

COVID-19 update

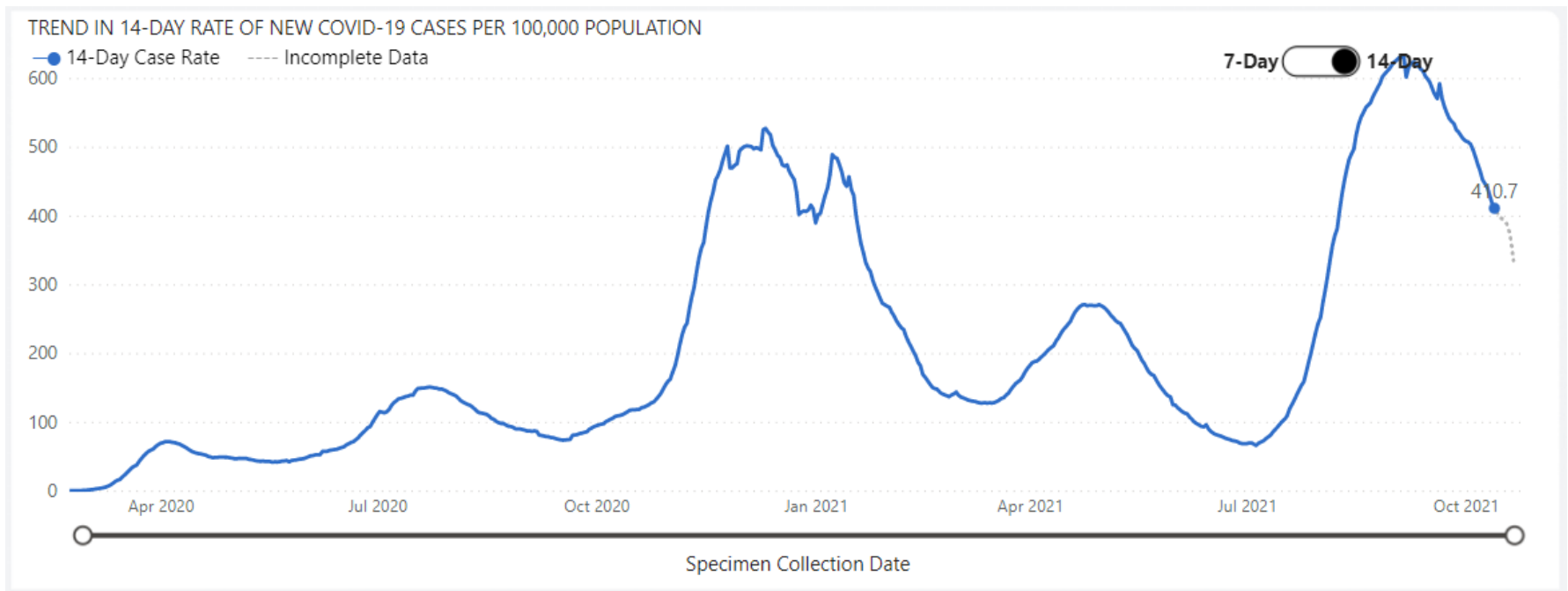
Alan Melnick, MD, MPH, CPH

Oct. 27, 2021



Washington COVID-19 activity

- State rates for COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths are decreasing but remain high.
 - All are similar to or higher than winter rates.
- Total hospital occupancy is consistently higher than 90% and is expected to persist through the fall.

