



# LAUNCH NEBRASKA



## COVID-19 Update

March 1, 2022  
11:00 a.m. CST



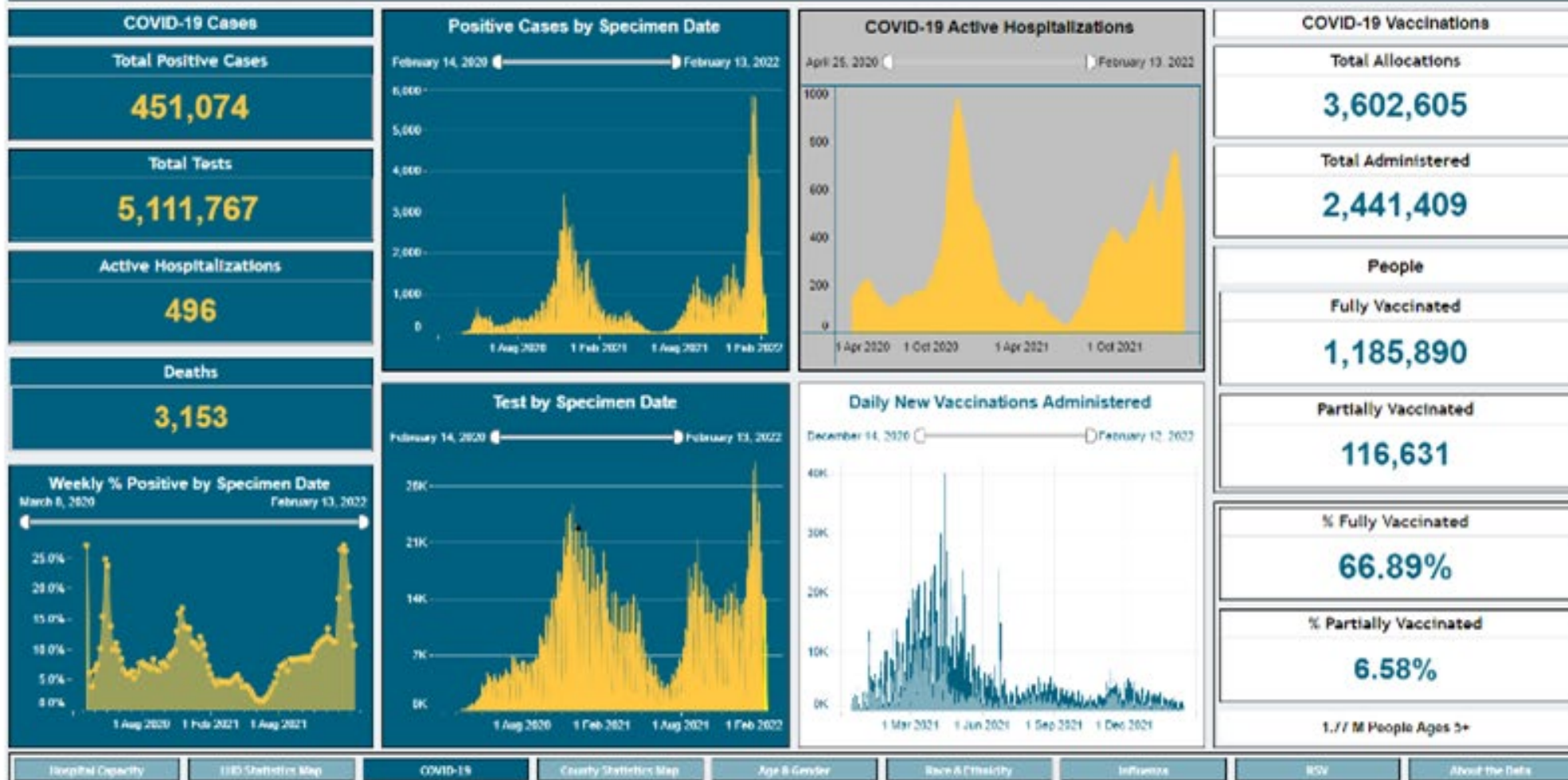
# Agenda

- Welcome and Overview - Commissioner
- Public Health Updates - Dr. Alice Sato
- Update on DHHS Workforce Development Grant
- Question and Answer



