

NC DHHS K-12 COVID-19 Response Updates

DPI/NC DHHS Monthly Meeting
April 5, 2022

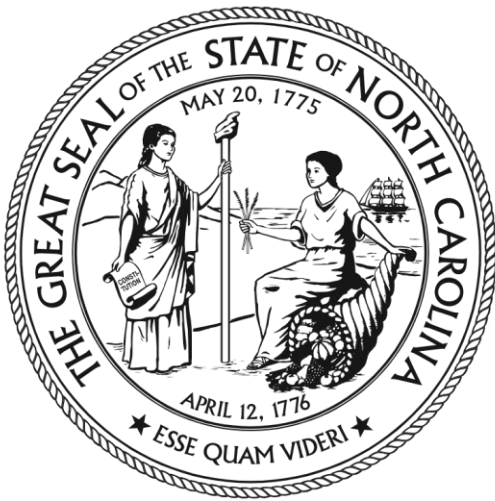


NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**



Agenda

- **Statewide COVID-19 Updates & Data Trends**
- **Vaccination**
- **K-12 COVID-19 Testing Program**
- **Approaches to COVID-19 Equity Engagement**
- **Spring into Summer Communications**



NC DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Statewide COVID-19 Updates & Data Trends

Dr. Betsey Tilson

State Health Director & Chief Medical Officer
NCDHHS

NC DHHS- DPI Monthly Webinar

April 5, 2022

Changes to NCDHHS COVID-19 DASHBOARD

As of March 23, the Summary page of the NCDHHS COVID-19 Dashboard will be updated weekly on Wednesdays and will include a focus on seven key metrics:

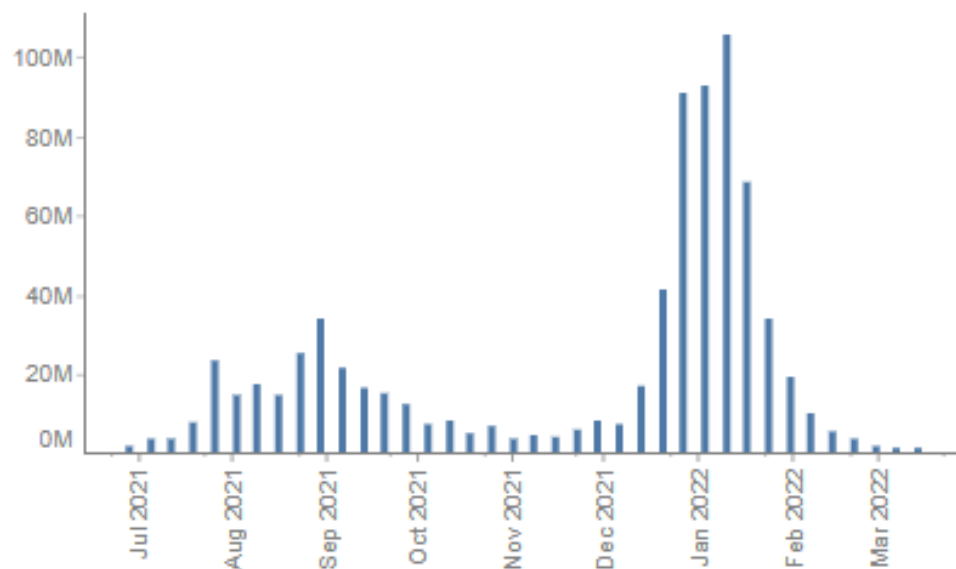
1. Wastewater testing.
2. COVID-like illness in hospital emergency departments as a percentage of total emergency visits.
3. COVID-19 hospital admissions.
4. COVID-19 reported cases.
5. Booster rates.
6. New variant and its levels in the state.
7. The CDC's [COVID-19 community levels](#) is based on hospital beds in use, hospital admissions and cases. This tool can help people understand COVID-19 spread in their community.

Early Warning Indicators

1.2 Million ↘ Previous Week 1.2 Million

COVID-19 Virus Particles Found in Wastewater

COVID-19 virus particles appearing in wastewater can signal how quickly the virus is spreading, even if people don't get tested or have symptoms.

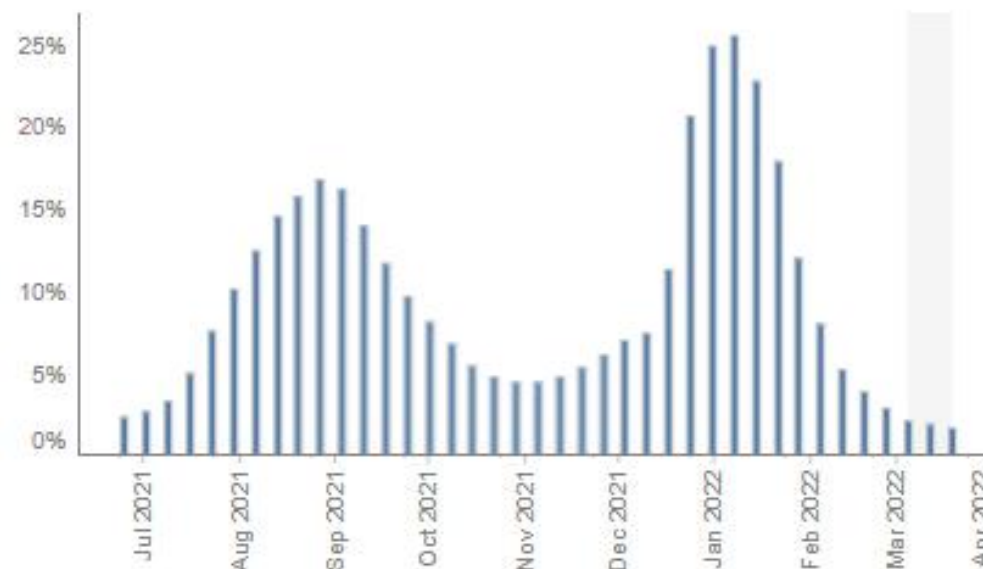


Average COVID-19 virus copies found per person per week from participating North Carolina wastewater treatment plants. [More Info](#)

2% ↘ Previous Week 2%

Emergency Room Visits for COVID Symptoms

The percentage of all emergency department visits that are for COVID-like symptoms can signal how much illness there is in a community.



Emergency department visits that are for COVID-like illnesses (CLI). [More Info](#)

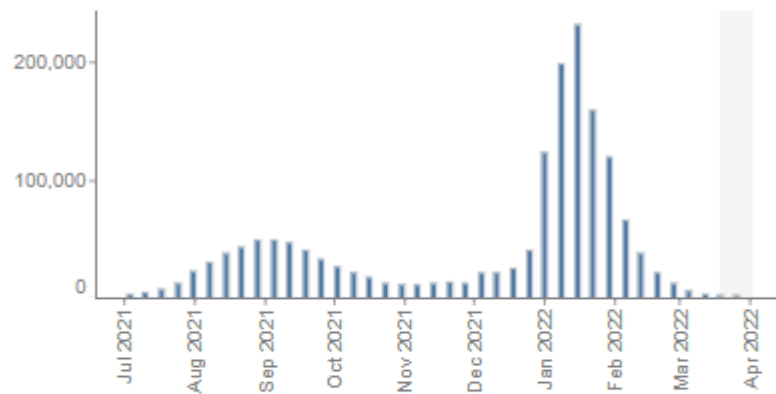
Source: <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/dashboard>