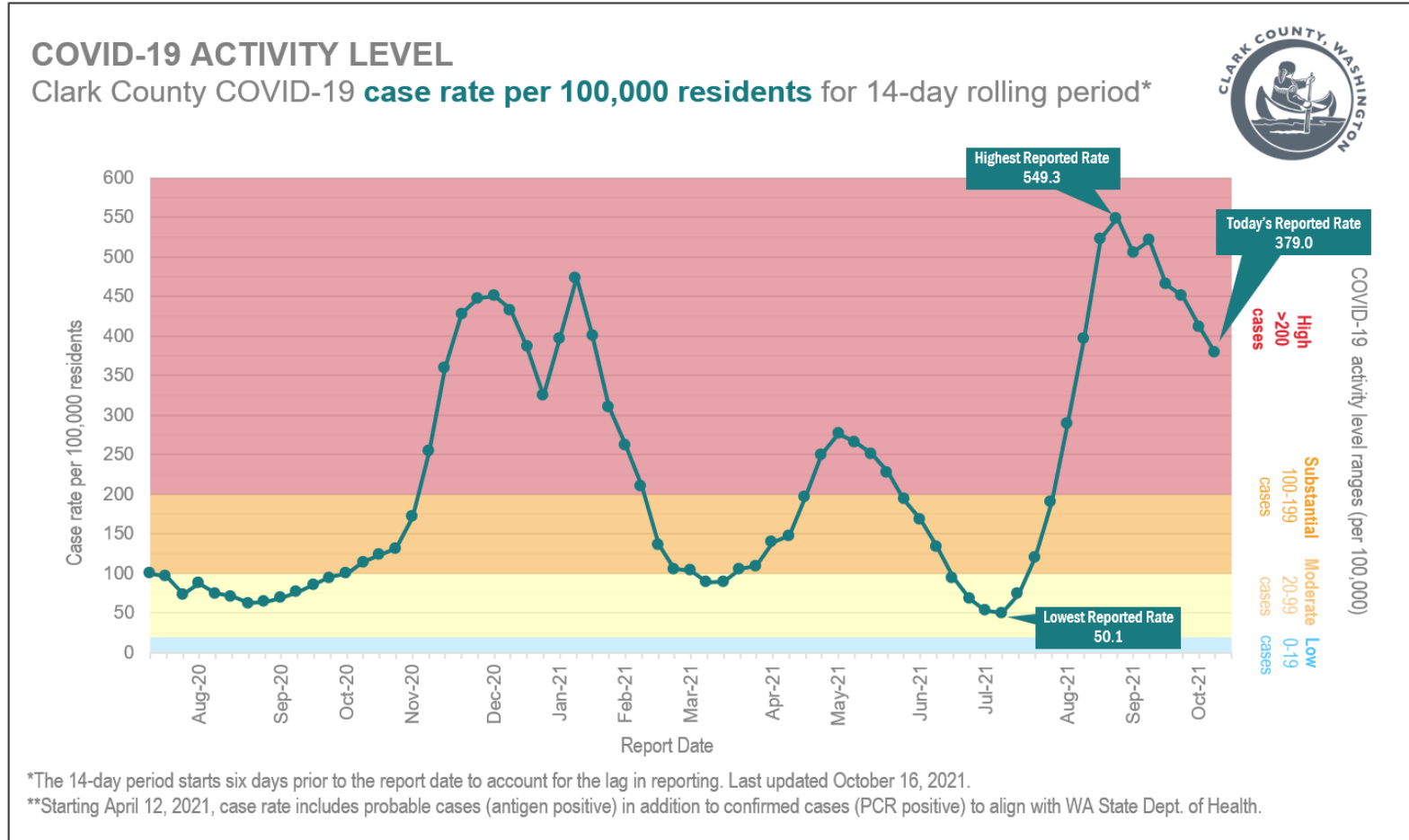


Clark County COVID-19 activity

- COVID-19 activity in Clark County is slowly decreasing but remains high.
- Hospitalizations are also decreasing but remain similar to rates during winter.
 - Hospital beds about 93% occupied and ICU beds about 70% occupied.
 - 15% of beds and 30% of ICU beds are occupied by COVID-19 cases.
- COVID-19 deaths began to increase in late August and remain high.



Clark County COVID-19 activity



COVID-19 vaccination

- COVID-19 vaccination continues to increase slowly statewide and locally.
 - Statewide: 70% of residents 12+ years old are fully vaccinated
 - Clark County: 64% of residents 12+ years old are fully vaccinated

