

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

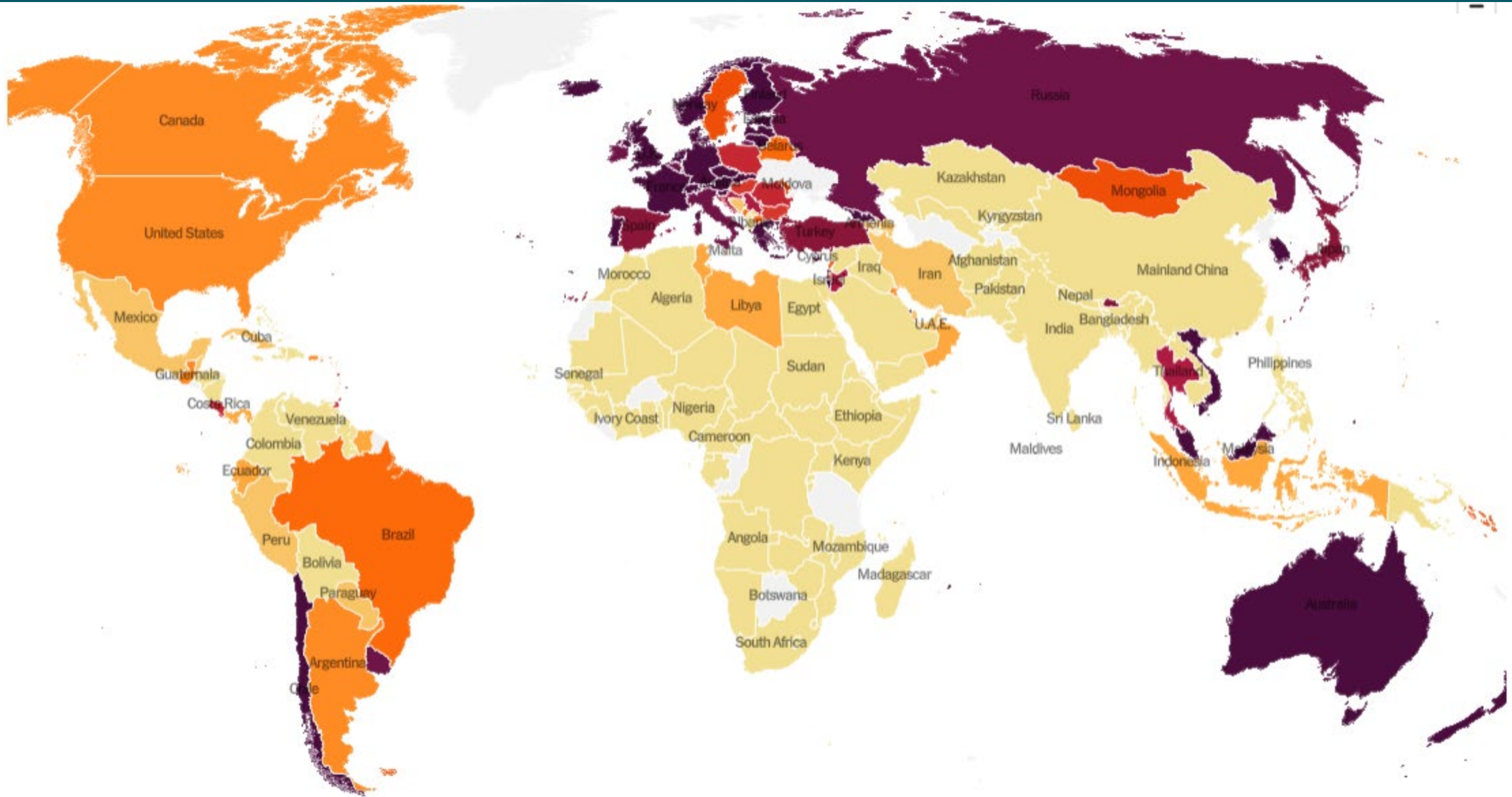
Michele Roberts, MPH, MSHES
*Acting Assistant Secretary,
Prevention and Community Health*

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 GLOBE



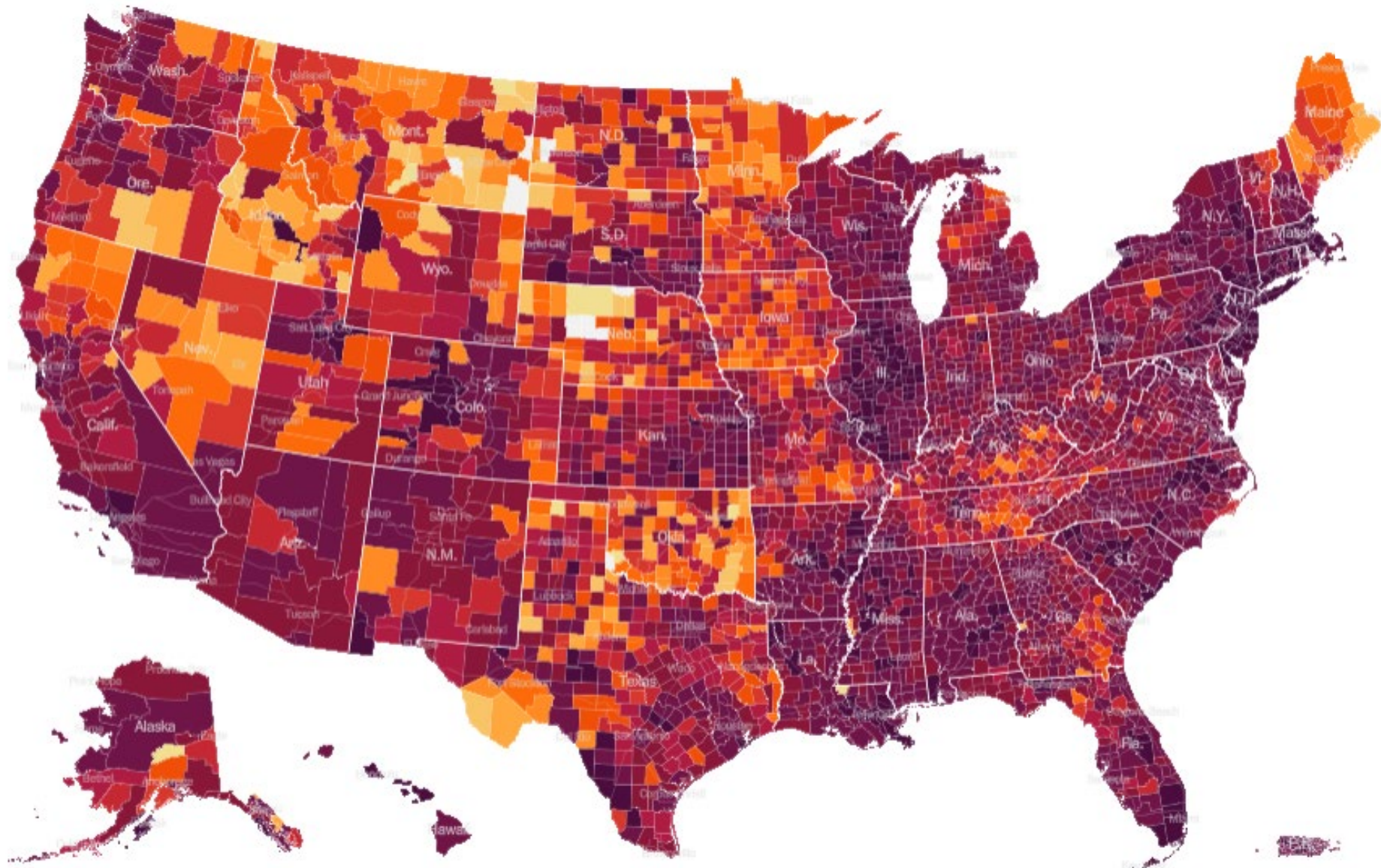
Source: The New York Times <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/world/covid-cases.html> (3/8/2022)