Health System Capacity

2,733

Previous Week 2,919

COVID-19 Reported Cases by Week of Specimen Collection

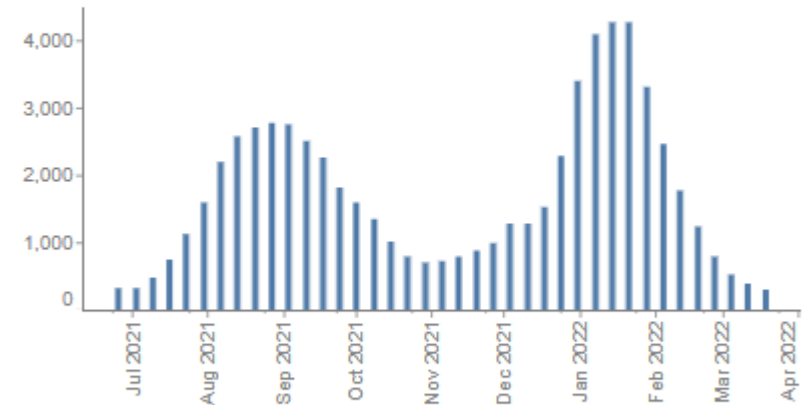


Number of new cases reported to the state each week, shown by the date specimen was collected. [More Info](#)

319

Previous Week 401

Hospital Admissions - COVID-19 Patients by Week



Number of confirmed COVID-19 patients admitted to hospitals each week. [More info](#)

Source: <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/dashboard>

Vaccines and Boosters

50%

Boosted

Percent of Total Vaccinated Population with at Least One Booster or Additional Dose

76%

Adults Vaccinated

Percent of Total Adult Population Vaccinated with at Least One Dose

38%

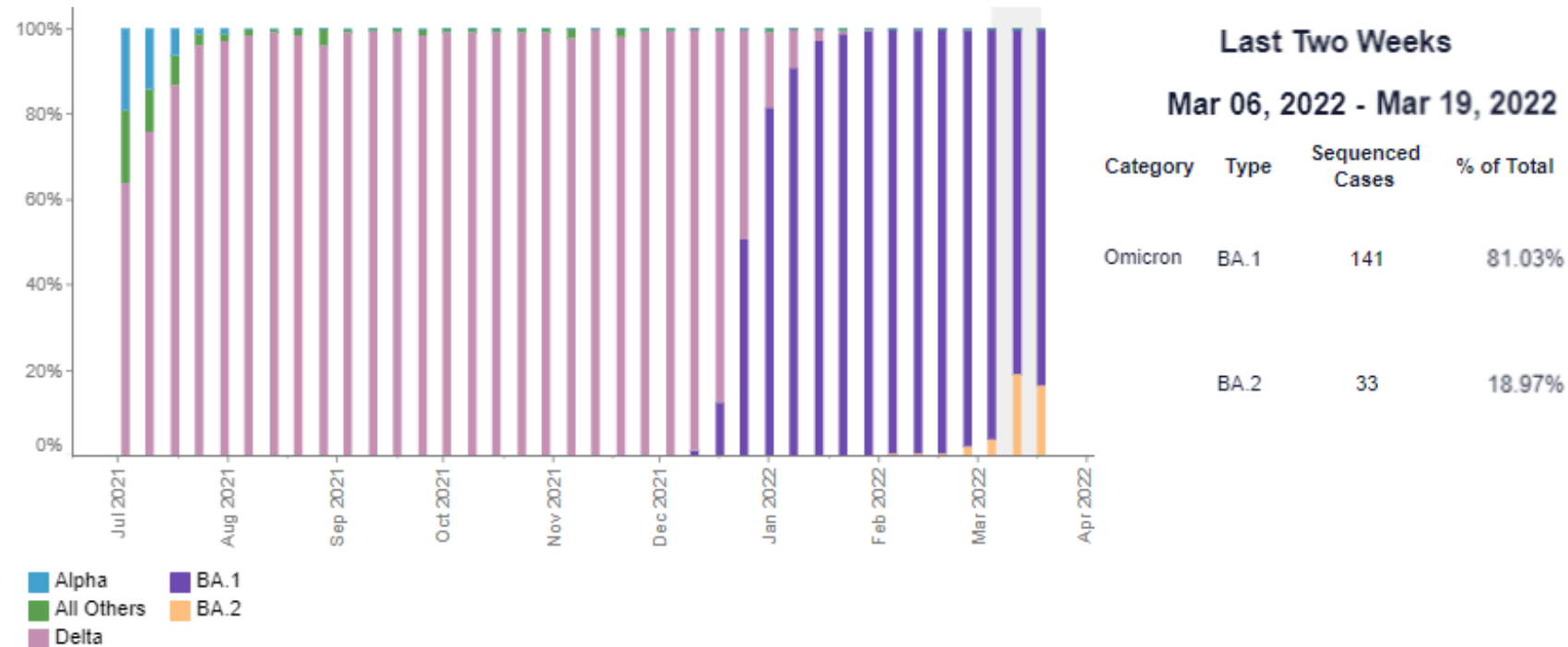
Children and Teens Vaccinated

Percent of Population Ages 5-17 Vaccinated with at Least One Dose

Source: <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/dashboard>

Surveillance of Variants

What variants are being detected in North Carolina?



Percentage of variants reported each week by laboratories that sequence to identify COVID-19 variants. (Most cases and tests are not identified by variants; this is a smaller sample.) [More info](#)

Source: <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/dashboard>

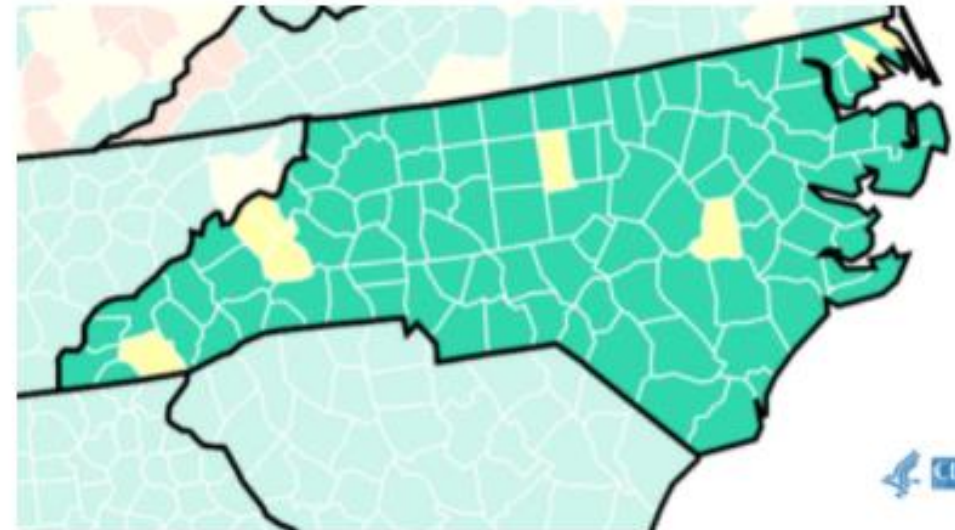
CDC COVID-19 Community Levels by County

0/100

Previous Week 0/100

Counties with a high risk of illness and strain on the health care system

The Centers for Disease Control assign a community risk level for every county. [More info](#) or [find your county](#) ⓘ



