



Health Officer Report

Tracie Newman, MD, MPH, FAAP
Health Officer, Fargo Cass Public Health

August 1, 2022

CDC Community Risk Level



Based on COVID-19 by County



Helps communities decide what prevention steps to take based on latest data

Individually and as public health entities



Levels can be low, medium, or high

Determined by:

- * hospital bed use
- * hospital admissions
- * total # of new COVID-19 cases

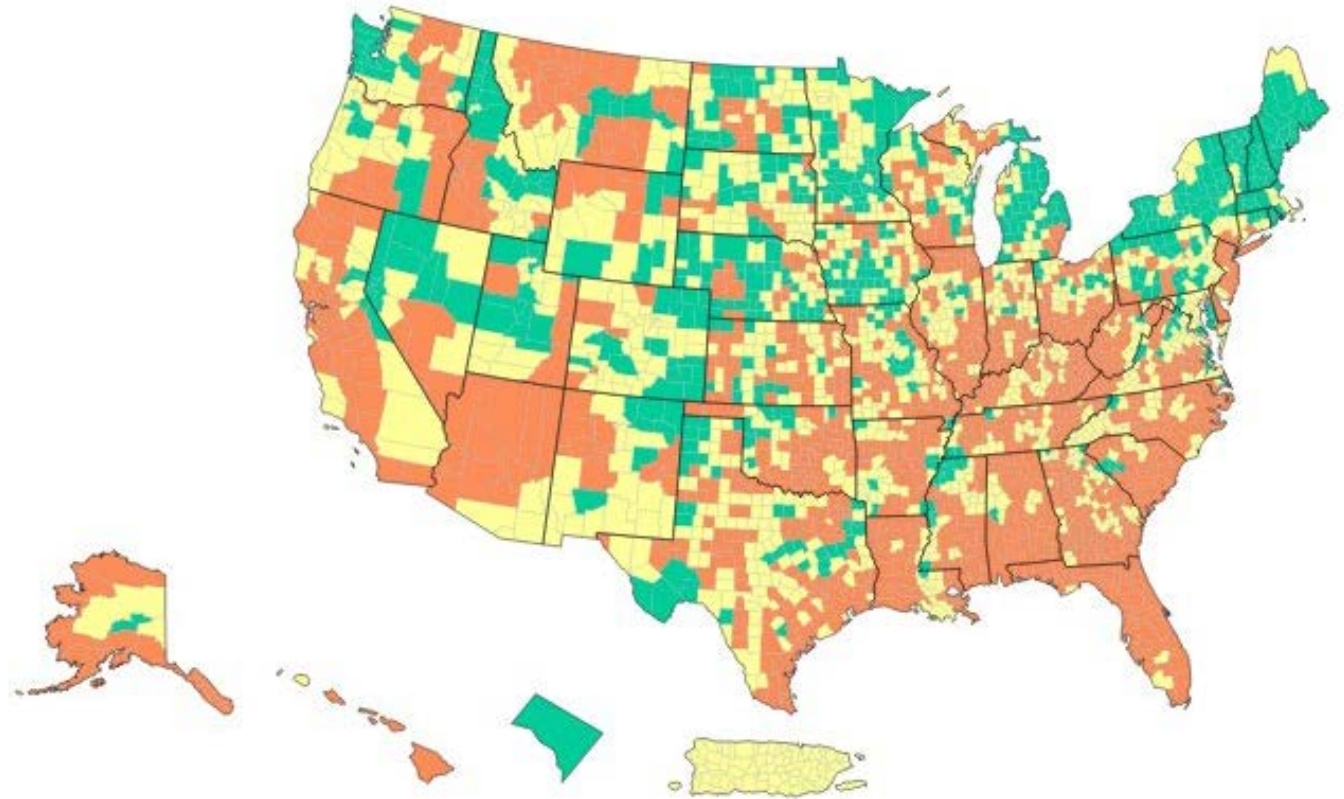
Individual Prevention Steps

Low	Medium	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines• Get tested if you have symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you are at high risk for severe illness, talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions• Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines• Get tested if you have symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wear a mask indoors in public• Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines• Get tested if you have symptoms• Additional precautions may be needed for people at high risk for severe illness

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. Masks are recommended in indoor public transportation settings and may be required in other places by local or state authorities.

If you are immunocompromised or high risk for severe disease, learn more about [how to protect yourself](#) with additional CDC recommendations for each COVID-19 Community Level.

Nationwide Levels



COVID-19 Community Levels in US by County

	Total	Percent	% Change
High	1477	45.83%	3.85%
Medium	1143	35.46%	- 2.14%
Low	603	18.71%	- 1.71%

Cass County



COVID-19 County Check

Find community levels and prevention steps by county. Data updated weekly.