COVID-19 Case Trends

National Landscape

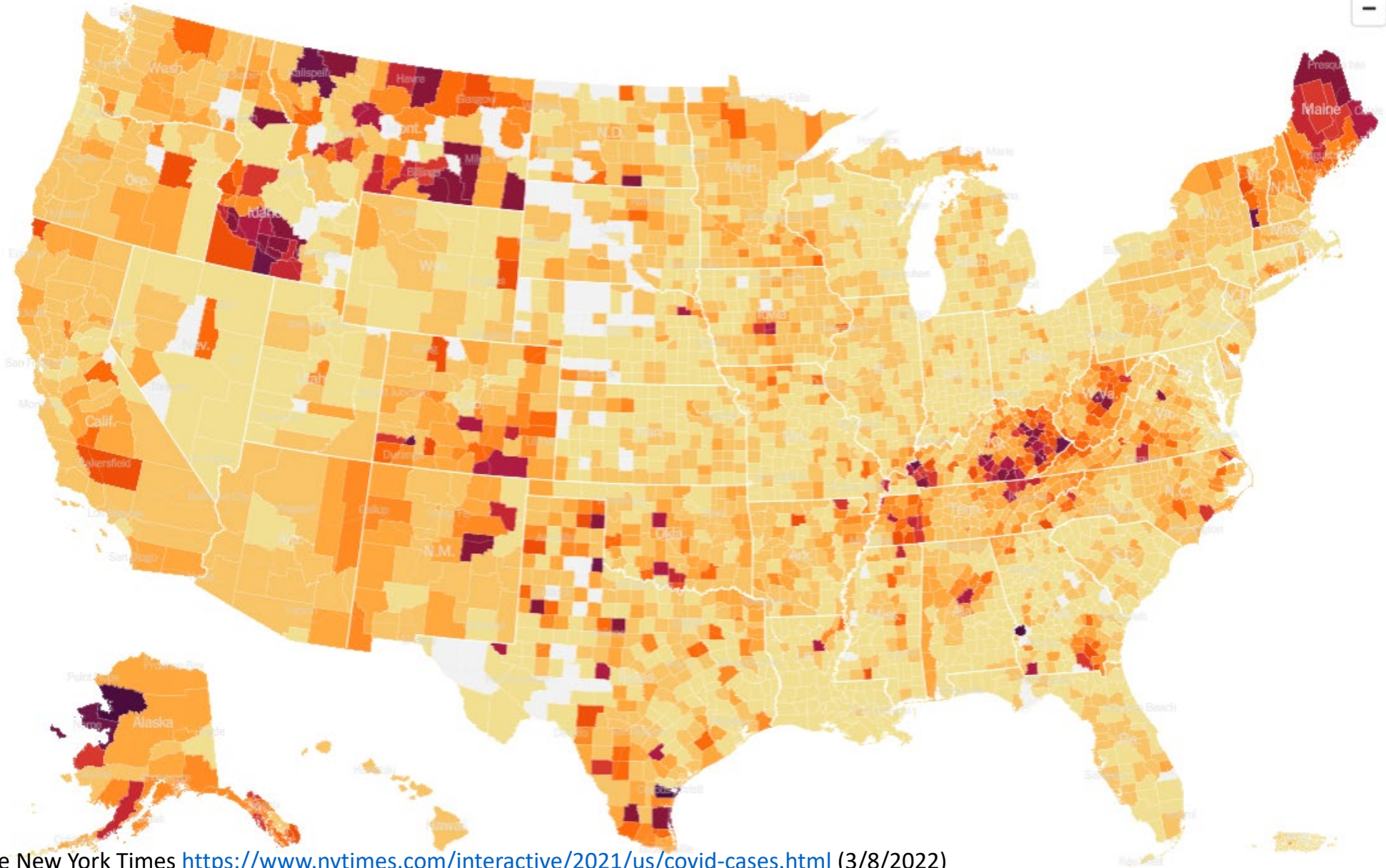


January 2022 – U.S. COVID-19 hot spots



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

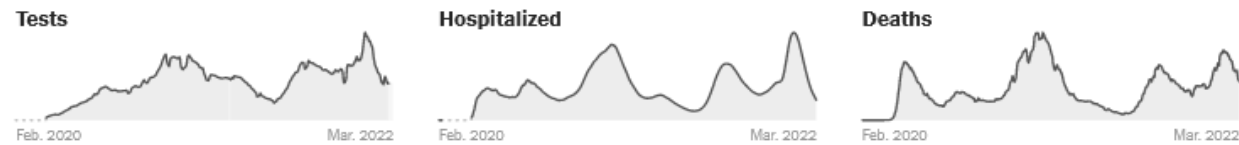
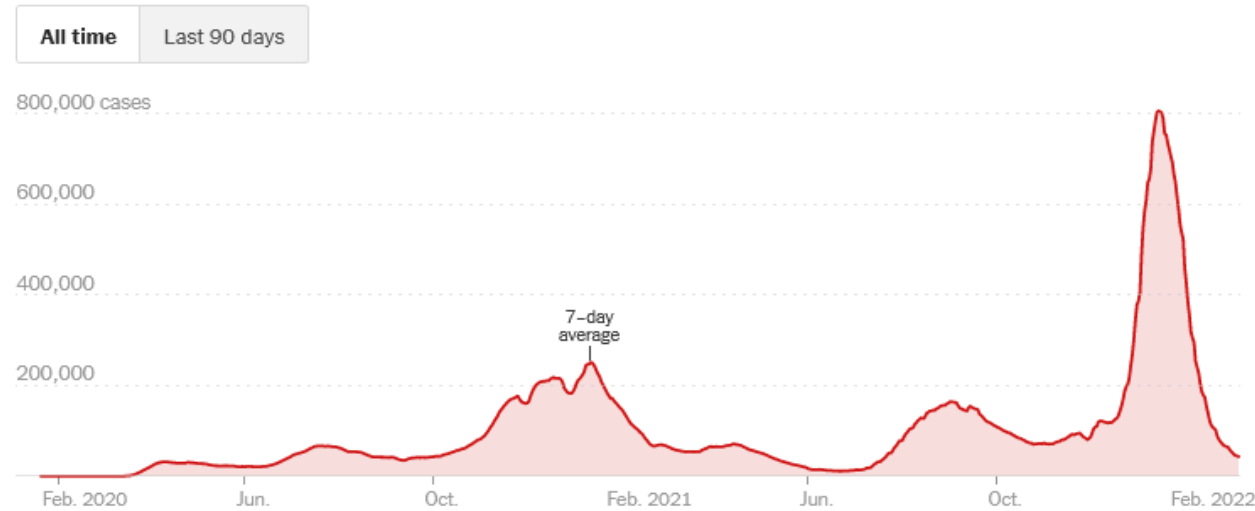
March 2022 – U.S. COVID-19 hot spots



