

# Department of Health Updates

**State Board of Health Meeting**  
March 9, 2022



@WaDeptHealth  
@WaHealthSec

# 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 in blue scrubs and gloves 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 table with a white lace 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

## National Landscape



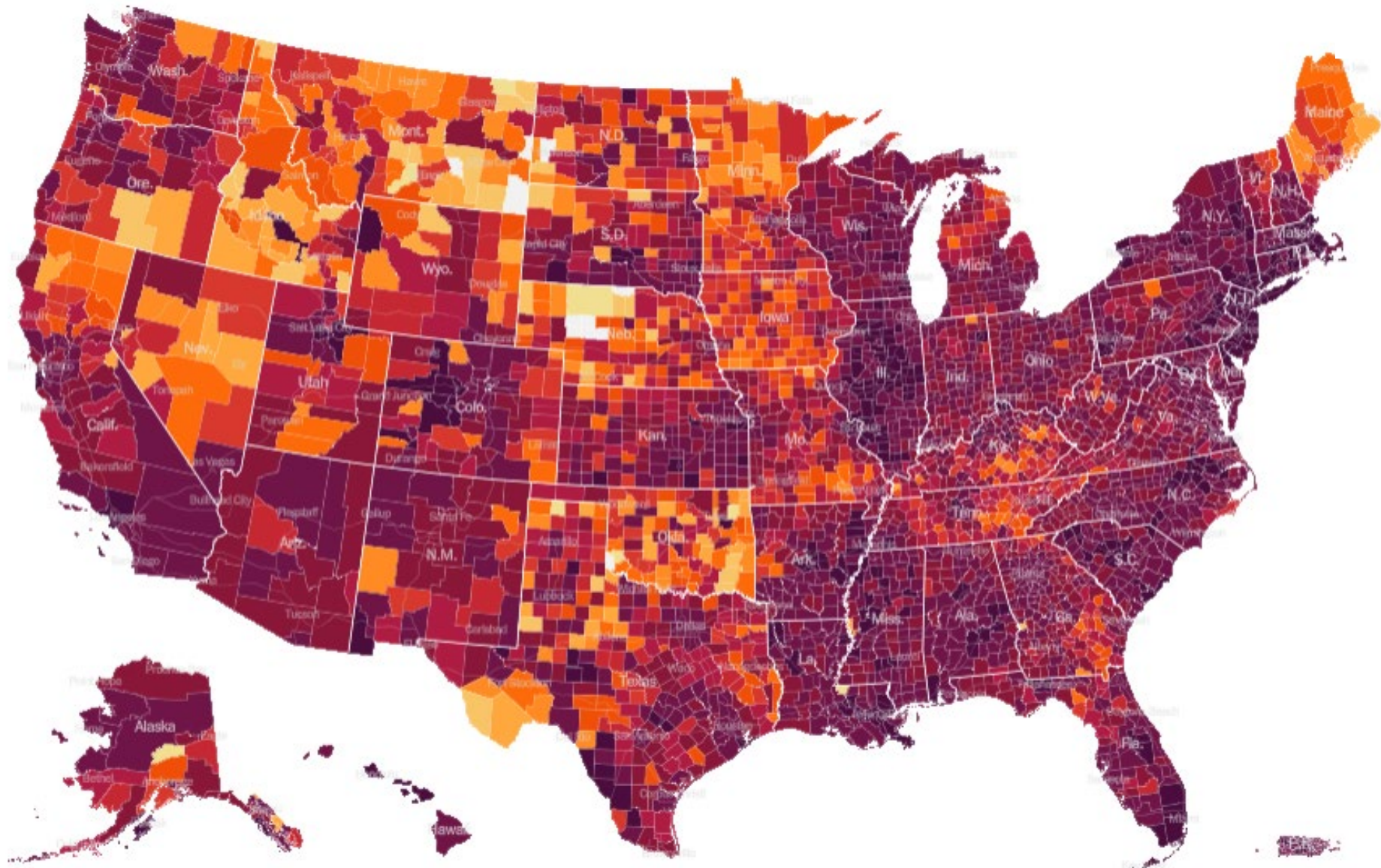
**Mask Up,  
Washington.**

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



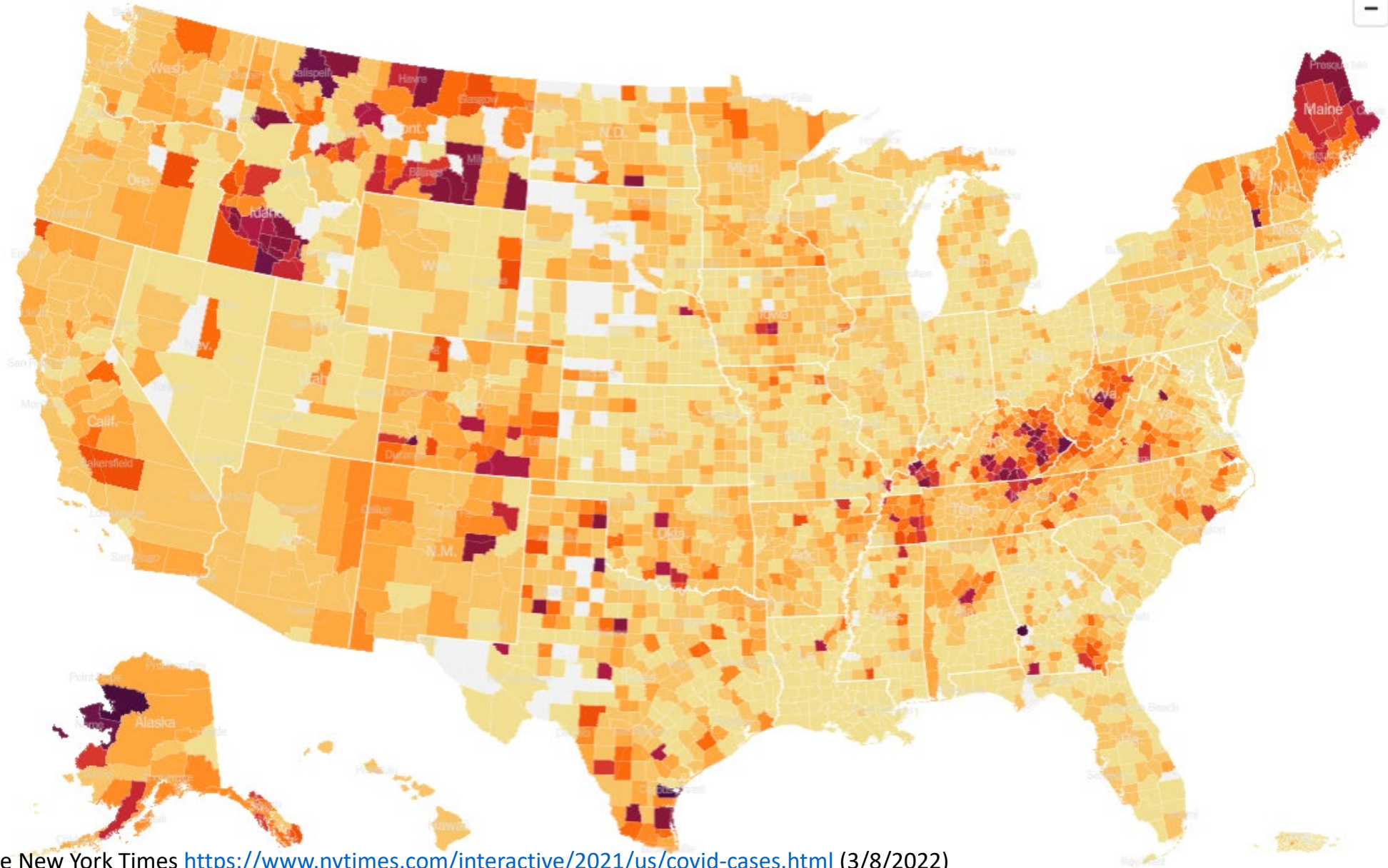
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# January 2022 – U.S. COVID-19 hot spots