High

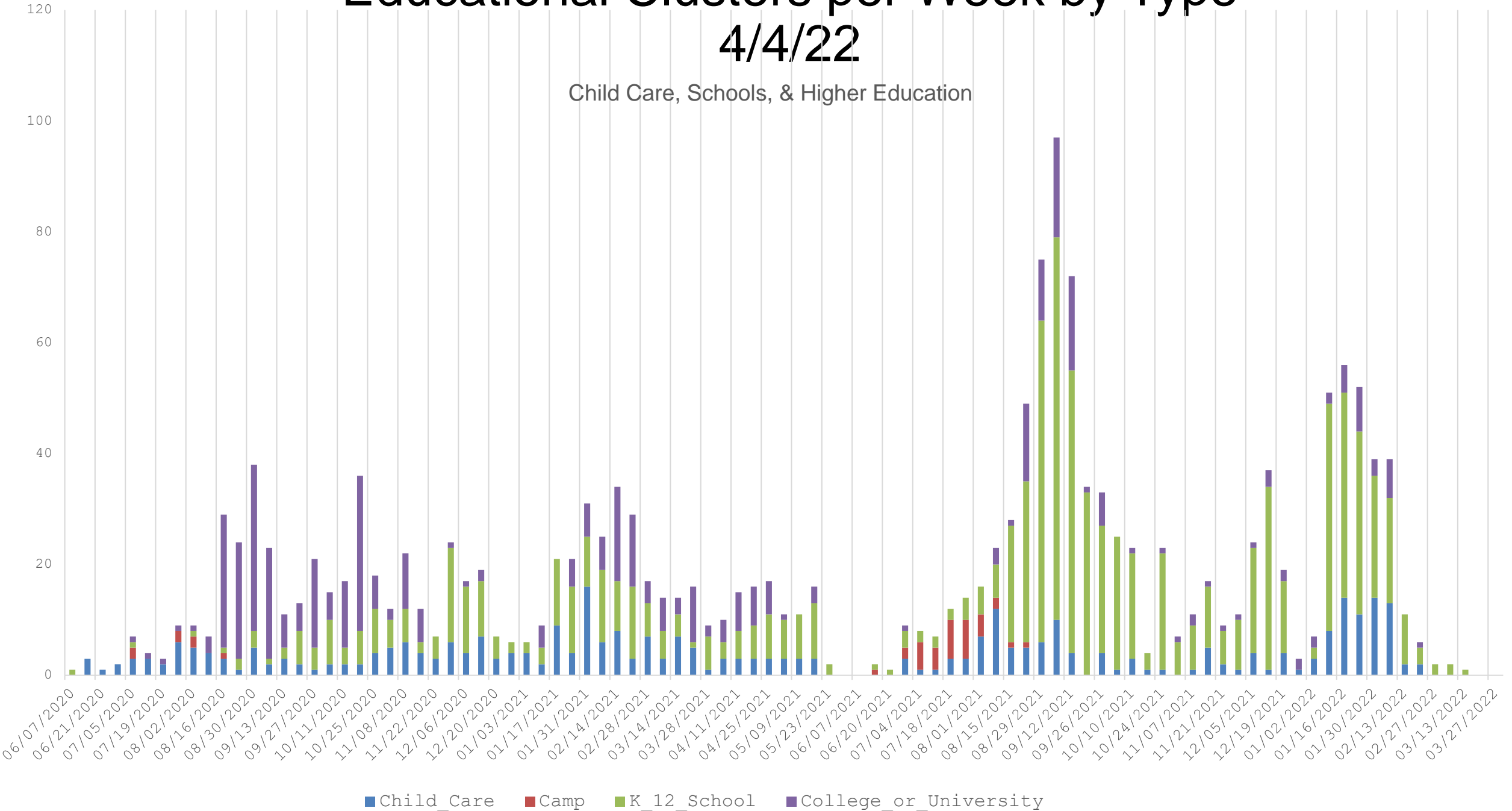
Medium

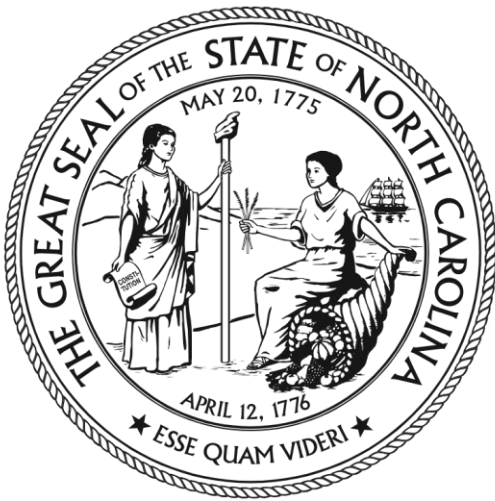
Low

Educational Clusters per Week by Type

4/4/22

Child Care, Schools, & Higher Education





NC DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Vaccination Update

Dr. Betsey Tilson

State Health Director & Chief Medical Officer
NCDHHS

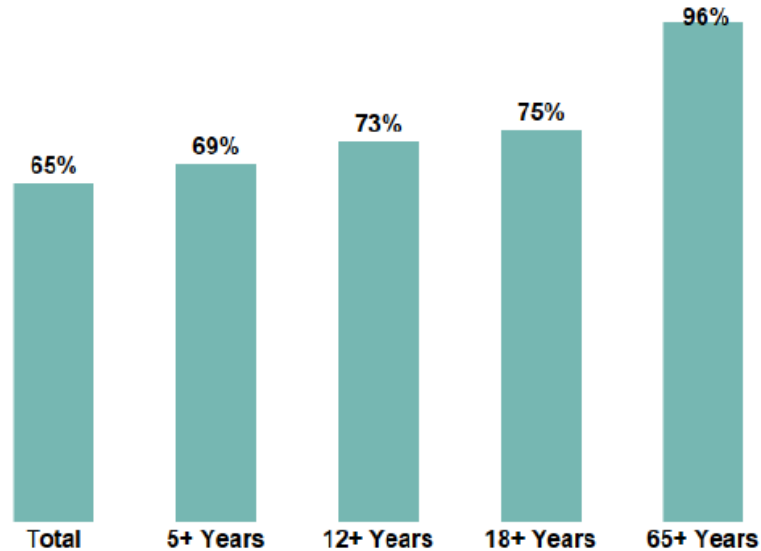
NC DHHS- DPI Monthly Webinar

April 5, 2022

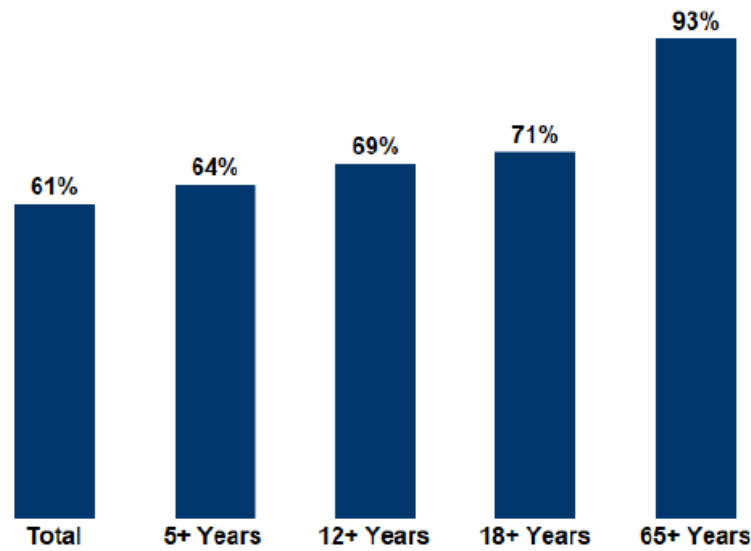
Statewide Vaccinations – Population Summary

Percent of Population Metrics

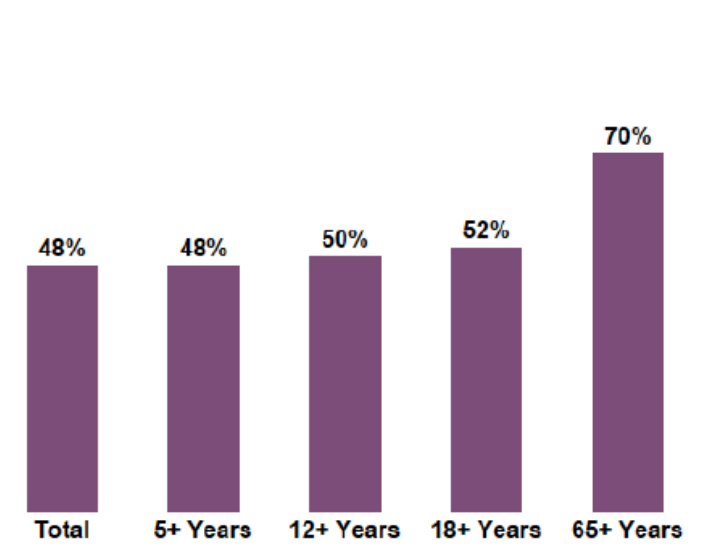
Percent of Population Vaccinated with at Least One Dose