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

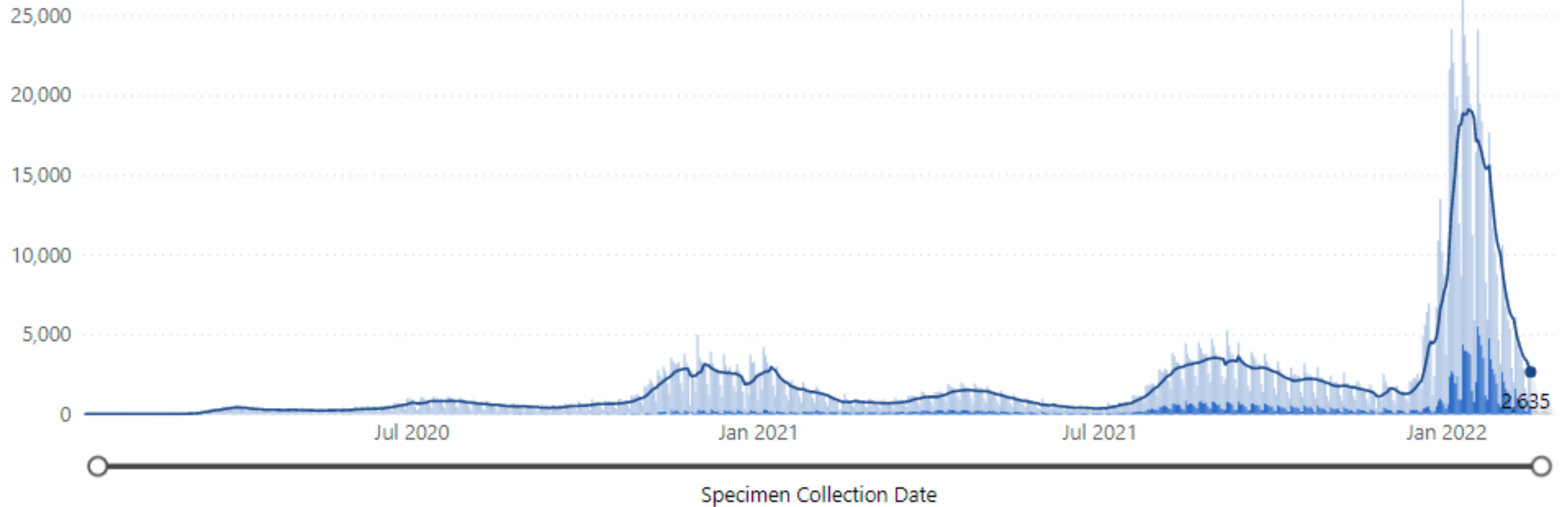


	DAILY AVG. ON MAR. 7	14-DAY CHANGE	TOTAL REPORTED
Cases	43,250	-51%	79,242,733
Tests	1,063,433	-8%	—
Hospitalized	37,118	-43%	—
In I.C.U.s	6,930	-44%	—
Deaths	1,473	-30%	959,113

COVID-19 cases in Washington

CASE COUNTS

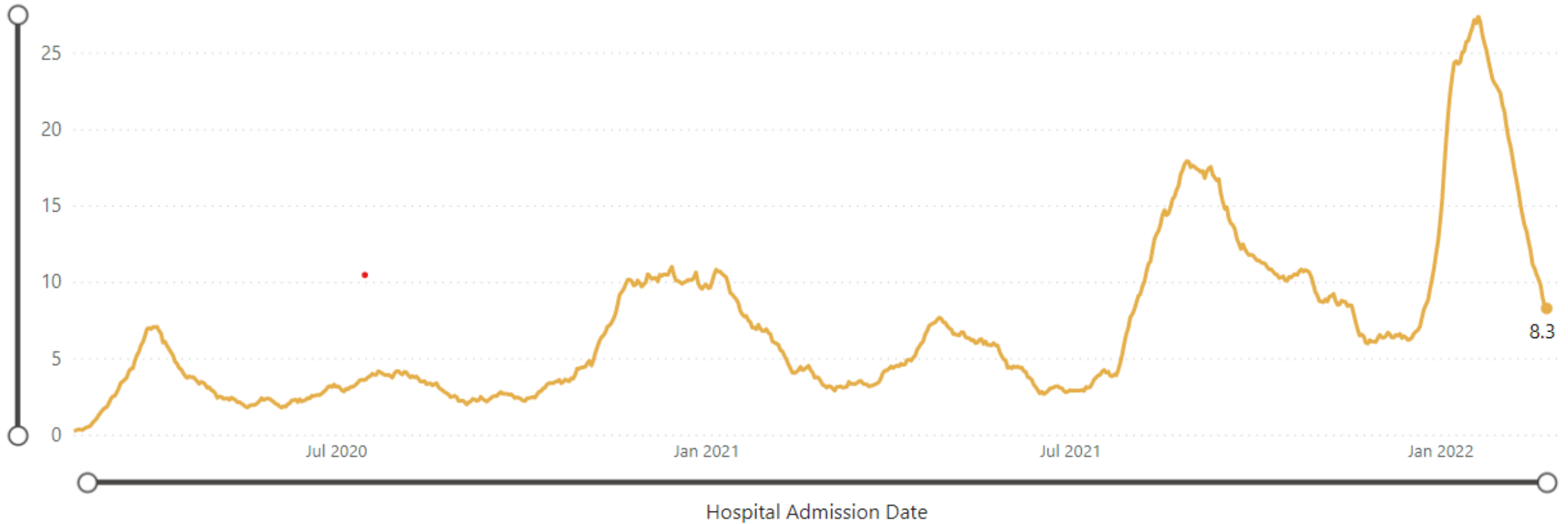
—● 7-Day Rolling Average ● Confirmed Cases ● Probable Cases ● Incomplete



