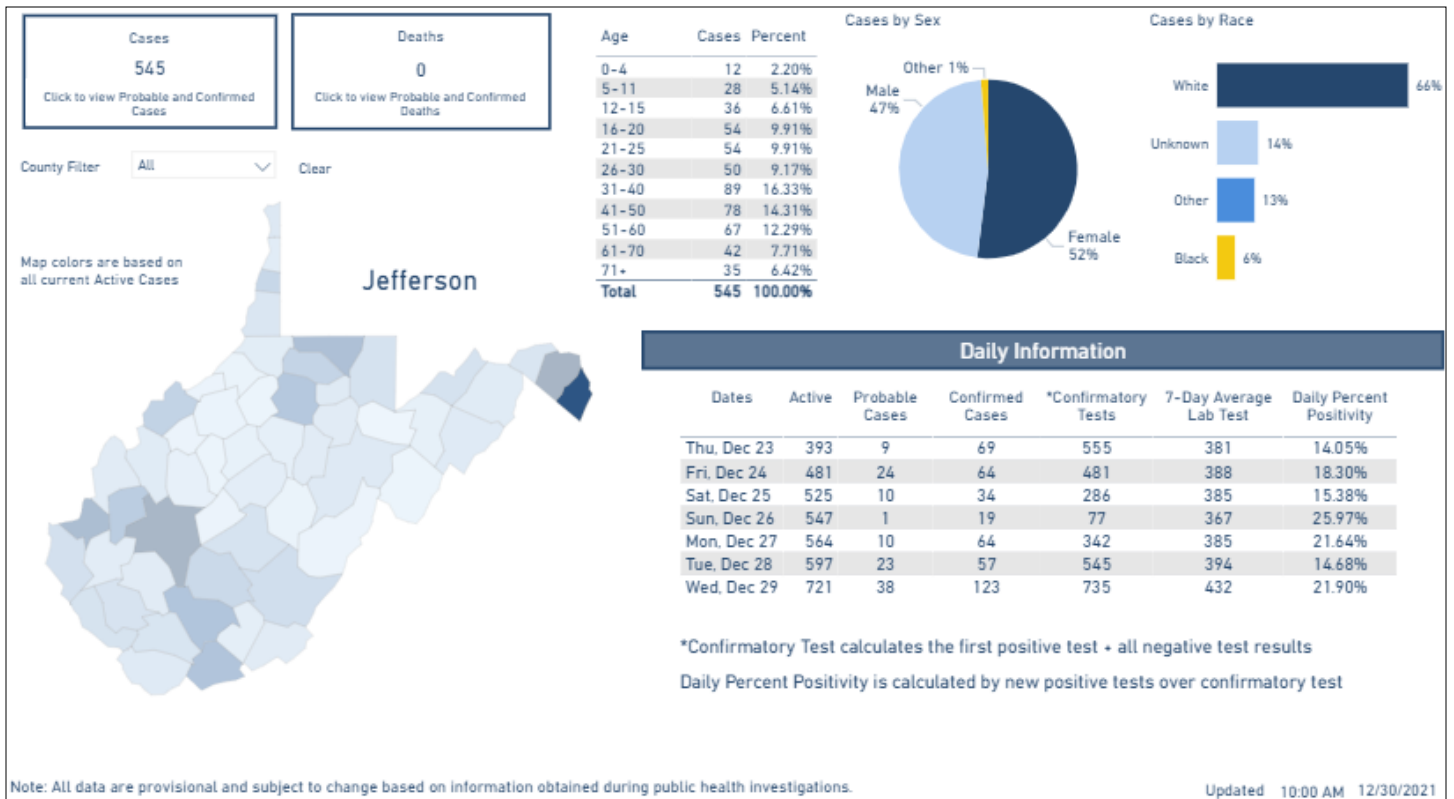
Collected Inpatient
 BMC 9
 JMC 0

Collected Emergency
 Dept.
 BMC 73
 JMC 27

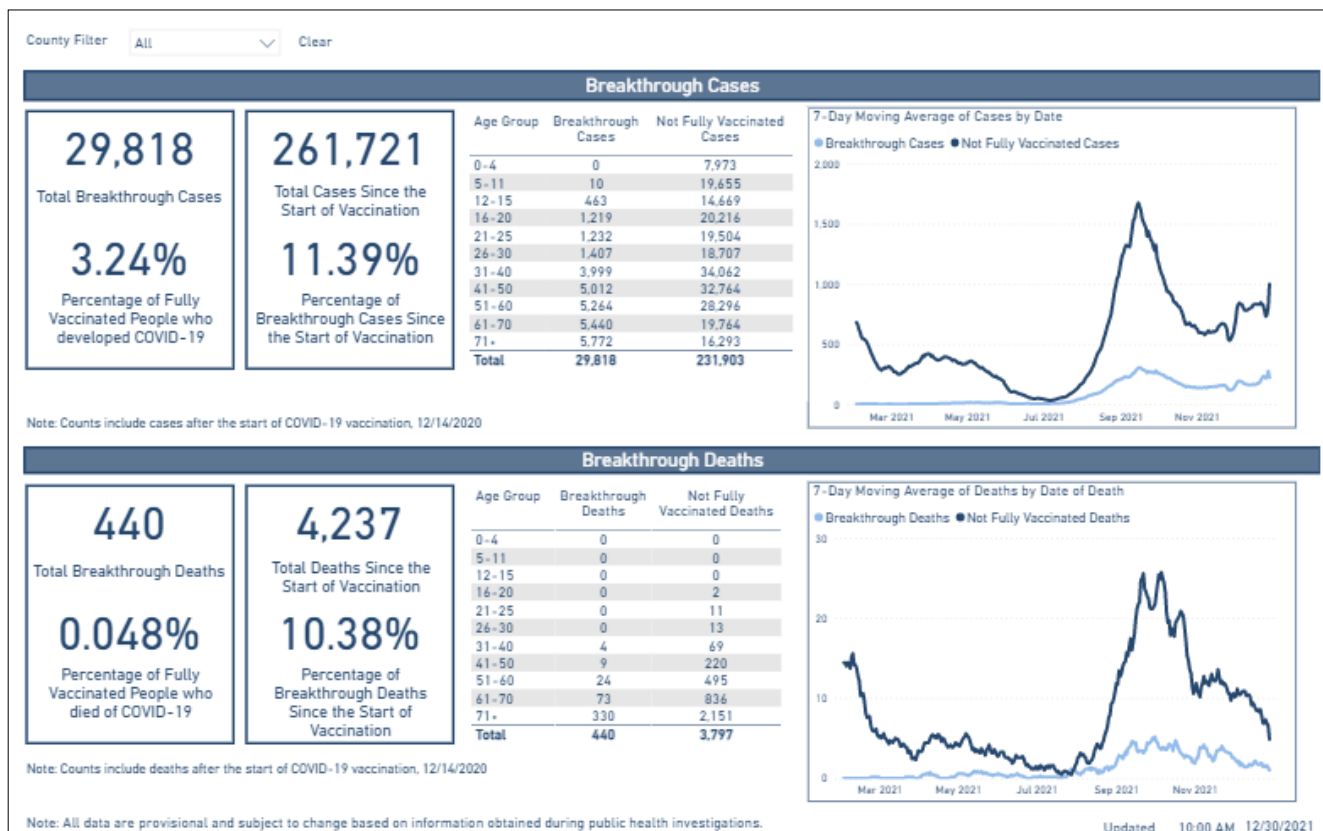
COVID in Hospital
 BMC 55, 5 Vaccinated - 40 Unvaccinated
 JMC 17 4 Vaccinated - 13 Unvaccinated

Collected Outpatient
 BMC Including the Trailer 253
 JMC Including Urgent Care 66