Percent of Population Vaccinated with Two Doses or One Dose J&J

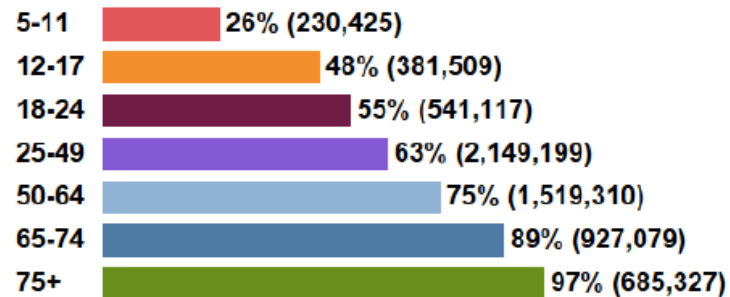


Percent of Vaccinated Population with at Least One Booster/Additional Dose

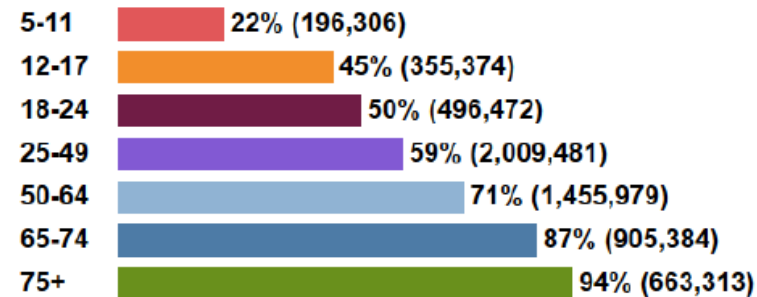


Percent of Population Metrics By Age Group

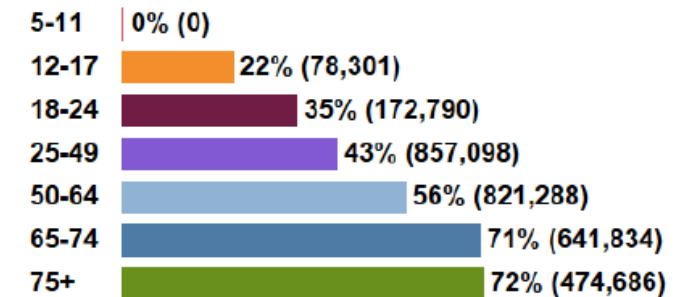
Percent Vaccinated with At Least One Dose



Percent Vaccinated with Two Doses or One Dose J&J



Percent Vaccinated with At Least One Booster/Additional Dose

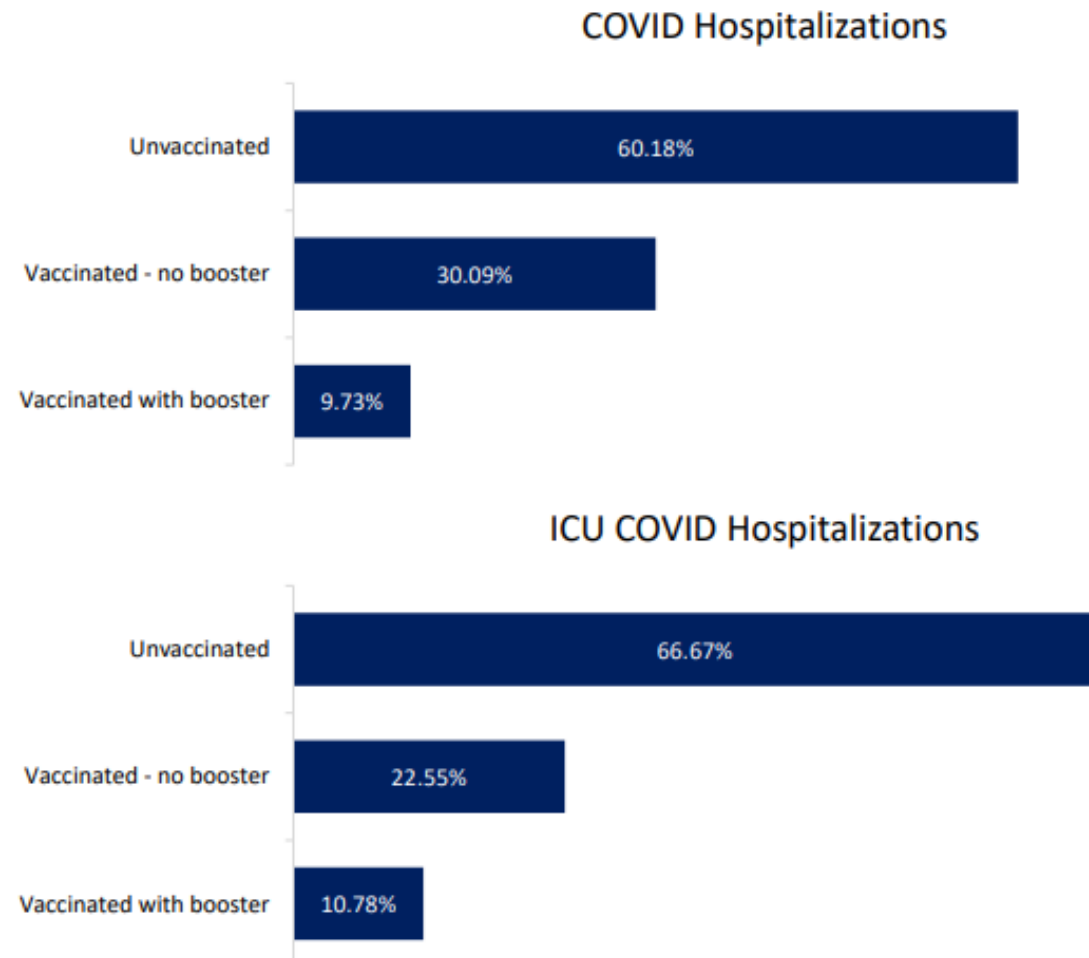


TLP: RED

Vaccinations Data: December 14, 2020 - February 24, 2022 at 6:15 a.m.

NORTH CAROLINA COVID-19 ADMISSIONS AND VACCINATION STATUS

COVID-19 Admissions Mostly Among Unvaccinated (COVID-19 Respiratory Surveillance: Week Ending March 26, 2022)