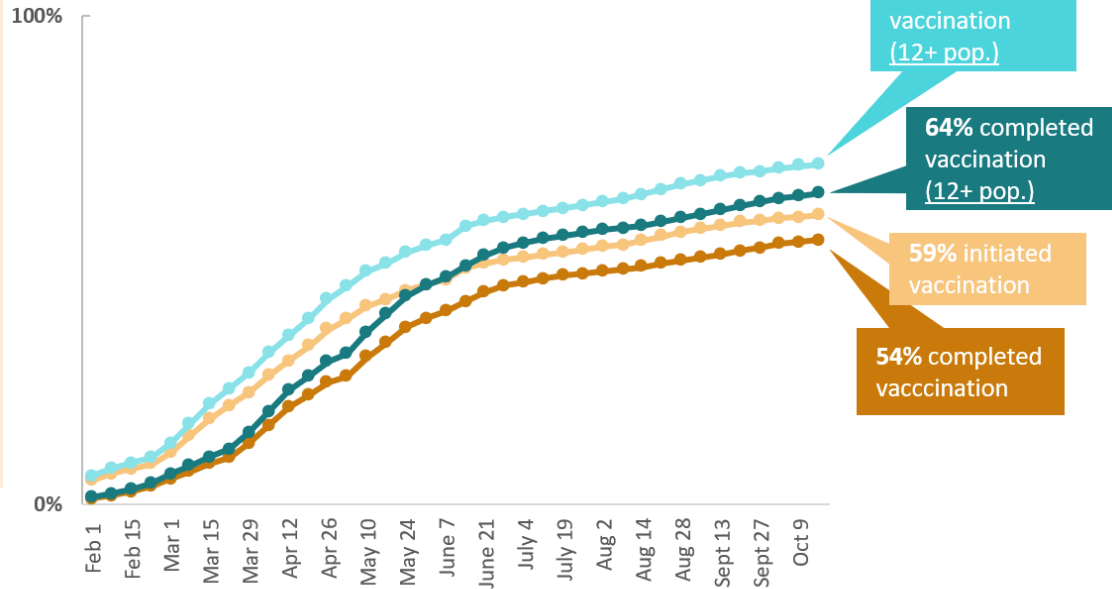
As of October 16, 2021

561,509 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in Clark County.

295,643 people in Clark County have *initiated vaccination.

270,328 people in Clark County have completed vaccination.

Percent of the Clark County population that have *initiated and completed vaccination against COVID-19



*People initiating vaccination represent the total number of people who have received at least one dose of any type of COVID-19 vaccine. People who are fully vaccinated represent the number of people who have received a second dose of a two-dose vaccine or one dose of a single-shot vaccine. Individuals who are fully vaccinated are included in the count of both people initiating vaccination and people fully vaccinated.



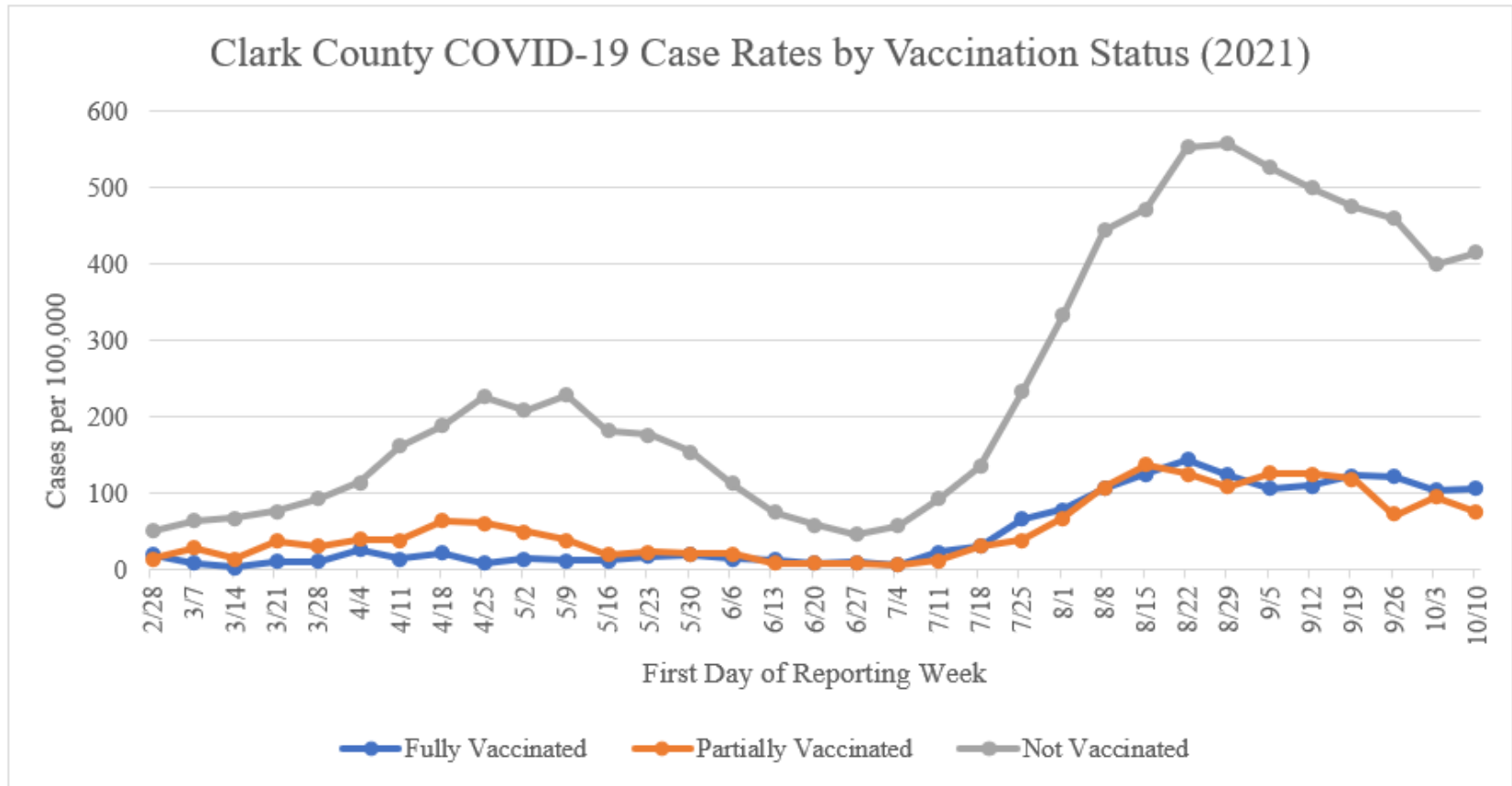
Clark County cases by vaccination status