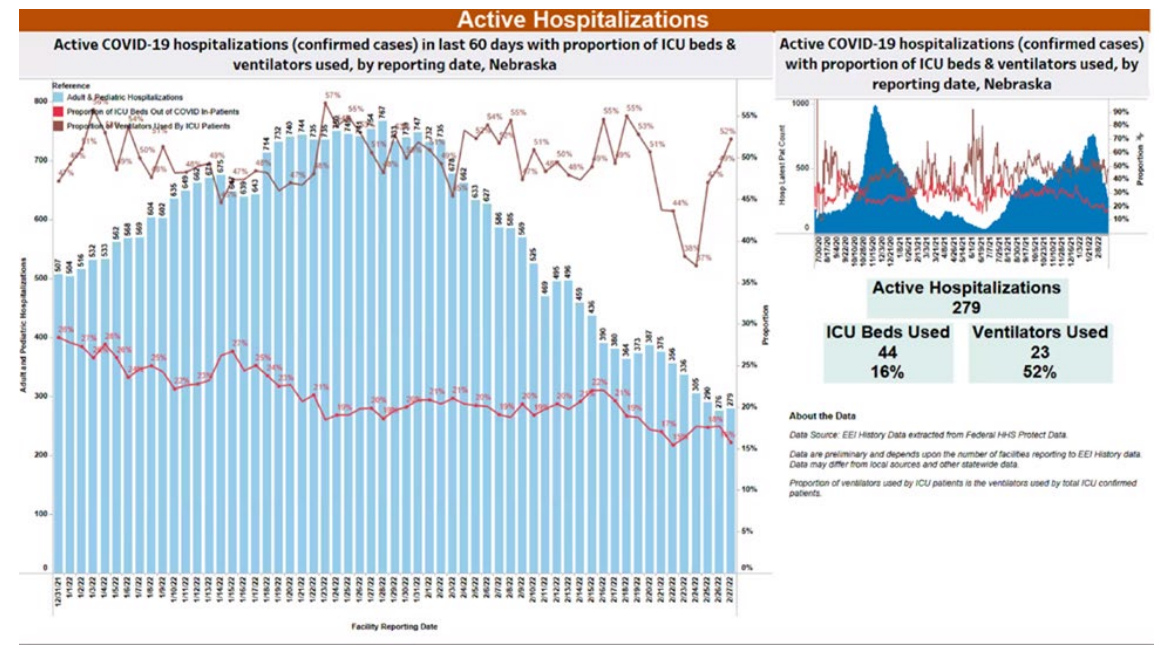
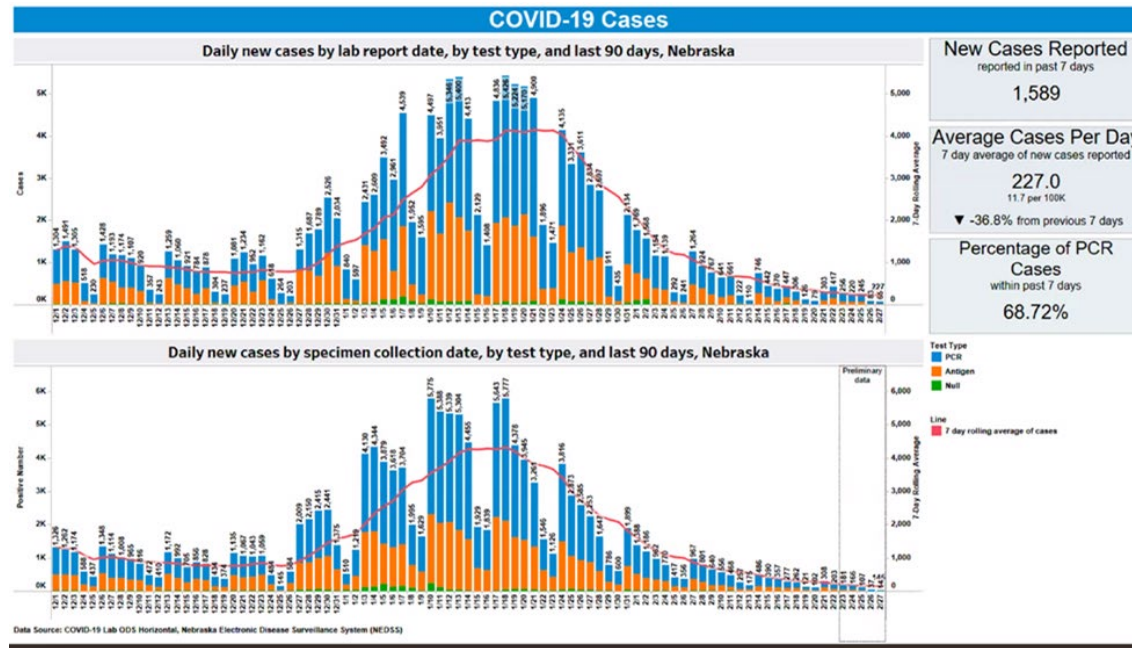
Nebraska Hospital Capacity & Respiratory Illness Dashboard | Nebraska DHRIS

Date updated through: 2/13/2022





# Cases and Hospitalizations





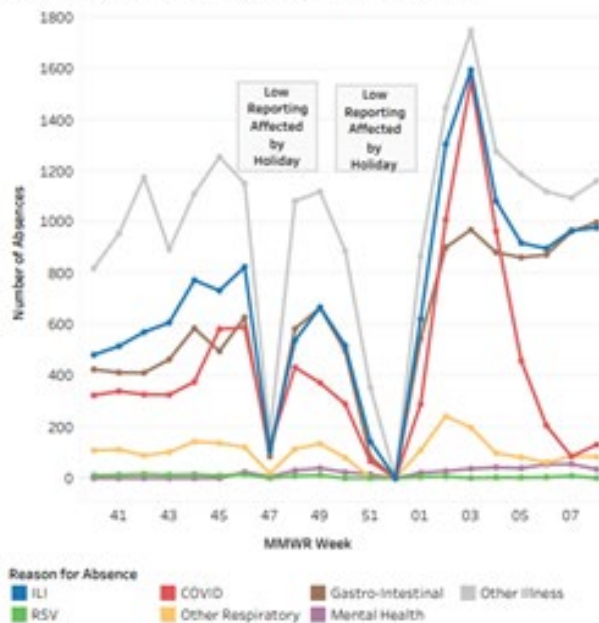
# School Absenteeism Surveillance

## Nebraska Influenza & Other Respiratory Disease Surveillance Report, 2021-22 Influenza Season, Week 07

(All data are preliminary and may change as more reports are received.)

### SCHOOL ABSENTEEISM SURVEILLANCE

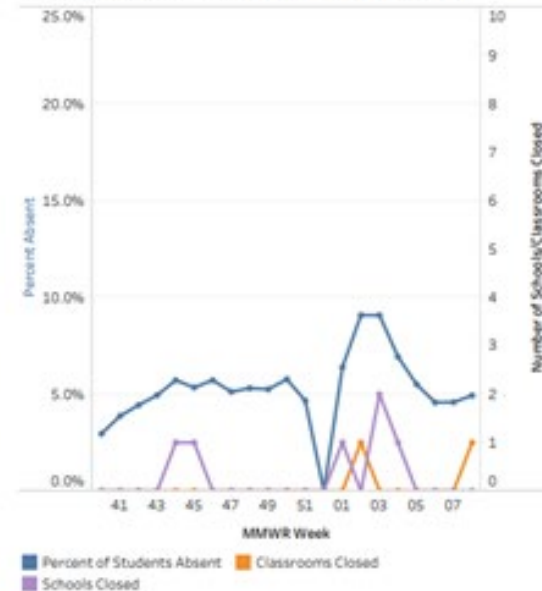
Student Absences due to Illness, by MMWR Week, 2021-22



