

# Department of Health Updates

# Speakers



## **COVID-19 Response Current and Future State**

**Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH**  
*Secretary of Health*



## **COVID-19 Epidemiology and Omicron Variant**

**Tao Sheng Kwan-Gett, MD, MPH**  
*Chief Science Officer*



## **Pediatric Vaccines and Boosters**

**Michele Roberts, MPH, MSHES**  
*Acting Assistant Secretary,  
Prevention and Community Health*

A close-up photograph of a healthcare worker's hands, wearing blue nitrile gloves, gently holding an elderly patient's hand. The patient's hand is wrinkled and has a gold ring on the ring finger. The background is softly blurred, showing a clinical setting with a white tablecloth and a yellow bowl. The entire image is framed by a thin yellow border.

# Health

*Where Equity,  
Innovation, and  
Engagement meet.*

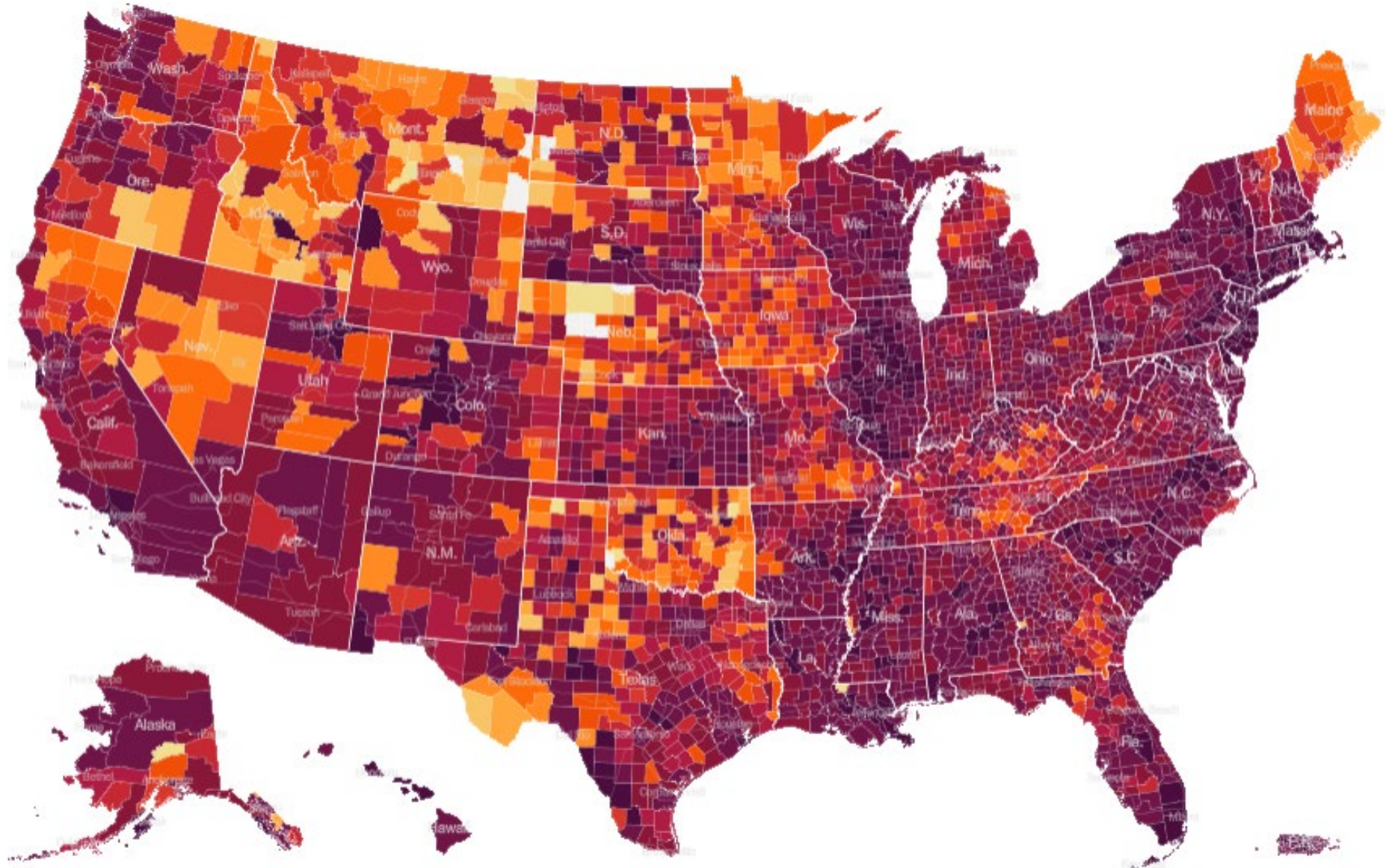
# COVID-19 Case Trends

## Nationally and in Washington





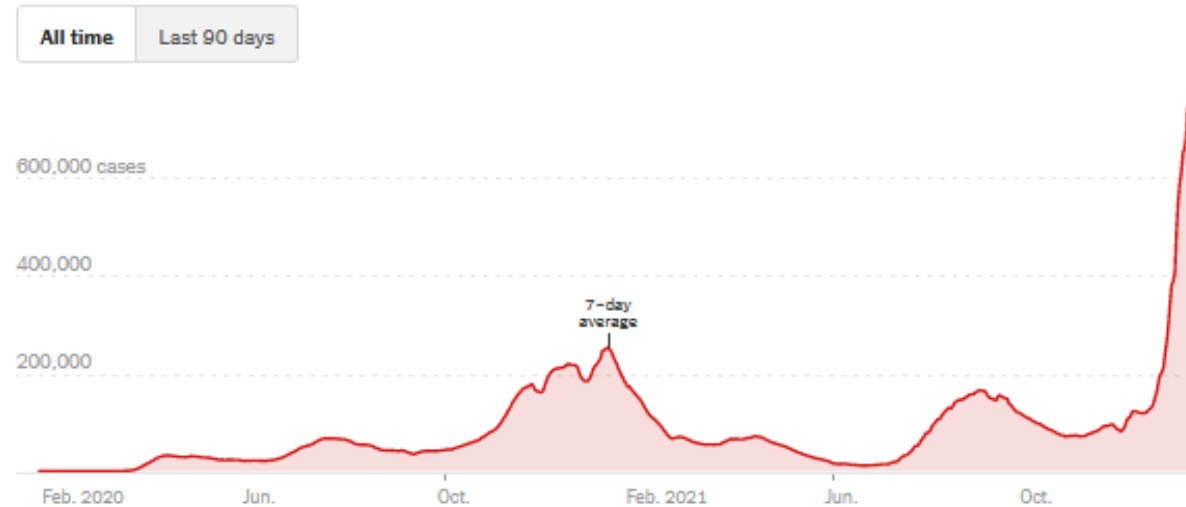
# U.S. COVID-19 hot spots



Source: The New York Times <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/us/covid-cases.html> (1/11/2022)