Select a Location (all fields required)

North Dakota



Cass County



Go

< Start Over

Medium

In **Cass County, North Dakota**, community level is **Medium**.

- If you are [at high risk for severe illness](#), talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions
- Stay [up to date](#) with COVID-19 vaccines
- [Get tested](#) if you have symptoms

Community-level prevention strategies: Medium Risk

Protect

- Protect high risk people by ensuring equitable access to vaccination, testing, treatment, support services, information

Screen

- Consider implementing screening testing / other strategies for those exposed to COVID-19 in workplaces, schools, community settings

Prevent

- Implement enhanced prevention measures in high-risk congregate settings (correctional facilities, homeless shelters)

Vaccinate

- Distribute and administer vaccines to achieve high community vaccination coverage and ensure health equity

Ventilate

- Maintain improved ventilation in public indoor spaces

Test

- Ensure access to testing, including point-of-care and at-home tests for all people

Communicate

- Communicate with places that serve immunocompromised or high risk to ensure access to rapid testing

Ensure

- Ensure access & equity in vaccination, testing, treatment, community outreach, support services for all populations

COVID Vaccine Rates – at least 1 dose



Total ND residents (≥ 6 months): 54.4%

Cass County residents (≥ 6 months): 62.9%

Cass County 65 and older: 83.0%

Newest population eligible for vaccine, < 5 years:

- ND total 2.8%
- Cass County 5.6%

Next lowest group: 5-11 year olds

- ND total 22.6%
- Cass County 35.7%

BA.5 Variant



- Most prominent COVID-19 variant in country and ND right now
- 83% of cases in US last week; surging in other countries
- First discovered in early 2022 in South Africa
- Several spike protein mutations, what vaccines target
- More contagious; not necessarily seeing increased severity
- More data needed
- Upswing of hospitalizations and deaths among most vulnerable
- Vaccines continue to prevent severe illness or death

