

COVID-19 update

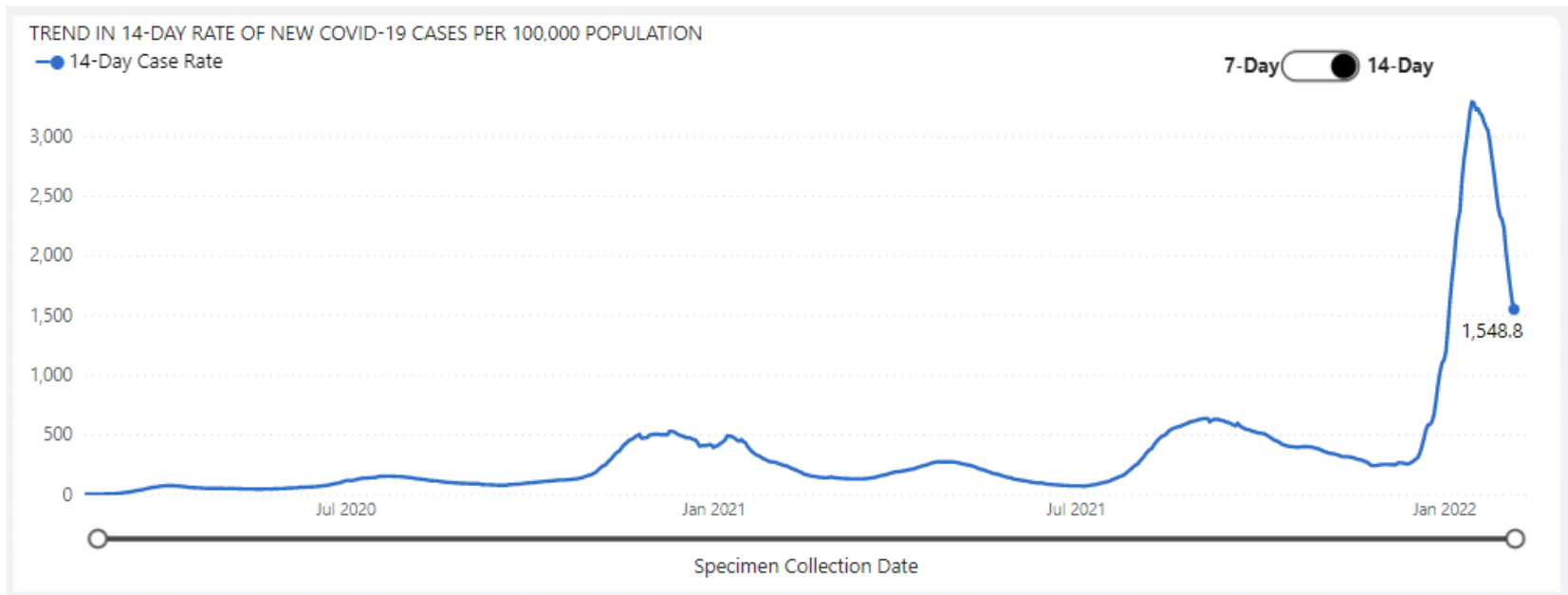
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Feb. 23, 2022