# U.S. COVID-19 case count

## New reported cases

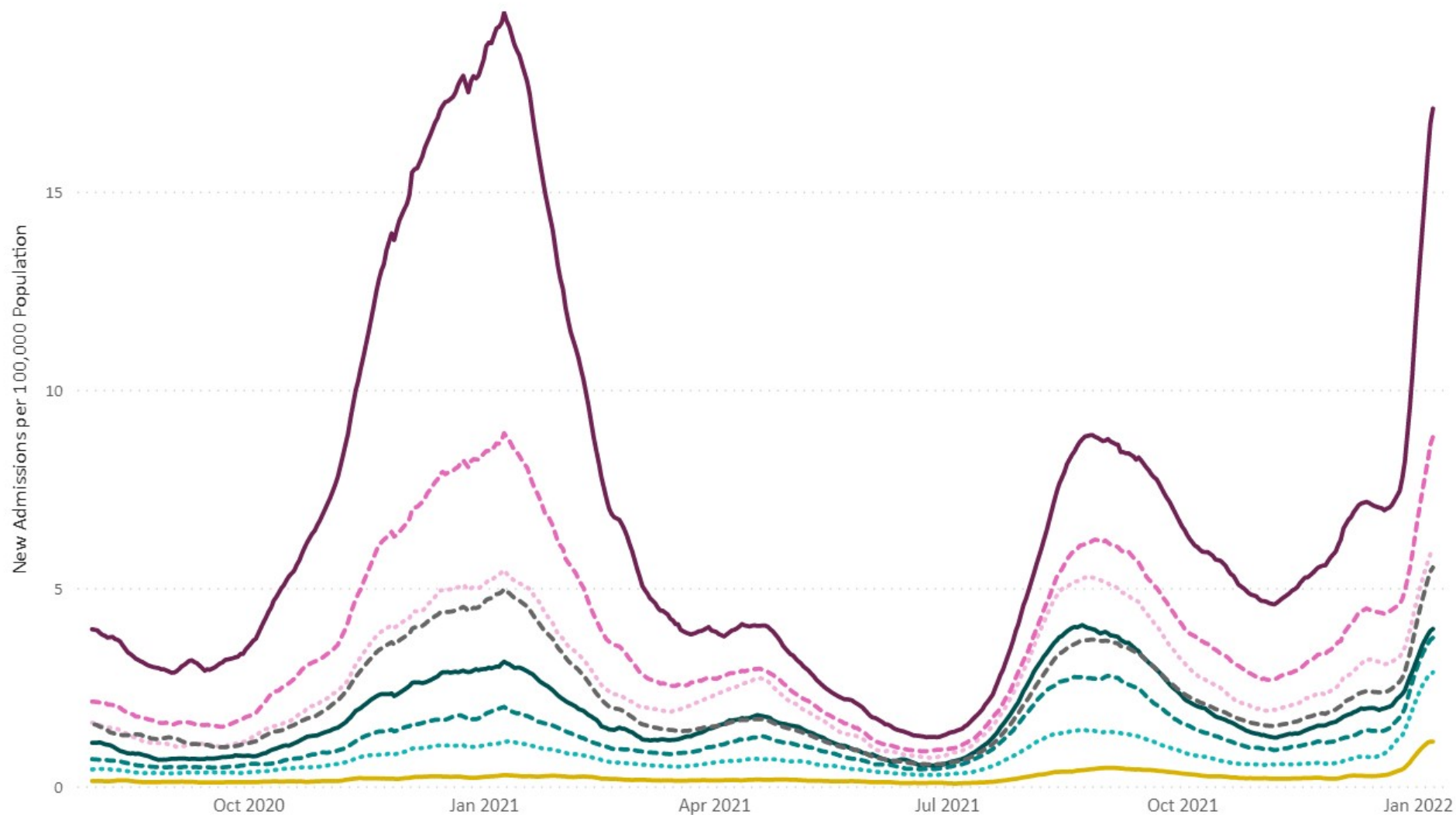


	DAILY AVG. ON JAN. 10	14-DAY CHANGE	TOTAL REPORTED
Cases	738,031	+204%	61,954,801
Tests	1,992,421	+34%	—
Hospitalized	135,559	+83%	—
Deaths	1,656	+36%	839,308

# U.S. hospitalization trends

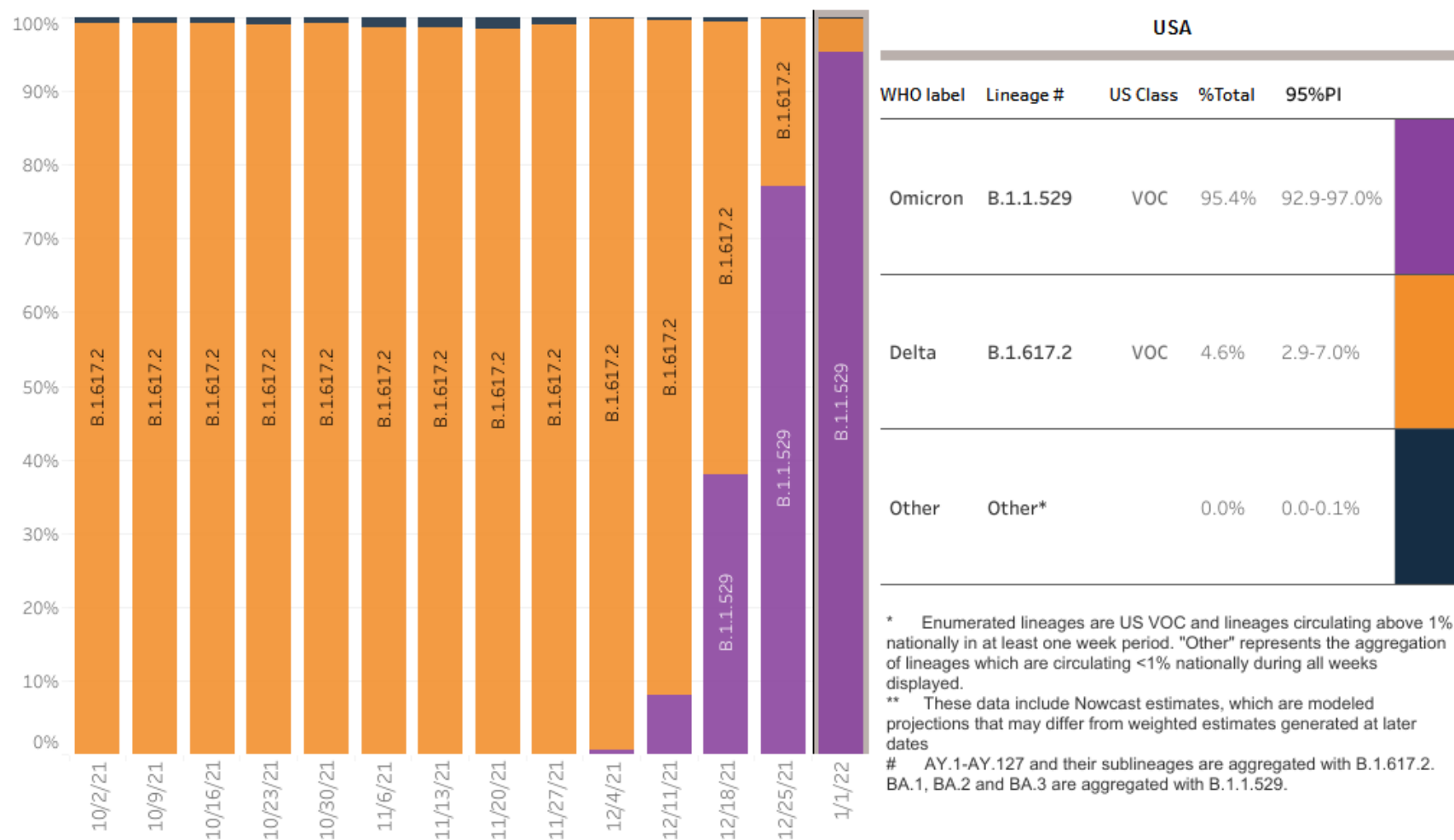
## Age Group

- 0-17 Years
- 18-29 Years
- 30-39 Years
- 40-49 Years
- 50-59 Years
- 60-69 Years
- 70+ Years
- All Ages



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#new-hospital-admissions> (1/7/2022)

# Variant proportions nationally



Source: CDC COVID data tracker <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#variant-proportions> (1/9/2022)



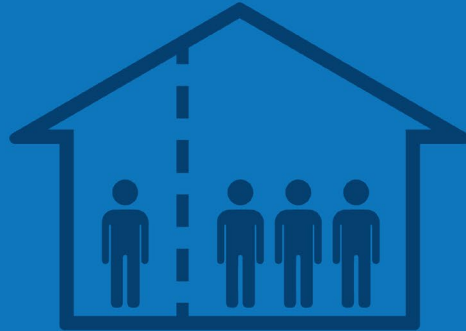
# Federal action to battle Omicron

- Updated CDC Guidance on COVID-19 Isolation and Quarantine for General Public, Health Care Workers, and K-12 Schools
- FDA Authorized Two Oral Antiviral Treatments For COVID-19 (Molnupiravir & Paxlovid)
- FDA, ACIP, CDC Expand Eligibility To COVID-19 Booster Shots
- U.S. Will Distribute Half A Billion COVID-19 Tests to Public Starting January 2022



## WHAT TO DO IF YOU TEST POSITIVE

**Follow the latest  
CDC and DOH  
guidance and  
isolate at home,  
away from others**



## WHAT TO DO IF YOU TEST POSITIVE



**Wear a mask while inside and ask  
others in your home to do the same**  
(preferably a KN95, KF-94, or a 3-ply surgical mask, if possible)



## WHAT TO DO IF YOU TEST POSITIVE



**Stay hydrated, use over  
the counter medications  
such as acetaminophen  
to stay comfortable and  
manage symptoms.**



## WHAT TO DO IF YOU TEST POSITIVE

**Ventilate your space  
as much as you can**



# When should I get a test if I've been exposed?

If **VACCINATED** or **UNVACCINATED**  
and **no symptoms**:

- **WAIT** to take a test until at least 5 days after exposure

If **VACCINATED** or **UNVACCINATED**  
and **symptoms**:

- Take a test immediately



[CovidVaccineWA.org](https://CovidVaccineWA.org)