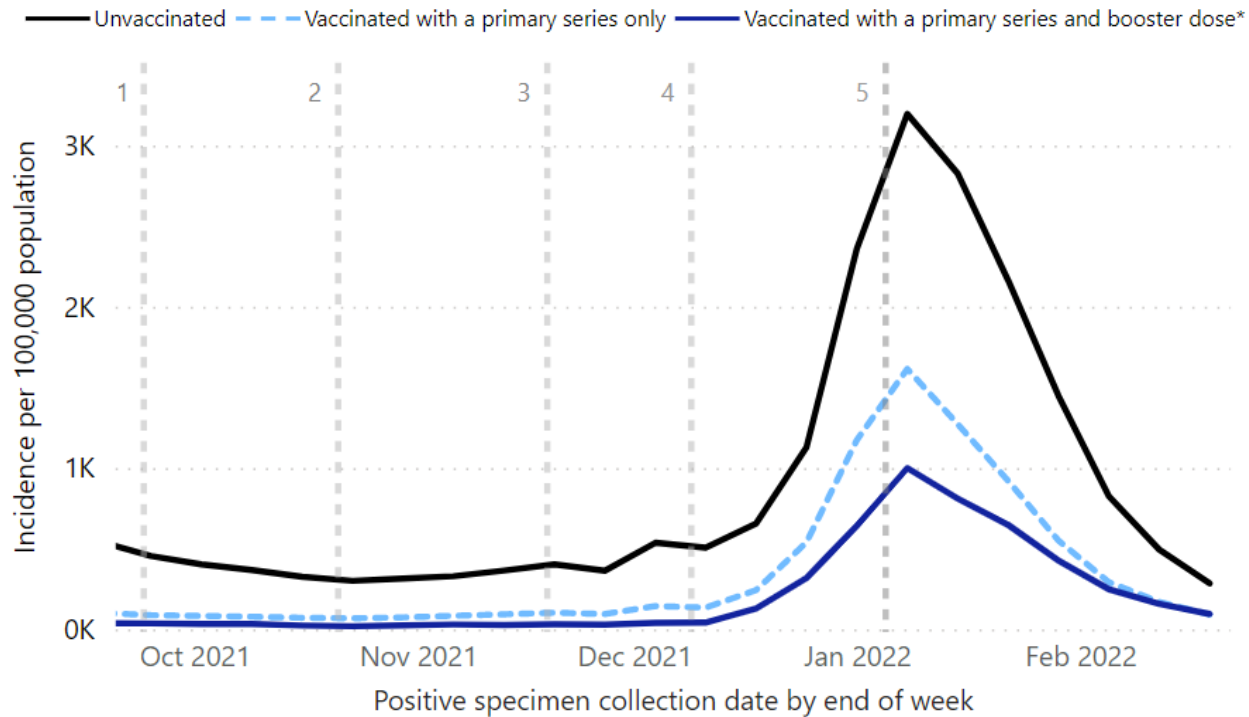
NATIONAL DATA ON RISK OF INFECTION AND DEATH



COVID-19 Vaccines and Boosters Protect against Infection and Death. Unvaccinated people 3.5 times more likely to test positive and 21 times more likely to die from COVID-19 than people vaccinated and boosted

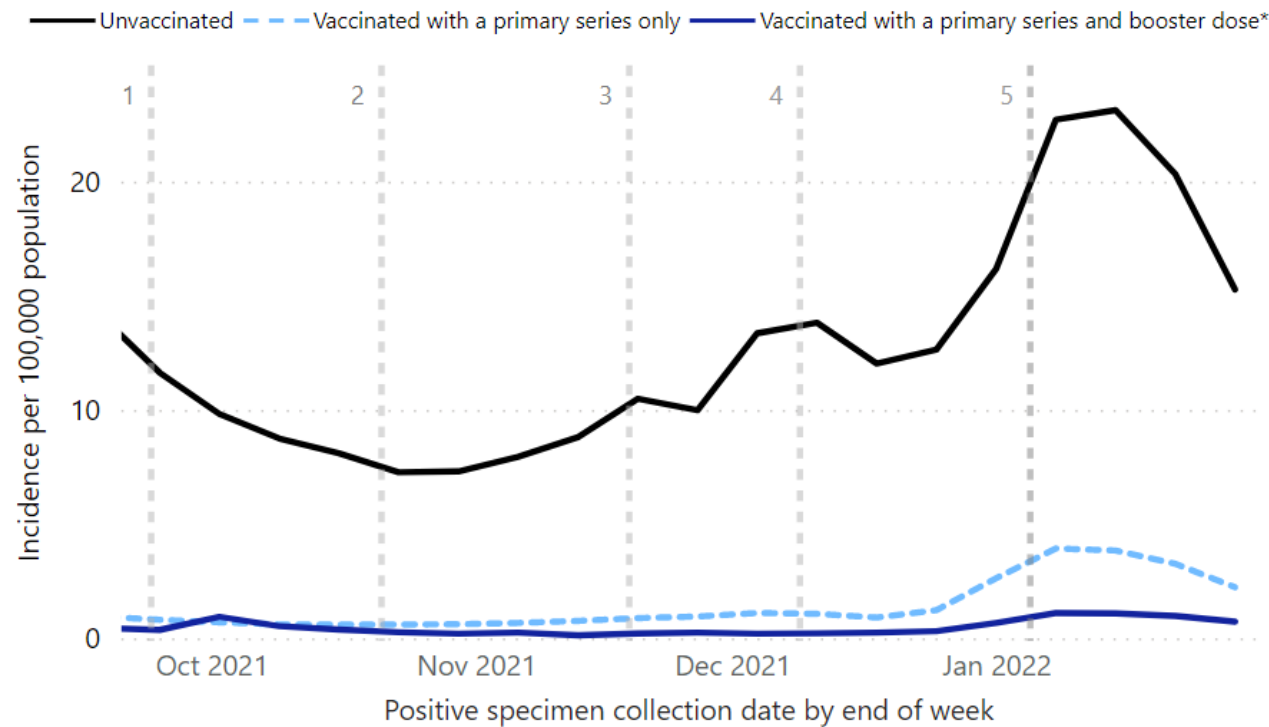
Rates of COVID-19 Cases by Vaccination Status and Booster Dose**

September 19 - February 19, 2022 (26 U.S. jurisdictions)



Rates of COVID-19 Deaths by Vaccination Status and Booster Dose**

September 19 - January 29, 2022 (26 U.S. jurisdictions)



• **Source: CDC COVID Data Tracker:** <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#rates-by-vaccine-status>

STATUS OF PFIZER 6 MONTHS – 4 YEARS VACCINE

Authorization Update:

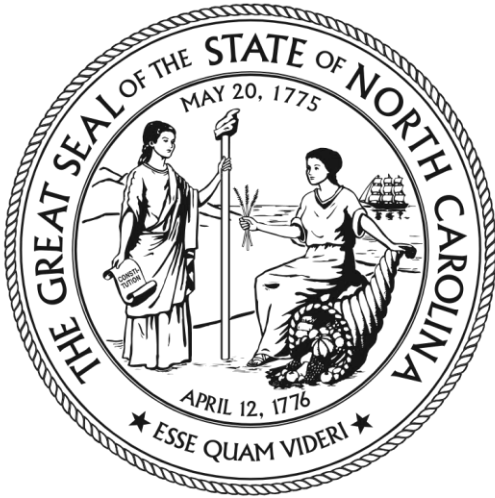
- Pfizer has plans to submit data to FDA review in late April
 - It is expected that Pfizer will seek amendment to the EUA in early May.
- Moderna has plans to submit data for review for children 6m - 6 years of age.
 - It is expected that Moderna will seek a EUA amendment in early May.



Implications:



- Should Pfizer or Moderna become available in the Spring, we will communicate the process and next steps.
- Planning underway for a Spring '22 launch.
 - 609k individuals statewide would be eligible for vaccination for those under 5.
 - It is projected that 16-19% of this population will seek vaccination within the first 3 months



NC DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

K-12 COVID-19 Testing Updates

Sulianie Mertus, MPH, CHES
K12 Testing Lead

NC DHHS- DPI Monthly Webinar

April 5, 2022

State of Emergency Renewal – School Testing

The state standing order for testing, along with vaccination and treatment, has been extended to July 15, 2022.



UPDATE

Please email our team at K12COVIDTesting@dhhs.nc.gov with any questions.

At-Home Testing – School Testing

Planning underway for at-home tests to be distributed in K12 settings for various uses. Testing uses may include:

- Diagnostic
- Close contact
- Return-from-break
- Summer school



UPDATE

More information to follow regarding at-home tests

Please email our team at K12COVIDTesting@dhhs.nc.gov with any questions.

