
CLACKAMAS COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION

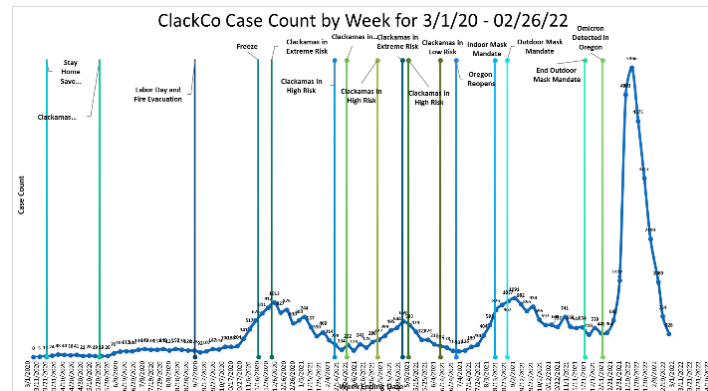
WEEKLY REPORT ON COVID-19 FOR 3/3/2022

Omicron update

The tally of daily cases of COVID-19 has returned to levels seen before the highly infectious Omicron variant was discovered in the U.S. in mid-December. The U.S. is now averaging about 65,858 cases of COVID a day, down 62% from two weeks ago. The U.S. is averaging 52,909 hospitalizations a day, down 43% from two weeks ago. And deaths are starting to fall, down 24% to an average of 1,867 a day. The number of Americans in ICUs is down 42% to 10,033 a day.

Weekly coronavirus cases in Oregon dropped 43% in the past seven days, hitting the lowest levels since the beginning of the Omicron surge. Coronavirus cases have fallen for five consecutive weeks since reaching the Omicron peak mid-January, and Oregon is now averaging just 774 cases a day. If the trend continues, Oregon is on pace to hit pre-delta levels sometime in March.

Case counts in Clackamas County are below pre-Omicron levels, recording 428 cases in the past week and a 69% decrease from two weeks ago. Region 1 is averaging 189 hospitalizations a day and the region's latest report counts 51 available ICU beds out of 334, 15% availability.



Mask mandate to lift March 12

Oregon joined California and Washington in [updating their masking guidance](#) based on the dramatic drop in hospitalizations and case counts, the ongoing effectiveness of vaccines, and the recently changed metrics that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention tracks for [risk evaluation](#) announced on February 25.

The Oregon Health Authority rules requiring masks in indoor public places and schools will be lifted after 11:59 p.m. on March 11. Other state and federal requirements, such as those for health care settings, public transit, and other specialized settings, will remain in place for a period of time.

Though people will no longer be required to wear masks in most settings, we encourage everyone who prefers to wear a mask to do so. Even though the spread of the virus is receding, it is not gone and it continues to present greater risk to some more than others, specifically our local BIPOC, elderly, and immunocompromised community members.

Even if you choose to not use a mask, don't throw them away just yet. Mask use is still recommended if you test positive for COVID-19, they will still be required in certain settings, and masks still protect you even if other people aren't wearing masks.

CDC increases recommended interval between COVID-19 vaccine for some people

The CDC now recommends that some people, [especially males ages 12-39](#), wait up to eight weeks between the first and second doses of a Moderna or Pfizer primary vaccine series. Previous guidance stated that first and second doses should be separated by 3 weeks for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine and 4 weeks for the Moderna vaccine. The 3- or 4-week interval is still recommended for people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised, adults aged 65 years or older and others who need rapid protection due to increased concern about community transmission or risk of severe disease.

While the absolute risk for myocarditis following vaccination remains extremely small, a longer wait between doses may further reduce the risk of myocarditis, following vaccination. These recommendations are similar to the ones made by Canadian health authorities. It is important to remember that the risk of myocarditis from contracting the virus is much greater than any risk of it from the vaccine.