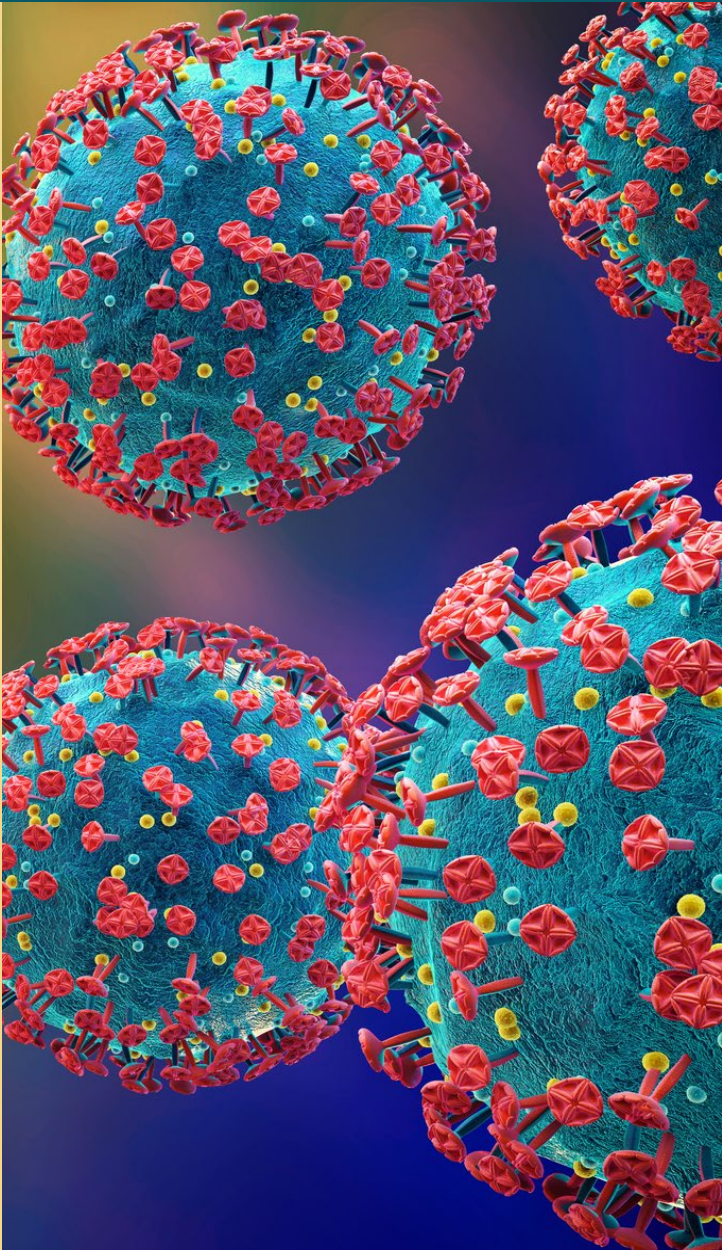
# Omicron variant trends

## Globally and in Washington



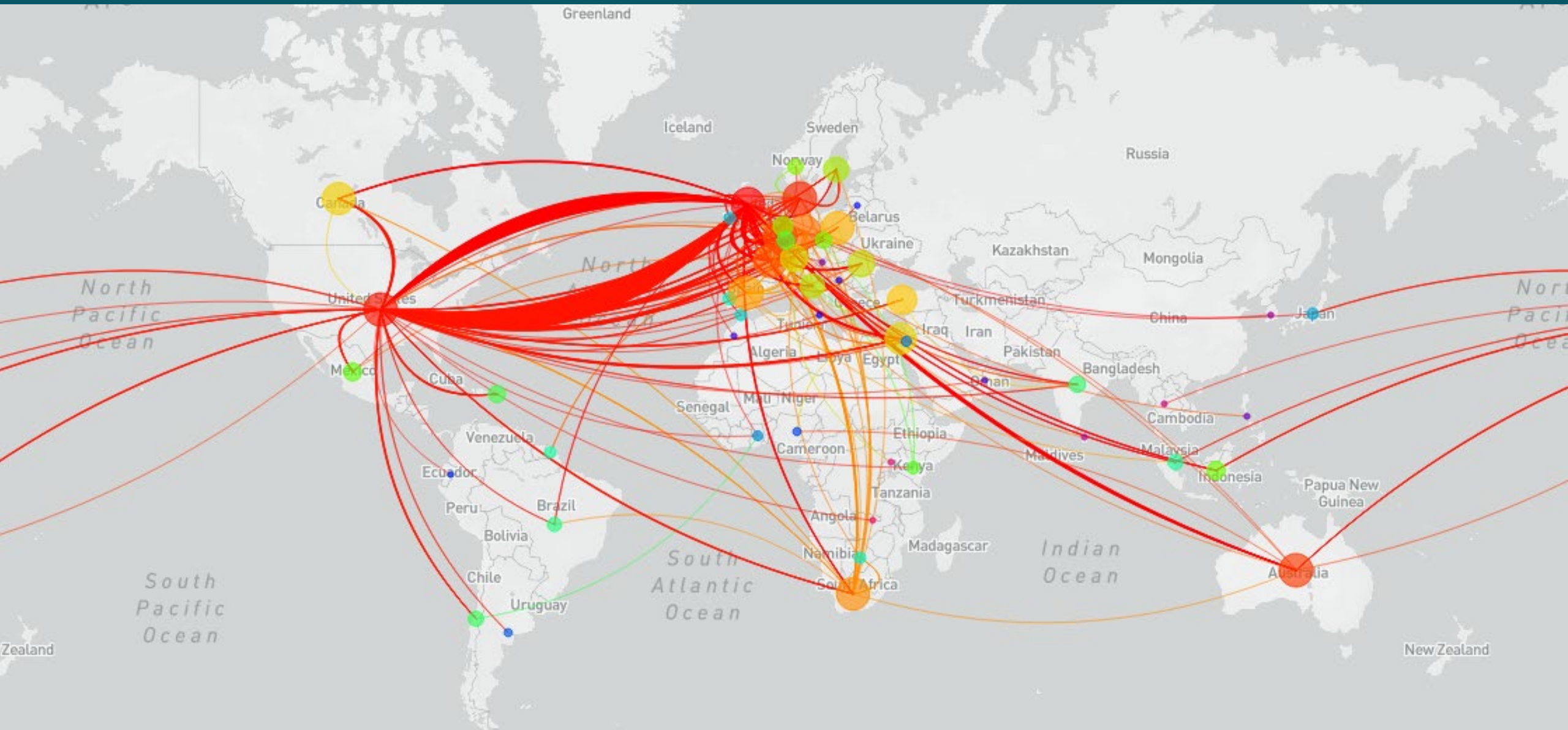


# Omicron variant – viral characteristics



- First reported to WHO from South Africa on Nov 24, 2021
- Variant of concern designation timeline
  - WHO: Nov 26, 2021
  - CDC: Nov 30, 2021
- Evidence of:
  - Increased transmissibility
  - Significant reduction in neutralization by antibodies generated during previous infection or vaccination
  - Diagnostic detection failures

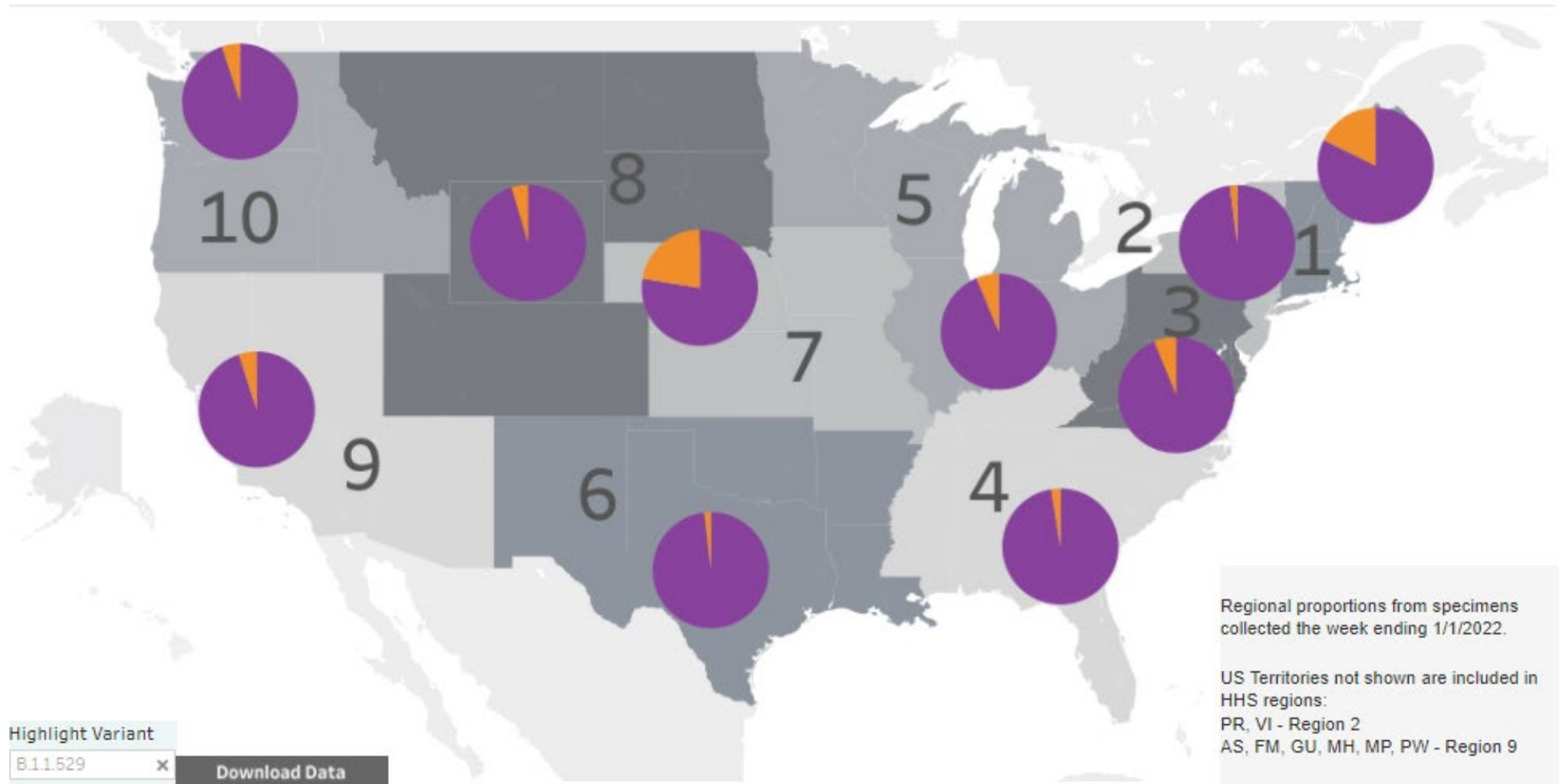
# Transmission map of omicron variant spread