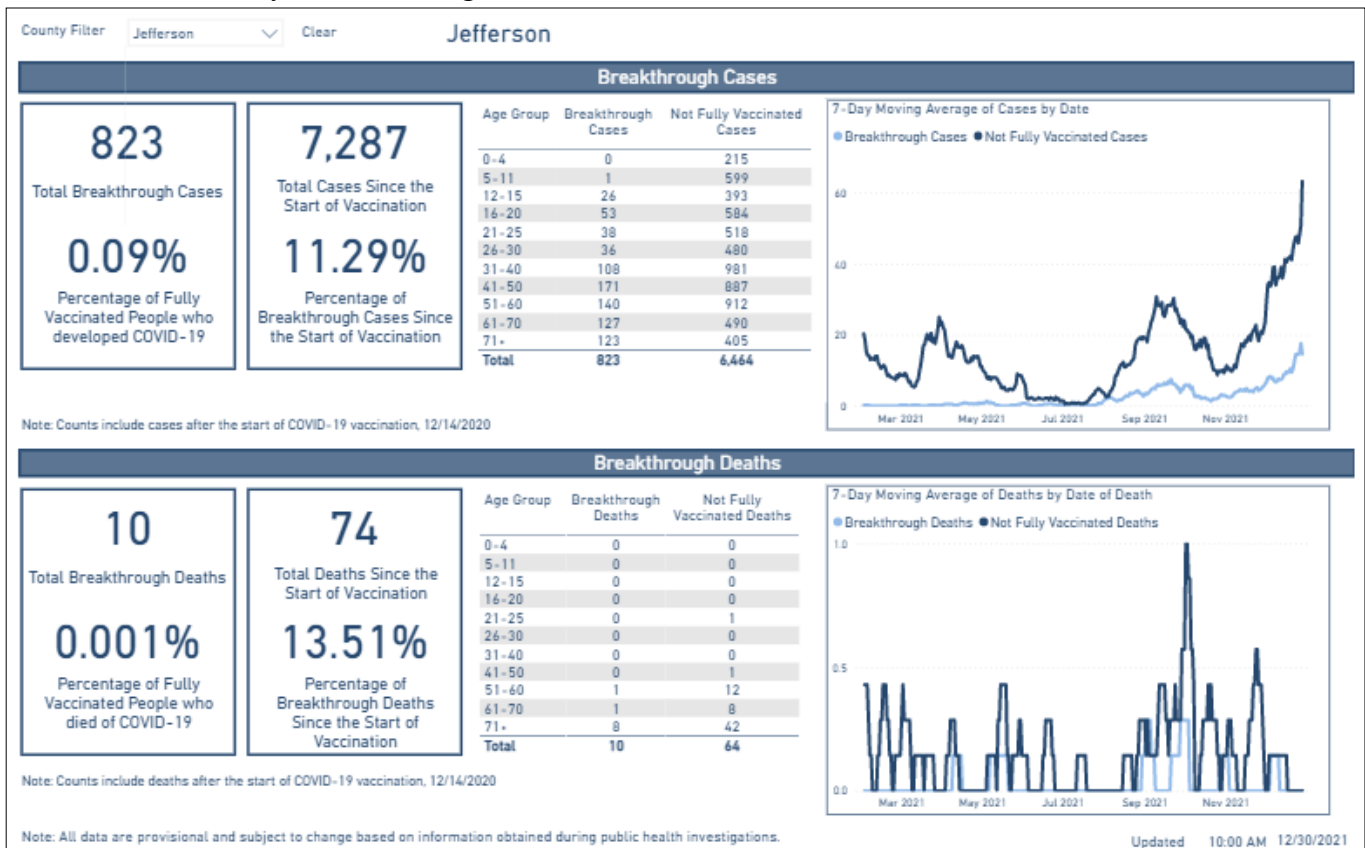
The 7-Day trend for Jefferson County, per WV DHHR:



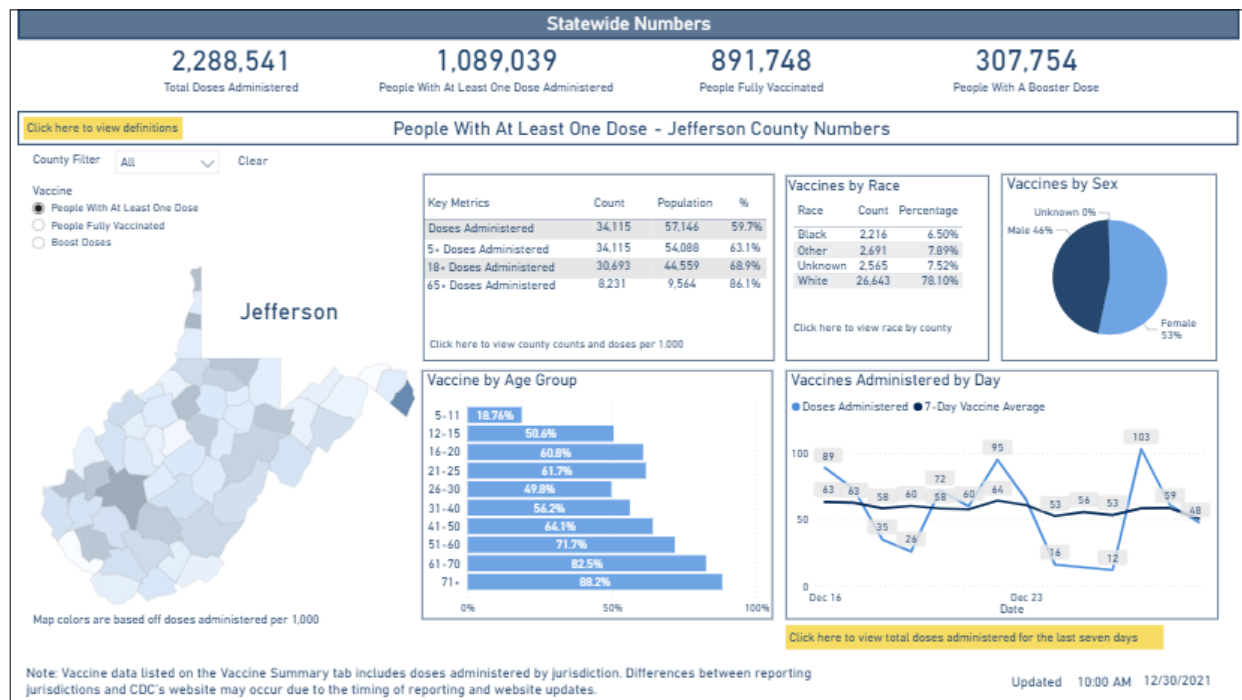
Statewide Breakthrough Cases:



Jefferson County's Breakthrough Cases:



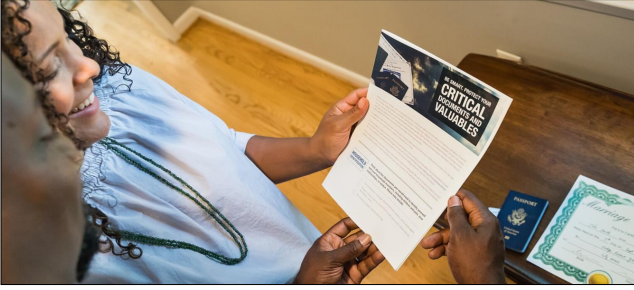
Below are the statewide and Jefferson County vaccine summaries:



Additional information can be found on the CDC and WV DHHR websites at the following:

- [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) \(wv.gov\)](https://www.wv.gov/covid19/)
- [CDC COVID Data Tracker.](https://www.cdc.gov/covid/)

Resolve to be Ready



Make a Resolution

- Make an emergency plan: choose a safe place to meet, learn evacuation routes, and establish an out-of-town contact.
- Take a current photo of you and your pet together in case you get separated during a disaster.

- Get to know your neighbor and invite them to be a part of your emergency plan.
- Snap photos of important documents and save them in a secure place or online.
- Set up group text lists so you can communicate with friends and family during emergencies.
- Take a class in CPR and first aid.
- Keep and update emergency supplies; remember to include cash.
- Have back-up power sources available to charge devices in case of a power outage.
- Snap pictures of your property for insurance purposes.
- Check your insurance for coverage on disasters like floods, hurricanes, and earthquakes.
- Sign up for alerts and warnings. Download the FEMA app to get real-time alerts, safety tips, and locate open shelters.
- Save for a rainy day! Start and grow your emergency fund.
- Financially prepare for the New Year. Find out how with the [Emergency Financial First Aid Kit](#).
- Spend within your means. Use a personal budgeting worksheet to help plan for holiday expenses and beyond.

Get Tech Ready

- Download the FEMA app to get real-time alerts, safety tips, and locate open shelters.
- Sign up to receive text or email alerts about emergencies from your local Office of Emergency Management.
- Snap photos of important documents and save them online or in a secure place you can access during an emergency.
- Set up group text lists so you can communicate with friends and family at the same time during emergencies.