CDC launches new COVID-19 tool

On Friday, the Center for Disease Control eased mask recommendations for much of the country under a [new framework to monitor coronavirus](#). The new recommendations factor in case numbers as always, but also consider hospitalizations and hospital capacity.

The CDC's new metrics offer up-to-date, local guidance for COVID-19 mitigation practices. The new metrics aim to prevent severe disease and, thus, not overwhelm hospital systems at the local level, as well as to prevent death. This framework will continue to consider caseloads to determine community risk level and will incorporate the impacts on the healthcare system as indicators to determine appropriate prevention measures for each county. The CDC packaged three metrics for every county in the U.S.:

1. New COVID19 hospital admissions over the previous week;
2. Percentage of hospital beds occupied by COVID patients; and,
3. New cases per 100,000 people over the previous week.

They then corresponded these metrics to categories: low (green), medium (yellow), and high (orange). Counties in Low and Medium can consider going without masks in public indoor settings. In High, the CDC recommends masks in all public indoor settings, including schools.

Some rules remain the same, such as masking in airport and on public transportation and testing before international travel into the United States. Federal officials have not said whether the transportation mask mandate, which is set to expire March 18, will be extended.

COVID-19 Community Levels – Use the Highest Level that Applies to Your Community				
New COVID-19 Cases Per 100,000 people in the past 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
	Proportion of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	NA	<10.0%	≥10.0%

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

Vaccine protection in kids 5 to 11

New data published February 28 suggest that COVID mRNA vaccination protection against new cases for kids ages 5 to 11 wanes significantly, but still offers protection against severe illness and hospitalization. The research, conducted during the Omicron surge, is based on New York State Department of Health data. Children ages 12 and older get a larger dose of vaccine and seem to be more protected, the authors said. Pfizer and BioNTech are testing a third dose in children under 5, as well as in those aged 5 to 11 and are expected to publish results in several weeks.

COVID-19 is shifting from a pandemic to endemic phase, and COVID will continue to circulate at a more static and predictable rate. However, people will still get sick and die from the virus, and because children's risk of severe outcomes increases with age, inoculating children early is a good idea.

Vaccinating children is still the most safe and effective way to protect not only children who receive a vaccine from severe illness, but other people too, including family members and friends who may be vulnerable to severe illness.

OHA monitoring Omicron subvariant BA.2

While the COVID-19 Omicron variant is on the decline across Oregon, there is an Omicron subvariant called BA.2 that Oregon Health Authority is monitoring closely through [genetic sequencing](#) and wastewater surveillance. Currently, just over 6% of all positive COVID-19 test samples are analyzed for sequencing, and within that analysis, BA.2 represents [fewer than 1% of variants](#) circulating in Oregon.

Thus far, BA.1 not leading to clear upticks, neither globally nor locally. We have yet to see a major spike in cases exclusively prompted by BA.2's dominance, otherwise the growth of BA.2 will most likely lead to longer tails of decline. Places like India and South Africa, where BA.2 outcompeted BA.1 to become the dominant sub-lineage are still seeing declines, just at a slower rate. Ideally, if BA.2 becomes the dominant variant in the U.S., activity will be quite low by that time and we won't see any sudden reversal. Lastly, reinfection after BA.1 with BA.2 is [rare](#).

COVID-19 vaccinations in Clackamas County

[Vaccination data](#) for Clackamas County.

Age Groups of people in Clackamas County who have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine in Oregon (per OHA)		
AGE	NUMBER VACCINATED	% SERIES COMPLETE
5 to 11	15,633	40.6%
12 to 17	23,362	71.2%
18 to 19	7,041	71.6%
20 to 49	121,967	73.6%
50 to 64	69,566	69.2%
65+	73,211	81.9%

COVID-19 cases in Clackamas County

The number of [new confirmed and presumptive COVID-19 cases reported](#) for Clackamas County.