Source: GISAID <https://phylodynamics2.pandemicpreparadness.org/SARS-CoV-2/B11529?d=map&p=full> (1/9/2022)



# Omicron variant proportion nationally

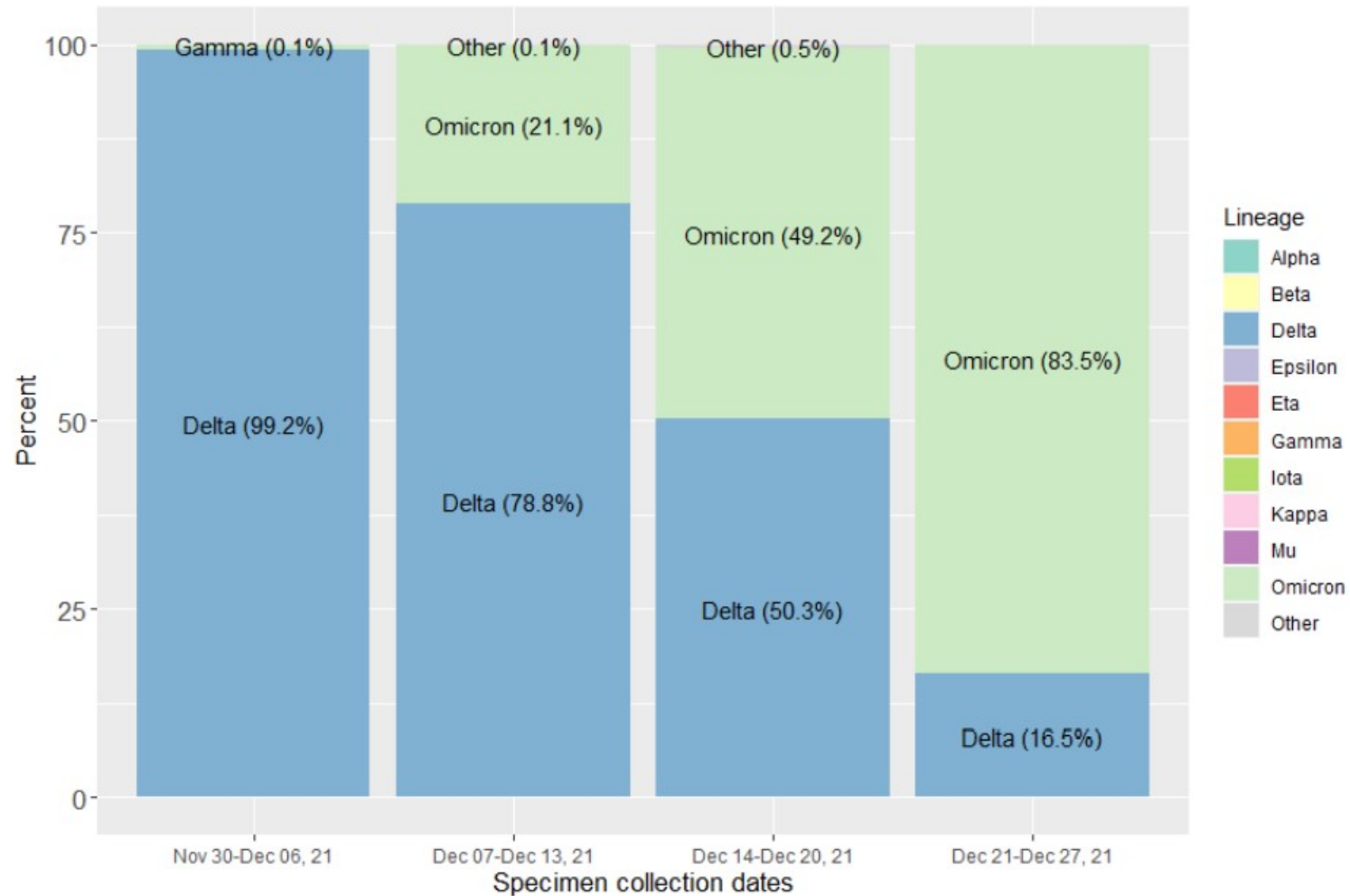


Lineages called using pango-designation (PANGO)-v1.2.105, pangolin v3.1.17, pangoLEARN version 12/06/21 and Scorpio v0.3.16.

Updated January 4, 2022

Source: CDC COVID data tracker <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#variant-proportions> (1/4/2022)

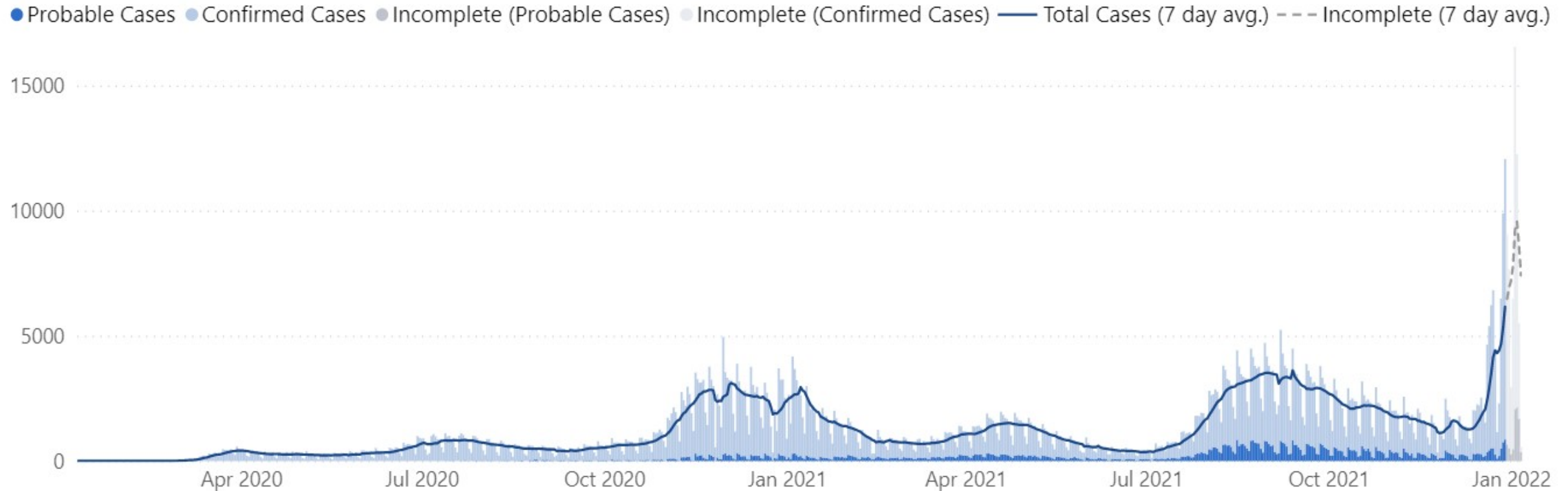
# Variant proportions in Washington



Source: DOH COVID data dashboard <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/DataDashboard> (1/5/2022)