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

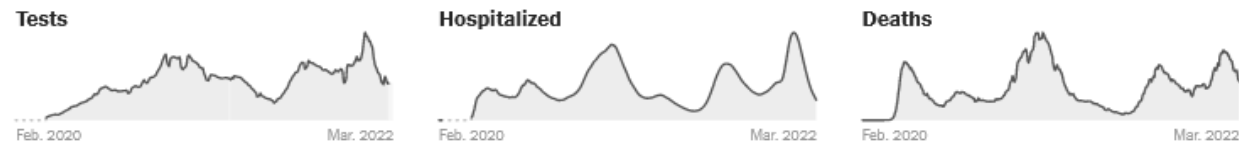
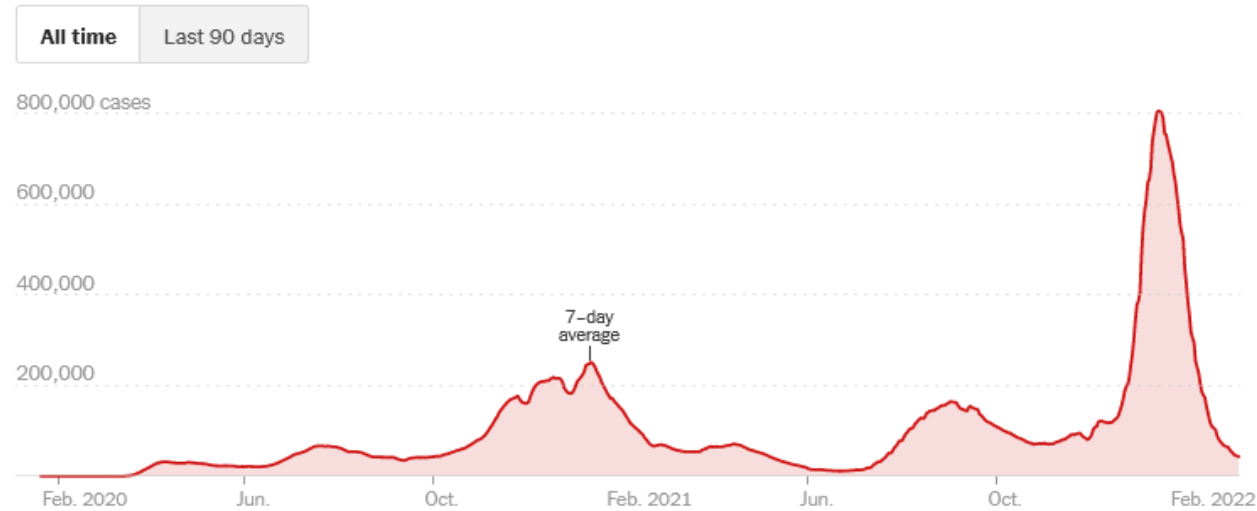
# March 2022 – U.S. COVID-19 hot spots



Source: The New York Times <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/us/covid-cases.html> (3/8/2022)

# U.S. COVID-19 case count

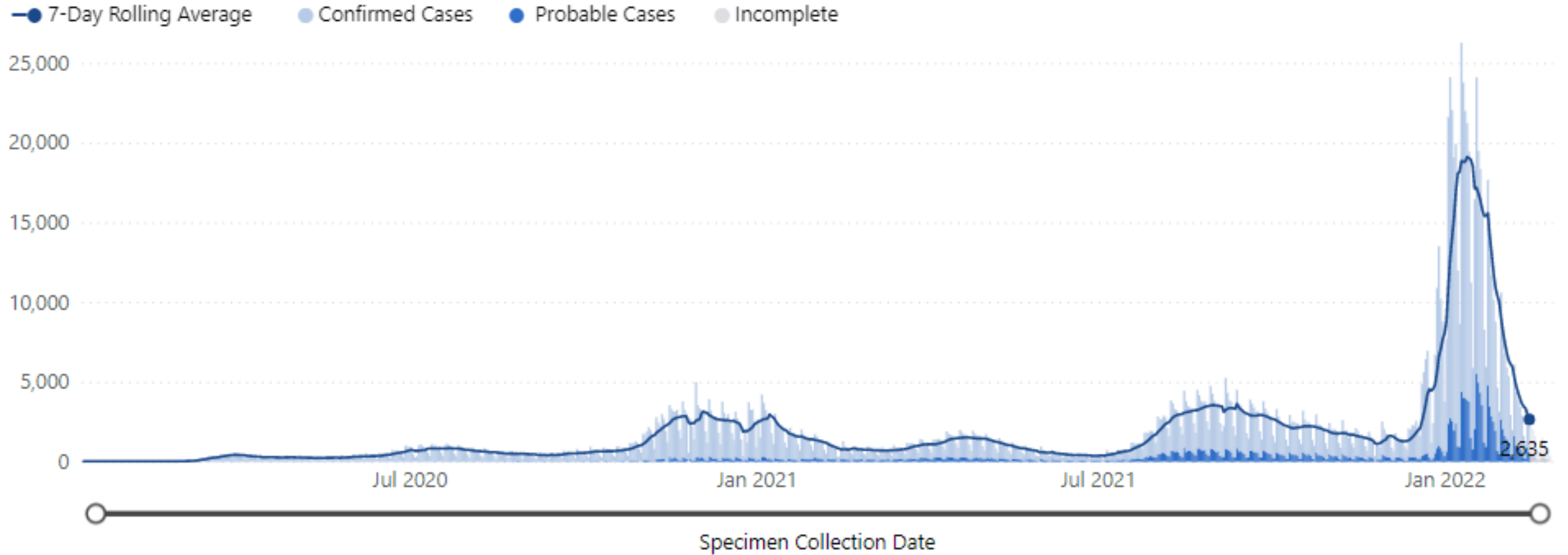
## New reported cases



	DAILY AVG. ON MAR. 7	14-DAY CHANGE	TOTAL REPORTED
Cases	43,250	-51%	79,242,733
Tests	1,063,433	-8%	—
Hospitalized	37,118	-43%	—
In I.C.U.s	6,930	-44%	—
Deaths	1,473	-30%	959,113

# COVID-19 cases in Washington

## CASE COUNTS





# National COVID-19 Preparedness Plan

- Protect against and treat COVID-19
- Prepare for new variants
- Prevent economic and educational shutdowns
- Continue to lead the effort to vaccinate the world and save lives

## NATIONAL COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS PLAN

MARCH 2022



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

# Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- **Risk of Disease Change – Community Level Metric**
- **Case Investigation and Contact Tracing Prioritization**
  - Universal case investigation and contact tracing not recommended.
  - Prioritize specific settings and groups at increased risk such as long-term care facilities, correctional facilities, and homeless shelters.



# 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%

- **First released in September 2020**
- **Relied on two metrics to define community transmission:** Total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days, and percentage of Nucleic Acid Amplification Test results that are positive during the past 7 days
- **Used by CDC** to inform setting-specific guidance and layered prevention strategies (e.g., screening testing in schools, masking, etc.)
- **Public health practitioners, schools, businesses, and community organizations** also rely on these metrics to inform decisions about prevention measures

# The current state of the pandemic requires a refined approach to monitoring COVID-19

- Community transmission indicators were developed in fall 2020 (prior to availability of vaccines) and reflect goal of limiting transmission in anticipation of vaccines being available
- **Neither of the community transmission indicators reflects medically significant disease or healthcare strain**
- Community transmission levels are largely driven by case incidence, which does not differentiate mild and severe disease

# CDC's COVID-19 Community Levels and Indicators

<b>New Cases</b> (per 100,000 population in the last 7 days)	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>Fewer than 200</b>	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%
<b>200 or more</b>	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

# Next Steps in Prevention

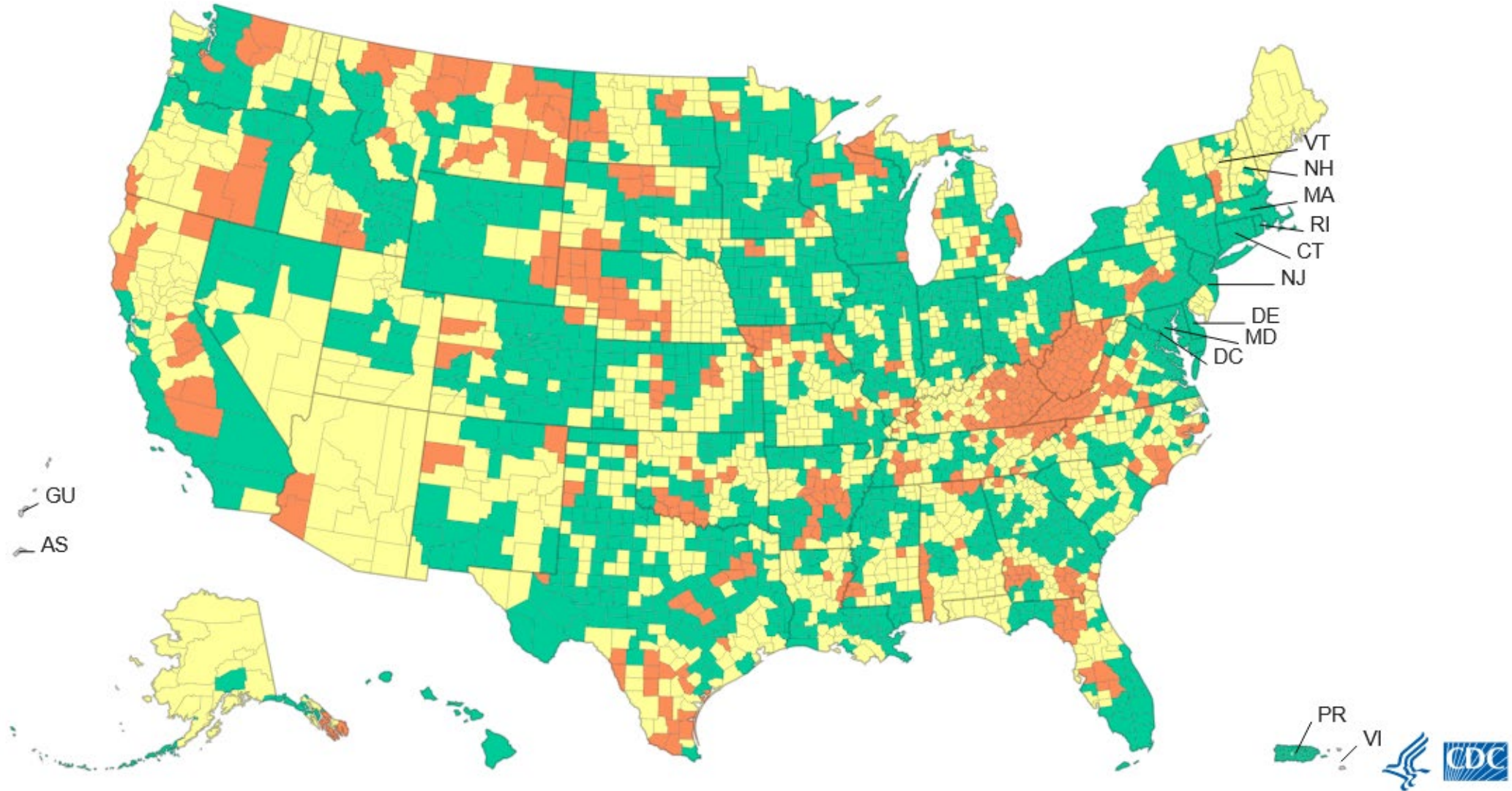
## What Prevention Steps Should You Take Based on Your COVID-19 Community Level?