ELC Re-Opening Schools Grant – School Testing

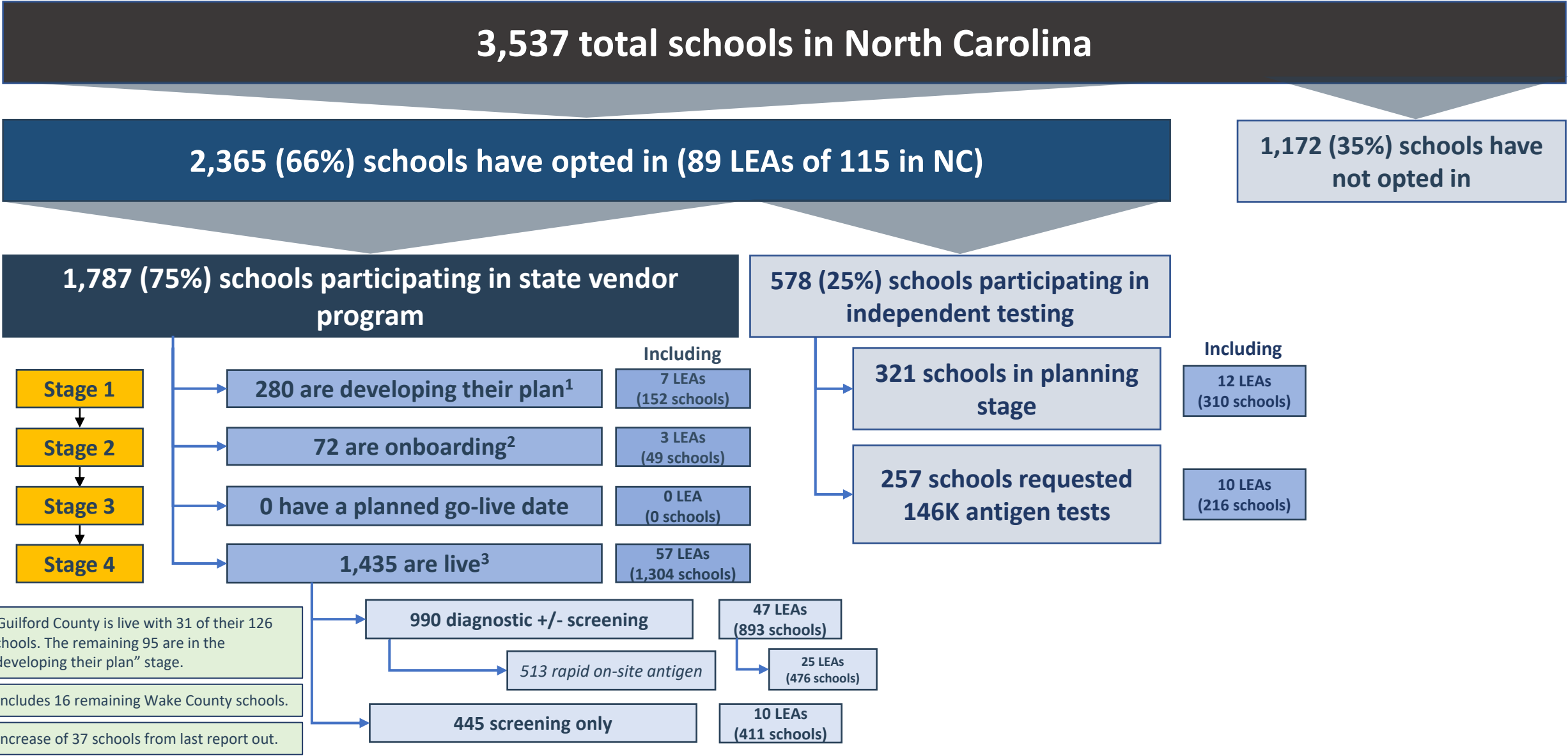
We have received word from the CDC that North Carolina has received a No-Cost Extension for the ELC Re-Opening Schools Grant. This will last until July 2023. Additional details to follow regarding how this may impact your schools/districts.



UPDATE

Please email our team at K12COVIDTesting@dhhs.nc.gov with any questions.

Program Current State – Testing Status as of March 25th



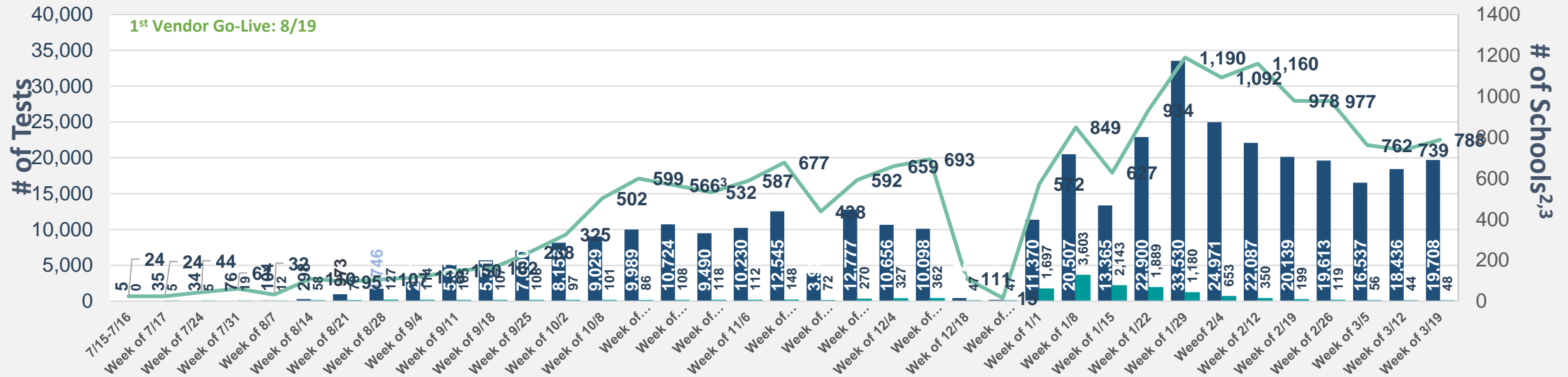
StrongSchoolsNC K-12 COVID-19 Testing Program: 2021-22 Testing Reporting

Test Result Reporting (as of 3/25)

464,916
Total tests
(Jul 15 – Mar 25)

0.24% (↓0.10%)
Positivity Rate¹
(Week of 3/19)

■ Total Tests ■ Positive Tests — # of Schools



¹Positivity Rate is based on past 7 days of data and should not be compared to percent positive on the public NC COVID dashboard, which is based only on ELR PCR tests

²Schools reporting are lower than number of schools live due to lag for recent go-lives and some districts using a phased go-live approach

³Drop in number of schools reporting is due to schools who perform diagnostic testing that did not have any tests to report in the past week

Key Reporting Statistics

- 55% (786 of 1,435 schools who have gone live) are performing tests on an as-needed basis (i.e., diagnostic testing), reporting only symptomatic and close-contact cases among students and staff. These schools **may not perform and report tests on a weekly basis**
- 14% (204 schools of 1,435 schools who have gone live) are performing both diagnostic and screening testing
- 31% (445 schools of 1,435 schools who have gone live) are only performing weekly screening testing
 - We continue to follow up with these schools to encourage them to implement diagnostic testing

NCDHHS Continues to Provide Opportunities for Schools to Maintain BinaxNOW Supply

As NCDHHS procures additional test types, we have been able to provide the opportunity to receive federal BinaxNOW to some of our schools participating in our independent testing program. **This program ends in July 2022.**

Federal distribution program process:

1. NCDHHS may submit school districts to the CDC every week for a 4-week order period
2. CDC reviews submissions and will notify schools of their shipment
3. Schools will receive tracking information from Abbott (manufacturer of BinaxNOW) and receives tests

Schools currently receiving (or have received) federal distribution of BinaxNOW tests:

- Buncombe County Schools
- Mount Airy City Schools
- Halifax County Schools
- Rutherford County Schools
- Catawba County Schools
- Gaston County Schools
- Cherokee County Schools
- Lincoln County Schools

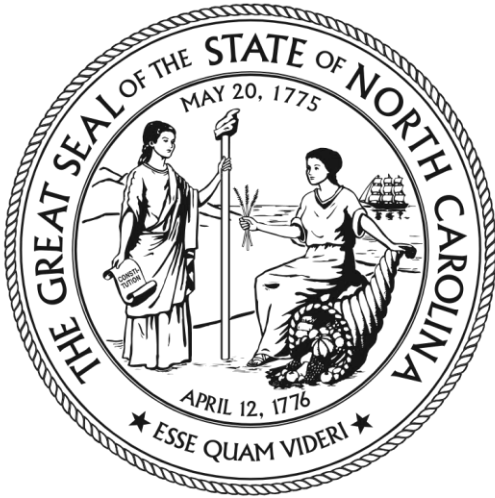
REMINDER

Schools should continue to order antigen tests to have a stockpile on hand in preparation for any COVID-19 surges and to best support students and staff. The next order closing deadline is 10am 4/18 for tests to ship out the week of 4/25