Hospitalization Rates – as of March 3, 2022

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

—●— 7-Day Hospitalization Rate



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

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.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- **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.
- **Risk of Disease Change – Community Level Metric**



COVID-19

Community Levels

United States & Washington



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

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

Next Steps in Prevention

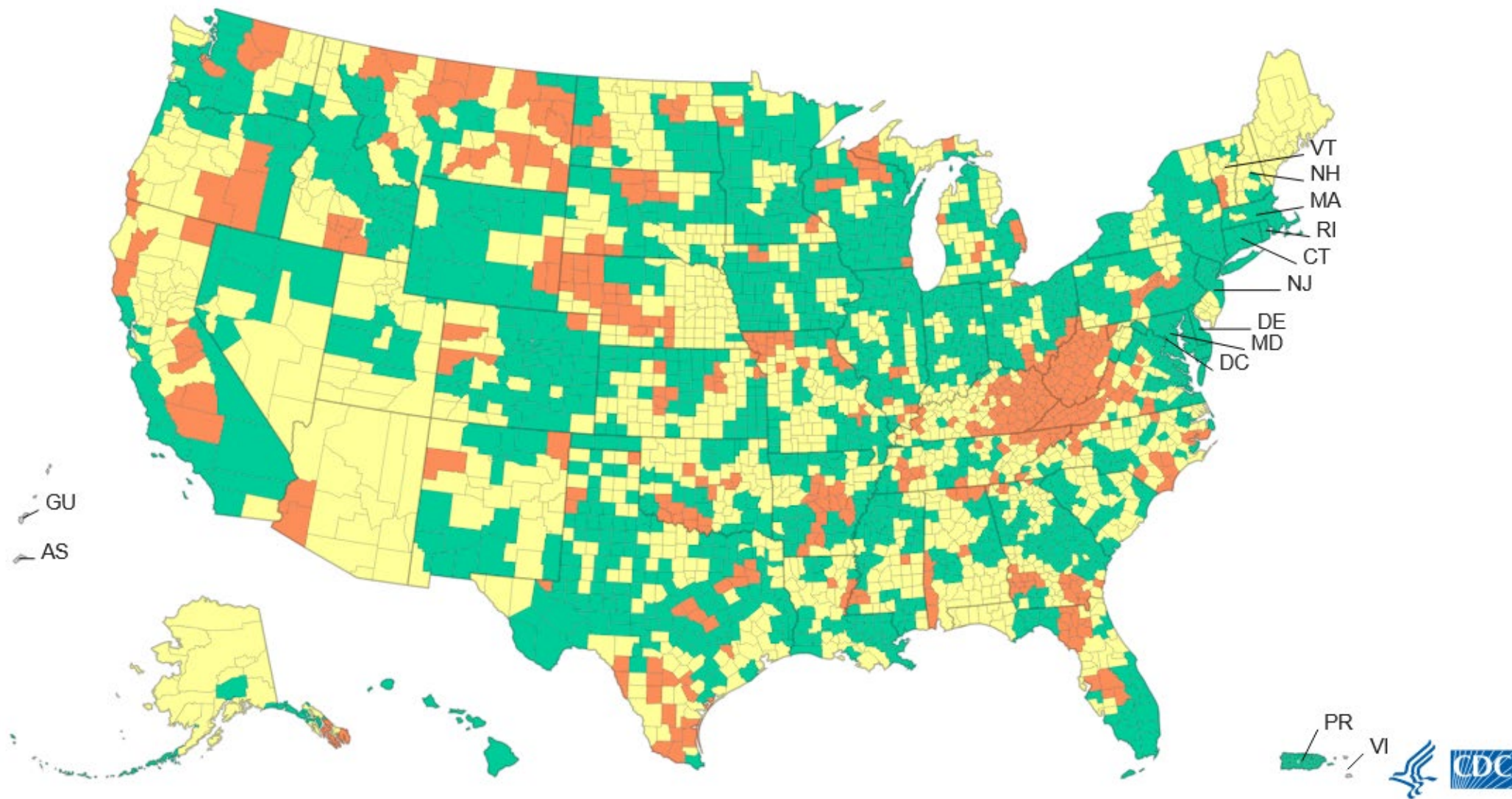
What Prevention Steps Should You Take Based on Your COVID-19 Community Level?

Low	Medium	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.		

Healthcare, Transportation, and School Settings

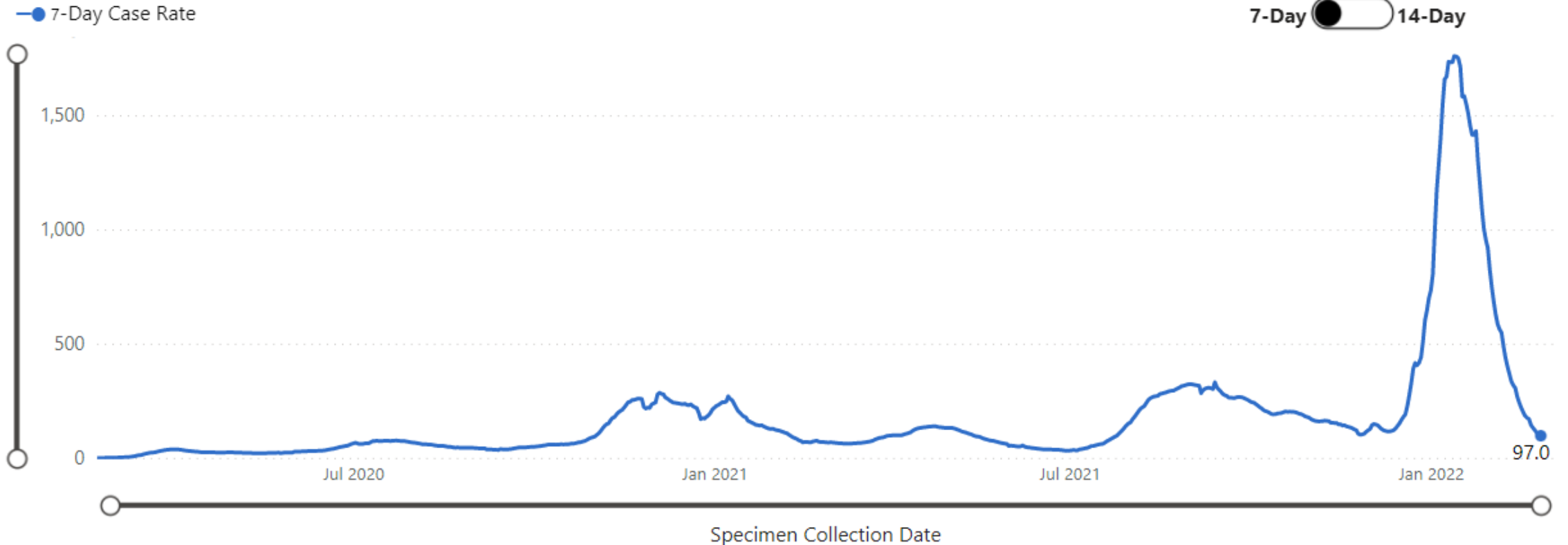
- **Health Care Settings**
 - COVID-19 Community Levels announced as of 2/25/2022 do not apply in health care settings such as hospitals and nursing homes. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>
- **Transportation Settings**
 - Requirement to wear masks 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

