

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 24, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to urgently request an increased allocation of COVID-19 therapeutics and rapid testing supplies for the State of Michigan to assist the state in addressing the alarming rise in COVID-19 case counts in the Michigan in recent weeks. These resources will meet the increased need as a result of the higher caseload, strengthen the response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, and help save lives. The situation in Michigan is rapidly getting worse and we need all hands on deck and any and all resources you are willing to provide.

In recent weeks, the number of COVID-19 cases has risen significantly in Michigan, and this development has strained the state's health care infrastructure and resources available to deal with the pandemic. Over the past week, Michigan has reported over 50,000 new COVID-19 cases, which represents the highest weekly caseload for the state since the start of the pandemic.¹ Along with a test positivity rate of nearly 20 percent, this has resulted in a near-record number of hospitalizations of patients with COVID-19, testing the capacity of state hospitals and existing health resources.² Some of our hospitals have already surpassed admissions numbers from previous peaks.

As a result of these developments, Michigan currently has the highest number of COVID-19 cases per capita out of any state.³ Given the expected increase in travel during the holiday season, as well as evidence of COVID-19's seasonality, we are concerned about the impact of the spread of COVID-19 on the state's ability to effectively address the current public health emergency if current trends continue. Michigan's frontline workers are contending with burnout and exhaustion. Additionally, Michigan's hospitals are dealing with worker shortages and approaching capacity as a result of the high level of COVID-19 hospitalizations and require additional support.

¹ <https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/michigan/2021/11/22/mich-hospitals-extremely-concerned-over-rise-covid-19-hospitalizations/8723710002/>

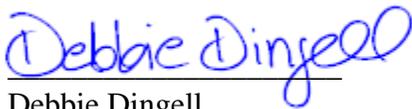
² <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/21/world/michigan-covid-surge.html>

³ <https://www.cnn.com/2021/11/22/health/thanksgiving-covid-cases/index.html>

Currently, there are reports of COVID-19 rapid testing shortages in Michigan,⁴ as well as an increased need for therapeutics, including monoclonal antibody treatments,⁵ specifically Regeneron. Given the severity of the COVID-19 spread in Michigan, we ask that you prioritize increased allocations of rapid tests, as well as Regeneron monoclonal antibody treatments, to the state to support current efforts to combat the current surge in COVID-19 cases. Additionally, we request that you provide military medical personnel to support Michigan civilian health care workers treating COVID-19 patients.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Fred Upton
Member of Congress

CC: Jeff Zients, White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator
Lloyd Austin, Secretary, U.S. Department of Defense
Xavier Becerra, Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

⁴ <https://www.wilx.com/2021/11/17/michigan-sees-shortage-rapid-covid-tests/>

⁵ <https://www.bridgemi.com/michigan-health-watch/monoclonal-antibody-treatment-gains-ground-michigans-covid-fight>