Absenteeism Surveillance System Reporting Record over the past 5 MMWR Weeks, 2021-22 (N=1,565 schools)

MMWR Week	Number of Reports	Total Enrolled Reporters	Percent of Enrolled Reporting	New Reporters Enrolled
04	388	541	71.7%	+11
05	404	548	73.7%	+7
06	408	548	74.5%	+0
07	402	552	72.8%	+4
08	402	552	72.8%	+0

Percentage of Students Absent due to any Reason and Number of Schools Closed due to Illness, by MMWR Week, 2021-22



From: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Flu%20Documents/Report.pdf>



# Public Health Updates

Dr. Alice Sato, MD, PhD

- Assistant Professor, Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases
- Associate Hospital Epidemiologist for Children's Hospital and Medical Center
- Member, Pediatric Infectious Disease Society



# LAUNCH NE Update

Alice Sato, MD PhD (she/her)  
Hospital Epidemiologist, CHMC

Assistant Professor, Pediatric Infectious Disease, UNMC

March 1, 2022



# DISCLOSURE REMINDER

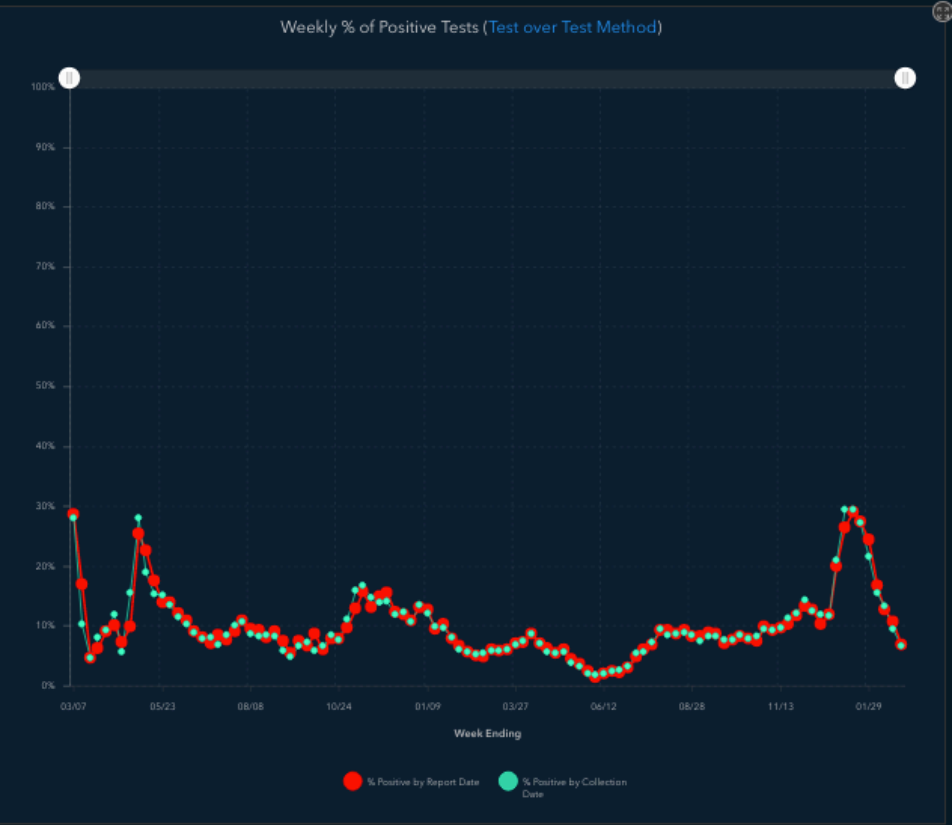
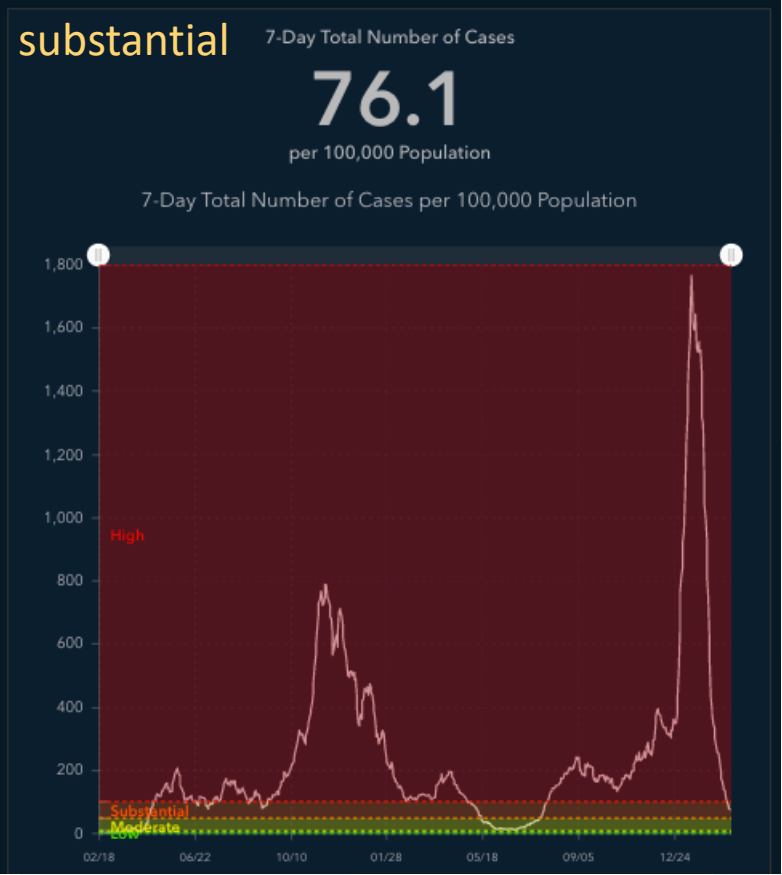
I am a sub-investigator for the Pfizer vaccine trial in kids  
6 mo – 11 years old