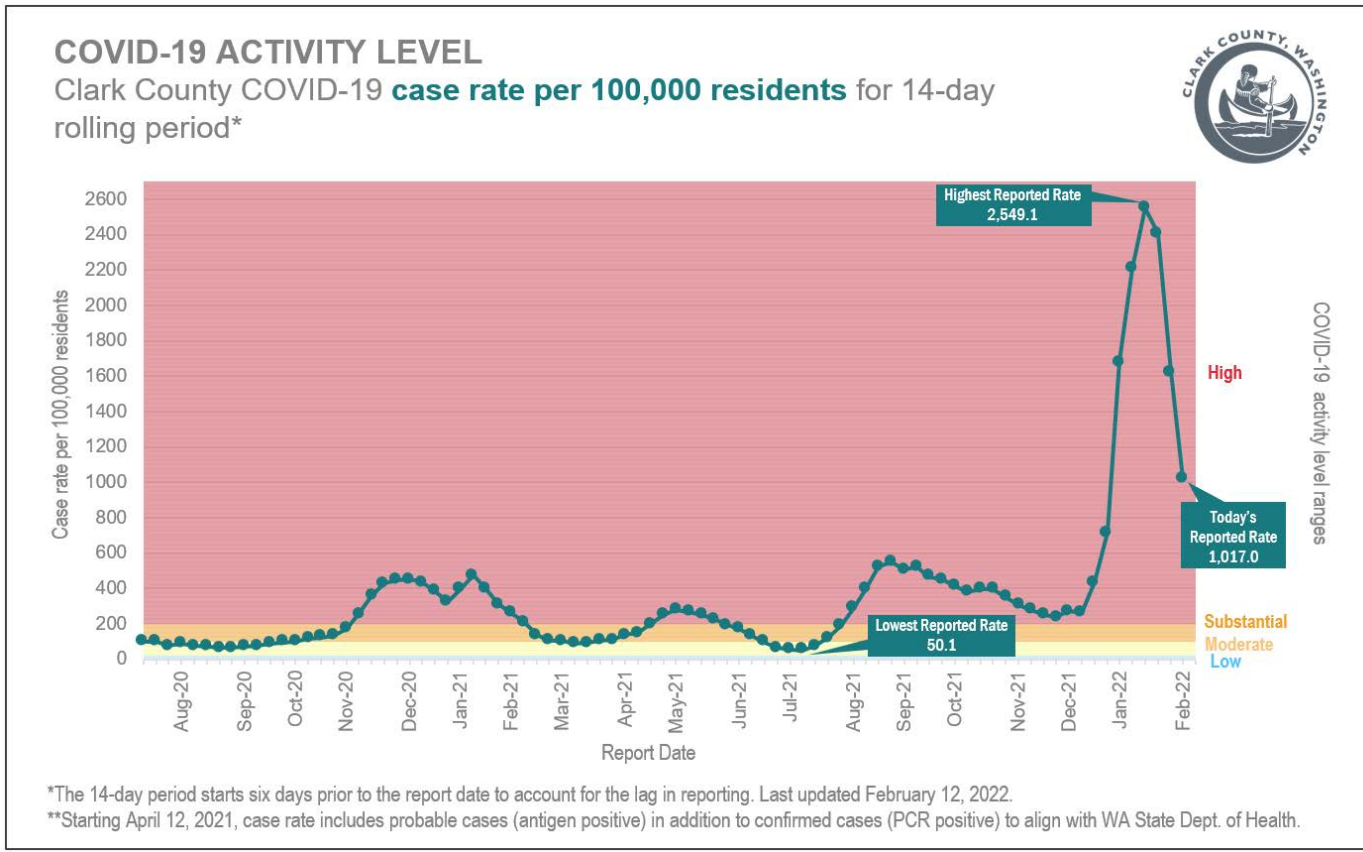
Washington COVID-19 activity

- Statewide COVID-19 case rates are decreasing but remain high.
 - 14-day rate through Feb. 5 (most recent complete data) is 1,549 cases per 100,000 people.
- Statewide rate of new hospitalizations is also decreasing.
 - 7-day rate as of Feb. 5 is 21 new admissions per 100,000 people.
 - 25% of hospital beds are occupied by COVID-19 patients.
- Deaths remain high statewide but are beginning to decrease.



Clark County COVID-19 activity

- COVID-19 activity in Clark County is also decreasing but remains high.
 - 14-day rate as of Feb. 12 (preliminary data) is 1,017 cases per 100,000 people.
 - Peak 14-day rate was 2,549 cases per 100,000 in late January.