- Download money saving apps to help you save for a rainy day.
- Have external power sources available to charge phones and other devices in case of a power outage.
#ResolveToBeReady #PrepTips

Preparedness Tips

- Include cash in your emergency supply kit. During an extended power outage, ATMs and credit card machines may not work.
- Check-in with neighbors to see how you can help each other out before and after a storm.
- Pick an out-of-town person for everyone to contact during an emergency.
- Preparing your family for an emergency is as simple as having a conversation over dinner. Make a plan tonight.
- As part of your family's emergency supply kit, include games and toys to keep children entertained.
- Get prepared by having an emergency supply kit already stored. www.ready.gov/kit #ResolveToBeReady
- Snap pictures of your property and make an inventory for insurance purposes.
- 30: The number of days it takes for flood insurance to begin. The time to buy is when it's dry.
- If you rely on public transportation, contact your local emergency management agency about evacuation procedures before a hurricane.
- Make a list of the things you would need or want to take with you if you had to leave your home quickly.
- Prepare your car for winter: keep your gas tank near full to help avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines.
- Make a plan to check on neighbors if extreme cold or winter weather knocks out your power.
- Learn how to shut off the utilities where you live, including water, electricity, and gas.
- #PrepTips: Take a first aid and CPR class. www.ready.gov/safety-skills #ResolveToBeReady
- Plan how you will leave and where you will go if you are advised to evacuate. Don't forget to include pets in your plans! www.ready.gov/evacuation #ResolveToBeReady
- Assemble supplies for a "go-bag" you can carry if you need to evacuate www.ready.gov/evacuation #ResolveToBeReady #PrepTips
- Make a portable emergency kit for your car www.ready.gov/car #ResolveToBeReady
- Save. Save. Save. Your emergency savings can help you get life saving items like food, shelter, and water in an emergency. Saving tips: www.ready.gov/financial-preparedness #FinancialFuture
- 48% of people have an emergency fund, which gives them the savings to overcome simple emergencies. www.ready.gov/financial-preparedness #FinancialFuture



Planning With Pets

- Take a current photo of you and your pet together in case you get separated during a disaster. www.ready.gov/pets #ResolveToBeReady #PetPreparedness
- Search online today for local pet-friendly evacuation locations in case you need to evacuate.
- Update your pet's microchip registration info so you can be contacted if your pet gets lost in a disaster. www.ready.gov/pets #ResolveToBeReady #PetPreparedness
- Put your name and contact information on your pet's ID tag in case you're separated in an emergency. www.ready.gov/pets #ResolveToBeReady #PetPreparedness
- Remember to include your pets in your family's emergency plans.

Winter Safety

Winter storms create a higher risk of car accidents, hypothermia, frostbite, carbon monoxide poisoning, and heart attacks from overexertion. Winter storms including blizzards can bring extreme cold, freezing rain, snow, ice and high winds.

A winter storm can:

- Last a few hours or several days.
- Cut off heat, power and communication services.
- Put older adults, children, sick individuals and pets at greater risk.

How to Protect Yourself from Winter Weather

IF YOU ARE UNDER A WINTER STORM WARNING, FIND SHELTER RIGHT AWAY

Know your winter weather terms:

Winter Storm Warning

Issued when hazardous winter weather in the form of heavy snow, heavy freezing rain, or heavy sleet is imminent or occurring. Winter Storm Warnings are usually issued 12 to 24 hours before the event is expected to begin.

Winter Storm Watch

Alerts the public to the possibility of a blizzard, heavy snow, heavy freezing rain, or heavy sleet. Winter Storm Watches are usually issued 12 to 48 hours before the beginning of a Winter Storm.

Winter Weather Advisory

Issued for accumulations of snow, freezing rain, freezing drizzle, and sleet which will cause significant inconveniences and, if caution is not exercised, could lead to life-threatening situations.

Know Your Risk for Winter Storms

Pay attention to weather reports and warnings of freezing weather and winter storms. Listen for emergency information and alerts. Sign up for your community's warning system. The Emergency Alert System (EAS) and [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\) Weather Radio](#) also provide emergency alerts.



Preparing for Winter Weather

Prepare your home to keep out the cold with insulation, caulking and weather stripping. Learn how to keep pipes from freezing. Install and test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors with battery backups. Gather supplies in case you need to stay home for several days without power. Keep in mind each person's specific needs, including medication. Remember the needs of your pets. Have extra batteries for radios and flashlights. If you are unable to afford your heating costs, weatherization or energy-related home repairs, contact the [Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program \(LIHEAP\)](#) for help.

In Case of Emergency

Be prepared for winter weather at home, at work and in your car. Create an emergency supply kit for your car. Include jumper cables, sand, a flashlight, warm clothes, blankets, bottled water and non-perishable snacks. Keep a full tank of gas.