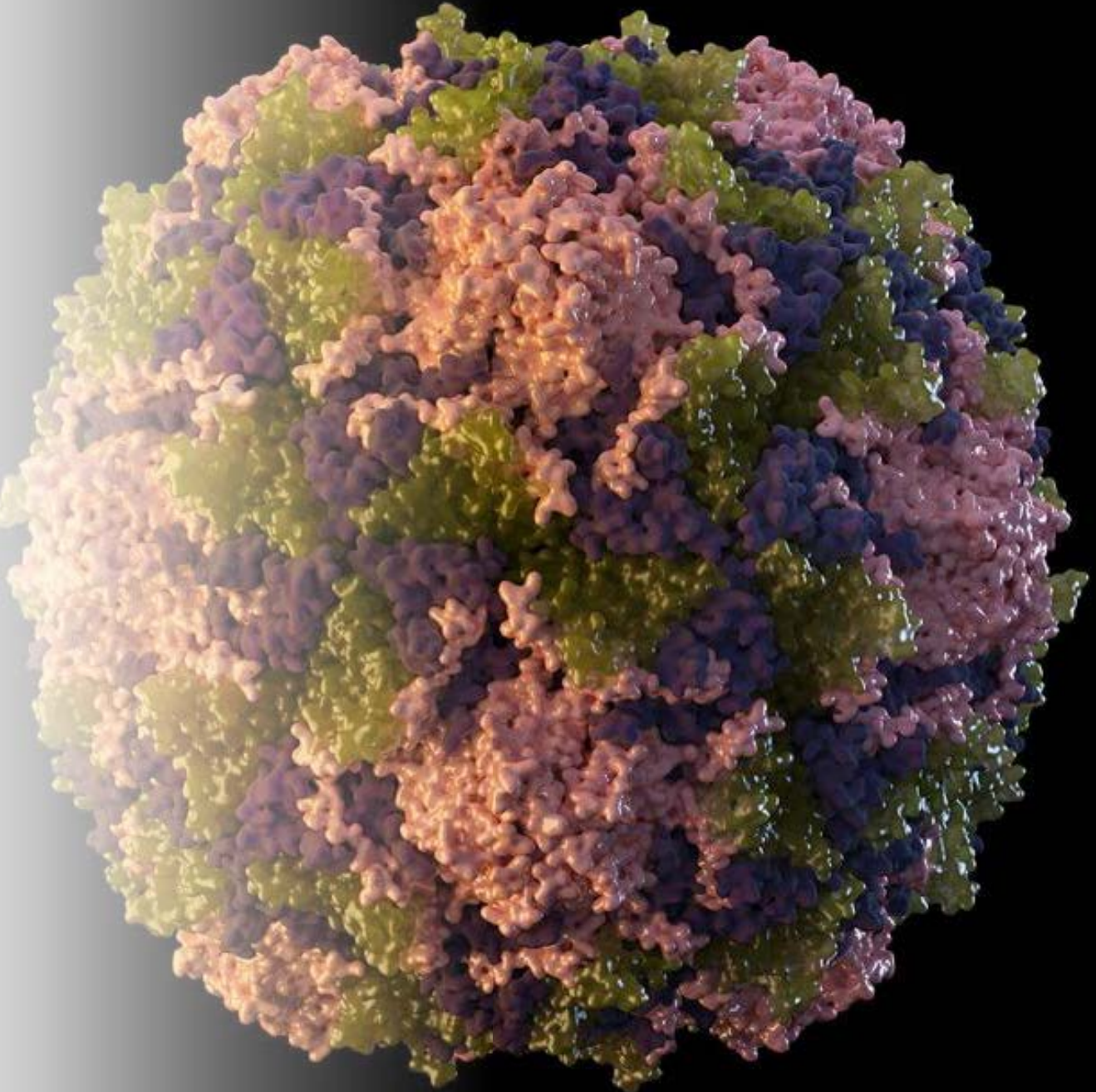
Ways to Protect Yourself

- Stay up to date on COVID-19 vaccines, including boosters if eligible
- Stay home when not feeling well and test to prevent spread to others
 - Home tests available at a variety of locations in community
- Wear a mask in public if you have ill symptoms or are high risk
- Frequent hand washing
- Avoid poorly ventilated spaces and crowds; socially distance when able



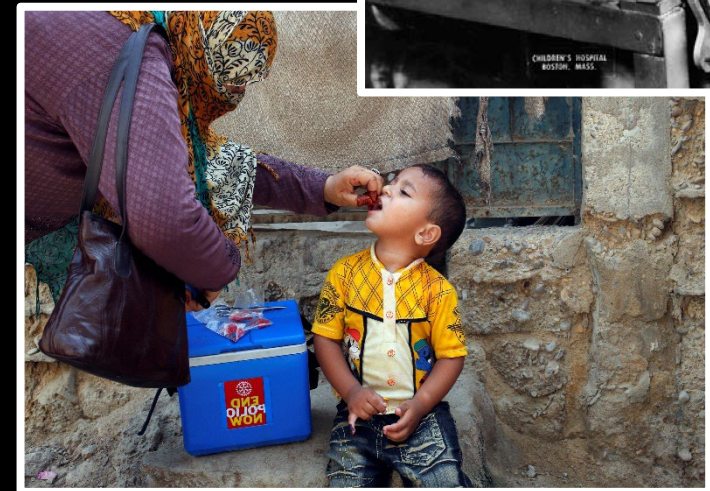
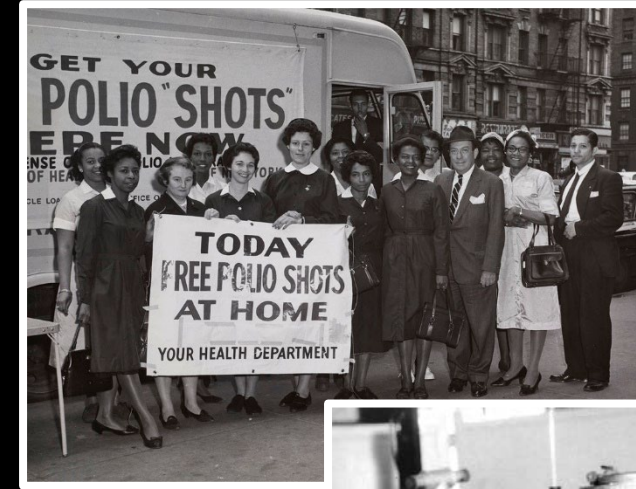
First U.S. Polio Case in Nearly a Decade

- Unvaccinated young adult from NYC contracted polio, developed paralysis
- No travel outside the country; appears to be vaccine-derived strain
- Oral live virus vaccine still used in other countries (not U.S.); spread possible from someone who received this vaccine
- Most Americans vaccinated against polio; should be wake-up call for unvaccinated



Polio

- Infectious disease caused by poliovirus that can affect the brain and spinal cord causing paresthesia, meningitis and paralysis
- Can lead to permanent disability and death
- Spreads person-to-person
- Vaccination eliminated polio in U.S.
- Polio remains a threat in other countries
- The best way to prevent polio from returning is ensuring infants and children are vaccinated



The polio endgame

Since 1988, when the WHO resolved to eradicate polio, its footprint has shrunk dramatically. It is only considered endemic in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nigeria (which hasn't seen a case since 2016). Last year there were only 22 new cases reported.