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

# Healthcare, Transportation, and School Settings

- **Health Care Settings**
  - COVID-19 Community Levels announced as of 2/25/2022 do not apply in health care settings such as hospitals and nursing homes. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>
- **Transportation Settings**
  - Requirement to wear masks while on conveyance and at transportation hubs until at least March 18, 2022; CDC updated guidance does not require people wear masks on school system buses
- **Schools**
  - Indoor mask wearing is a recommended prevention step in areas with high COVID-19 community level.

# COVID-19 Community Levels on March 3, 2022





# Key Considerations

- Vaccination is the leading public health prevention strategy to prevent severe disease and deaths from COVID-19.
- People who are up to date on vaccines have much lower risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 compared with unvaccinated people.
- When making decisions about individual preventive behaviors and community prevention strategies in addition to vaccination, people and health officials should consider the COVID-19 community level.
- Health departments should consider health equity, and make use of other surveillance information (wastewater, ED surveillance, etc.), if available, to inform local decisions.
- Layered prevention strategies — like staying up to date on vaccines and wearing masks — can help prevent severe disease and reduce strain on the healthcare system.

# COVID-19

## Washington



**Mask Up,  
Washington.**

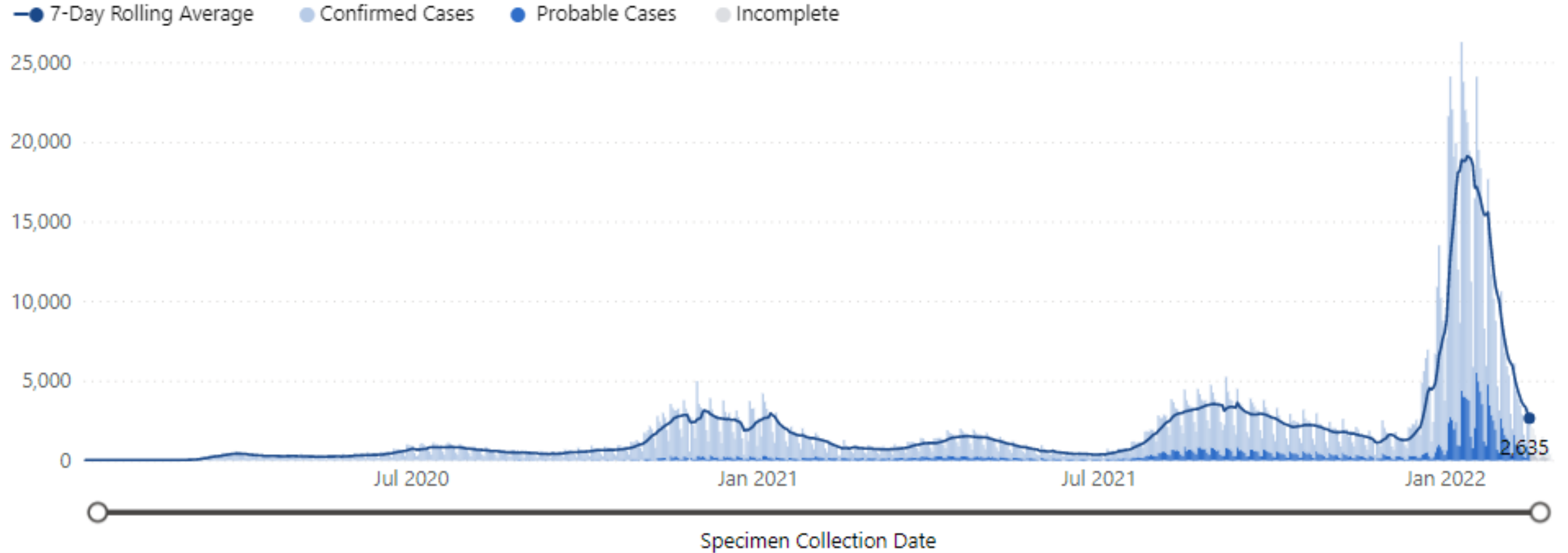
Visit [www.doh.wa.gov](http://www.doh.wa.gov)



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# Case Counts – as of February 27, 2022