- (CHMC/UNMC/CHRI, PI: Dr. Kari Simonsen)
- Vaccine 5-11 use under EUA

# 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%



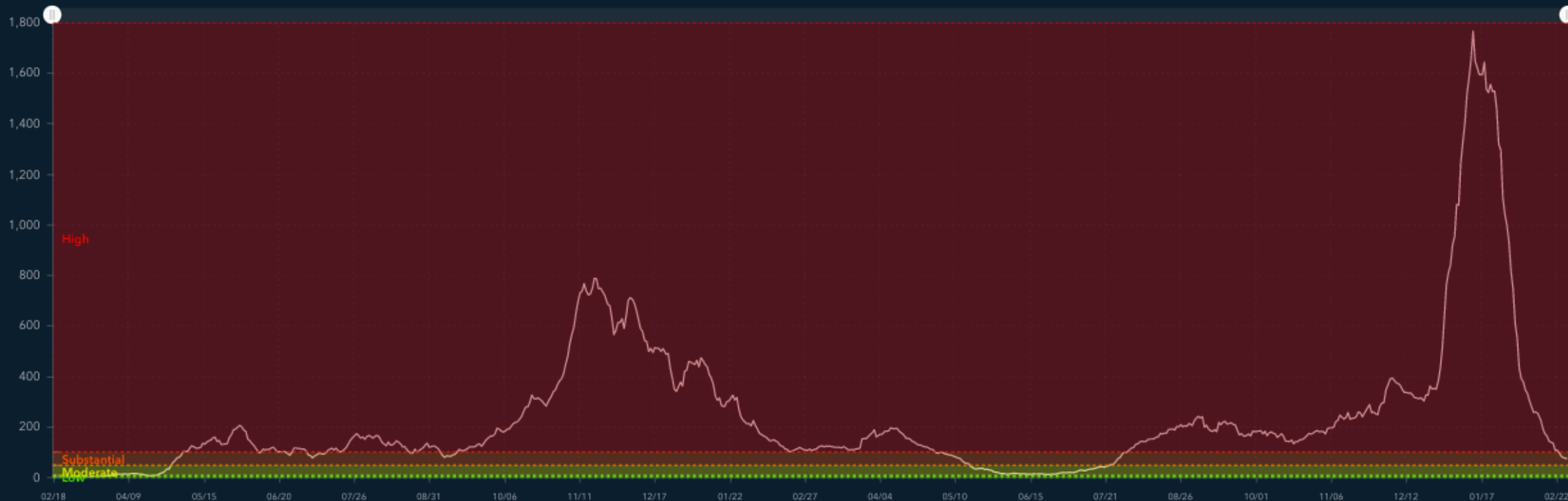
6.6%

7-Day Total Number of Cases

76.1

per 100,000 Population

7-Day Total Number of Cases per 100,000 Population





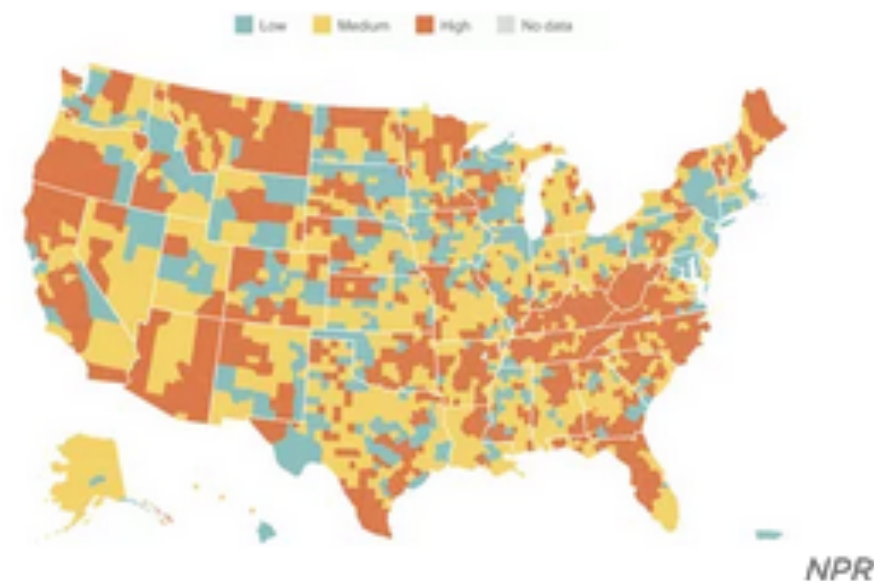
SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

## CDC says Americans can now go unmasked in many parts of the country

February 25, 2022 • The federal health agency released new guidance for when Americans need to mask up indoors, saying about 70% of the population lives in a place where it's safe to go mask free.

▶ LISTEN • 3:35

+ PLAYLIST





# 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**



**Jason L. Salemi, PhD, FACE** 🙏🙏🙏 @JasonSalemi · Feb 26

The "numerator" is easy - COVID-19 hospital admissions. It comes from the source below.

The "denominator" is the resident population in that county.

What's the problem?

[healthdata.gov/Hospital/COVID...](https://healthdata.gov/Hospital/COVID...)

5/



3



12



126



**Jason L. Salemi, PhD, FACE** 🙏🙏🙏

@JasonSalemi

The numerator is based on WHERE PEOPLE ARE ADMITTED.

The denominator is based on WHERE PEOPLE LIVE.

If you just look at FL, there are many counties that either do not report hospitalizations (NO HOSPITAL) or reported 0 in the past 7d.