Week of Date	Case Count	Cases per 100k	Test Positivity
February 28 th	428	101	3.0%
February 22 nd	754	153	7.3%
February 15 th	1,389	310	12.7%
February 5 th	2,190	484	14.3%
January 29 th	3,313	729	18.5%

COVID-19 hospitalizations

The number of hospitalized patients with COVID-19 across Oregon is 460, which is 19 fewer than yesterday. There are 74 COVID-19 patients in intensive care unit (ICU) beds, which is 10 fewer than yesterday. There are 106 available adult ICU beds out of 655 total (16% availability) and 383 available adult non-ICU beds out of 4,280 (9% availability). For more information on hospitalizations, visit the [OHA Hospitalizations Dashboards](#).

COVID-19 Deaths

There are 26 new COVID-19-related deaths in Oregon, raising the state's death toll to 6,648, Oregon Health Authority (OHA) reported on March 1.

School Response

On February 28, 2022, the CDC updated their guidance regarding case investigation and contact tracing. Effective March 12, 2022, Oregon will pause contact tracing and quarantine for the general population, including K-12 settings. With Omicron's acute surge behind us, a significant proportion of our state's population has been vaccinated or has developed immunity following a COVID infection. At the same time, the tools we previously used, such as contact tracing, are no longer as effective because transmission occurs quickly, many infected people have no or mild symptoms and many infections are not reported to public health.

OHA will be sending iHealth self-tests to all Title I schools this month for schools to distribute to students – the agency will send enough for one kit (2 tests) per student in each school before spring break for families to use whenever they have the need.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), OHA, ODE, and CCPH continue to strongly advise the universal use of face coverings in schools in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and minimize the lost time learning in school due to illness when county COVID-19 Community Levels are high. At all levels, individuals may choose to mask based on their individual risk assessment (e.g., increased risk for severe disease or family or community members at increased risk for severe disease).

Testing Response

Local governments and municipalities in ClackCo are now able to request at-home COVID-19 test kits from Clackamas County Public Health. These kits are intended to be distributed to local communities that have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and/or have historically had trouble accessing testing. Organizations interested in requesting kits should visit [the portal on Clackamas County's website](#).

A new drive-thru testing site in the parking lot of Clackamas Town Center Mall has opened provided by Covid Clinic. Additional information is available at the [Covid Clinic website](#).

The testing site at Clackamas Community College Harmony Campus is still accepting walk-ins. More information on this site is available at [clackamas.us/coronavirus/testing](https://book.curative.com/sites/34332) and <https://book.curative.com/sites/34332>.

Updated county testing resources flyers are available in English and Spanish at clackamas.us/coronavirus/testing.