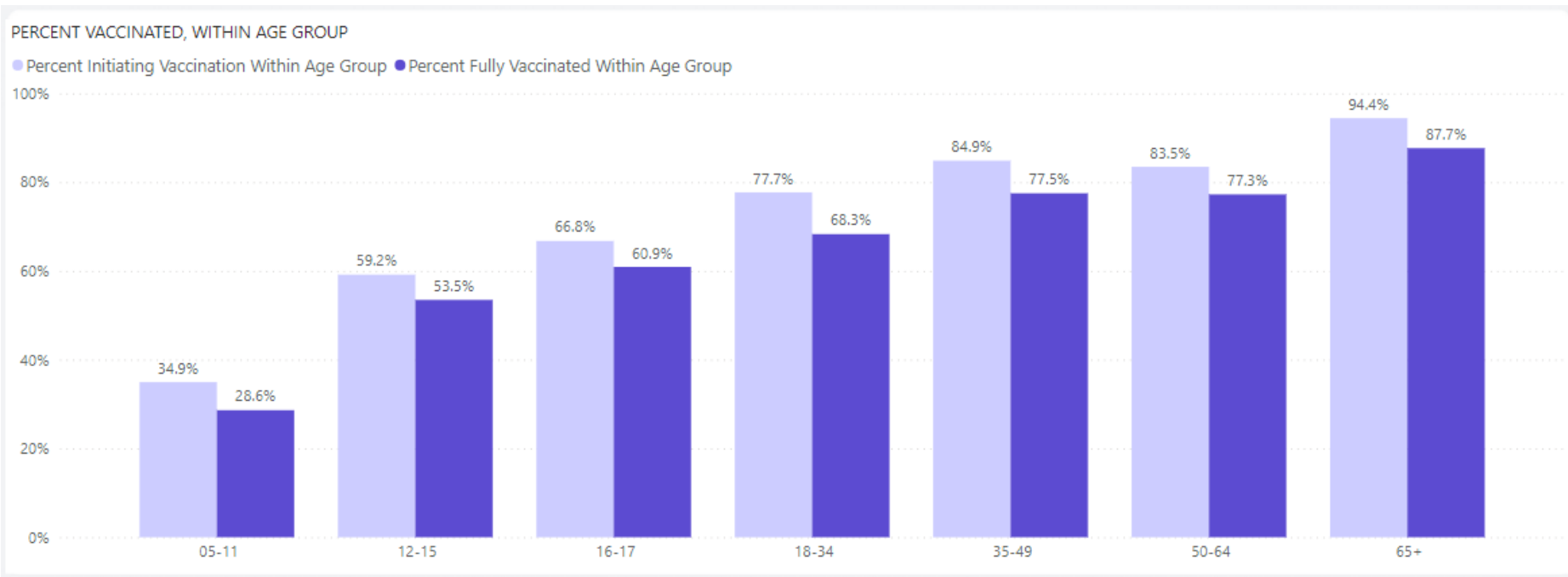
Clark County COVID-19 activity

- Clark County COVID-19 hospitalizations are still high.
 - Rate of new hospitalizations was decreasing but recently increased slightly.
 - 7-day rate as of Feb. 5 is 26 new admissions per 100,000 people
- Clark County hospital occupancy, as of Feb. 15:
 - 97% of beds occupied
 - 96% of ICU beds occupied
 - 27% of beds occupied by COVID-19 cases and PUIs
 - 27% of ICU beds are occupied by COVID-19 cases and PUIs
 - 105 COVID-19 cases and 31 PUI hospitalized
- Clark County COVID-19 deaths appear to be beginning to decrease.



COVID-19 vaccination

- Statewide, nearly 13 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine administered.
 - 78% of residents 5+ years old have at least 1 dose and 71% are fully vaccinated
 - About 2.6 million people received an additional dose