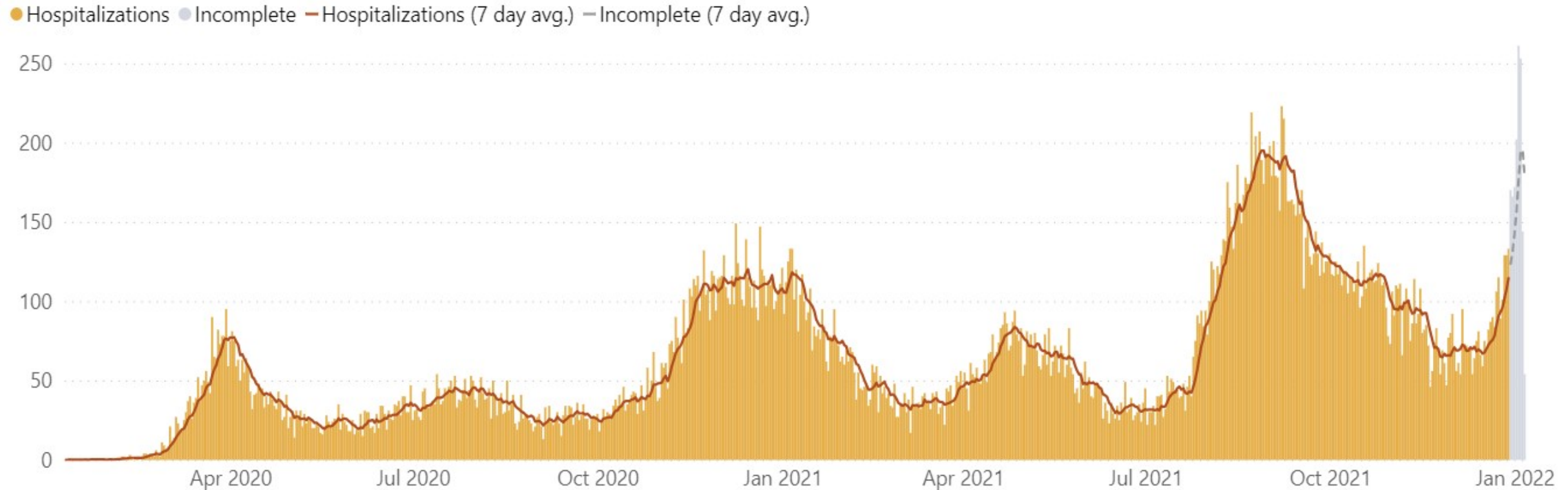


# COVID-19 cases in Washington



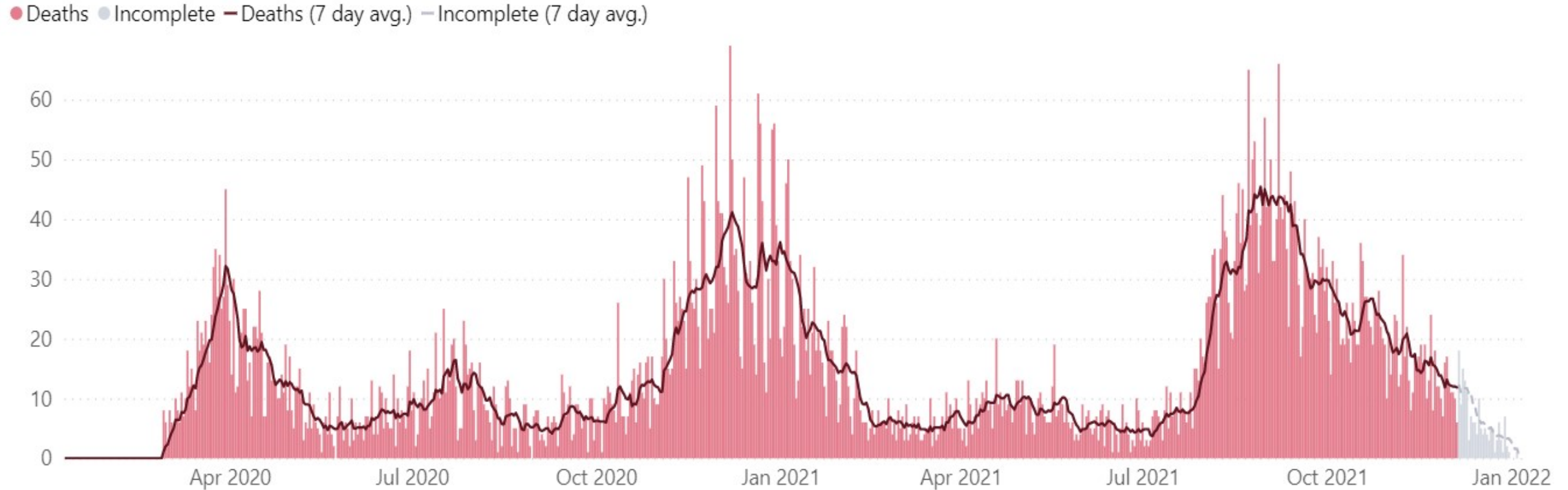
Source: DOH COVID-19 data dashboard <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/DataDashboard> (1/6/2022)

# COVID-19 hospitalizations in Washington



Source: DOH COVID-19 data dashboard <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/DataDashboard> (1/6/2022)

# COVID-19 deaths in Washington



Source: DOH COVID-19 data dashboard <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/DataDashboard> (1/6/2022)

# Vaccine effectiveness and Omicron

- Recent scientific literature shows vaccines continue to be effective against severe disease
- Booster doses provide greatest protection
- Vaccinated population has substantially lower case and hospitalization rates than unvaccinated

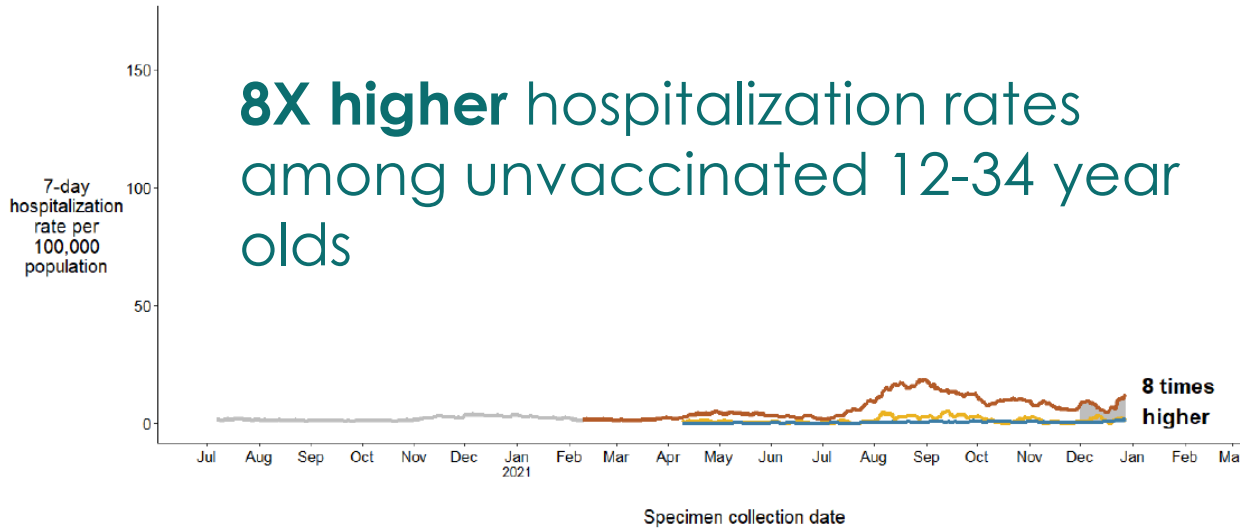
Source: [DOH COVID-19 Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths by Vaccination Status](#) report (1/5/2022)



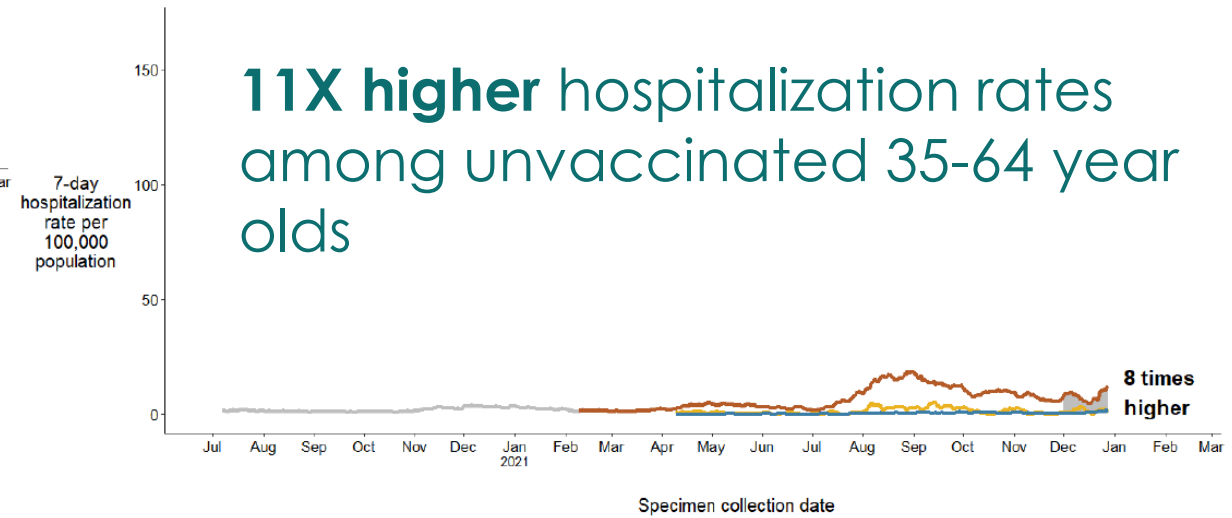


# Washington COVID-19 hospitalization rates

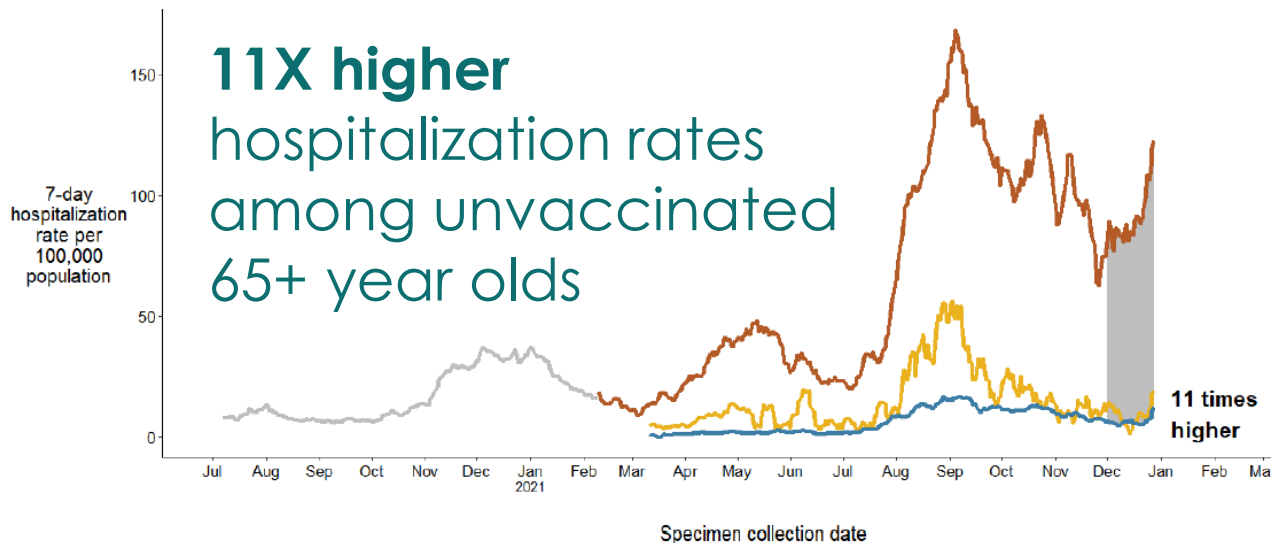
**8X higher** hospitalization rates among unvaccinated 12-34 year olds