## CASE COUNTS

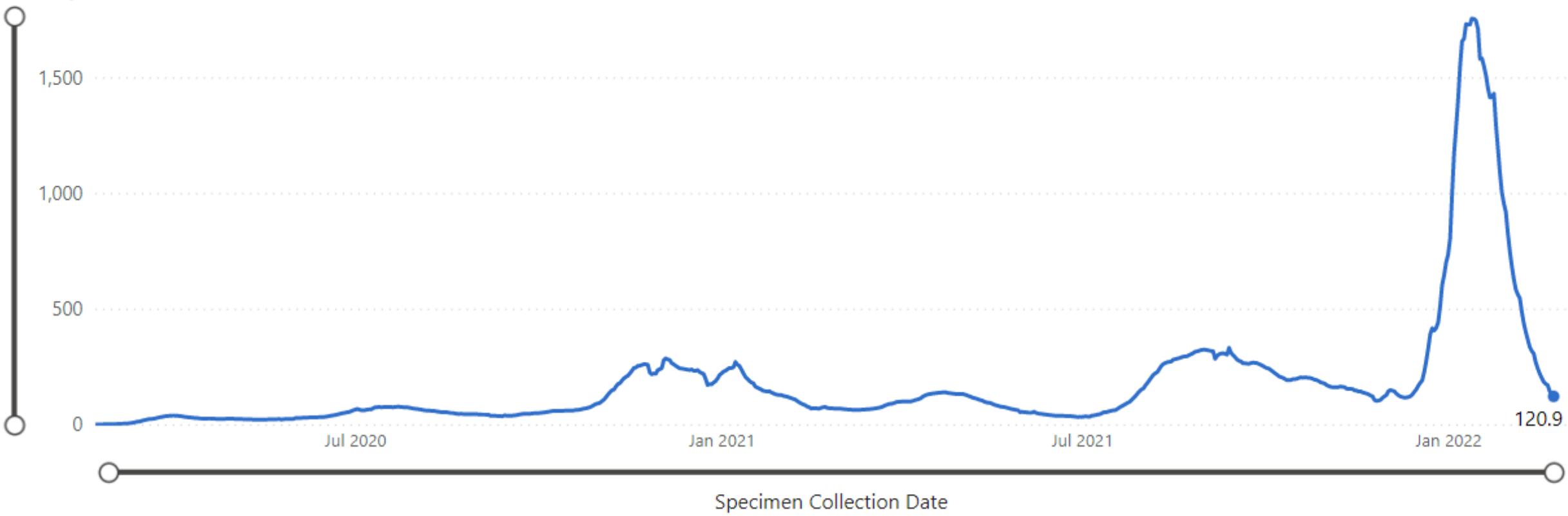


# Case Rates – as of March 3, 2022

TREND IN 7-DAY RATE OF NEW COVID-19 CASES PER 100.000 POPULATION

7-Day Case Rate

7-Day  14-Day

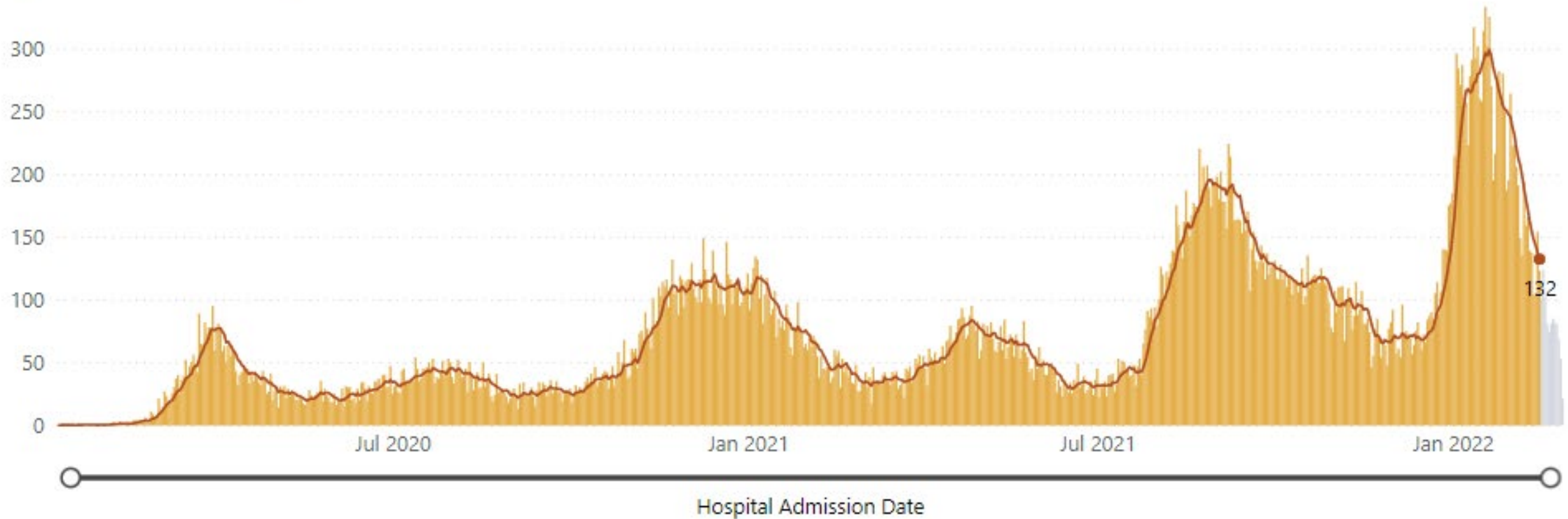


Source: DOH COVID-19 data dashboard <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/DataDashboard>

# Hospitalization Counts – as of February 27, 2022

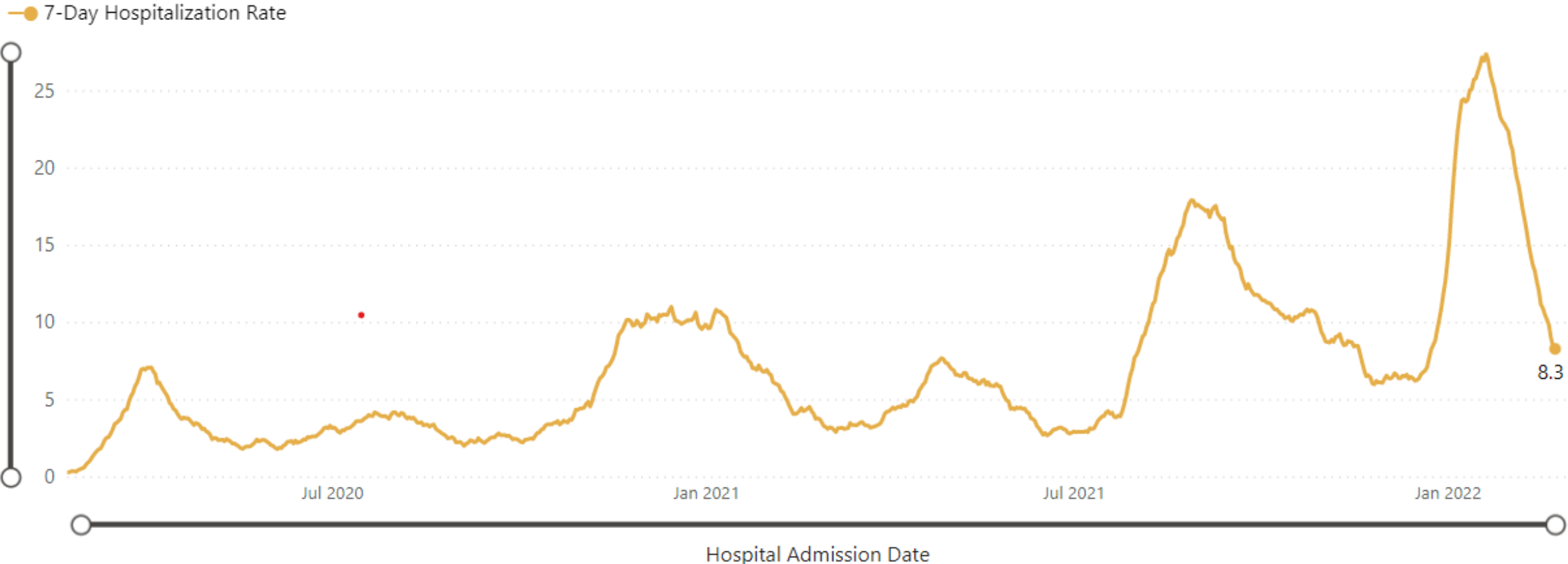
## HOSPITALIZATION COUNTS

—● 7-Day Rolling Average   ● Hospitalizations   ● Incomplete



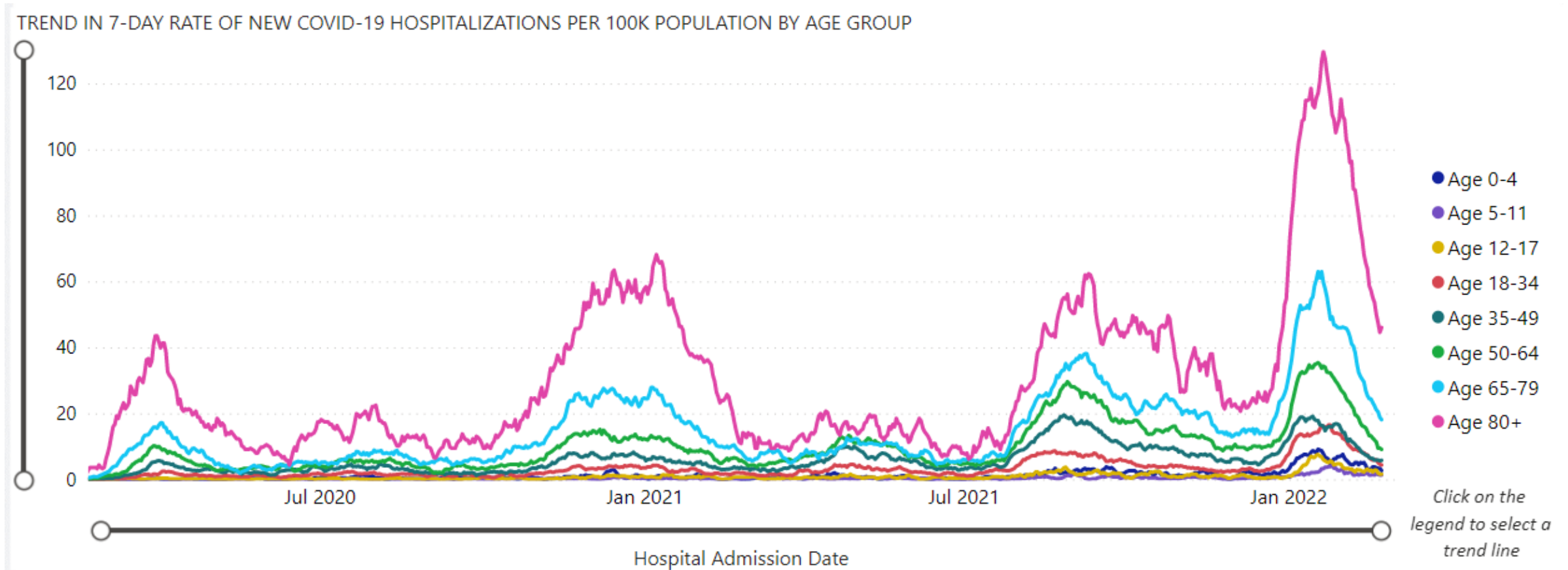
# Hospitalization Rates – as of March 3, 2022