	1988	2017
■ Endemic countries	125	3

SOURCE: World Health Organization
TORONTO STAR GRAPHIC





US reports 1st polio case in nearly a decade



Watch later



Share

US REPORTS 1ST POLIO CASE IN NEARLY A DECADE

Learn more here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uuTCJu7YOsU>

MORE VIDEOS



0:02 / 1:41



YouTube





WHO Declared *Monkeypox* Public Health Emergency

- WHO declared monkeypox a global health emergency
- Rare designation, means outbreak significant threat to global health, coordinated international response needed
- Last WHO global health emergency was in January 2020 for Covid-19 outbreak
- Europe is epicenter of outbreak
- Currently, men who have sex with men are community at highest risk
- Global risk moderate; threat high in Europe
- Monkeypox unlikely to disrupt international trade or travel right now

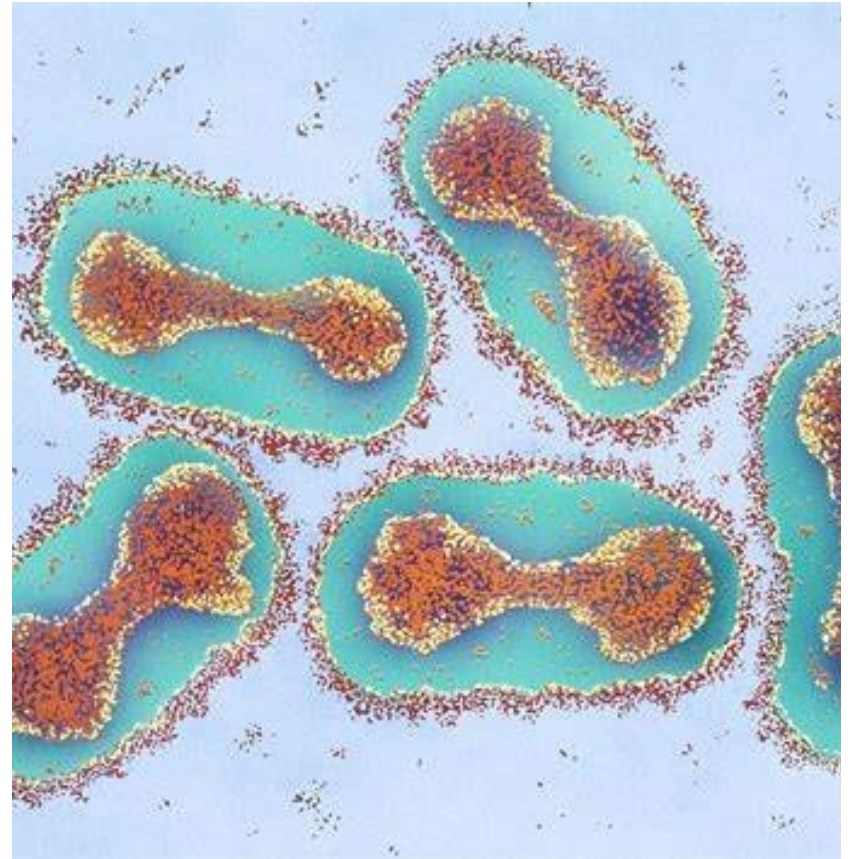
First Monkeypox Case reported in ND



- Resident in Eastern ND
- Likely acquired while travelling out-of-state
- Monkeypox risk in ND thought to still be low
- Most cases mild, not requiring hospitalization
- ND receiving small amounts of monkeypox vaccine (JYNNEOS)
 - FCPH received initial allotment of 20 doses
 - More doses expected

U.S. Confirms first 2 Pediatric Monkeypox Cases

- Toddler in California
- Infant, not U.S. resident, tested positive while in Washington D.C.
- Both cases thought to be household transmission
- Both in good health and receiving treatment with TPOXX (tecovirimat)
 - CDC recommends treatment for children < 8 years due to be higher risk from infection
 - Jynneos monkeypox vaccine being made available for children through special expanded use protocols
- The first case of monkeypox in a pregnant woman in the U.S. has been reported



Resources

- [COVID-19 by County | CDC](#)
- [COVID-19 Community Levels | CDC](#)
- [COVID19 Vaccine Dashboard | Department of Health \(nd.gov\)](#)
- [COVID Data Tracker Weekly Review | CDC](#)
- [New York reports 1st US polio case in nearly a decade | AP News](#)
- [Progress Toward Polio Eradication — Worldwide, January 2020–April 2022 | MMWR \(cdc.gov\)](#)
- [WHO Director-General's statement at the press conference following IHR Emergency Committee regarding the multi-country outbreak of monkeypox - 23 July 2022](#)
- [North Dakota Department of Health identifies monkeypox case | Department of Health \(nd.gov\)](#)