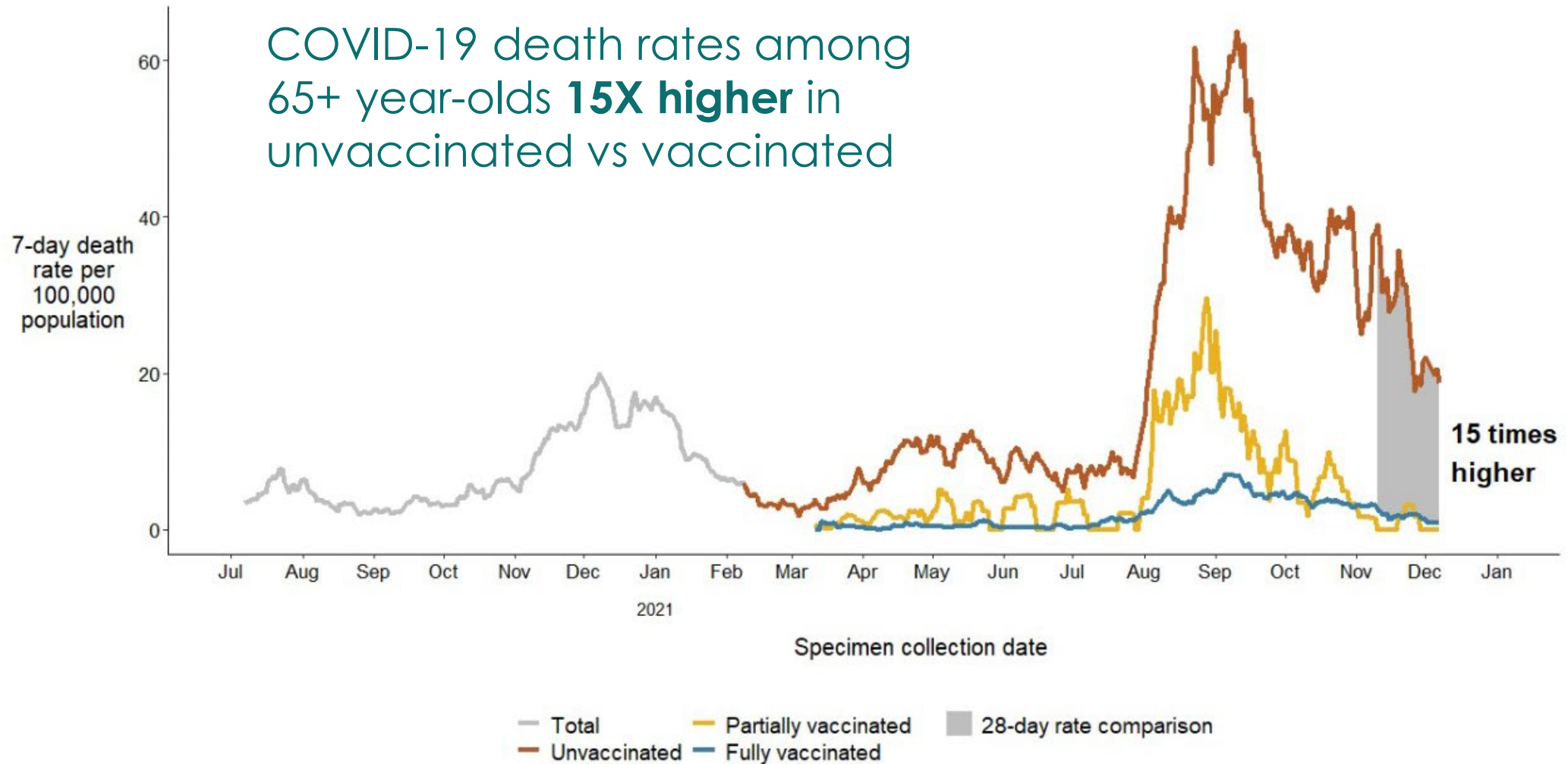
**11X higher** hospitalization rates among unvaccinated 35-64 year olds



**11X higher** hospitalization rates among unvaccinated 65+ year olds



# Washington COVID-19 death rates (Ages 65+)



Source: DOH [COVID-19 Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths by Vaccination Status report](#) (1/5/2022)

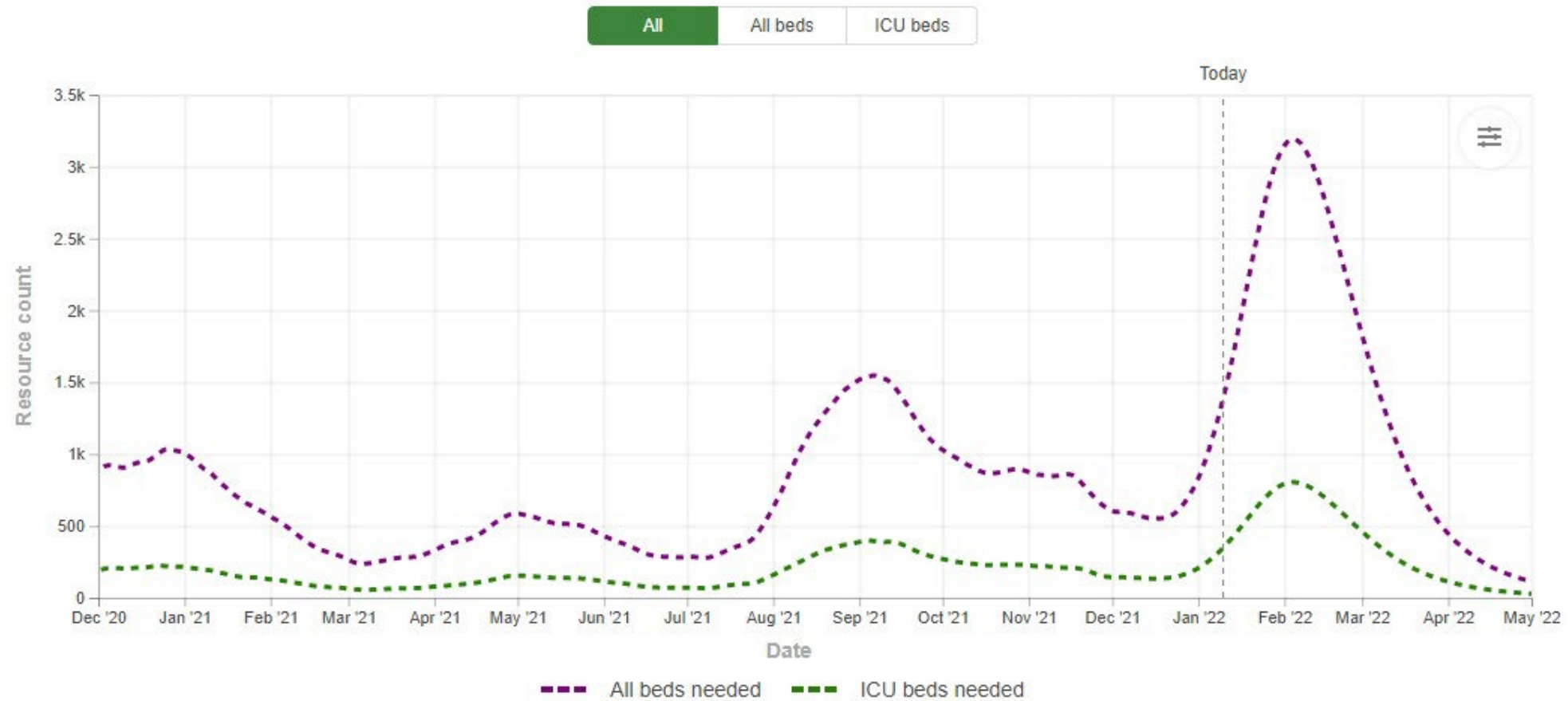
# United States projected hospital resource use

Hospital resource use indicates how equipped a location is to treat COVID-19 patients for the **Current projection** scenario. Select **All beds** or **ICU beds** for descriptions of each measure.



# Washington projected hospital resource use

Hospital resource use indicates how equipped a location is to treat COVID-19 patients for the **Current projection** scenario. Select **All beds** or **ICU beds** for descriptions of each measure.





