



# Shawano-Menominee Counties Health Department

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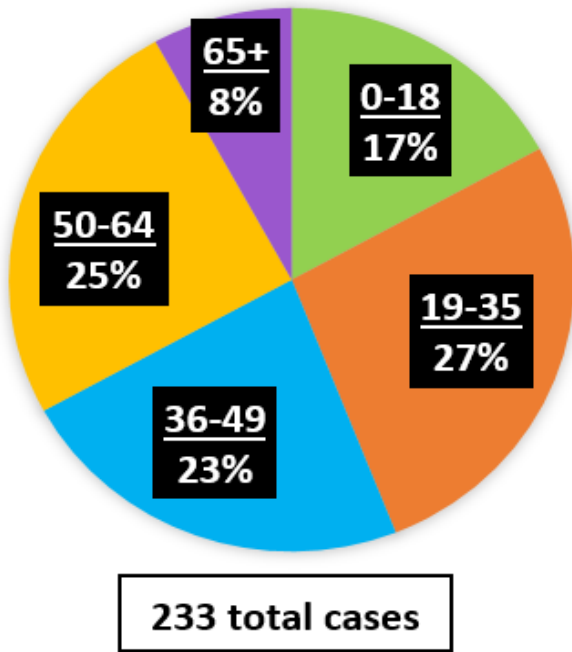


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 1, 2021

## SHAWANO-MENOMINEE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH POSITIVE COVID-19 CASES AND HOSPITALIZATIONS ON THE INCREASE... AGAIN

(Shawano County, Wis.) – Shawano-Menominee Counties Public Health Department (SMCHD) once more has to appeal to your sense of the right thing to do... after several months of less than five (5) positive COVID-19 cases daily, Shawano County is experiencing significant increases in a very short time. Looking back one year ago this week, the messaging looks very similar as to what was shared then. My question is **“Do we really have to go back there again?”** Especially now, with the prevention methods and vaccine availability established. In Shawano County alone, over the last two weeks our average positive COVID-19 cases have jumped from nine (9) to 16 positive cases *per day!* We have, also, put our neighboring counties in the position of recommending folks to avoid Shawano County based activities.

### Positive COVID-19 Cases by Age Shawano County - August 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021



My concern is that these cases are now hitting other age brackets from a year ago. The diagram to the left identifies the current age groups affected by COVID-19 from August 1-31, 2021:

\*In respect to privacy, Menominee County members' positive cases are less than 50 for this time period... They also have a 54.2% vaccine completion rate.

While we are grateful to see an increasing percentage of completed COVID-19 vaccinations in Shawano County over the last 6 months; we know we could do better. We recognize those who may not be in a place to receive the COVID-19 vaccine and while we may not know another person's story, and that is to be respected, please then, rely on the practices we **DO** know that prevent this invasive virus from coming back into our communities.

Also, keep in mind that while COVID-19 vaccine may not completely protect you from catching COVID-19 it does reduce the risk of infection, protect you from hospitalization and the risk of death from COVID-19.

For a vaccine provider near you go to: <https://www.vaccines.gov/>

Not only for the upcoming holiday, but as weather permits, please choose activities outside **and** that allow for distancing: Avoid large gatherings where people are packed-in closely like concerts, car races, and football or baseball games... While these are outside, being shoulder to shoulder with others is not a safe choice. Continue to wear masks when inside public places, effective hand hygiene, separate yourself and stay home when not feeling well. These are the very basics to prevent the spread of *any* airborne virus (or bacteria).

Thank you, again, for your commitment to keeping our community safe as we continue to navigate through these coming months, we are not done yet!

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