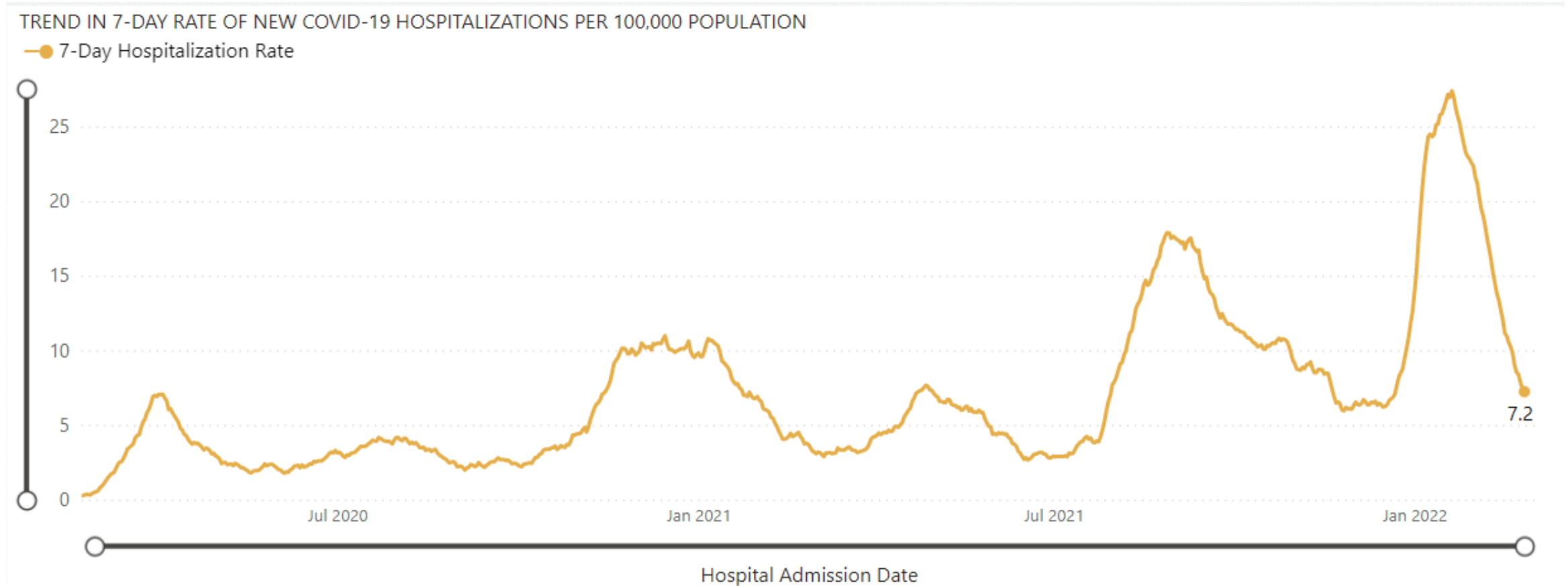


Case Rates – as of March 6, 2022

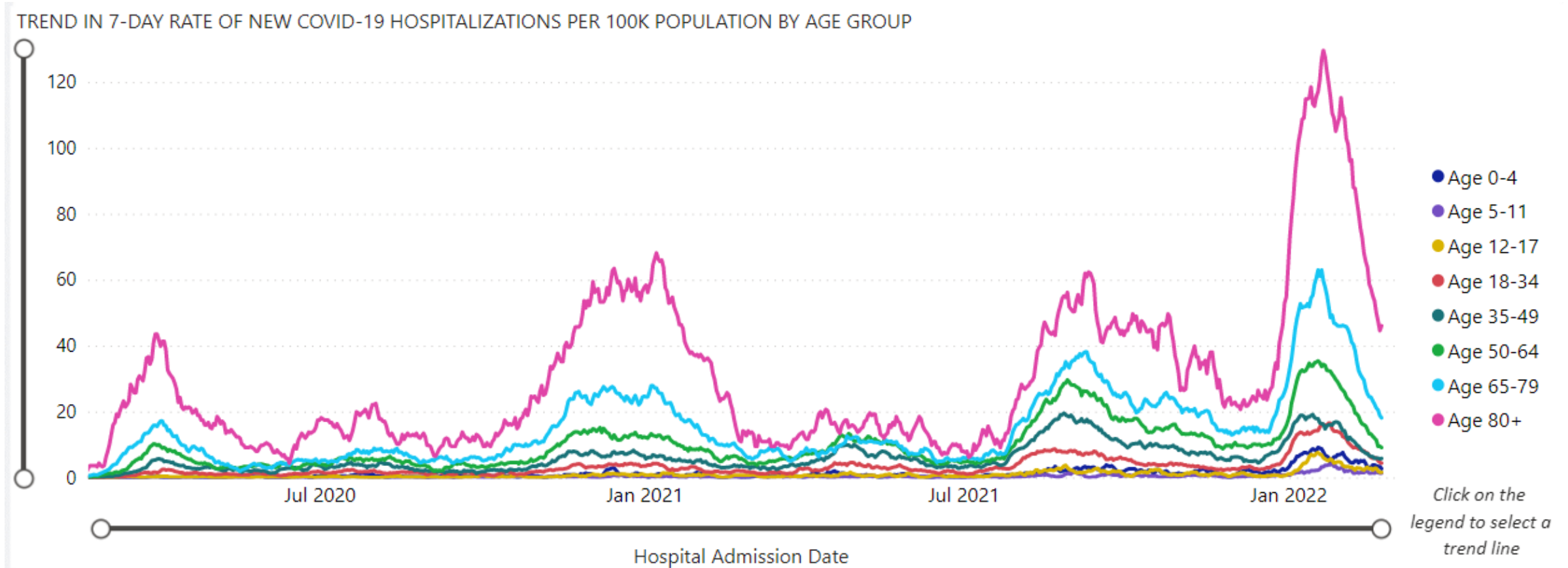
TREND IN 7-DAY RATE OF NEW COVID-19 CASES PER 100.000 POPULATION



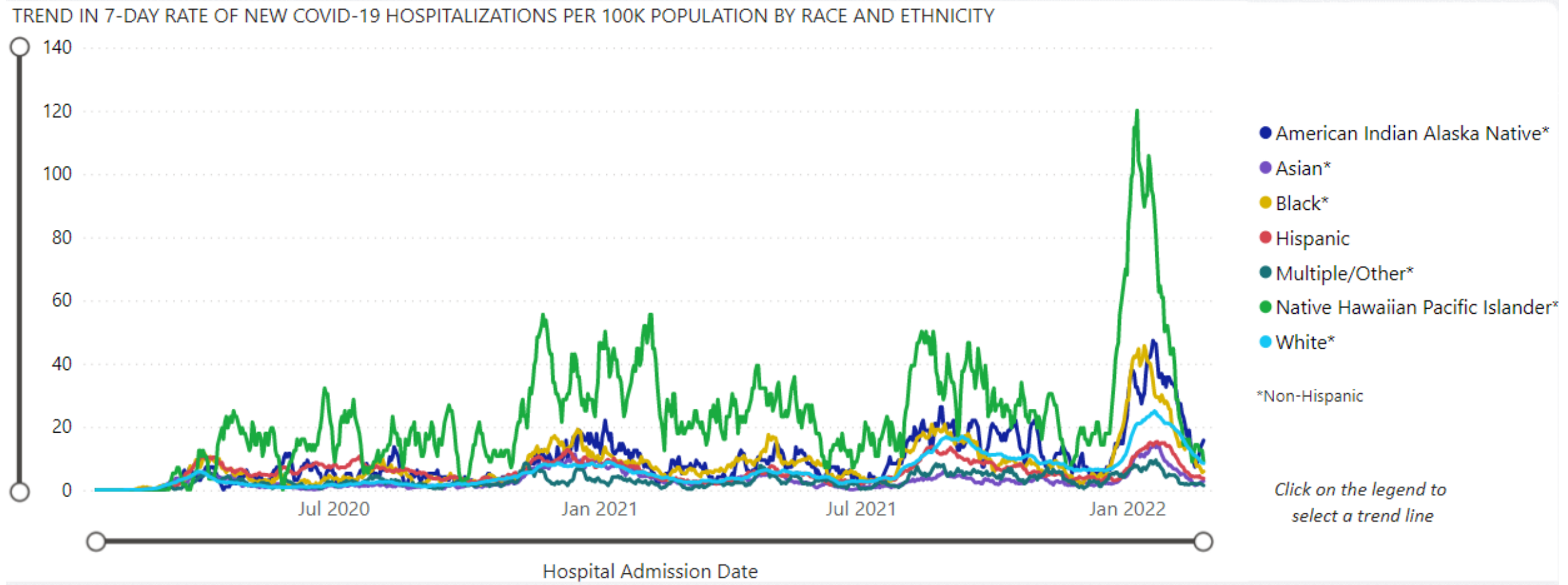