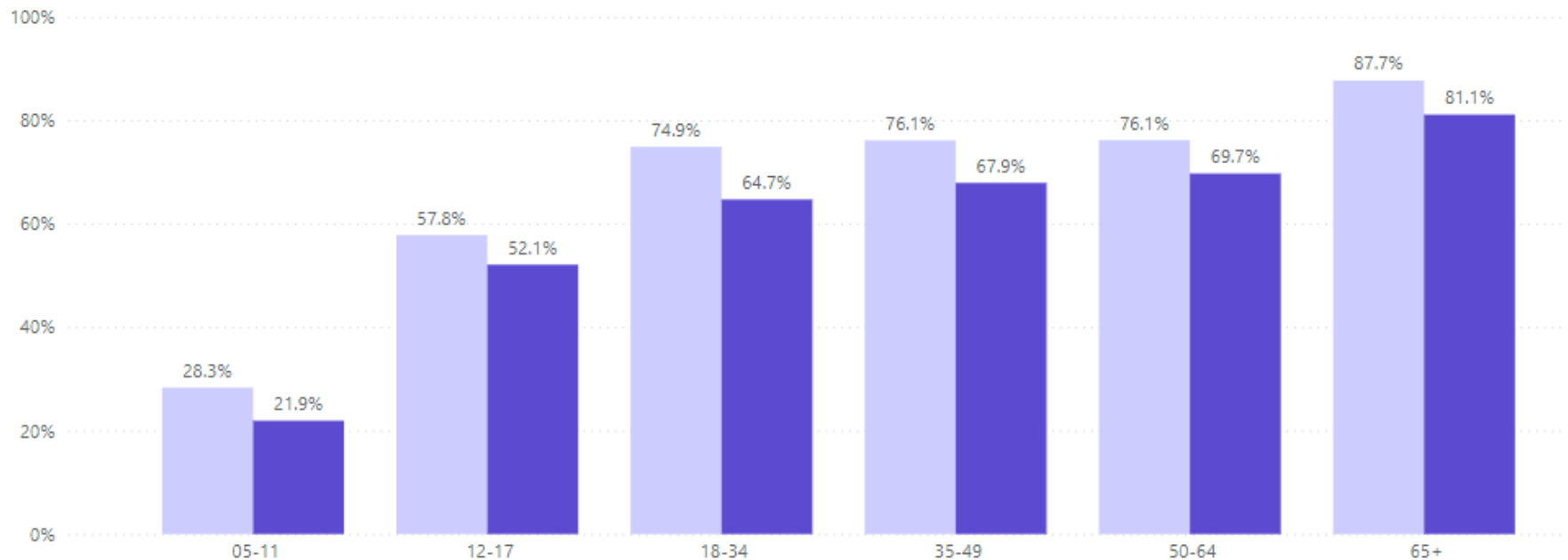


COVID-19 vaccination

- In Clark County, 760,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine administered.
 - 72% of residents 5+ years old have at least 1 dose and 64% are fully vaccinated.
 - 148,700 people have received additional dose

PERCENT VACCINATED, WITHIN AGE GROUP

● Percent Initiating Vaccination Within Age Group ● Percent Fully Vaccinated Within Age Group



• To protect privacy, counts of less than 10 are not reported. Some additional values that could allow someone to calculate those small numbers are also not reported.

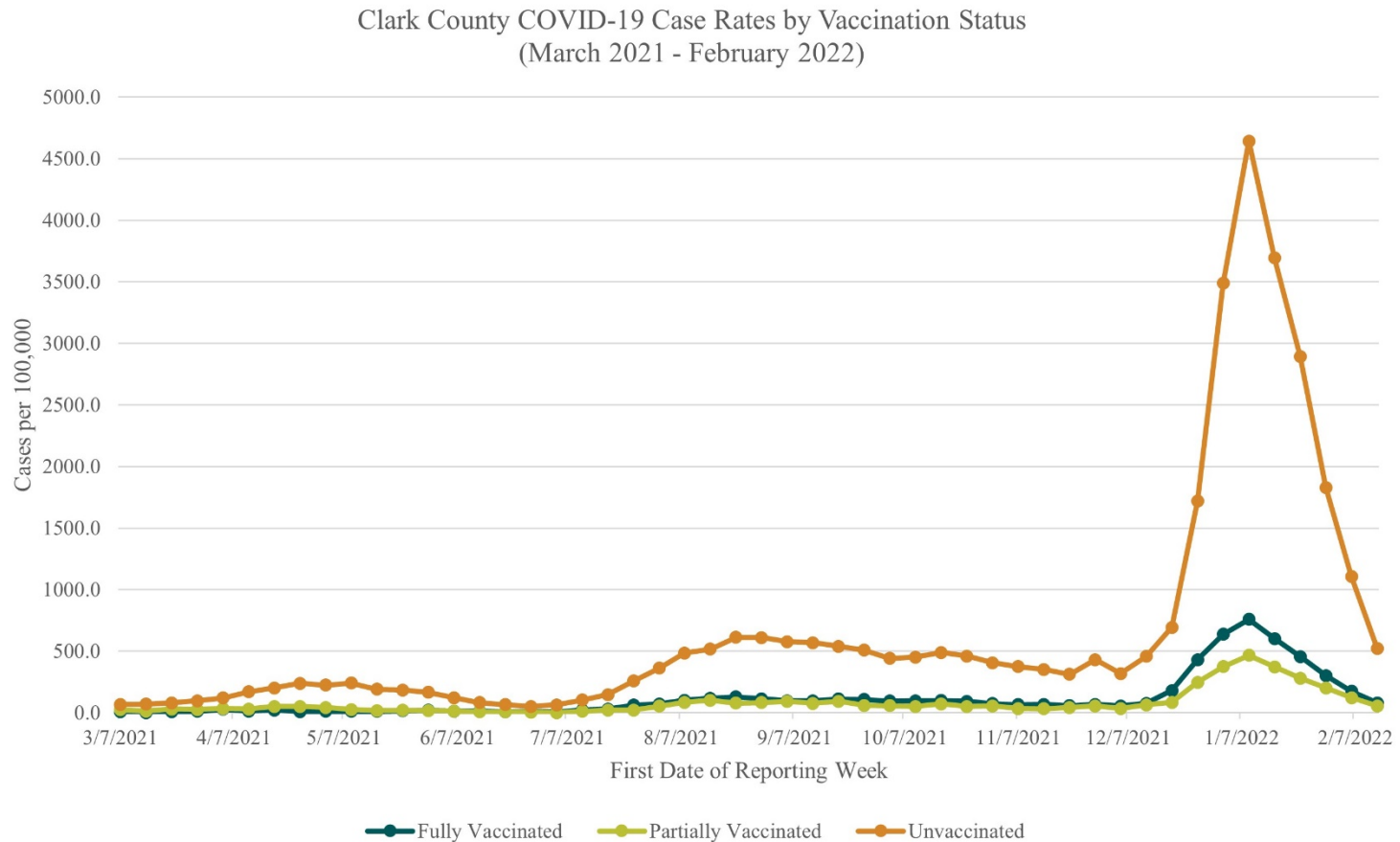
Clark County rates by vaccination status