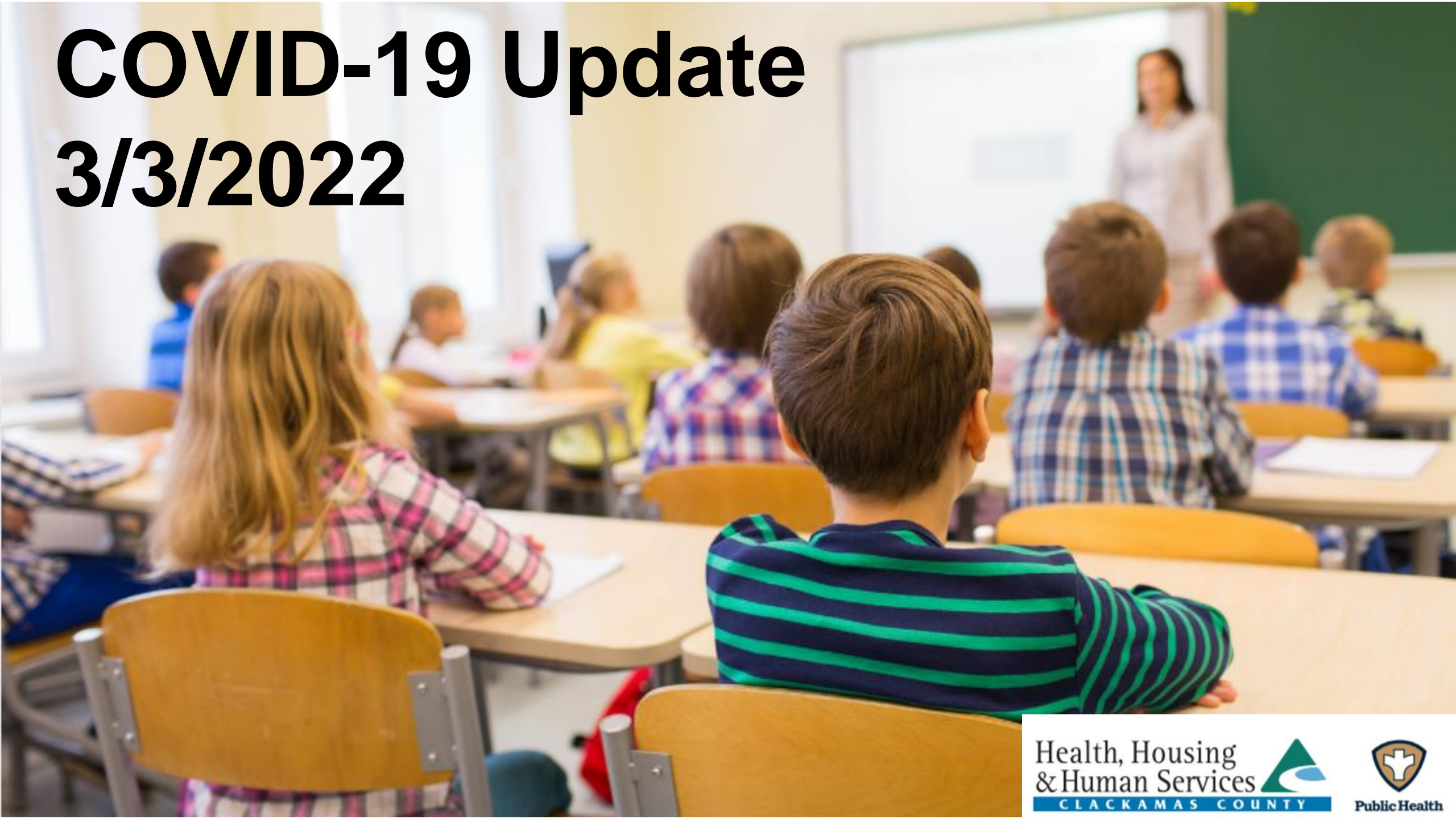
Disease Response

All vaccine clinics are open for walk-ins. Clinics continue to see a continuous decline in the numbers vaccinated each week. At-home testing kits are being made available and distributed at all vaccine clinics for anyone needing testing kits and having difficulty accessing them elsewhere. The in-home vaccination team is continuing outreach to adult foster homes and intellectually developmentally disabled (I/DD) congregate care settings to schedule in-home vaccines and testing.

Last week, the COVID Investigation & Outreach Unit opened 428 cases and is investigating 20 fewer outbreaks than the week prior. With news that the state mask requirements will be lifted on March 12, the team is preparing communications and guidance to support the health and safety of the community. The Education & Referral team is developing capacity to directly deploy financial assistance and quarantine and isolation housing options for community members who are significantly impacted by COVID at this time.