Hospitalization Rates – as of March 6, 2022



Hospitalization Rates by Age – as of March 3, 2022



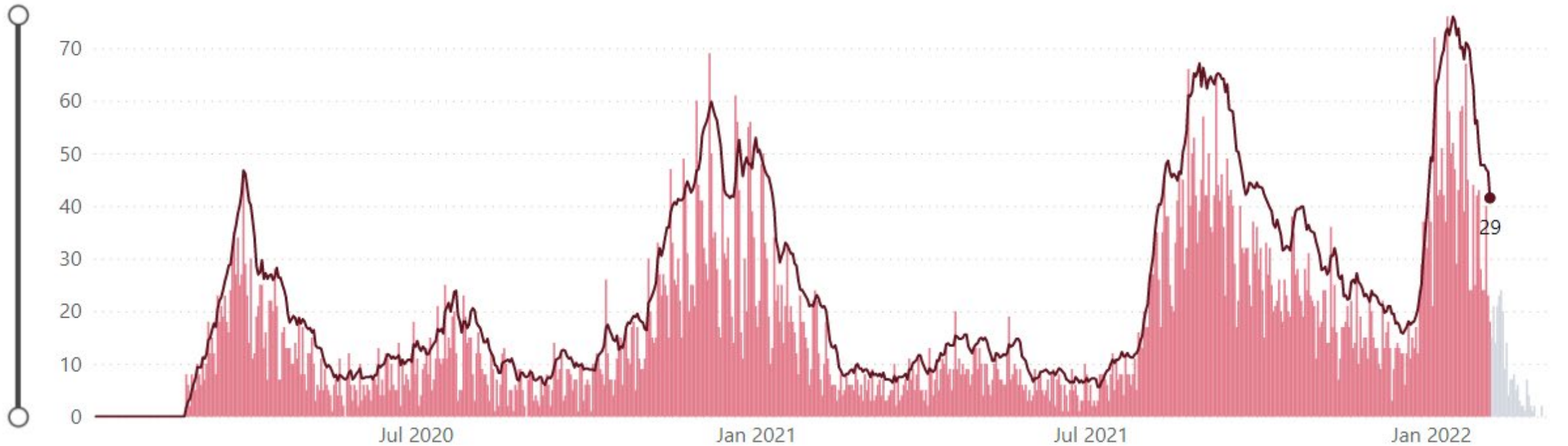
Hospitalization Rates by Race and Ethnicity – as of March 3, 2022