- Clark County data through Feb. 19, **while omicron was the predominant strain circulating**, shows that case, hospitalization and death rates continue to be highest among people who are unvaccinated.
- Overall rates began to increase significantly in January with the arrival of the omicron variant.
 - Rates increased among all groups – unvaccinated, partially vaccinated and fully vaccinated – but were consistently highest among those who were unvaccinated.
- Rates have been decreasing over the last several weeks but continue to be several times higher among those who are unvaccinated compared to fully vaccinated.



Clark County cases by vaccination status

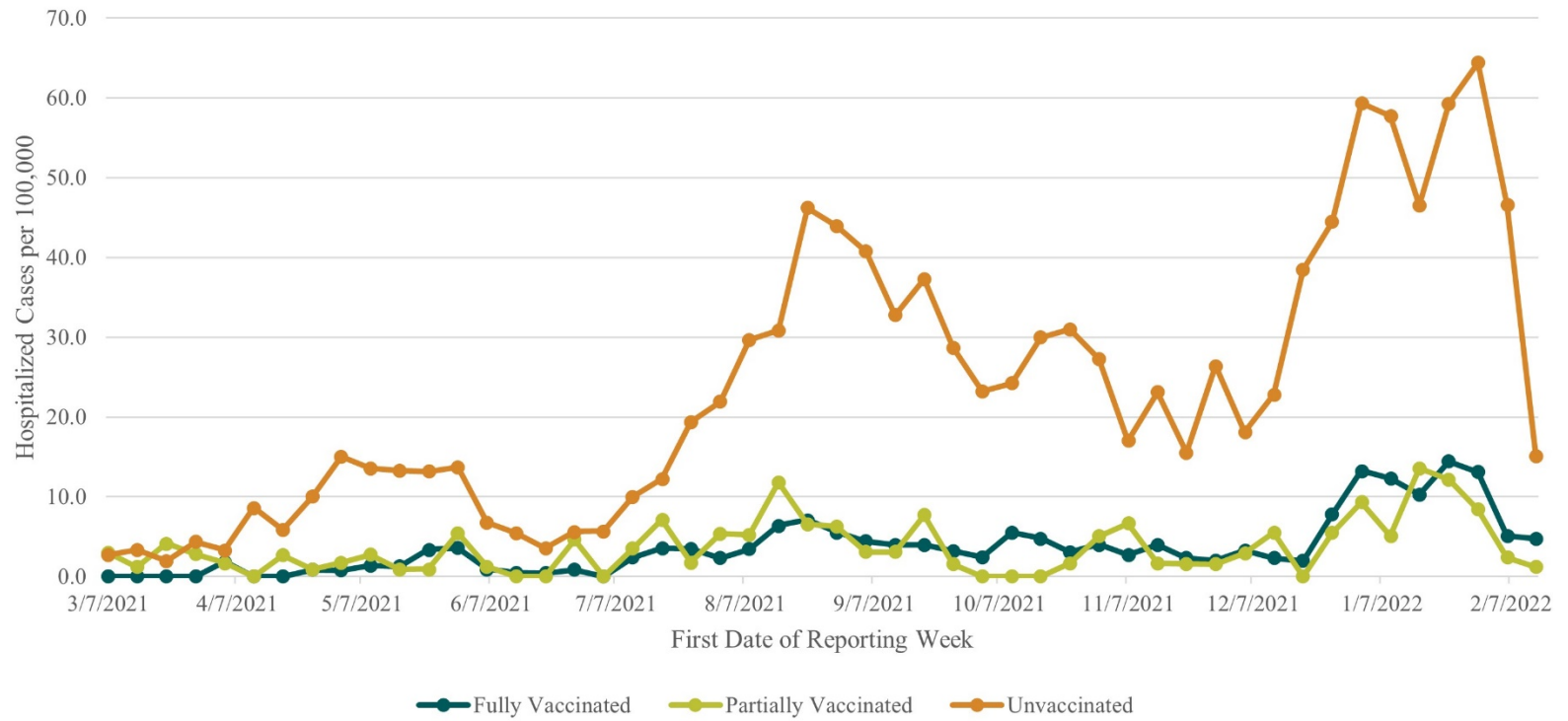
- During the most recent week of complete data, the rate for unvaccinated cases was **6 ½ times higher** than fully vaccinated cases.



Clark County hospitalizations by vaccination status

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

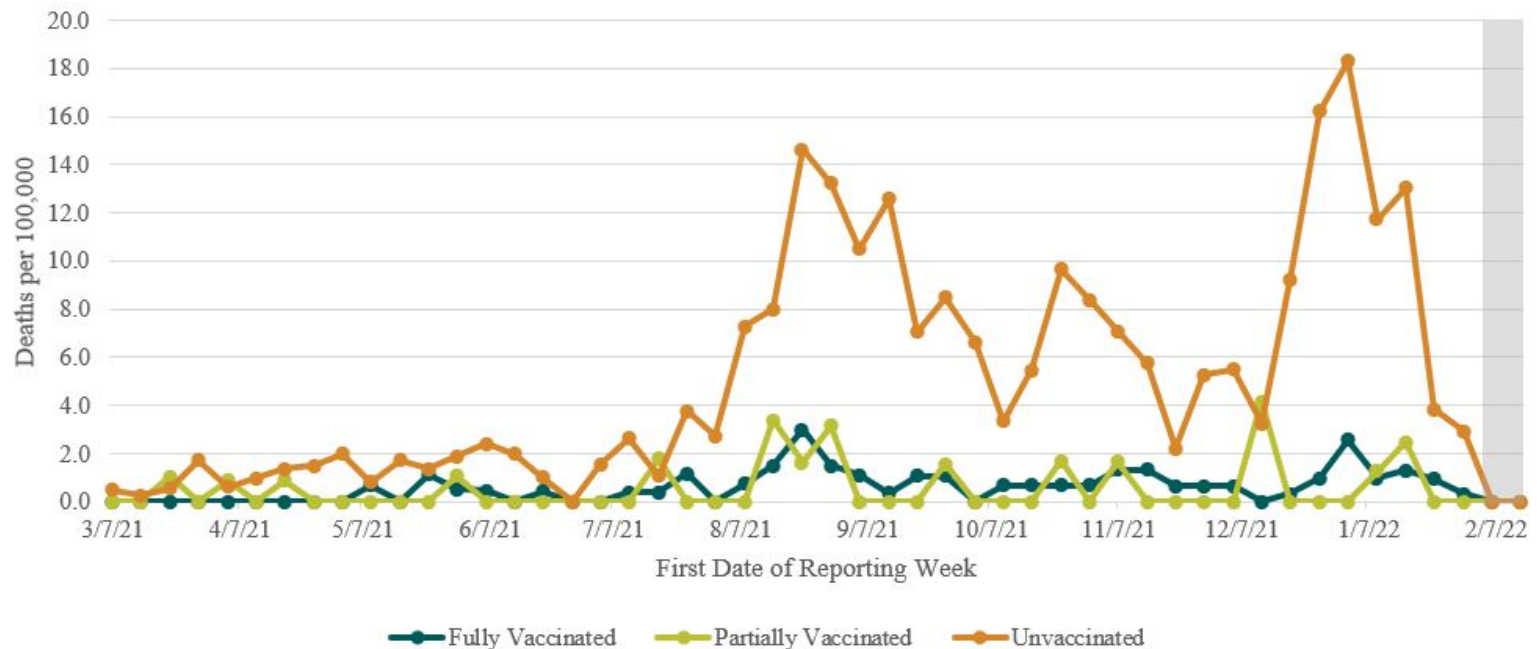
Clark County COVID-19 Hospitalization Rates by Vaccination Status
(March 2021 - February 2022)