NCDHHS Test Ordering Review Process

NCDHHS has begun a new test ordering process. Please review the below calendar and ensure that your order is placed by 10AM on Monday, 4/18 to ensure that your school/district receives tests to be distributed week of 4/25.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2/28	3/1	3/2	3/3	3/4
Last Order Date	Order Review & Prioritization			Orders sent for fulfillment
3/7	3/8	3/9	3/10	3/11
Survey Closed				
Warehouse Shipping 2/28 Orders				
3/14	3/15	3/16	3/17	3/18
Survey Closed				
Warehouse Shipping 2/28 Orders				
3/21	3/22	3/23	3/24	3/25
Survey Response Pulled	Order Review & Prioritization			Orders sent for fulfillment
3/28	3/29	3/30	3/31	4/1
Warehouse Shipping 3/22 Orders				
4/4	4/5	4/6	4/7	4/8
Survey Response Pulled	Order Review & Prioritization			Orders sent for fulfillment
4/11	4/12	4/13	4/14	4/15
Warehouse Shipping 4/4 Orders				
4/18	4/19	4/20	4/21	4/22
Survey Response Pulled	Order Review & Prioritization			Orders sent for fulfillment



NC DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Approaches to Covid-19 Equity Engagement

Angela R. Bryant

Assistant Secretary for Equity and Inclusion

NC DHHS- DPI Monthly Webinar

April 5, 2022

Operational Equity Integration: Recent Examples



Vaccines

- Under 5yo equity vaccine and community-based strategy
- Supporting counties for booster uptake
- Advising on Vial in Every Fridge



Testing/Vendor

- Connecting CBOs to Testing Kits
- Linkages with Barbershop Initiative & HT
- Advising on equity feedback and lessons learned from community activities



Therapeutics

- Flyer and website Feedback & Promotion
- Equity considerations for Access
- Advising on Latinx engagement & paid media (equity lens)



Comms

- Equity Feedback, Translation, Promotion
- Publish Health Equity at Work in Your Communities Monthly Newsletter



EPI

- Weekly Review of Demographic Trends
- Collaboration on Equity Brain Trust and EPI Business Intelligence



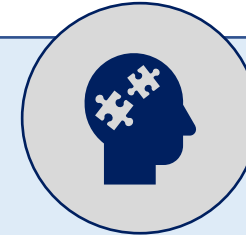
Contact Investigation / Contract Tracing (CI/CT)

- Advise on outreach for CI/CT to prioritize under-resourced communities
- Provide equity feedback on topics during weekly Strategy Meeting



PPE

- Facilitating Mask Requests & Distribution for CHWs, CBOs and community teams
- Advisement on deaf/hard of hearing needs for clear-masks



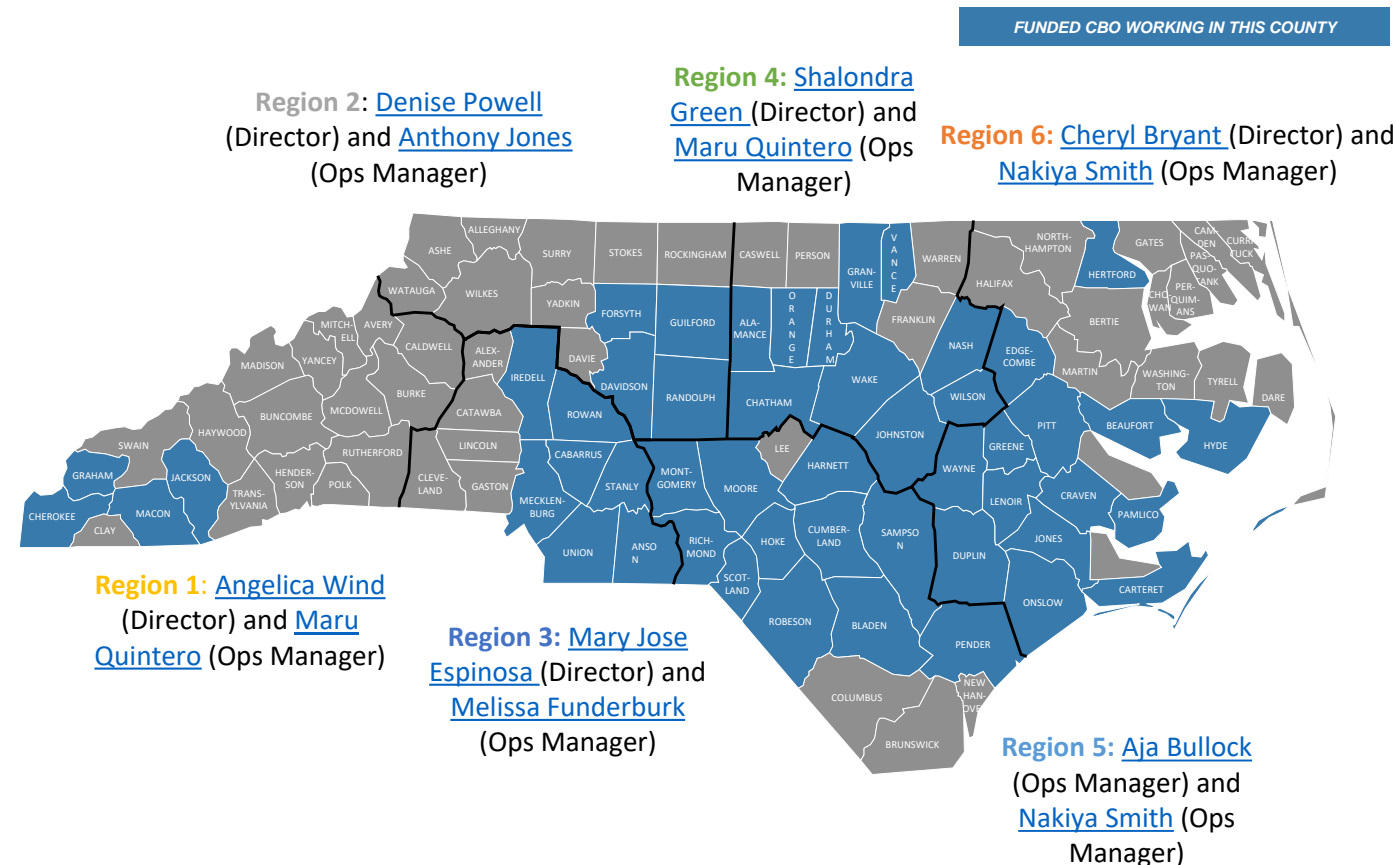
Behavioral Health

- Consolidated Wellness Flyer for community distribution focusing on COVID-19 recovery
- Equity Brain Trust: COVID Impact on Behavioral Health

Healthier Together: Overview

Healthier Together is a public-private partnership between NCDHHS and NC Counts Coalition (a 501(c)3 nonprofit) to increase the number of individuals who are Black, American Indian, Latinx/Hispanic, and Asian and from other historically marginalized populations (HMPs), e.g., rural locations and people with disabilities receiving COVID-19 vaccinations across the state of North Carolina.