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Sign up for [email updates](#) about coronavirus from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Learn the [symptoms of COVID-19](#) and follow [CDC guidance](#). If you are able to, set aside items like soap, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol, disinfecting wipes, and general household [cleaning supplies that you can use to disinfect surfaces you touch regularly](#).

Stay Safe During Winter Weather



Avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Only use generators and grills outdoors and away from windows. Never heat your home with a gas stovetop or oven.

- Stay off roads if at all possible. If trapped in your car, then stay inside.

- Limit your time outside. If you need to go outside, then wear layers of warm clothing. Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia.
- Reduce the risk of a heart attack by avoiding overexertion when shoveling snow and walking in the snow.

Learn the signs of, and basic treatments for, frostbite and hypothermia.

Frostbite causes loss of feeling and color around the face, fingers and toes.

- **Signs:** Numbness, white or grayish-yellow skin, firm or waxy skin.
- **Actions:** Go to a warm room. Soak in warm water. Use body heat to warm. Do not massage or use a heating pad.

Hypothermia is an unusually low body temperature. A temperature below 95 degrees is an emergency.

- **Signs:** Shivering, exhaustion, confusion, fumbling hands, memory loss, slurred speech or drowsiness.
- **Actions:** Go to a warm room. Warm the center of the body first—chest, neck, head and groin. Keep dry and wrapped up in warm blankets, including the head and neck.

National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month

#WearBlueDay: January 11



According to the United States Department of Homeland Security, National Human Trafficking Awareness Day is recognized each year on January 11th. In recognition of this important day, and throughout the month of January, Blue Campaign hosts several special events and educational activities.

Blue Campaign's largest initiative is **#WearBlueDay** on January 11th. To raise awareness of human trafficking, we invite the public to take photos of themselves, friends, family, and colleagues wearing blue clothing and share them on social media – Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram – along with our **#WearBlueDay** hashtag. Anyone can participate, all you need is a piece of blue clothing!

Identify a Victim

Everyone has a role to play in combating human trafficking. Recognizing the [signs of human trafficking](#) is the first step to identifying a victim. Our [resources](#) page has materials for a more in-depth human trafficking education.

Follow **@DHSBlueCampaign** on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) for more information about **#WearBlueDay** and Campaign efforts throughout the year.

To report suspected human trafficking to Federal law enforcement:	Para reportar un posible caso de trata de personas:
1-866-347-2423	1-866-347-2423
To get help from the National Human Trafficking Hotline:	Obtenga ayuda de la Línea Directa Nacional de Trata de Personas:
1-888-373-7888 or text HELP or INFO to BeFree (233733)	1-888-373-7888 o enviando un mensaje de texto con HELP o INFO to BeFree (233733)

Flooding

Flooding is a temporary overflow of water onto land that is normally dry. Floods are the most common natural disaster in the United States. Failing to evacuate flooded areas or entering flood waters can lead to injury or death.

Floods may:

- Result from rain, snow, coastal storms, storm surges and overflows of dams and other water systems.
- Develop slowly or quickly. Flash floods can come with no warning.
- Cause outages, disrupt transportation, damage buildings and create landslides.

If you are under a flood warning:

- Find safe shelter right away.
- Do not walk, swim or drive through flood waters. **Turn Around, Don't Drown!**
- Remember, just six inches of moving water can knock you down, and one foot of moving water can sweep your vehicle away.
- Stay off bridges over fast-moving water.
- Depending on the type of flooding:
 - Evacuate if told to do so.
 - Move to higher ground or a higher floor.
 - Stay where you are.

Preparing for a Flood

Know Your Risk for Floods

[Visit FEMA's Flood Map Service Center](#) to know types of flood risk in your area. Sign up for your community's warning system. The [Emergency Alert System \(EAS\)](#) and [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\)](#) Weather Radio also provide emergency alerts.

Purchase Flood Insurance

Purchase or renew a flood insurance policy. Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover flooding. It typically takes up to 30 days for a policy to go into effect so the time to buy is well before a disaster. [Get flood coverage under the National Flood Insurance Program \(NFIP\)](#).

Preparing for a Flood

[Make a plan](#) for your household, including [your pets](#), so that you and your family know what to do, where to go, and what you will need to protect yourselves from flooding. Learn and practice evacuation routes, shelter plans, and flash flood response. Gather supplies, including non-perishable foods, cleaning supplies, and water for several days, in case you must leave immediately or if services are cut off in your area.