## Individual- and household-level prevention behaviors

- Wear a well-fitting mask<sup>1</sup> indoors in public, regardless of vaccination status (including in K-12 schools and other indoor community settings)
- If you are immunocompromised or [high risk](#) for severe disease
  - Wear a [mask or respirator](#) that provides you with greater protection
  - Consider avoiding non-essential indoor activities in public where you could be exposed
  - Talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions (e.g., testing)
  - Have a plan for rapid testing if needed (e.g., having home tests or access to testing)
  - Talk to your healthcare provider about whether you are a candidate for treatments like oral antivirals, PrEP, and monoclonal antibodies

High

- If you have household or social contact with someone at [high risk](#) for severe disease
  - consider self-testing to detect infection before contact
  - consider wearing a mask when indoors with them
- Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines and boosters
- Maintain improved ventilation throughout indoor spaces when possible
- Follow CDC recommendations for isolation and quarantine, including getting tested if you are exposed to COVID-19 or have symptoms of COVID-19

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

- Consider setting-specific recommendations for prevention strategies based on local factors
- Implement healthcare surge support as needed
- Protect people at [high risk](#) for severe illness or death by ensuring equitable access to vaccination, testing, treatment, support services, and information
- Consider implementing screening testing or other testing strategies for people who are exposed to COVID-19 in workplaces, schools, or other community settings as appropriate
- Implement enhanced prevention measures in high-risk congregate settings (see guidance for [correctional facilities](#) and [homeless shelters](#))
- Distribute and administer vaccines to achieve high community vaccination coverage and ensure health equity
- Maintain improved ventilation in public indoor spaces

High

- Ensure access to testing, including through point-of-care and at-home tests for all people
  - Communicate with organizations and places that serve people who are immunocompromised or at [high risk](#) for severe disease to ensure they know how to get rapid testing
- Ensure access and equity in vaccination, testing, treatment, community outreach, support services for disproportionately affected populations

## Individual- and household-level prevention behaviors

- If you are immunocompromised or [high risk](#) for severe disease
  - Talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions (e.g., testing)
  - Have a plan for rapid testing if needed (e.g., having home tests or access to testing)
  - Talk to your healthcare provider about whether you are a candidate for treatments like oral antivirals, PrEP, and monoclonal antibodies

## Medium

- If you have household or social contact with someone at [high risk](#) for severe disease
  - consider self-testing to detect infection before contact
  - consider wearing a mask when indoors with them
- Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines and boosters
- Maintain improved ventilation throughout indoor spaces when possible
- Follow CDC recommendations for isolation and quarantine, including getting tested if you are exposed to COVID-19 or have symptoms of COVID-19



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

- Protect people at [high risk](#) for severe illness or death by ensuring equitable access to vaccination, testing, treatment, support services, and information
- Consider implementing screening testing or other testing strategies for people who are exposed to COVID-19 in workplaces, schools, or other community settings as appropriate
- Implement enhanced prevention measures in high-risk congregate settings (see guidance for [correctional facilities](#) and [homeless shelters](#))

## Medium

- Distribute and administer vaccines to achieve high community vaccination 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
  - Communicate with organizations and places that serve people who are immunocompromised or at [high risk](#) for severe disease to ensure they know how to get rapid testing
- Ensure access and equity in vaccination, testing, treatment, community outreach, support services for disproportionately affected populations

COVID-19 Community level	Individual- and household-level prevention behaviors	Community-level prevention strategies (as recommended by state or local authorities)
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines and boosters</li> <li>• Maintain improved ventilation throughout indoor spaces when possible</li> <li>• Follow CDC recommendations for isolation and quarantine, including getting tested if you are exposed to COVID-19 or have symptoms of COVID-19</li> <li>• If you are immunocompromised or <a href="#">high risk</a> for severe disease               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Have a plan for rapid testing if needed (e.g., having home tests or access to testing)</li> <li>- Talk to your healthcare provider about whether you are a candidate for treatments like oral antivirals, PrEP, and monoclonal antibodies</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribute and administer vaccines to achieve high community vaccination coverage and ensure health equity</li> <li>• Maintain improved ventilation in public indoor spaces</li> <li>• Ensure access to testing, including through point-of-care and at-home tests for all people               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Communicate with organizations and places that serve people who are immunocompromised or at <a href="#">high risk</a> for severe disease to ensure they know how to get rapid testing</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ensure access and equity in vaccination, testing, treatment, community outreach, support services for disproportionately affected populations</li> </ul>