TREND IN 7-DAY RATE OF NEW COVID-19 HOSPITALIZATIONS PER 100,000 POPULATION



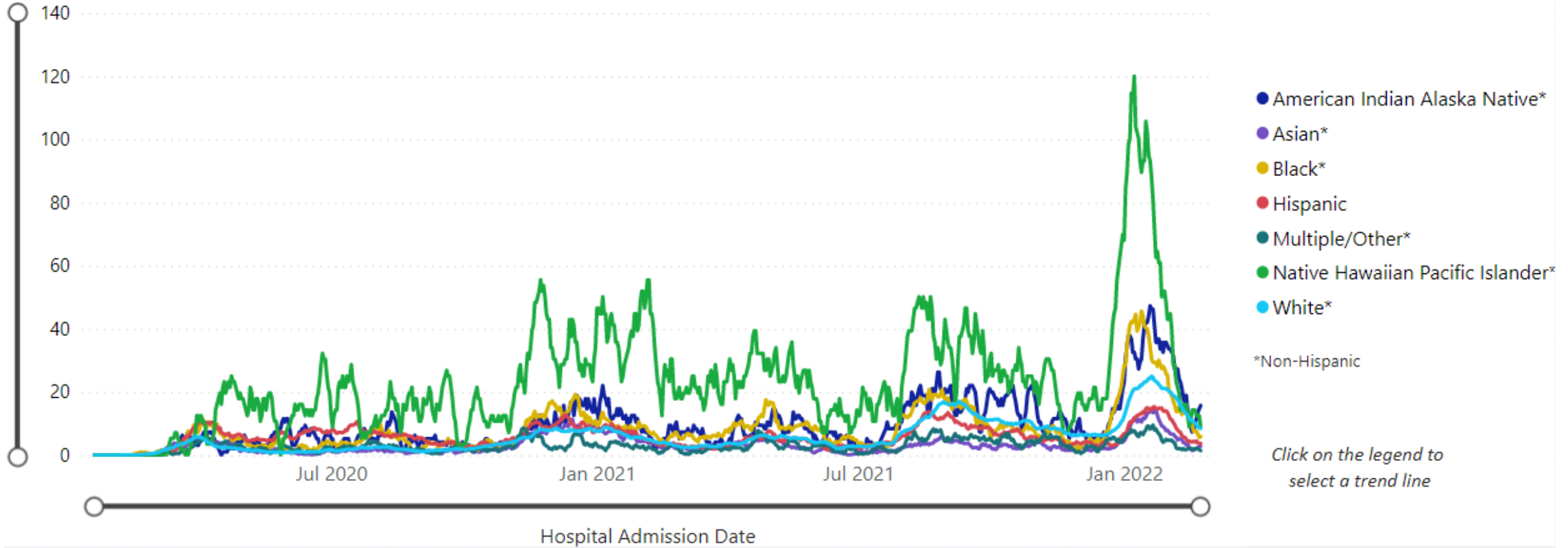
Source: DOH COVID-19 data dashboard <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/DataDashboard>

# Hospitalization Rates by Age – as of March 3, 2022



# Hospitalization Rates by Race and Ethnicity – as of March 3, 2022

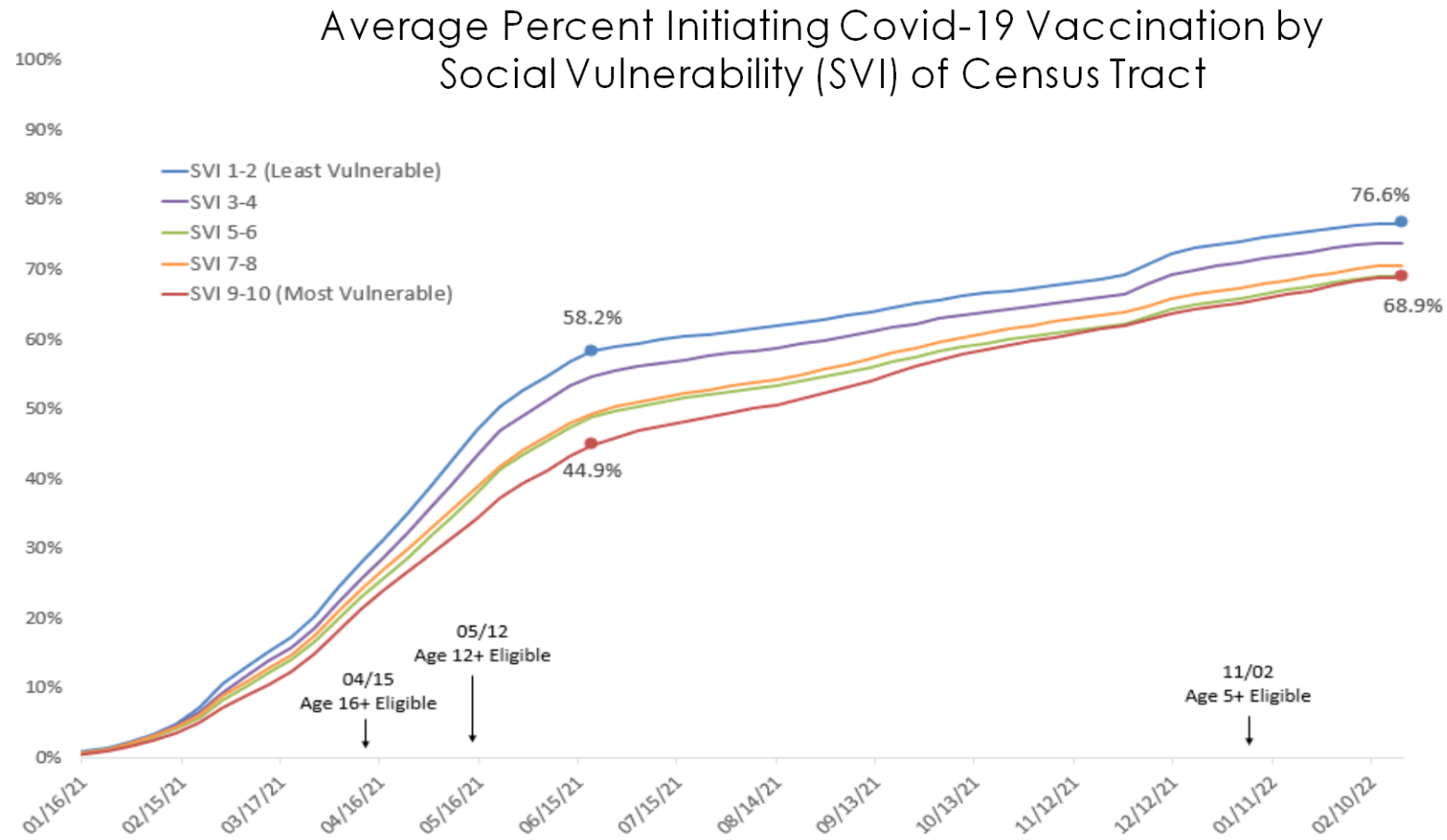
TREND IN 7-DAY RATE OF NEW COVID-19 HOSPITALIZATIONS PER 100K POPULATION BY RACE AND ETHNICITY





# Social Vulnerability Index

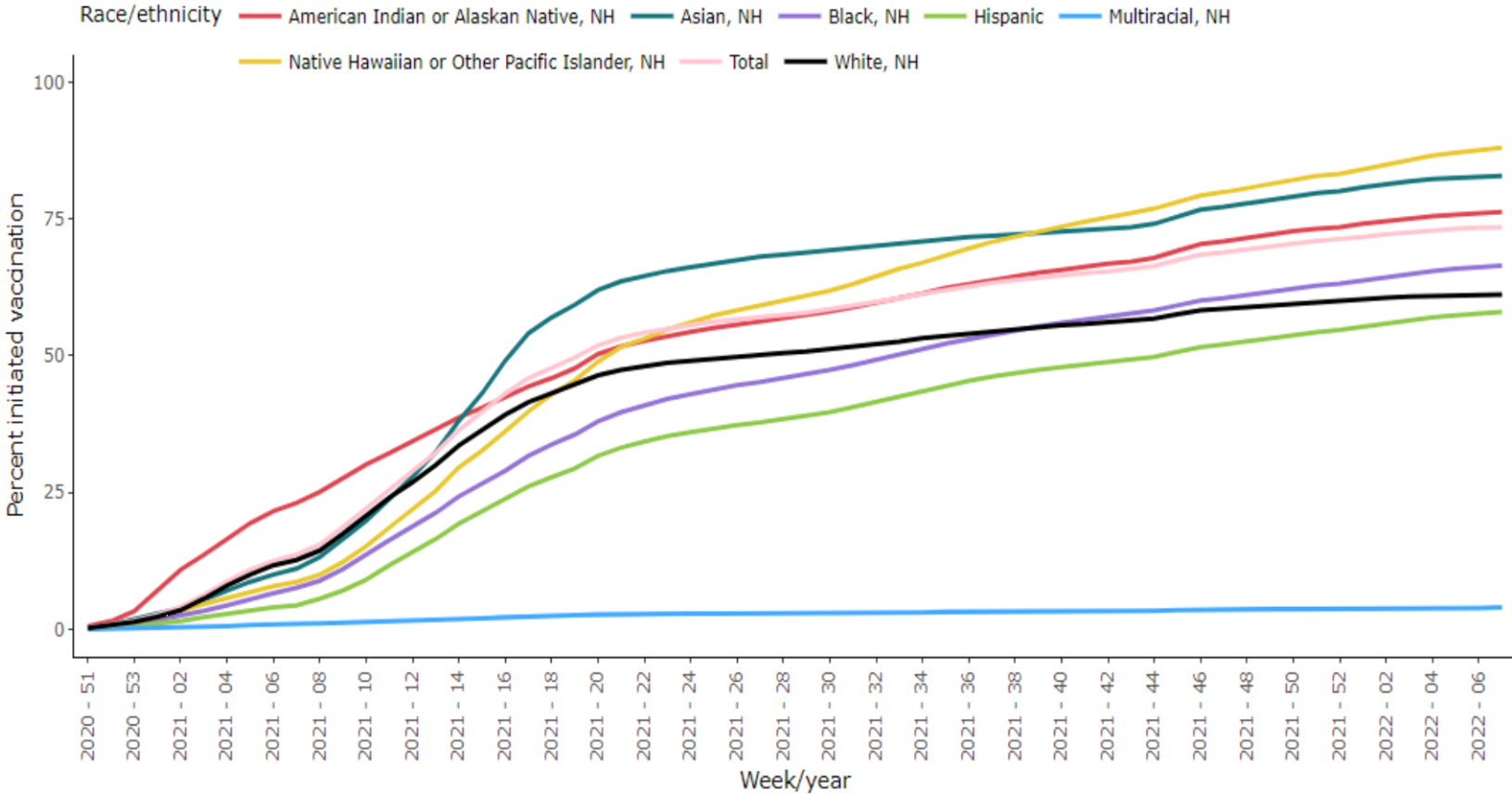
## SVI: Vaccination Trends in Washington