- Clark County data through mid-October shows rates of COVID-19 infection, hospitalization and death continue to be highest among those who are unvaccinated.
- Overall rates have been slowly declining over the last six weeks, after reaching highest points since the pandemic began.
 - Those decreases are also reflected in the rates by vaccination status, particularly among unvaccinated people, who had significantly higher case, hospitalization and death rates than fully vaccinated people.
 - **Fully vaccinated** = two weeks have passed since completing the vaccination series (two doses of Pfizer or Moderna; one dose of Johnson & Johnson)
 - **Partially vaccinated** = received only one dose of a two-dose series or completed vaccination less than two weeks earlier
 - **Unvaccinated** = have not received any doses of COVID-19 vaccine



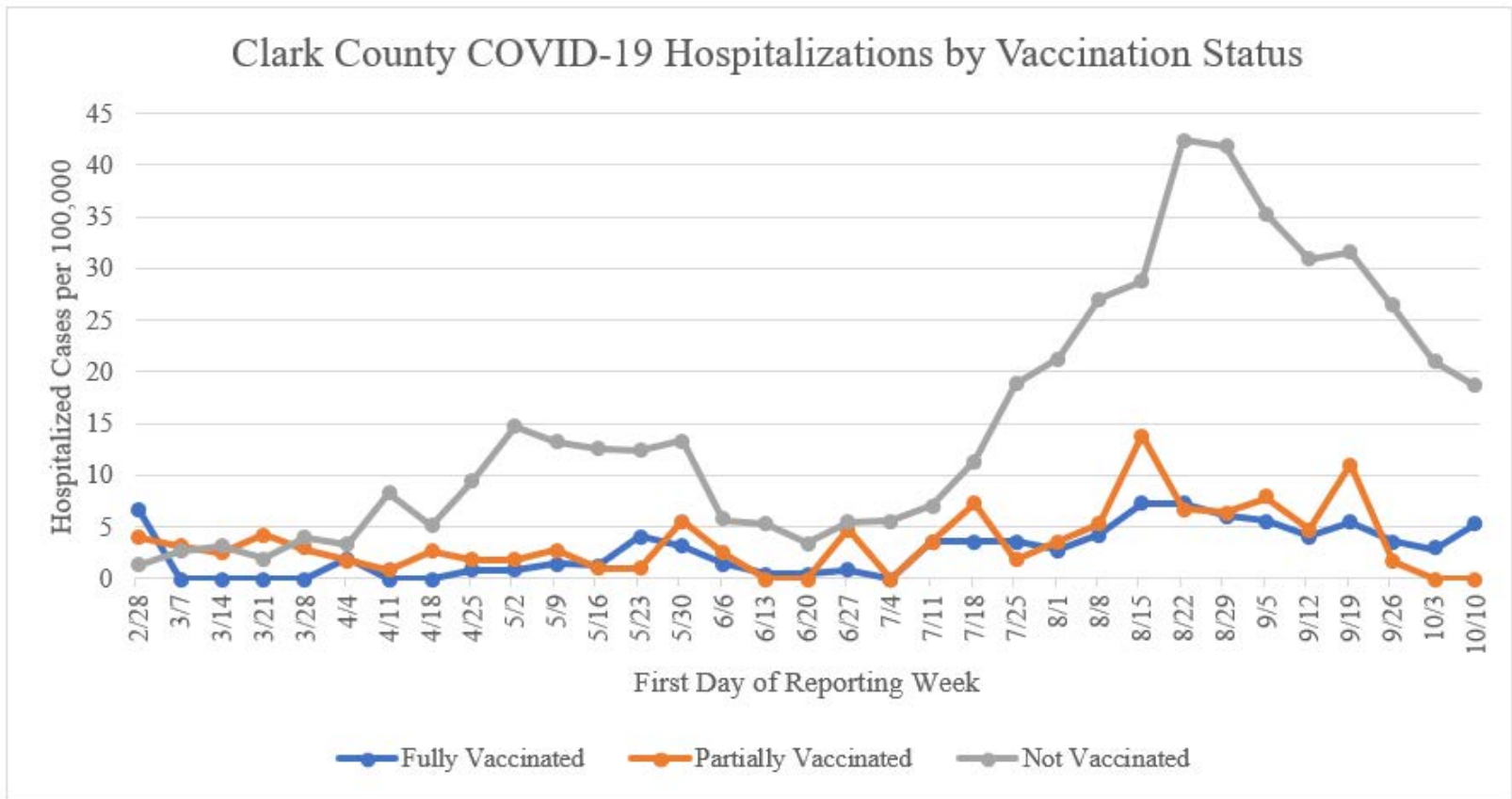
Clark County cases by vaccination status