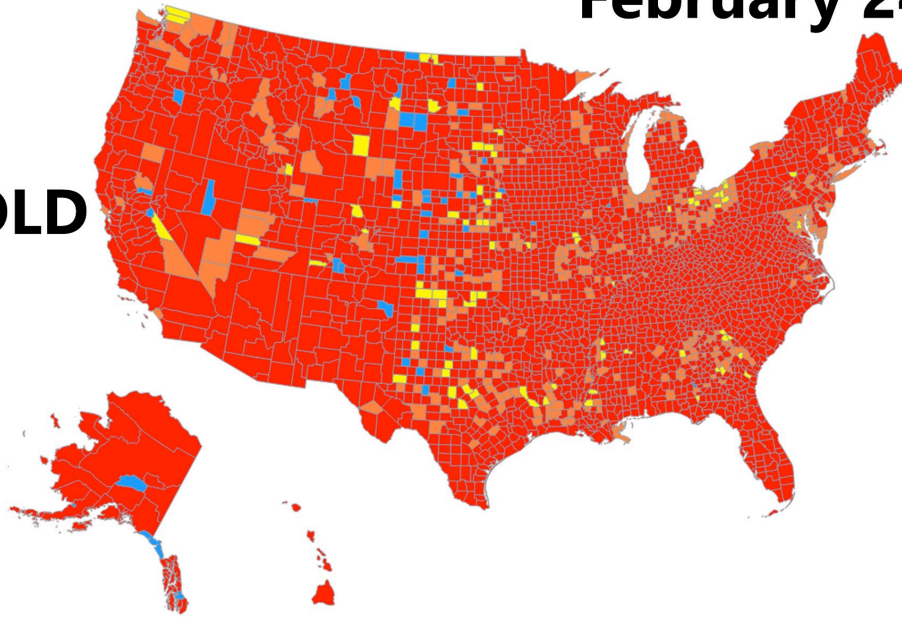
# Infection Control Guidance

Updated Feb. 2, 2022

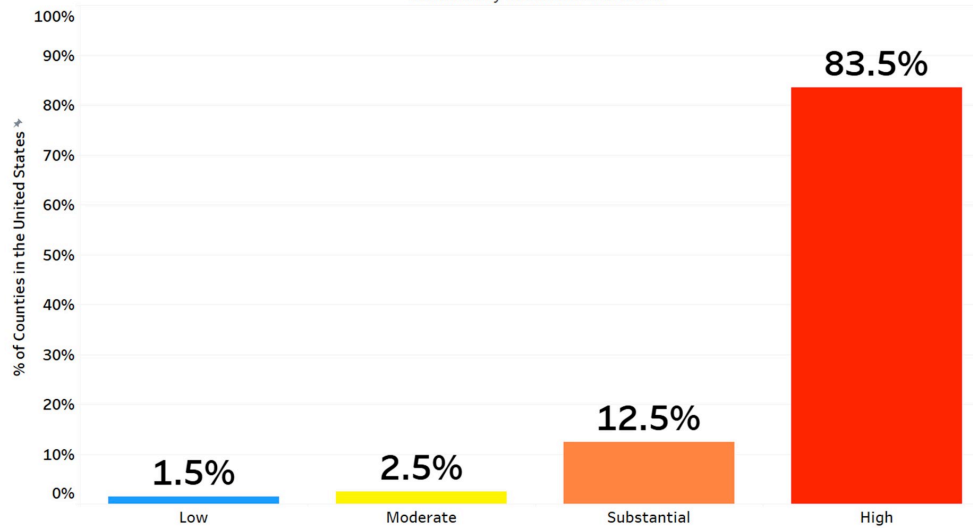
CDC's new [COVID-19 Community Levels](#) recommendations do not apply in healthcare settings, such as hospitals and nursing homes. Instead, healthcare settings should continue to use [community transmission rates](#) and continue to follow CDC's infection prevention and control recommendations for healthcare settings.

February 24, 2022

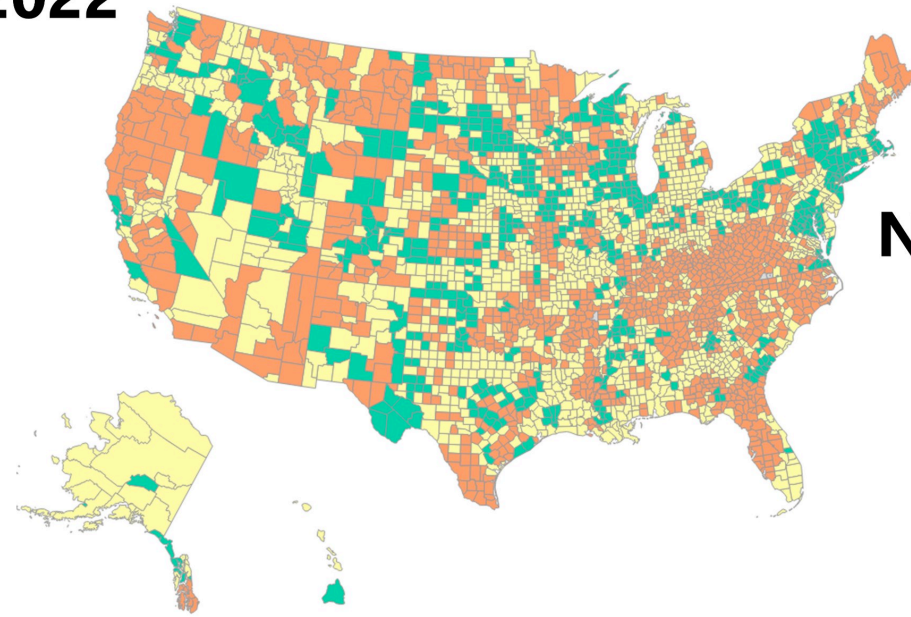
OLD



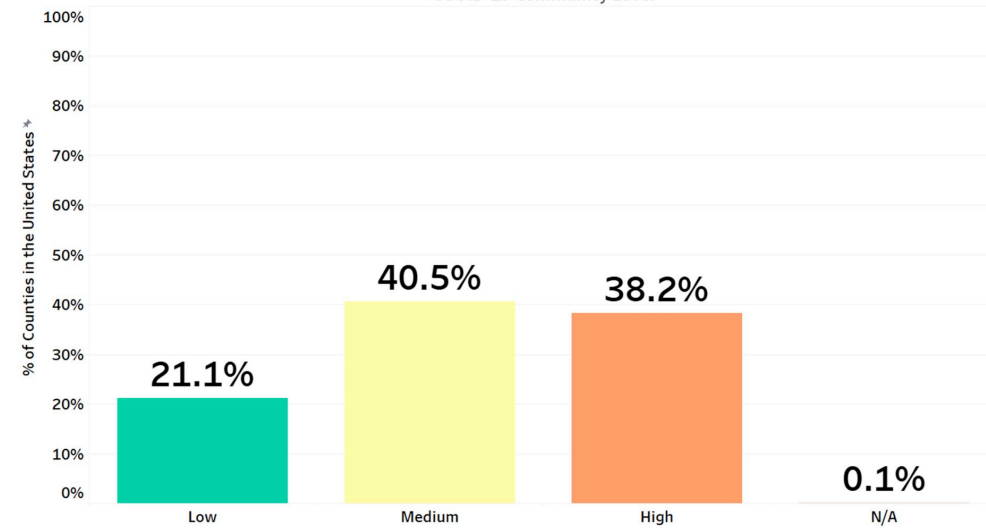
Community Transmission Level



NEW



COVID-19 Community Level





1122 ppm



Prof. Jose-Luis Jimenez ✓  
@jljcolorado

Back at @YMCANOCO for kid's basketball. Ventilation seems insufficient again. And now only 1/3 of the kids and 1/10 of parents masks, while community transmission still high

Unfortunately a representative example of US: mostly ignore ventilation, only mediocre masking when bad



## ***Pfizer Shot Is Far Less Effective in 5- to 11-Year-Olds Than in Older Kids, New Data Show***

While protection against hospitalization is still strong, the vaccine offered almost no protection against infection, even just a month after full vaccination.