In Case of Emergency

Keep important documents in a waterproof container. Create password-protected digital copies. Protect your property. Move valuables to higher levels. Declutter drains and gutters. Install check valves. Consider a sump pump with a battery.

For additional information about flooding and what you can do, follow the link to the Ready.gov website: [Floods | Ready.gov](#).

Need Training?

Emergency management is a constantly-changing field. Whether it is keeping up with the latest technology, to working with stakeholders to develop plans, conducting successful floodplain management, performing damage assessments, managing debris after a disaster, helping our communities to recover, or just learning the fundamentals, there are plenty of options available to you. Here are some great opportunities for training that you may or may not know about.

****Due to the current Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation, many of the previously scheduled courses have been cancelled. Please check <http://www.onlinelearning.wv.gov/dmapscm6> or contact Louis Gaunch at Louis.g.gaunch@wv.gov with any questions in regards to cancelled or rescheduled courses.****

Upcoming Local Training

There is currently no local in-person training scheduled for January

Disaster Exercise Series 2021/2022



Typically, over the course of the year, a table top, functional, and full scale exercise will be held. An effective exercise program is an essential component of our preparedness as it validates plans, tests operational capabilities, maintains leadership effectiveness, and examines ways to utilize the whole community. Exercise program management involves a collaborative approach that integrates resources, organizations, and individuals in order to identify and achieve program priorities. The COVID-19 virus has presented problems over the past two years in our communities fulfilling these needs and participating in the exercises.

At the December 15, 2021 meeting of the Jefferson County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), a discussion occurred centered around the ability of the community to gain a full- scale exercise accreditation by using an actual incident (our Jefferson/Berkeley County Regional Mass Vaccination Clinic at the Charles Town Races). An After-Action Report and Improvement Plan (AAR/IP) was generated in the last couple of months and will be submitted to the State to meet the requirement of participating in a full-scale or functional exercise in 2021.

A follow-up discussion took place where U.S. EPA Federal On-Scene Coordinator, Don McLaughlin, indicated that a “virtual” tabletop/ discussion-based exercise may be able to occur. This would take the place of a tabletop exercise which is normally attended “in-person”. In order to ensure the safety of the attendees, having it presented “virtually” will serve the need for having a discussion-based exercise and at the same time allow the attendees to take part from the safety of their own offices or meeting rooms.

Mr. McLaughlin and Mr. Sandy Green (WV EMD Region 3 Liaison) will be meeting early in January to firm up the tabletop exercise plan and present it at the February 16, 2022 LEPC meeting for review by the attendees.

If you or your organization is interested in participating in the 2021/22 tabletop exercise when it is scheduled, please contact Stephen Allen at: sallen@jeffersoncountywv.org.

Online FEMA Training

FEMA offers a number of online courses at <https://training.fema.gov/emi.aspx>. From this training portal, anyone can take their online independent study courses for free. There are over 100 courses to choose from. You can also browse the schedules and information about their on-campus resident courses for those who are involved in emergency management in the federal, state, local or tribal governments.

JCOHSEM recommends the following FEMA Independent Study Courses. These courses are free and available online. After the course is completed an online test can be taken. Once the test is passed you will receive a completion certificate.

IS-230.E: Fundamentals of Emergency Management

Course Description: The goal of this course is to provide all FEMA employees with basic information to prepare them for incident management and support activities. Additionally, this course will provide an overview of FEMA; introduce basic emergency management concepts; and provide a high-level look at how FEMA meets its mission.

Primary Audience: This entry-level course is designed for individuals new to the field of emergency management or persons with a desire to understand the fundamentals of emergency management.

Course Length: Approximately 6 hours

Course Link: <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-230.e>

IS 522 - Exercising Continuity Plans for Pandemics

Course Description: This course is based on the pandemic continuity tabletop exercise Determined Accord. The course covers fundamental continuity principles and processes but is focused on the special continuity requirements for pandemics. Strategies such as telework and other social distancing strategies are described, as well, as special protection strategies for first responders, healthcare personnel, and others who have daily contact with the public.

Primary Audience: At the conclusion of this course, the students should be able to: relate the anticipated conditions and effects of a pandemic influenza to responders and communities, describe best practices for planning for and responding to a pandemic influenza, apply knowledge of the anticipated conditions and suggested practices to an activity, and develop next steps for pandemic planning within their agencies or communities.