# Race and Ethnicity Vaccination Trends

## Race/Ethnicity: Vaccination Trends in Washington

Percent of Population that has Initiated Vaccination by Race/Ethnicity and Week

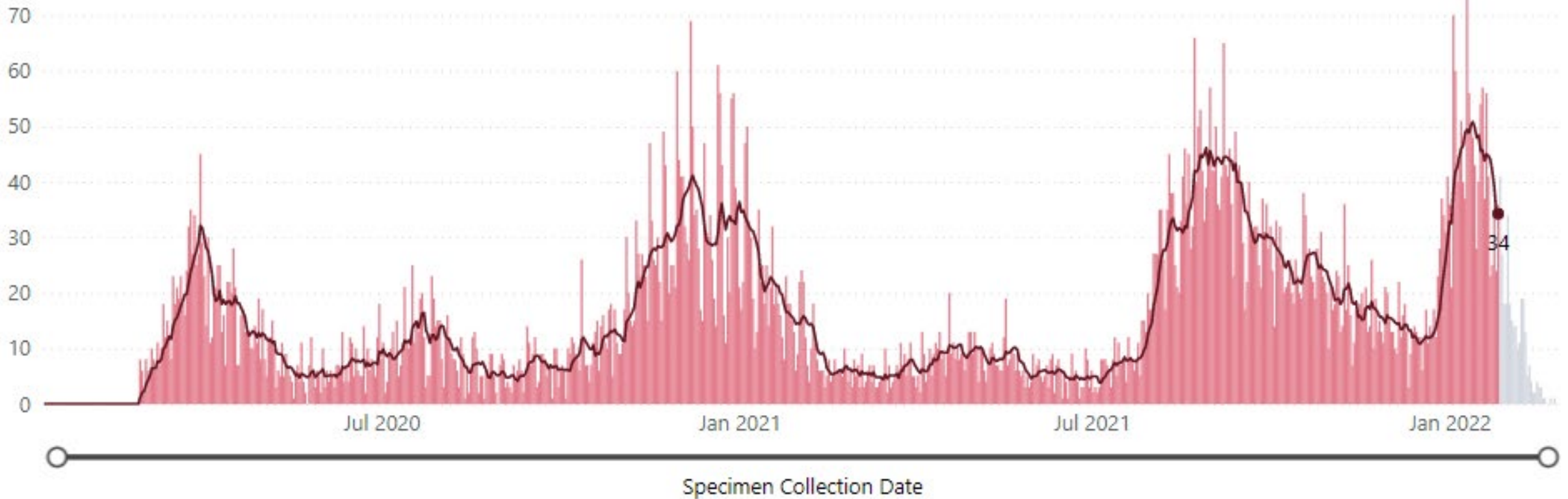


Source: DOH

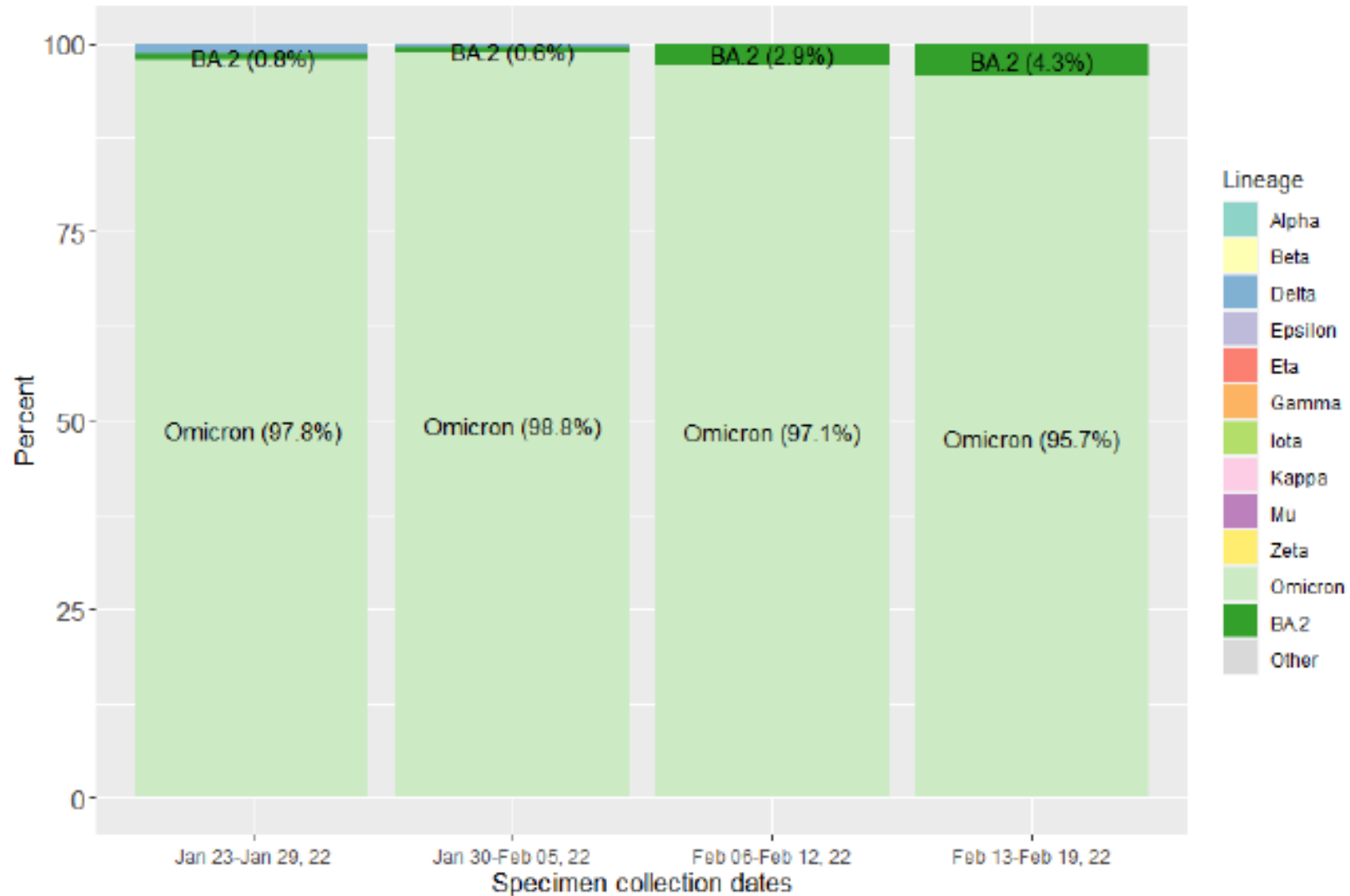
# Death Counts – as of February 27, 2022