“We need to make sure we emphasize the doughnut and not the hole,” said Dr. Kathryn M. Edwards, a pediatric vaccine expert at Vanderbilt University.

A 10-year-old receiving the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine at Hartford Hospital in Hartford, Conn. Joseph Prezioso/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images



By Apoorva Mandavilli and Noah Weiland

[Comment on this paper](#)

## Effectiveness of the BNT162b2 vaccine among children 5-11 and 12-17 years in New York after the Emergence of the Omicron Variant

Vajeera Dorabawila, Dina Hoefer, Ursula E Bauer, Mary Bassett, Emily Lutterloh, Eli Rosenberg

doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2022.02.25.22271454>

**This article is a preprint and has not been certified by peer review [what does this mean?]. It reports new medical research that has yet to be evaluated and so should not be used to guide clinical practice.**

**Abstract**

Info/History

Metrics

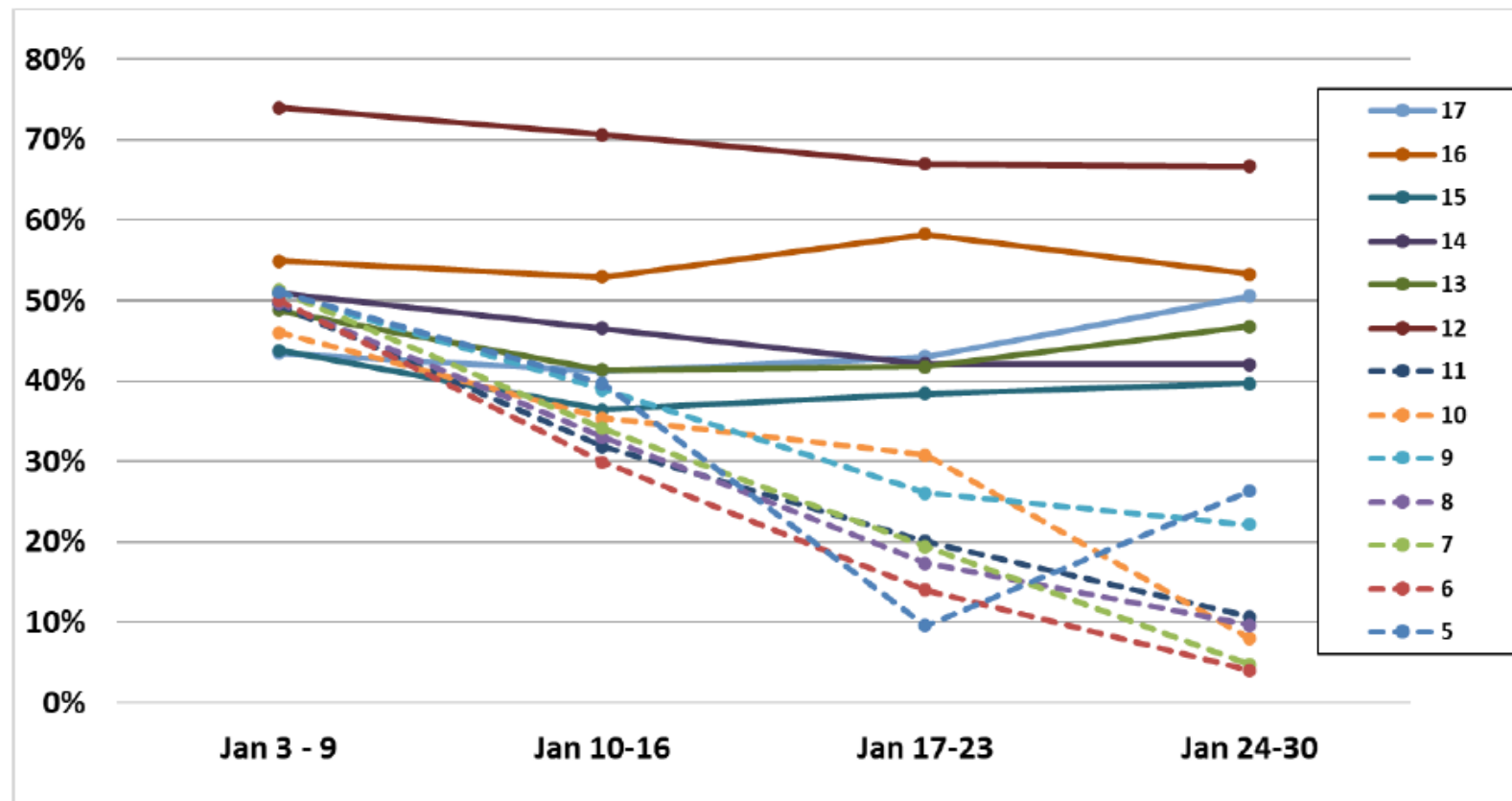
 [Preview PDF](#)

## NYSDOH data

- 852,384 newly fully vaccinated children aged 12 to 17 years
- 365,502 children aged 5 to 11 years
- Dec. 13, 2021 to Jan. 31, 2022, the height of the omicron surge