Clark County COVID-19 deaths by vaccination status

- During the most recent week of complete data, the rate for unvaccinated deaths was **9 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.

Clark County COVID-19 Death Rates by Vaccination Status
(March 2021 - February 2022)



*Shaded area indicates reporting for these weeks are not yet final



Washington cases by vaccination status

- Statewide data also shows that case, hospitalization and death rates are highest among people who are unvaccinated, even while omicron variant was predominant.
- Latest statewide case and hospitalization rates by vaccination status:

Age group	Case rates (Jan. 12-Feb. 8)	Hospitalization rate (Jan. 5-Feb. 1)
12-34 years	3 times higher in unvaccinated	5 times higher in unvaccinated
35-64 years	4 times higher in unvaccinated	7 times higher in unvaccinated
65+ years	6 times higher in unvaccinated	8 times higher in unvaccinated

- COVID-19 death rate among people 65 years and older is **7 times higher** in the unvaccinated population than the fully vaccinated population.



COVID-19 immunity

- While the epidemiology of COVID-19 may change as new variants emerge, **vaccination continues to be the safest strategy** for preventing COVID-19 infection, hospitalization and deaths.
- A January 2022 [CDC report](#) out of California showed that from May to November 2021 case and hospitalization rates were highest among people who were unvaccinated and had no known previous infection.
- Before Delta became the predominant variant in June, case rates were higher among people who survived previous infection than people who were vaccinated.
- By October, as protection from the vaccine began to wane in some people, people who survived previous infection had lower case rates than those who were vaccinated but with no previous infection.
- Another recent [CDC report](#) revealed that vaccine effectiveness was significantly higher among people who received their second mRNA COVID-19 vaccine dose less than 6 months before medical encounters than those vaccinated more than 6 months earlier.



COVID-19 immunity and boosters

- However, the same [CDC report](#) showed that while delta and omicron were the predominant strains circulating, receiving a third dose of COVID-19 vaccine was effective at preventing:
 - emergency department and urgent care visits (94% and 82%, respectively)
 - COVID-19–associated hospitalizations (94% and 90%, respectively)
- Another [recent report](#) from the CDC showed that while Delta and Omicron variants were circulating, case and hospitalization rates in Los Angeles County were lowest among people who were fully vaccinated and had received a booster dose.
 - As of Jan. 8, 2022, during Omicron predominance, COVID-19 case and hospitalization rates in Los Angeles County among unvaccinated people were:
 - 3.6 and 23.0 times, respectively, higher than fully vaccinated people with a booster
 - 2.0 and 5.3 times, respectively, higher than fully vaccinated people without a booster.
 - During both Delta and Omicron predominance, case and hospitalization rates were highest among unvaccinated persons and lowest among vaccinated persons with a booster.