- During the most recent week of complete data, the rate for unvaccinated cases was about **4 times higher** than fully vaccinated cases.



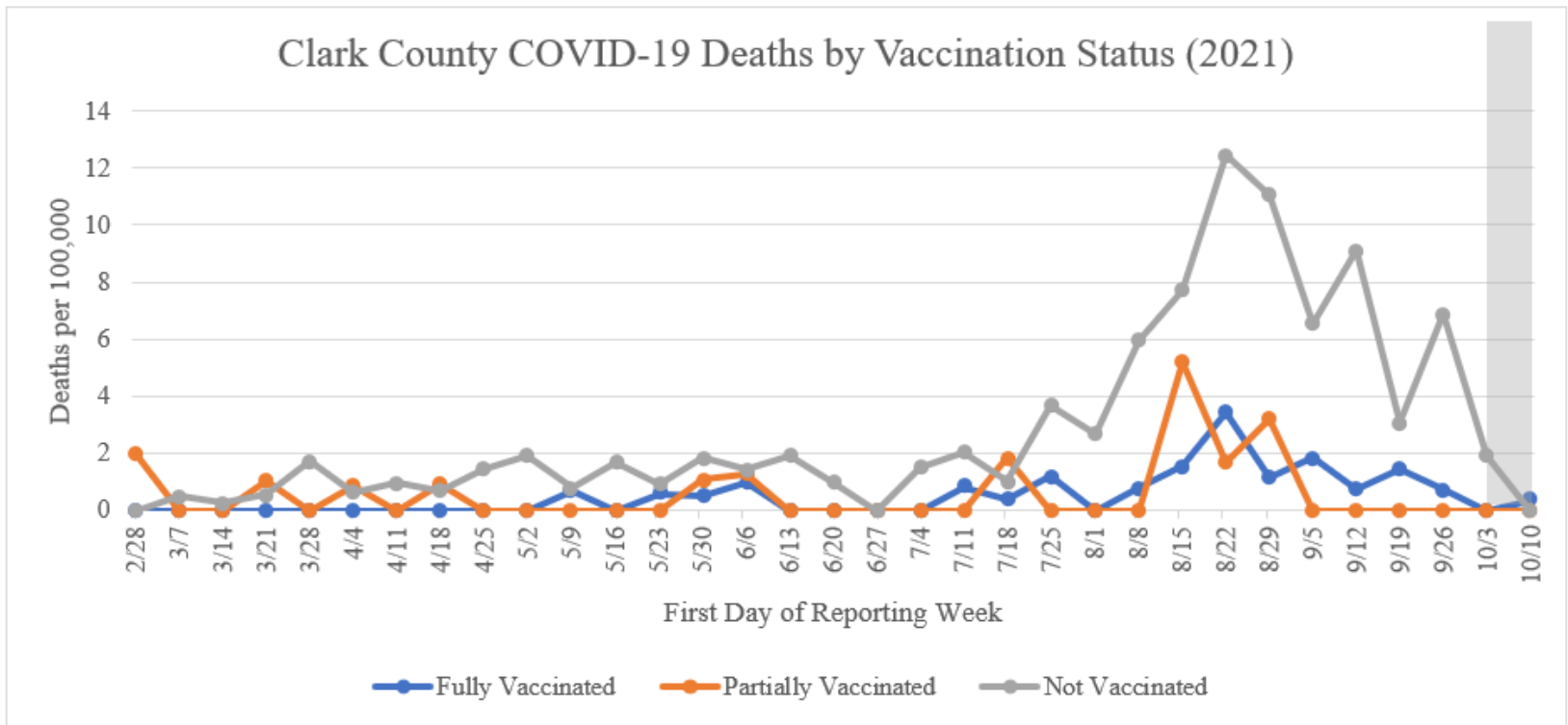
Clark County hospitalizations by vaccination status