# Health Care System Coordination



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

October 15, 2021

Colleagues and Partners,

Washington State's updated Crisis Standards of Care (CSC) guidance reflects a key statewide commitment by health partners to work together and share resources and information so should implementation of CSC become necessary, no single hospital or region goes into it alone. To be clear, the decision to implement CSC in Washington shall occur only at the state level.

The development of Washington's CSC protocols started in 2012 and is built upon the national framework developed by the National Academy of Medicine (NAM; formerly, the Institute of Medicine), evidence-based literature reviews, regional committee meetings, and individual subject matter expert workgroups, including prior community engagement efforts to solicit input on decision-making about scarce resource allocation. Since its inception in 2015, Washington's Disaster Medical Advisory Committee (DMAC) has been tasked with providing guidance on scarce critical resource planning in the state of Washington.

Since Governor Inslee's declaration of COVID-19 as a statewide emergency in early 2020 and in coordination with the Washington State Department of Health (DOH), the DMAC has been convened on a regular basis and has worked diligently to address updates necessary to CSC based on consideration by its committee makeup of healthcare providers, ethicists, equity specialists, and other experts from across Washington. Their collective goal has been to help reshape CSC guidance to reflect state-specific healthcare needs in the midst of this pandemic and beyond.

Based on additional input from community stakeholders and subject matter experts in areas of disability rights, equity, social justice, and community engagement, revisions have been made to the critical care triage algorithms included in the current version of the CSC guidance. As a state, we continue to learn from experiences in other states and in localities within Washington, which may necessitate additional revision of guidelines as new information, science, and best practices become available. In other words, these guidelines are not intended to be a final body of work but one that will most certainly continually evolve over time as the need arises.

This latest resource, the *Triage Teams Operational Guidebook*, represents the finalized protocols for Washington's crisis standards of care, specifically on Triage Team operations and adult ICU allocation. Vetted by the DMAC and adopted by DOH, these protocols are centered on NAM's ethical framework intended to guide equitable, ethical decision-making during the most stressful of crisis situations. This has been a methodical, deliberative, and expert consensus-driven process that has been far from easy given the complexities involved. The addition of the DOH logo to this key resource is a deliberate action that reflects our agency's firm support of Washington's health care facilities, associations, and coalitions, and our commitment to this partnership even in the face of the most difficult crisis we have faced in recent history.

We would like to acknowledge the partners who have worked with DOH to develop and review Washington's crisis standards of care guidebook: members of the DMAC, the Northwest Healthcare Response Network (NWHRN), the REdi Health Care Coalition, and countless others. Together, along with the Washington State Hospital Association (WSHA), the Washington Medical Coordination Center (WMCC), Washington's long-term care associations, key state agencies, and health and medical association partners, we commit to preparing for potential implementation of crisis standards of care.

Despite the above planning and preparation efforts, we also resolutely reaffirm our continued and collective commitment to doing everything we can to avoid the need to ever have to use CSC, whether now or in the foreseeable future.

Best,

Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH  
Secretary of Health

## Washington State Crisis Standards of Care Triage Team Operational Guidebook

OCTOBER 2021



# COVID-19 Vaccines

## in Washington



**Mask Up,  
Washington.**

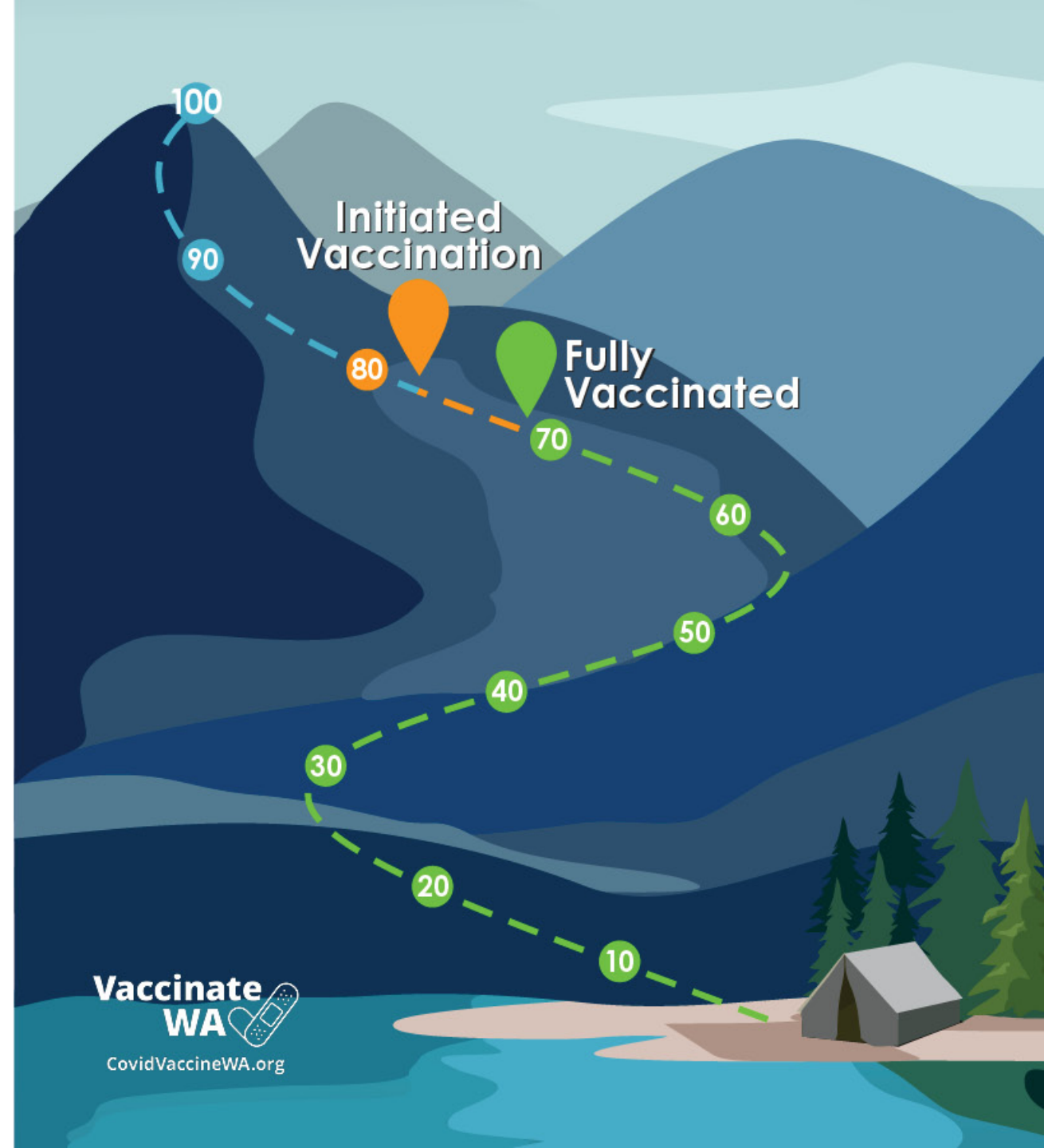
Visit [www.doh.wa.gov](http://www.doh.wa.gov)



@WaDeptHealth  
@WaHealthSec

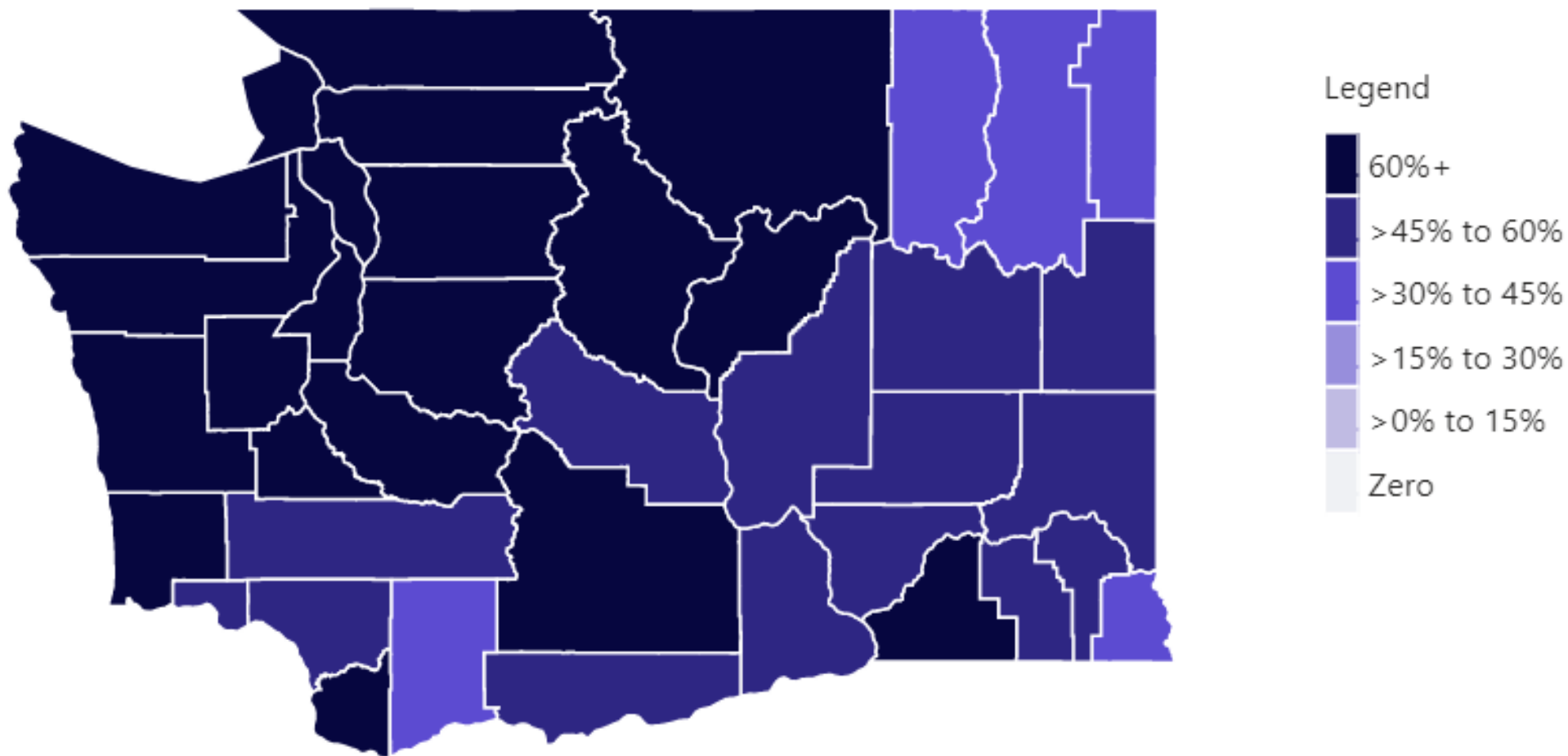
As of January 3,  
**77.6%\***  
of the population  
5 and up has  
**received at least one dose**  
and  
**70.6%\***  
is **fully vaccinated.**