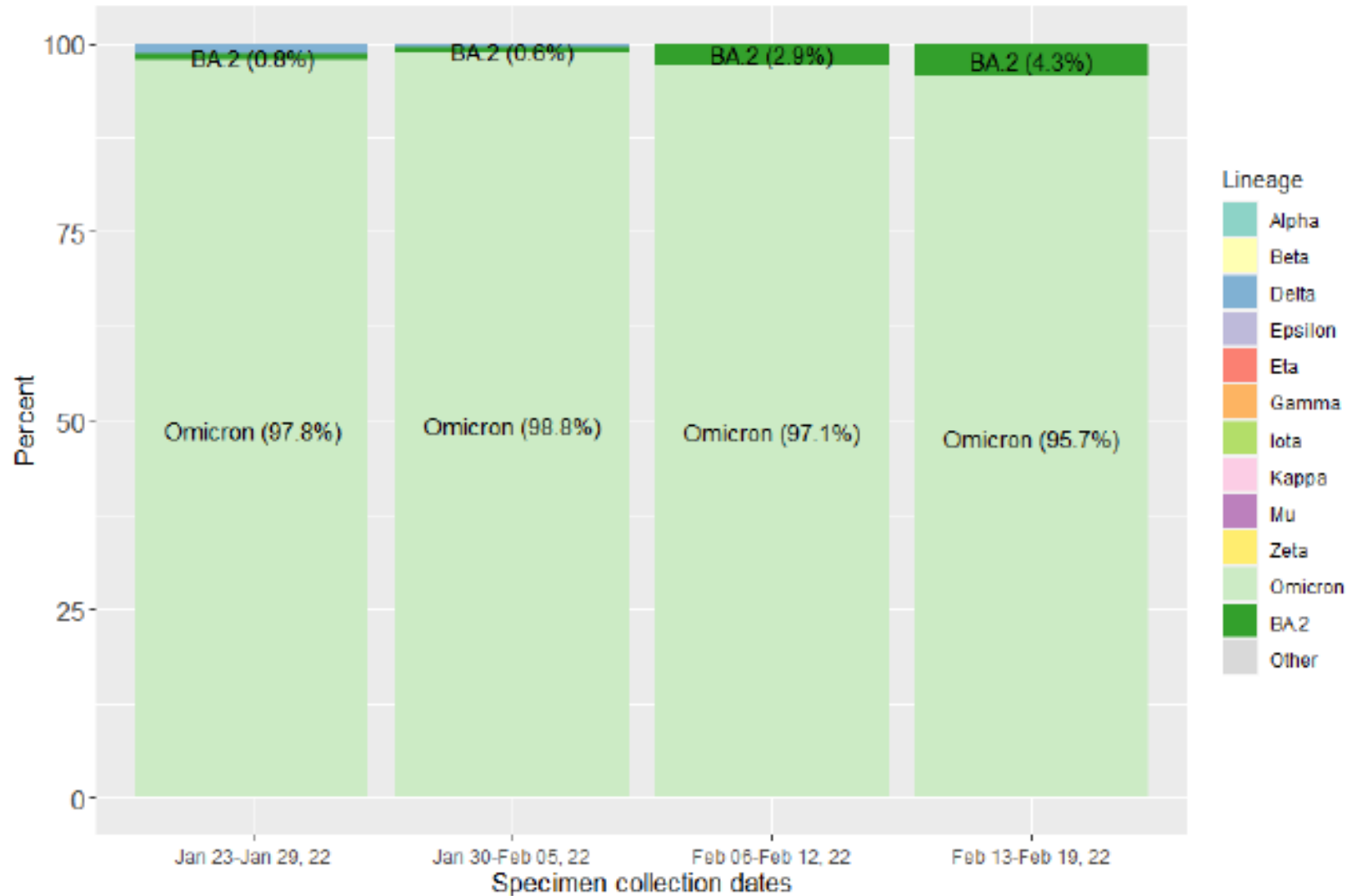
Death Counts – as of March 6, 2022

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+



COVID-19 Vaccines

in Washington



**Mask Up,
Washington.**

Visit www.doh.wa.gov



@WaDeptHealth
@WaHealthSec

As of February 26,
more than
13 million doses
of COVID-19 vaccine
have been given out
to more than
5.8 million people!



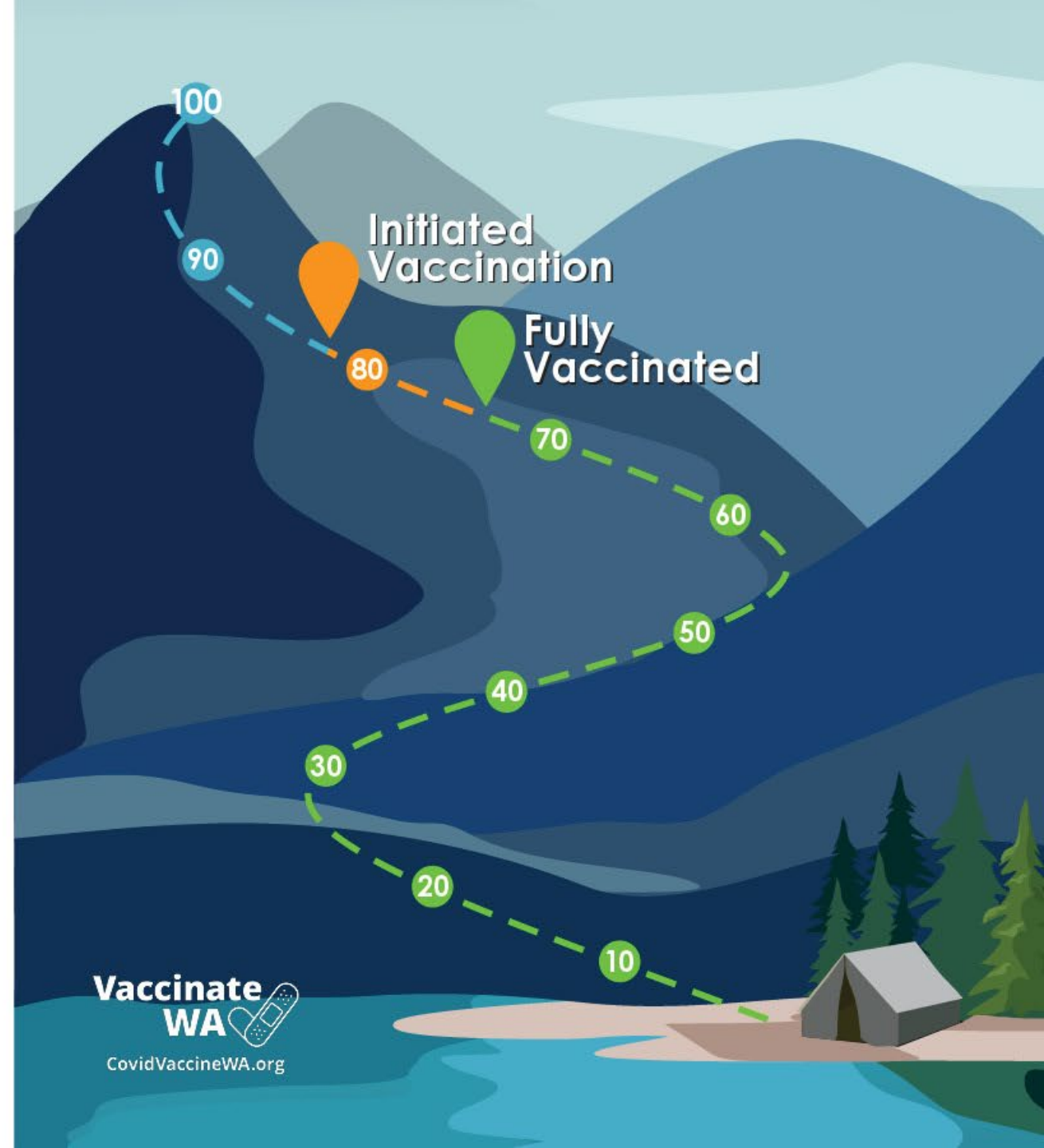


As of February 27,
more than 2.6 million
booster doses have been
given out across
Washington.