**Figure 1: Vaccine Effectiveness against Infection, by Week and Year of Age**



against  
**INFECTION**

**Figure 2: Incidence rate ratios, comparing cases during January 3 - January 30, 2022 for unvaccinated versus children newly fully-vaccinated December 13, 2021-January 2, 2022, by Time Since Full Vaccination**



## Hospitalizations

<b>5-11 years<sup>a</sup></b>									
Dec.13-19	0	18	0.00	0.22	+inf.	(0.3, +inf.)	100%	(-189, 100%)	4.7%
Dec.20-26	2	50	0.17	0.63	3.6	(1.0, 30.9)	73%	(-7, 97%)	10.6%
Dec.27-Jan. 2	3	80	0.19	1.04	5.5	(1.8, 27.1)	82%	(45, 96%)	14.5%
Jan. 3-9	5	78	0.28	1.04	3.8	(1.6, 12.0)	74%	(36, 96%)	16.6%
Jan. 10-16	6	68	0.29	0.94	3.2	(1.4, 8.9)	68%	(28, 91%)	18.6%
Jan. 17-23	8	46	0.35	0.65	1.9	(0.9, 4.6)	46%	(-15, 77%)	21.0%
Jan. 24-30	8	42	0.31	0.60	1.9	(0.9, 4.8)	48%	(-12, 75%)	23.4%
<b>12 – 17 years</b>									
Nov.29-Dec. 5	2	20	0.04	0.61	16.9	(4.1, 148.8)	94%	(76, 99%)	58.4%
Dec.6-12	1	11	0.02	0.34	19.0	(2.8, 818.3)	95%	(64, 100%)	58.8%
Dec.13-19	6	23	0.11	0.72	6.8	(2.7, 20.4)	85%	(63, 95%)	59.3%
Dec.20-26	18	45	0.31	1.44	4.6	(2.6, 8.4)	78%	(63, 88%)	59.9%
Dec.27-Jan. 2	38	77	0.66	2.50	3.8	(2.5, 5.8)	74%	(61, 84%)	60.4%
Jan. 3-9	47	94	0.81	3.10	3.8	(2.7, 5.6)	74%	(63, 82%)	60.9%
Jan. 10-16	41	85	0.70	2.84	4.1	(2.8, 6.0)	75%	(64, 86%)	61.3%
Jan. 17-23	34	67	0.58	2.26	3.9	(2.6, 6.1)	75%	(61, 83%)	61.9%
Jan. 24-30	22	40	0.37	1.36	3.7	(2.1, 6.5)	73%	(53, 87%)	62.4%

<sup>a</sup> <1% of this age group fully vaccinated in previous weeks

## NYSDOH data: VE

During the January 24-30 week:

- age 11: 11% (95%CI -3%, 23%)  
vs
- age 12: 67% (95% CI: 62%, 71%)

MAIN DIFFERENCE IS DOSE

# DHHS Outreach: Crisis Response Workforce Development Grant

The purpose of this program is to ***partner with academic institutions to develop a workforce pipeline to support school health***. This will include work with Nebraska's community colleges and undergraduate programs to identify interns to support school health.

This will include

- Nursing,
- Social work,
- Other health professions to support both physical and mental health



# Advantages & Next Steps

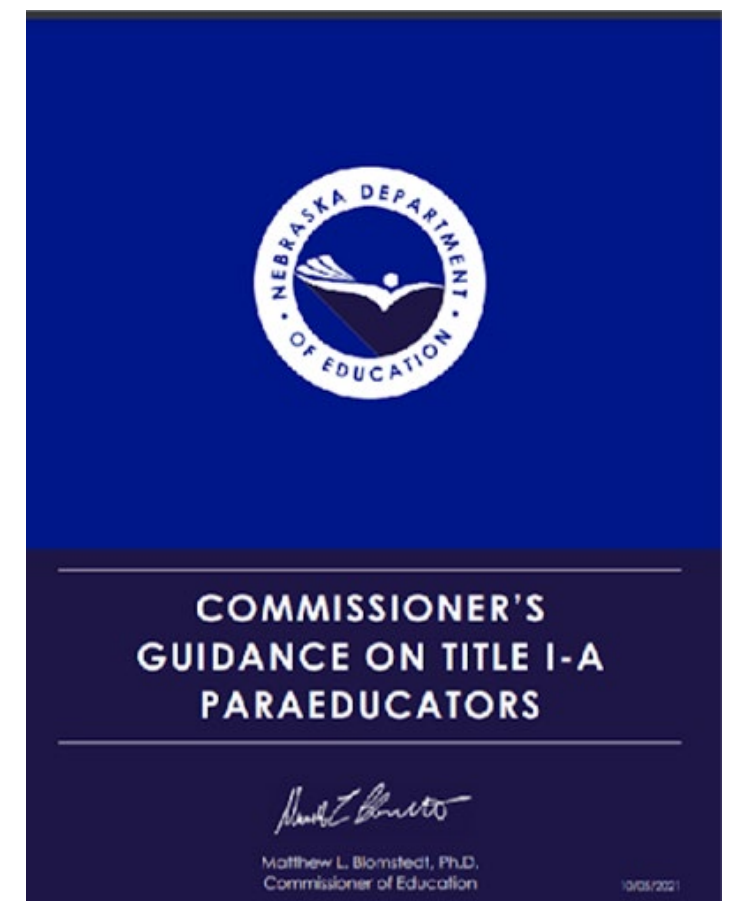
- Keeping students in school
- Keeping students and teachers safe
- Collaborations with the school –NDE, school nurses, internal and external partners

Benefits to schools extend beyond the COVID-19 as a pandemic and serves as a future safeguard against all infection diseases in our schools.

Expect outreach and a survey from **Andrew Delicata**



# Reminder of Flexibilities





# Next Call

Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at 11 a.m. CST

Submit Topics/Questions: <https://forms.gle/op7ZRq3h3CmFz3hs7>