Course Length: Approximately 8 hours

Course Link: <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-522>

IS 909 - Community Preparedness: Implementing Simple Activities for Everyone

Course Description: Community members are the key to our nation's preparedness and resilience. The purpose of this course is to present a model program for community preparedness. In addition, resource materials are available to help organizations conduct simple preparedness activities for everyone. By the end of this course, participants will be able to identify the definition of preparedness, describe the role of individual and household preparedness, and describe the purpose of community based preparedness activities.

Primary Audience: The primary audience for this course is the whole community including emergency management personnel and representatives of faith-based and nonprofit organizations.

Course Length: Approximately 1 hour

Course Link: <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-909>

Jefferson County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management-Committees

Steering Committee, John Sherwood, Chair

The Steering Committee works with the JCOHSEM director to guide the activities of JCOHSEM. A fourteen-member Steering Committee is made up of public and private representation. JCOHSEM is a department within the Jefferson County Commission, who has overall responsibility for the department and its employees. The Jefferson County Commission appoints all members to the steering committee. This committee meets following the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Meetings held on the third Wednesday of February, April, June, August, October, and December. Please call the office for exact dates, locations, and times.

Public Awareness, Education and Training Committee, Paula Marrone-Reese, Chair

Any interested person can serve on this committee. The Public Awareness, Education and Training Committee is responsible to communicate the organization's activities to the public and to build support for JCOHSEM's programs. They work with the director and other staff to keep the entire community focused on the objectives of JCOHSEM, the opportunities for additional involvement and support by updating citizens and businesses about what the partners are doing and how the community will and is benefiting from these efforts. This committee is responsible in assisting the director in setting up speaking engagements and public awareness events. This committee meets monthly on the second Wednesday of the month at 0830 in the EOC at 28 Industrial Blvd., Kearneysville, unless otherwise announced.

All Hazards Mitigation Planning Committee, Mason Carter, Chair

Any interested person may serve on this committee. The All Hazards Mitigation Planning Committee examines the community's risks and vulnerability to all hazards and assess the community's vulnerability to those risks. An All Hazards Mitigation Plan was completed and adopted by the Jefferson County Commission, all Jefferson County municipalities, West Virginia Emergency Management Division of the West Virginia Department of Homeland Security (WVEMD) and FEMA in July 2003. The plan was updated in 2008 and 2013. The 2013 plan was approved by WVEMD and FEMA in June 2013 and the 2018 plan was approved in November 2018.

Counter Terrorism Committee, Stephen Allen, Chair

Membership to this sub-committee of the Risk Assessment and Mitigation Planning Committee is limited to members of law enforcement, emergency management, homeland security, emergency communications, Red Cross, schools, health care, fire companies, ambulance authority/EMS, and government, due to sensitive homeland security issues. The committee works on issues of planning and training for counterterrorism or human-caused disasters. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at the EOC at 28 Industrial Blvd., Kearneysville, unless otherwise announced.

If you are interested in joining any of our committees,
contact Stephen Allen at sallen@jeffersoncountywv.org

Times, dates, and places may need to be changed due to inclement weather, scheduling conflicts, or Emergency Operations Center (EOC) activation. If you have questions, call the JCOHSEM office at (304) 728-3290.



**Jefferson County Office of
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**PUBLIC SAFETY;
PUBLIC TRUST**



The Jefferson County Commission's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (JCOHSEM) is responsible for the coordination of preparedness, , response, recovery and mitigation of disasters and large emergencies in Jefferson County, West Virginia. Volunteer and community participation is encouraged and welcome. We currently have committees on All Hazards Mitigation Planning; Public Awareness, Education and Training; Counter Terrorism; and, a Steering Committee that acts as an advisory group.

We are responsible for the Citizen Corps/CERT, StormReady, Community Rating System, Resilient Neighbor Network and Project Impact programs. JCOHSEM is also responsible for the Jefferson County R.A.C.E.S. group.

January Meetings & Events

- Sterling National Weather Service calls every Monday and Thursday at 10:30 a.m.
- WV State weather calls on Mondays and Fridays at 10 a.m.
- WV Emergency Management Council calls each Tuesday at 9 a.m.
- All other committee meetings including the Public Awareness and Counter Terrorism meetings have been cancelled for the month of January.