\*This percent includes aggregate data from the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs and is higher than the DOH data dashboard.



# Vaccine rates not uniform

TOTAL POPULATION INITIATING VACCINATION (RECEIVING AT LEAST 1 DOSE)





As of January 9,  
more than  
**12 million doses**  
of COVID-19 vaccine  
have been given out  
to more than  
**5.5 million people!**





As of January 9,  
**over 2 million**  
people across  
Washington have gotten  
an additional dose.

(Includes both booster doses & third doses)



# When should you get your booster?


- **Pfizer:** at least 5 months after your primary vaccination series
- **Moderna:** at least 5 months after your primary vaccination series
- **J&J:** at least 2 months after your primary vaccination



# Vaccinating kids ages 5-11



As of January 9,  
**nearly 200,000 kids**  
have received their  
first dose and  
**nearly 150,000 are fully  
vaccinated.**

**Vaccinate  
WA**   
[CovidVaccineWA.org](https://CovidVaccineWA.org)



# Need to make a vaccine appointment?

Visit  
**VaccineLocator.doh.wa.gov** or  
**Vaccines.gov**  
or call

**833-VAX-HELP**

Language assistance is available

**6 a.m. to 10 p.m.**  
Monday

**6 a.m. to 6 p.m.**  
Tuesday – Sunday  
& observed state holidays

**Text Your Zip To**    **438-829** (GET VAX)    **822-862** (VACUNA)

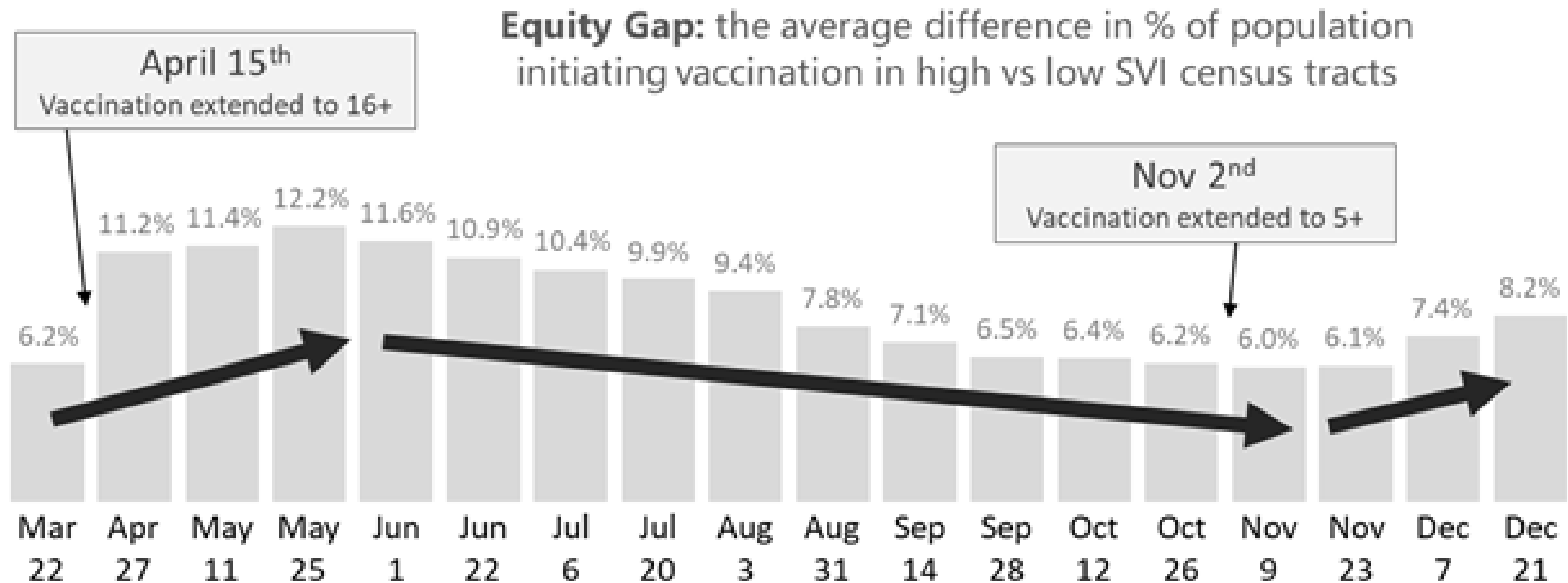


Between Nov. 24 – Dec. 21, 2021,  
**COVID-19 hospitalization  
rates for unvaccinated  
people were:**

- 10x higher for those 12-34
- 14x higher for those 35-64
- 13x higher for those 65+



# The vaccine equity gap (12/21/2021)





# Vaccine equity strategies

- Engage communities to inform vaccine prioritization and planning
- Integrate a pro-equity approach into vaccine allocation and distribution
- Prioritize allocation and support to providers who effectively serve disproportionately impacted communities
- Invest in trusted community leaders, messengers and organizations
- Ensure all communications, education and outreach efforts are culturally and linguistically appropriate and accessible
- Strengthen the public health system's ability to center communities in vaccine outreach and access
- Foster opportunities for collaboration
- Support a trauma-informed approach to vaccine conversations





# Building vaccine confidence



- Lead with transparent, consistent, and frequent messaging.
- Translate and transcreate materials into 40+ languages and diversify our outreach strategy.
- Invest in community-led messaging and initiatives. This invests in the most trusted channels and messengers, which increases trust in the message.
- Bring community leaders, influencers, experts, and primary audiences to the table to inform our planning process.
- Demonstrate responsiveness to community needs and concerns.





# Care-a-Van





# Care-a-Van metrics

 **631**

Total requests  
received  
(6/12/21 -  
6/19/22)

 **16214**

Vaccine doses  
administered via  
Care-a-Van

 **10448**

Booster Doses  
Administered via  
the Care-a-Van

 **44%**

Care-a-Van  
events served  
over 50% BIPOC

 **74%**

Care-a-Van in  
areas with  
Moderate to  
High/High SVI  
(7+)

 **443**

Events supported  
to date

 **163**

Supported by  
Care-a-Van

 **216**

Supported by  
DOH Contractors

 **52**

Supported by  
LHJs

 **12**

Supported by  
Other Provider  
(WSPA or Nurse  
Team)

# Where We Have Been and the Road Ahead



**Mask Up,  
Washington.**

Visit [www.doh.wa.gov](http://www.doh.wa.gov)



@WaDeptHealth  
@WaHealthSec



# An ever-evolving response

- January 21, 2020: Washington reported the first COVID-19 case in the United States
- 2020: Public health interventions, including masks and isolation
- 2021: Vaccines and therapeutics
- 2022: Vaccines, therapeutics, more test kits, and cooperation will get us through




# 2021 Shared successes to protect Washingtonians

- Care-A-Van
- Vaccine Action Command and Coordination System
- Vaccine Implementation Collaborative
- WA Notify App
- WA Verify App
- Power of Providers (POP)

Power of Providers



**Vaccinate  
WA**   
CovidVaccineWA.org



# 2022 State action to battle Omicron

- **Expanding Testing Availability**
  - Washington purchased 5.5 million at-home tests for state-wide ordering, schools, and underserved communities
  - Mobile testing & vaccine teams
- **Increasing Vaccination Availability**
  - Mass Booster/Vaccination Clinics
- **10 Million Free Masks For K-12 and Communities**



# 2022 DOH COVID-19 Response Focus Areas



1. Vaccinations and boosters
2. Communication and engagement activities
3. Community mitigation policies and efforts
4. Healthcare system support
5. Community and individual empowerment
6. Equity focus and efforts



# 2022 – Working together for brighter tomorrow



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