## DEATH COUNTS

—● 7-Day Rolling Average    ● Deaths    ● Incomplete



# SARS-CoV-2 Genetic Sequencing – as of February 27, 2022



Between January 19 – February 15, 2022

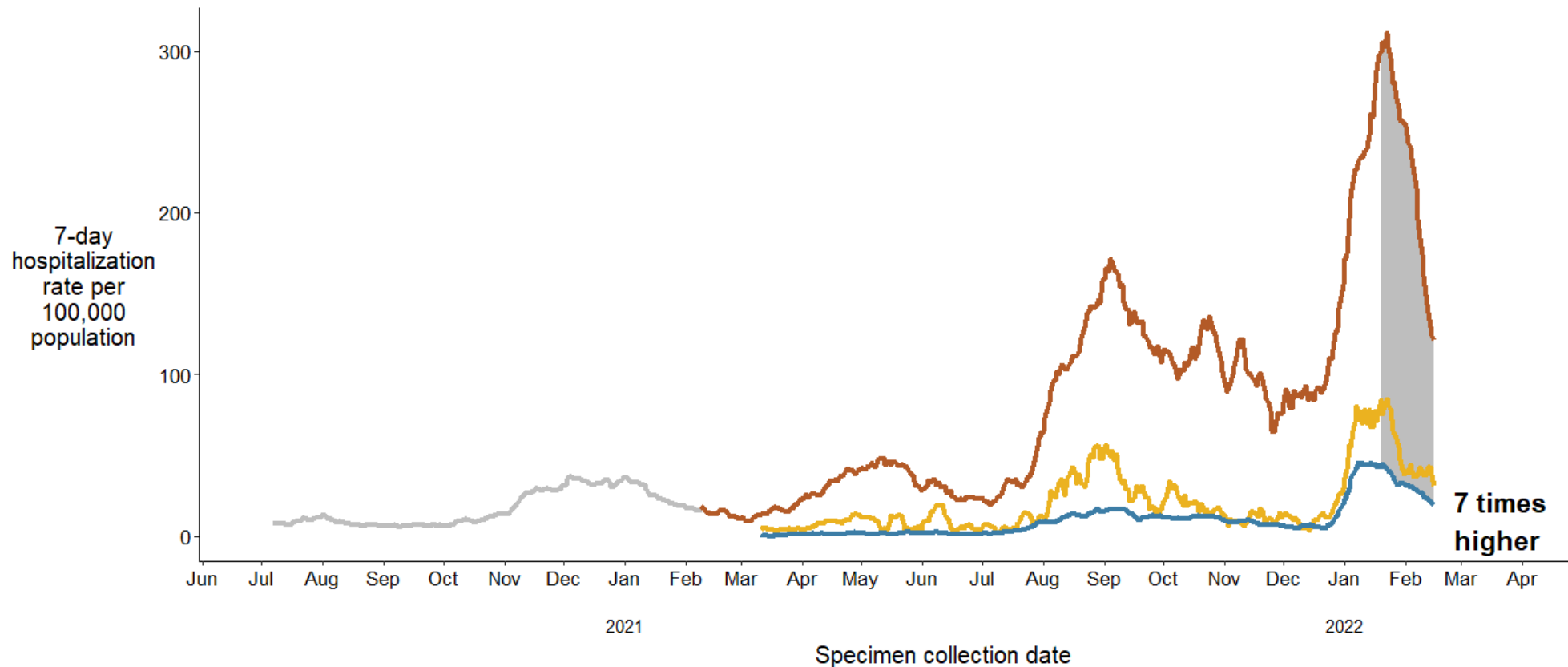
# COVID-19 hospitalization rates for unvaccinated people were:

- 5x higher for those 12-34
- 6x higher for those 35-64
- 7x higher for those 65+



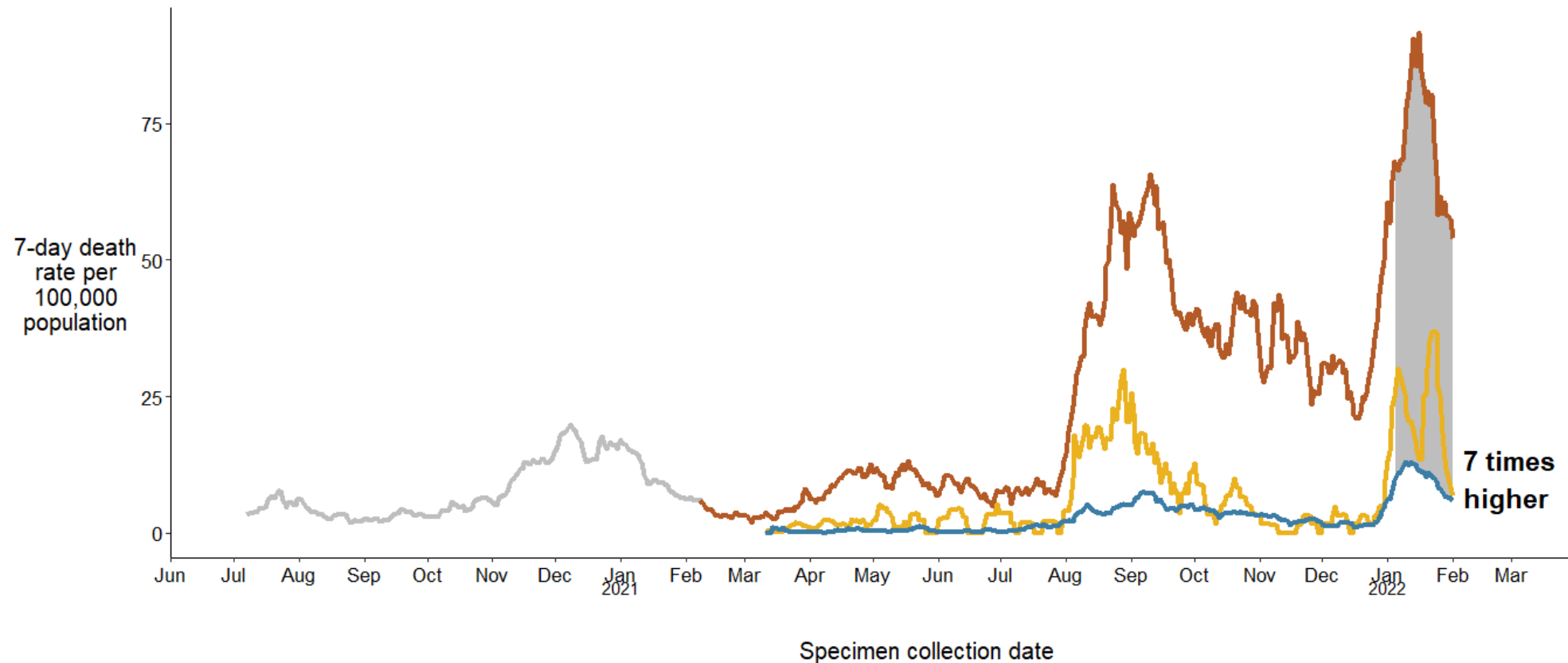
# Hospitalization Rates Age 65+

COVID-19 hospitalization rates among 65+ year-old individuals are 7 times higher in the unvaccinated population than in the fully vaccinated population



# Death Rates Age 65+

COVID-19 death rates among 65+ year-old individuals are 7 times higher in the unvaccinated population than in the fully vaccinated population



# COVID-19 Vaccines in Washington



**Mask Up,  
Washington.**

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



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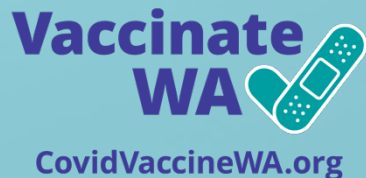