- During the most recent week of complete data, the rate for unvaccinated hospitalizations was **3 ½ times higher** than fully vaccinated.



Clark County COVID-19 deaths by vaccination status

- During the most recent week of complete data, the rate for unvaccinated deaths was about **10 times higher** than fully vaccinated.
 - Death reporting is delayed about 10-12 days until death certificate is recorded by DOH; data for previous 32 days is considered incomplete.



Shaded area indicates reporting for these weeks are not yet final



COVID-19 vaccine boosters

- The CDC recently expanded eligibility for COVID-19 vaccine boosters.
 - Boosters are now available for all three COVID-19 vaccines for certain populations.
- The COVID-19 vaccines continue to be very effective at preventing severe illness that can lead to hospitalization and death.
- But recent data suggests vaccination is becoming less effective at preventing infection or milder illness as time goes on.
 - Still, most COVID-19 cases continue to be in those who are not vaccinated.
- Data from clinical trials show that a booster dose can increase the immune response and provide improved protection against COVID-19, including the delta variant.



COVID-19 vaccine boosters

Pfizer and Moderna

- The following groups are eligible for a booster dose **6 months or more** after completing the two-dose series:
 - 65 years and older
 - Age 18+ who live in long-term care settings
 - Age 18+ who have underlying medical conditions
 - Age 18+ who work or live in high-risk settings

Johnson & Johnson

- Recommended for everyone 18 and older who received the Johnson and Johnson vaccine **2 months or more** ago.
- People who are eligible for a booster dose can choose which vaccine they receive as a booster dose (can be different than primary doses).
- Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson booster doses are the same as the first/second doses.
 - Moderna booster doses are $\frac{1}{2}$ doses.



COVID-19 vaccine for children

- The Pfizer vaccine is currently available for people 12 years and older.
 - Pfizer is the only vaccine authorized for people younger than 18.
- The FDA and CDC advisory committees are meeting soon to review data and consider allowing Pfizer vaccine for children 5-11 years old.
 - FDA committee met Tuesday, Oct. 26
 - CDC committee meets Nov. 2-3
- After FDA and CDC decisions, Western States Scientific Safety Review Work Group will review the data and determine if states should adopt the CDC recommendations.
- Then DOH will authorize vaccine providers to administer Pfizer vaccine to children 5-11 years old.
- The vaccine may be available for children 6 months and older this winter.



Flu vaccination

- Flu activity was low last year because of flu vaccination and COVID-19 restrictions.
 - With many of the COVID-19 restrictions lifted this year, flu has a higher chance of spreading in the community.
- Flu vaccination is the best way to prevent flu illness and hospitalization, which can help reduce the burden on our hospitals.
 - COVID-19 hospitalizations continue to be at levels higher than we saw last winter.
- Flu shots are safe and recommended for everyone 6 months and older every year.
- Getting vaccinated now ensures protection when flu activity picks up and will provide protection throughout flu season.
- People who are not yet vaccinated against COVID-19 – or those who are eligible for a booster dose – can safely get flu and COVID-19 vaccines at the same time.