- Immediate Goals: **Vaccine Equity**
 - Build and earn trust between trusted messengers (nonprofit/grassroot orgs) and HMPs
 - Education, outreach, and eliminating barriers to vaccination
- Long-Term Goal: **Advance Health Equity**
- Funded 46 CBOs covering 67 counties
- From June 2021 to March 18th, 2022:
 - **over 1M** people contacted
 - **27,000+** people scheduled for vaccine appointments
 - **5,250+** people connected to transportation resources
 - **1million+** N95 masks distributed from 1/1/22-3/25/22
- Please contact appropriate regional director for additional support / event support as needed



CHW CORE COMPETENCIES AND OUTCOMES

Data from:

^Sep 2020 – Present

*Feb 2021 – Present

Connect with CHWs by Region:

Region 1 & 3 POC: [Ana De la Garza](#) | Kepro, UNETE, Catawaba

Region 2 & 4 POC: [Alma Davis](#) | Southeastern, El Centro

Region 5 POC: [Kathy Hodges](#) | El Centro, Mt. Cavalry

Region 6 POC: [Erika Roberson](#) | One to One with Youth, Vidant

Over 525 CHWs are trained on these core tools and competencies to better serve their communities:



NCCARE360^

148,887 referrals



Vaccine site support experience*
3,629 vaccine clinic/events planned



COVID-19 Vaccine Management System (CVMS -
statewide location managers)



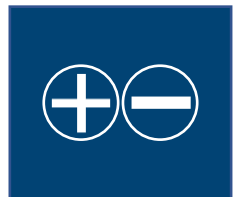
CHW training (AHEC and through 96-hour
Community College training in progress)



Vaccine 101 education (monthly)*
8,566 events with 821,597 attendees



COVID-19 Community Team Outreach
(CCTO - Contact Tracing)



Testing site support experience



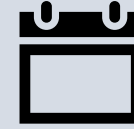
Support Services Program Referrals^ (program
ended in March 2021)
42,000+ referrals

Farmworker Health Program: Successes



30,877 doses administered since the COVID-19 was made available (data accurate through 2/28/22)

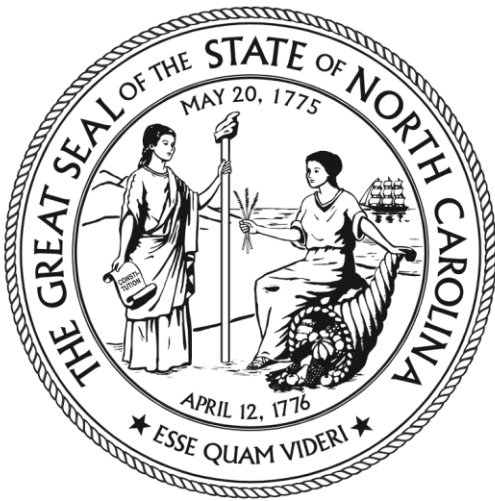
1,238 COVID-19 vaccine doses administered in 2022 (as of 3/30/22)



49 vaccination events were held in Reception Hub for H-2A migrant workers in 2021 with **5,351 doses administered**

8 vaccination events held in 2022 (as of 3/30/22) with **920 doses administered**

- **Episcopal Farm Worker Ministry** has hosted 20+ vaccination events, with the help of NC Farmworkers Health Program (NCFHP) who brought together provider, interpretation, and CHW resources
- **Local county COVID-19 response teams** were stood up in **all 100 counties across NC**, bringing together 150+ organizations across North Carolina
- **Monthly “Ask the Doctor” webinars** are held to allow an open forum for migrant health centers and outreach workers to ask questions from the NCFHP medical director



NC DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Spring into Summer

Jennifer Guzman
Communications

NC DHHS- DPI Monthly Webinar

April 5, 2022

Spring into Summer: Community Partnership Campaign



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**



NC DHHS COVID – 19 Response

Approach

- Invite partners across the state to register as a participant
 - Provides a fun, fresh call to action during a time when people are focused on other topics and tired of hearing about the pandemic and COVID-19 vaccines
 - Opportunity for registered partners to receive printed materials delivered directly to them—one of the major successes from the Bringing Summer Back initiative
- NCDHHS provides toolkit that can be customized to suit their capabilities and resources, and includes:
 - flyers, buck slips and door hangs (will be printed and provided as an initial printed toolkit if requested during registration)
 - swag for participating (t-shirts, giveaways, stickers, etc.)

Spring into Summer

- Materials are available in English and Spanish
 - Website
 - Swag
 - Informational materials
- Ready to share social media graphics
 - You can access them here:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1CZusp4rhbMaTgiarj_oK_bhPAfFUFxwWvS-ZEckFGaM/edit?usp=sharing
- More than 210 registrants so far
 - Includes organizations from all over the state

Campaign Response

223

Registered
Organizations

363k

Estimated
Reach

52

Counties
Represented

Partners Include:

94 non-profits

55 government agencies

49 health organizations

13 businesses

8 religious groups

4 schools & colleges

Populations Reached:

- American Indian
- Black/African American
- Hispanic
- White
- Asian American
- Rural
- Low-income
- Disabled
- All age groups

Pre-printed Toolkit and Additional Downloadable Files

Swag




Print Material



Spring into Summer

Select Language




Search...

Q

NCDHHS NC.GOV/COVID19 NC.GOV

[Home](#) [About COVID-19](#) [Dashboard](#) [Vaccines](#) [Information For](#) [Guidance](#) [Slow The Spread](#)

NC COVID-19 » Home



Help Your Community Spring into Summer

Staying up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccines and health check-ups will keep everyone safer and healthier as they get ready for spring and summer fun—family celebrations, BBQs, graduations, vacations, and gatherings that we've missed the last two years.

We are launching the *Spring into Summer* initiative to keep North Carolinians safer, healthy, active, and social. It's a fun, flexible, community-centered approach to help every organization and individual stop the spread of COVID-19 by spreading the word about:

- COVID-19 vaccines for adults
- Vaccinations for teens and kids
- Boosters to help everyone 12 and older stay up-to-date on their vaccinations
- Wellness checklists to make sure those health visits that might have been delayed don't get forgotten
- Tools to help keep people informed about staying healthy during and beyond the pandemic

[Register today](#) to make a big difference in helping your community more safely celebrate holidays, attend reunions, take vacations, and plan activities with family and friends.

You will receive a detailed guide for ways to participate and an introductory toolkit with easy-to-use materials—from flyers to giveaways—to help *Spring into Summer*.

Version en Español →

List of Partners →

Registration Form ↗

Select Language



Search...

Q

NCDHHS NC.GOV/COVID19 NC.GOV

[Home](#) [About COVID-19](#) [Dashboard](#) [Vaccines](#) [Information For](#) [Guidance](#) [Slow The Spread](#)

NC COVID-19 » Home



Ayuda a tu comunidad a disfrutar de *Un verano saludable*

Mantenernos al día con las vacunas contra el COVID-19 y los controles de salud nos mantendrá a todos más seguros y saludables mientras nos preparamos para disfrutar la temporada de primavera y verano: las celebraciones familiares, las carnes asadas, las graduaciones, las vacaciones y las reuniones que nos hemos perdido durante los últimos dos años.

Estamos lanzando la campaña *Un verano saludable* para mantener a los habitantes de Carolina del Norte más seguros, saludables, activos y sociales. La campaña tiene un enfoque divertido, flexible y centrado en la comunidad para ayudar a cada organización e individuo a detener la propagación de COVID-19 compartiendo información sobre:

- las vacunas contra el COVID-19 para adultos
- las vacunas contra el COVID-19 para adolescentes y niños
- las dosis de refuerzo para ayudar a todos a mantenerse al día con su vacunación
- listas de bienestar de salud para no olvidar las citas médicas que podrían haberse pospuesto durante la pandemia
- herramientas para mantener a las personas informadas sobre cómo mantenerse saludables durante y después de la pandemia

[Regístrate hoy](#) para lograr una gran diferencia al ayudar a tu comunidad a celebrar las festividades, asistir a reuniones, tomar vacaciones y planificar actividades con familiares y amigos de manera más segura.

Recibirás una guía detallada sobre cómo participar y un kit de herramientas con materiales fáciles de usar, desde folletos hasta materiales promocionales, para apoyar la campaña *Un verano saludable*.

Lista de Socios →

Regístrate hoy ↗

Visit our web pages to learn more: SpringIntoSummer.nc.gov / UnVeranoSaludable.nc.gov