COVID-19 reinfections

- Data on COVID-19 reinfections is limited and determining rates for people with previous infections presents methodological issues.
- Reinfections can only be identified if a person's original infection and second infection were diagnosed by a COVID-19 test and reported to state or local health officials. Data is incomplete for several reasons:
 - Testing was limited early in the pandemic and more recently during the omicron wave, leaving some individuals unable to be tested.
 - People with mild or asymptomatic illness might not have been tested.
 - Most at-home tests are not reported to state or local health officials.
- Those with known previous infection are likely an unrepresentative sample of people with previous infection.
 - Most likely those with prior more severe illness.
 - People hospitalized or who die are more likely to have been tested by a laboratory than someone with mild symptoms.
- These limitations make it impossible to compare case, hospitalization and death rates among people with reinfection to people with only one known infection.



COVID-19 reinfections

- Washington State Department of Health (DOH) produces a [report](#) with data on known COVID-19 reinfections.
 - Because data is likely missing, the data on reported reinfections will be underestimated and it may appear that reinfections are less common than they truly are.
- Reported reinfection is an individual with two positive COVID-19 test results (molecular or antigen) reported to DOH where the tests were performed at least 90 days apart.
 - In addition, if genetic sequencing from both infections identify different variants, they are considered a confirmed reinfection regardless of time between positive tests.
- Statewide since Sept. 1, 2021:
 - 32,949 people had a reported reinfection
 - 690 (2.1%) reinfected people were hospitalized
 - 49 (0.2%) reinfected people died



Mask mandate

- Gov. Inslee announced last week that the statewide mask mandate will be lifted on March 21.
 - This includes requirements for K-12 schools and childcare facilities.
 - Masks will still be required in long-term care, health care, and jails/corrections facilities.
 - The federal mask mandate for planes and other public transportation is also still in place.
- Businesses may also choose to continue requiring masks for employees and patrons.
- The requirement for masks in large outdoor events (500 people or more) was lifted Friday, Feb. 18.
- Gov. Inslee and the state Department of Health considered the decreasing case and hospitalization rates – and projections that those rates will continue to decrease – to determine when the indoor mask mandate could be lifted.



Mask mandate

- Current COVID-19 rates are still high across the state. Masks will continue to be an effective tool for further reducing virus transmission in the community over the coming weeks.
- A [new report](#) from the CDC found that people who consistently wore masks were less likely to get COVID-19:
 - 56% less likely for people who wore cloth masks
 - 66% less likely for people who wore surgical masks
 - 83% less likely for people who wore respirators, like N95s and KN95s
- After the mandate is lifted, people may choose to continue wearing masks and taking other preventive measures.
- With mask requirements ending soon, it's important that people are up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines, including booster doses.



COVID-19 test kits, masks

- Two web portals available for the public to order free at-home test kits.
 - Rapid antigen tests delivered directly to homes.
 - Each kit contains 4-5 tests per household.
 - Ordering requires only a name and address.
- Federal program: www.COVIDtests.gov
- Washington Department of Health program: www.sayyescovidhometest.org
 - State reopens the portal as additional supplies are received.
- CRESA has identified community partners that will distribute masks to the public using supply from the state.
 - Those locations recently received masks and will announce details when they are ready to begin distribution.
- Local pharmacies are also distributing free N95 masks to the public using supply provided by the federal government.



COVID-19 masks, test kits

- Clark County Public Health is working with CRESA and community partners serving priority populations to access and distribute at-home tests and masks.
 - Partners serving BIPOC communities and the unhoused.
- We've received two orders of at-home test kits from the state Department of Health and plan to place another order as soon as additional supplies become available.
 - We've also received shipments of KN95 and surgical masks.
- To date, we've distributed to community partners:
 - 40,115 test kits
 - 8,500 KN95 masks
 - 300 surgical masks



Mobile vaccination teams

- Clark County Public Health continues to focus our COVID-19 vaccination resources on helping high risk groups and individuals with difficulty accessing vaccine through the health care system.
 - Including residents of adult family homes and long-term care facilities, homebound residents, and people who are unhoused.
- We continue to send mobile vaccination teams of Medical Reserve Corps volunteers to adult family homes to administer booster doses, as well as first and second doses to those who need them.
 - A mobile team also visited a facility serving people who are unhoused earlier this month to provide vaccinations.
- To date, we have:
 - visited 199 facilities
 - administered 1,080 doses of COVID-19 vaccine (1,024 doses were boosters/third doses)
 - 666 volunteer hours logged by MRC