As of February 26,  
more than

**13 million doses**

of COVID-19 vaccine  
have been given out  
to more than

**5.8 million people!**



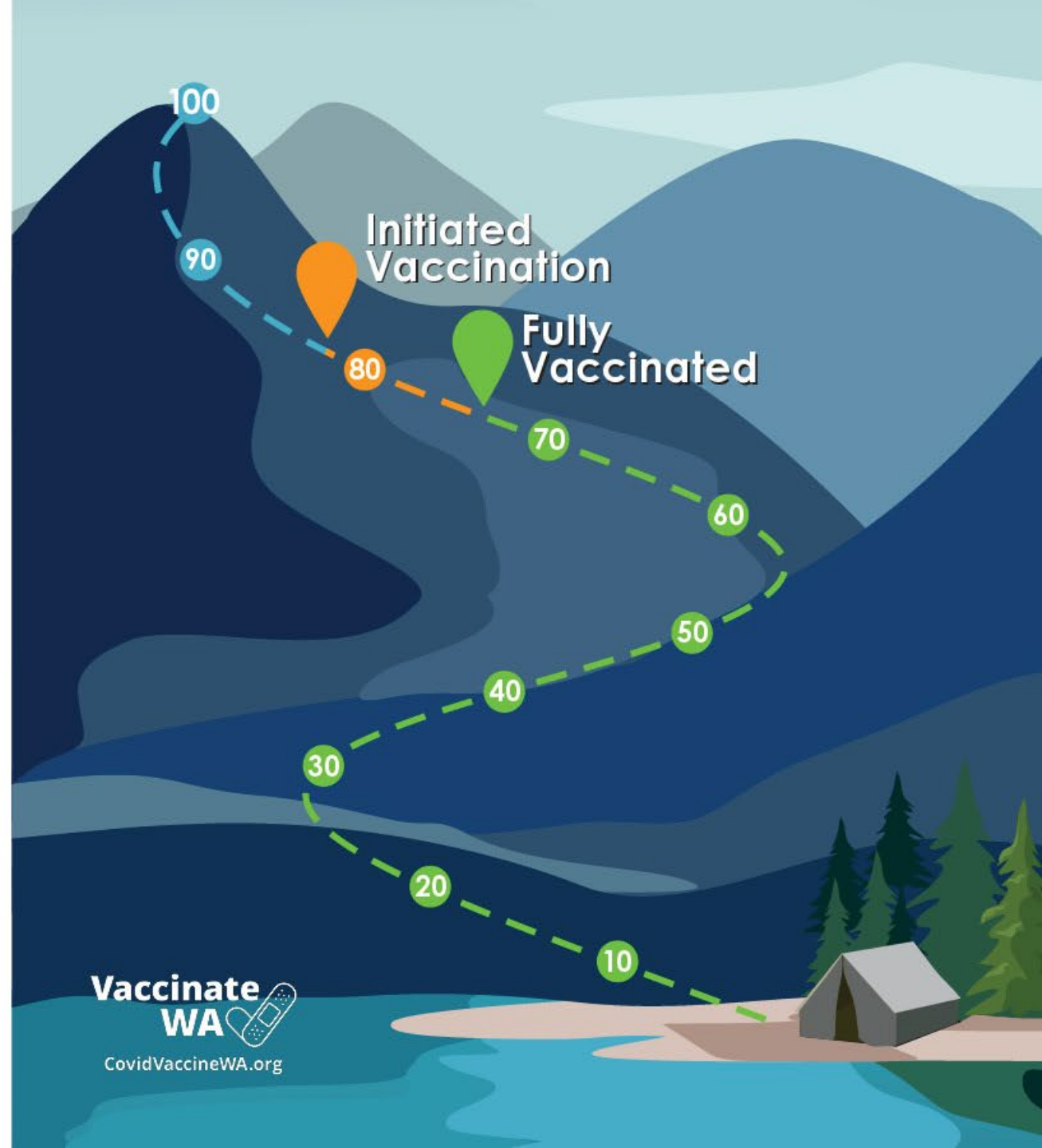


As of February 27,  
**more than 2.6 million**  
booster doses have been  
given out across  
Washington.

(This includes both booster doses & third doses)

As of March 7,  
**81.0%\***  
of the population  
5 and up has  
**received at least one dose**  
and  
**73.4%\***  
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.



# Certain people may receive up to 4 doses of COVID-19 vaccine

- Some immunocompromised people ages 5+ should get an additional primary shot 28 days after receiving the second dose of Pfizer or Moderna
- Everyone 12+ who received an additional primary shot (third dose) should also receive a booster dose when they are eligible (fourth dose)



**Everyone 12 and older should  
get a booster dose**

## **Pfizer or Moderna**

at least 5 months after completing  
your primary vaccination series

## **Johnson & Johnson**

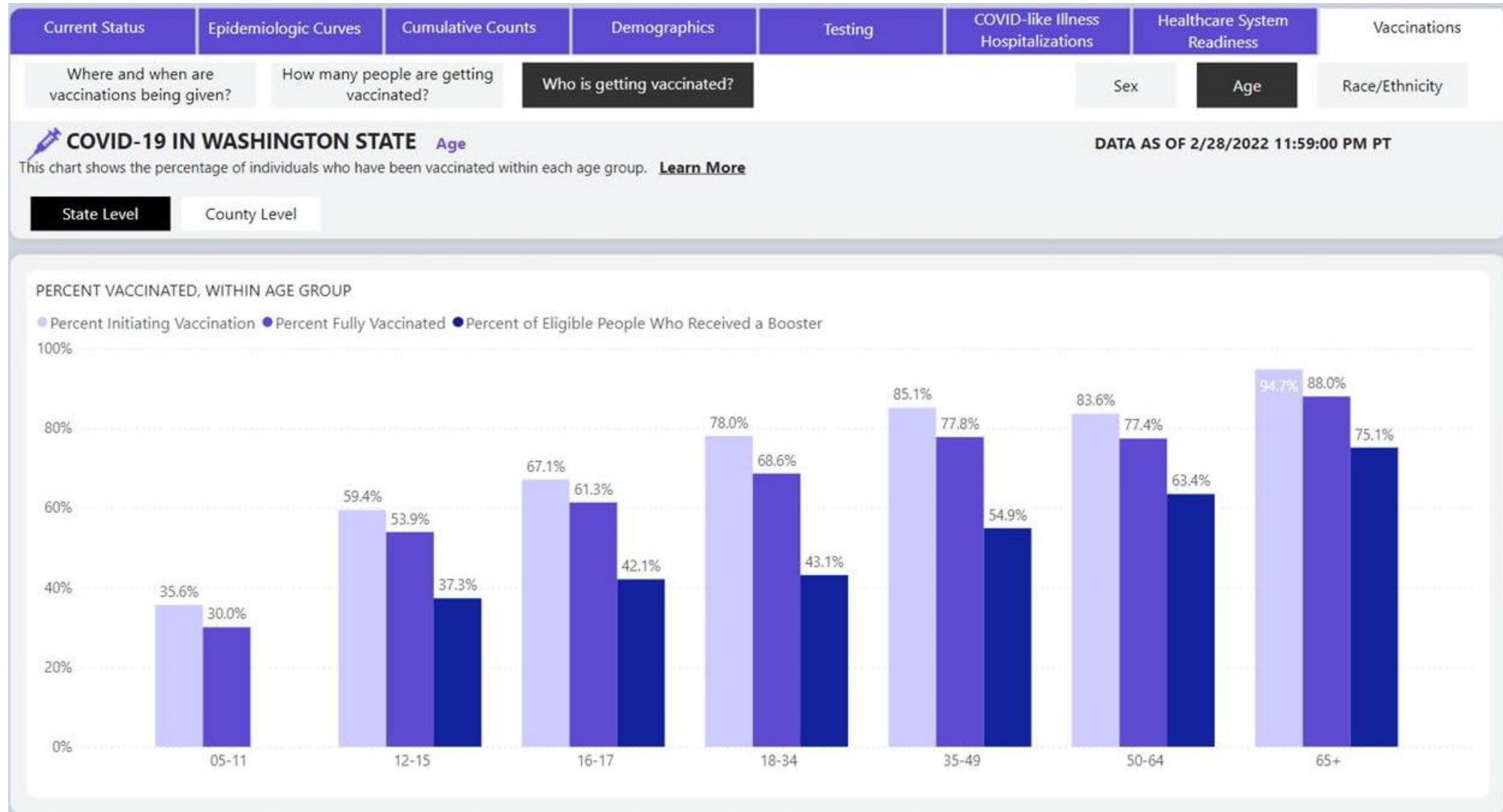
at least 2 months after completing  
your primary vaccination



# Booster dose data added to DOH's COVID-19 Data Dashboard



# Booster dose data added to DOH's COVID-19 Data Dashboard



# Vaccinating Kids Ages 5–11

As of February 27,  
**more than 240,000** kids have  
received their first dose and  
**more than 202,000** are  
**fully vaccinated.**







# Need to make a vaccine appointment?

Visit

[VaccineLocator.doh.wa.gov](https://VaccineLocator.doh.wa.gov) or  
[Vaccines.gov](https://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

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

# Moving Forward



**Mask Up,  
Washington.**

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



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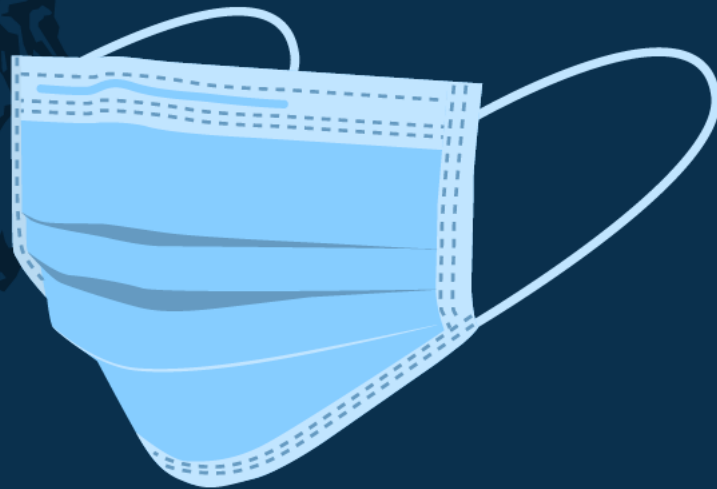
A graphic on the left side of the image features a light blue silhouette of the state of Ohio. Overlaid on the map is a large, white, 3D-style number '13' with a dark blue outline. The number is positioned to the left of the main text.

**13 MILL!**

13,000,000 COVID Vaccine Doses

# WASHINGTON

Beginning March 12



**STATEWIDE INDOOR MASK  
REQUIREMENT WILL LIFT**

# Path Forward

## Prevention, Empowerment, and Access

- **Engage, Educate and Empower.** Work with partners and all Washingtonians in community-first approach to provide health education to stay healthy and safe.
- **Vaccines.** COVID-19 vaccines will remain available and accessible to all Washingtonians.
- **Testing.** Empower individuals to know when to test and what to do with test results, while maintaining surge capacity if needed.
- **Masks.** Maintain stockpile of high-quality masks to support community and partner needs at any one time.



# Path Forward

## System Readiness, Resiliency, and Capacity

- **Data Monitoring and Disease Detection.** Utilize cutting edge technology include genotyping and wastewater monitoring to understand community risk.
- **Health System Capacity.** Utilize the WA Medical Coordination Center and Syndromic Surveillance, as well as make sure durable medical equipment is ready.
- **Treatment.** Equitable distribution of COVID-19 therapies.



# 2022 – Working together for brighter tomorrow



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