(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

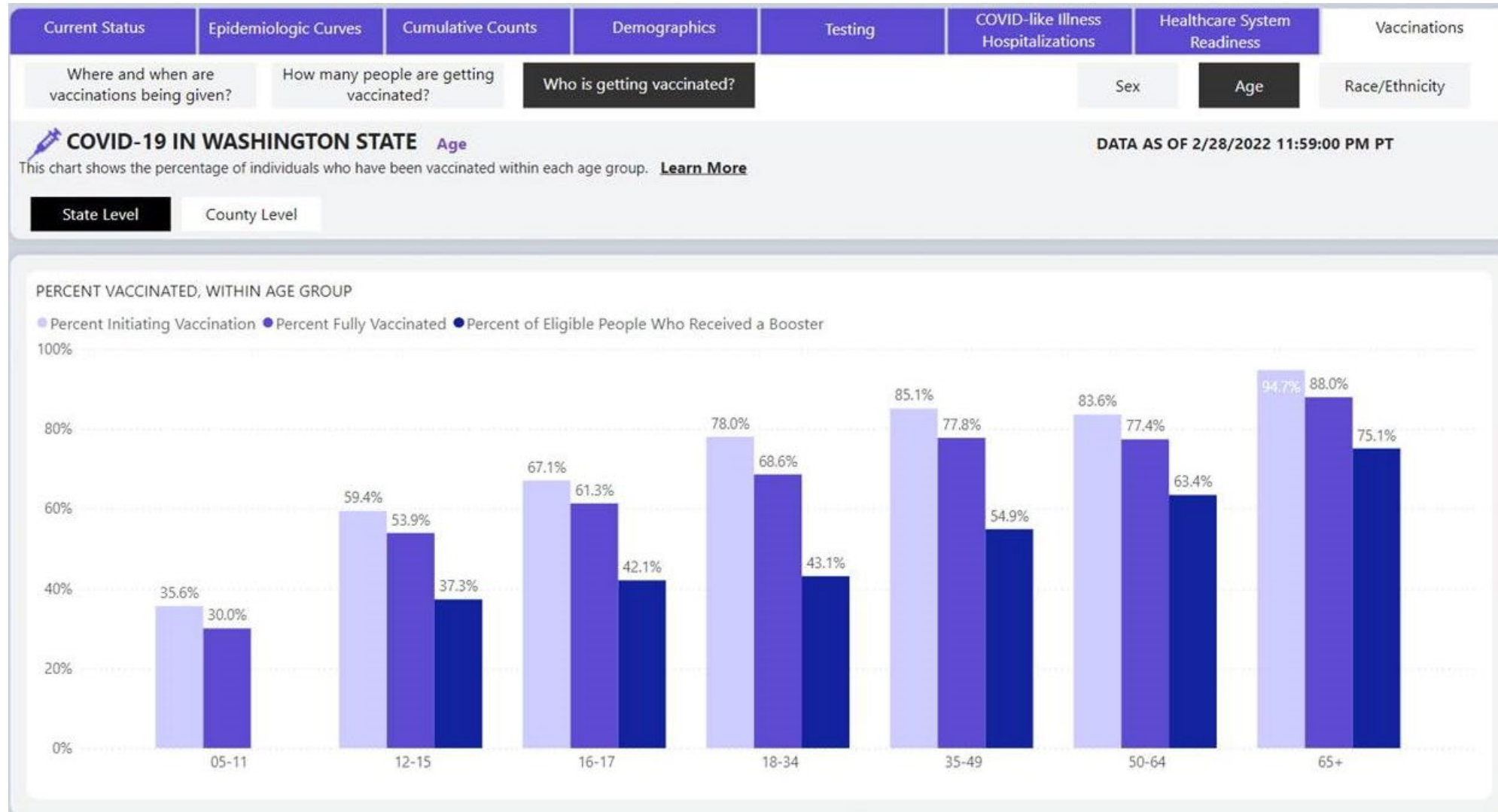
at least 2 months after completing
your primary vaccination



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



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



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

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 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

**Vaccinate
WA** 
CovidVaccineWA.org

Protecting All Washingtonians



**Mask Up,
Washington.**

Visit www.doh.wa.gov



@WaDeptHealth
@WaHealthSec



13 MILL!

13,000,000 COVID Vaccine Doses

Blood Donations Needed!



CODE
RED

LOCAL SUPPLIES ARE AT EMERGENCY LEVELS.

schedule.bloodworksnw.org

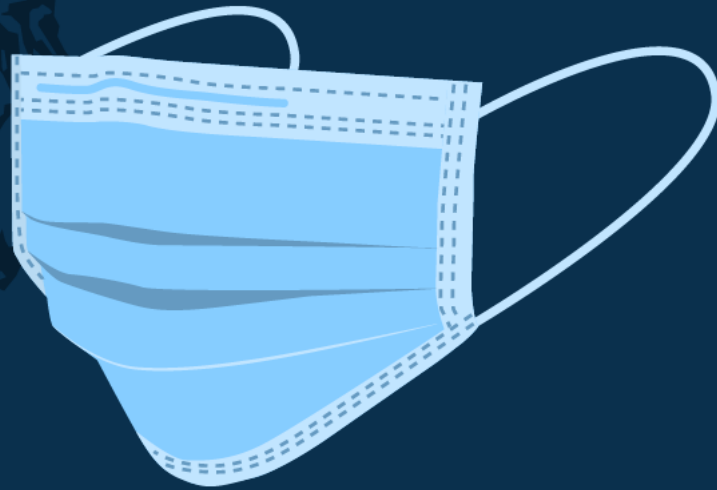
**Local blood supplies are
at emergency levels**

If you feel healthy, please donate
ASAP – esp. type O donors

Schedule your donation by
calling **800-398-7888** or visit
schedule.bloodworksnw.org,
redcrossblood.org or your
nearest location

WASHINGTON

Beginning March 12



*STATEWIDE INDOOR MASK
REQUIREMENT WILL LIFT*

Protecting All Washingtonians

- (1) Public Health Education and Communication
- (2) Vaccines/Testing/Treatments/PPE
- (3) Data Monitoring
- (4) Health System Capacity



2022 – Working together for brighter tomorrow



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