COVID-19 Update

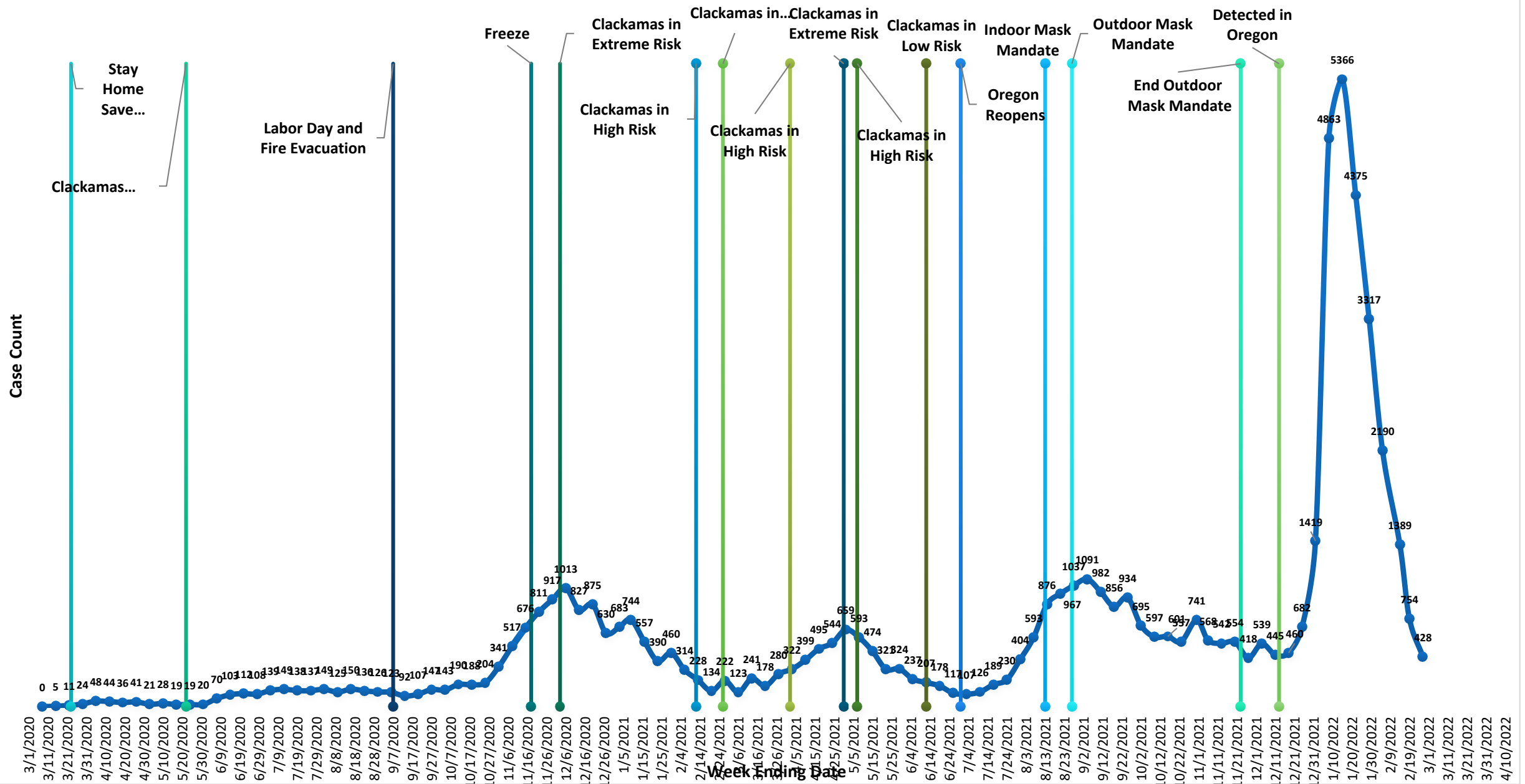
3/3/2022



COVID Current Case and Death Data

as of 3/1/2022	Total cases	Total deaths	Change since 2/18/2022
Clackamas County	59,154	524	Cases: +708 Deaths: +12
Multnomah County	110,800	1,054	Cases: +1,372 Deaths: +36
Washington County	84,158	507	Cases: +1,101 Deaths: +15

ClackCo Case Count by Week for 3/1/20 - 02/26/22

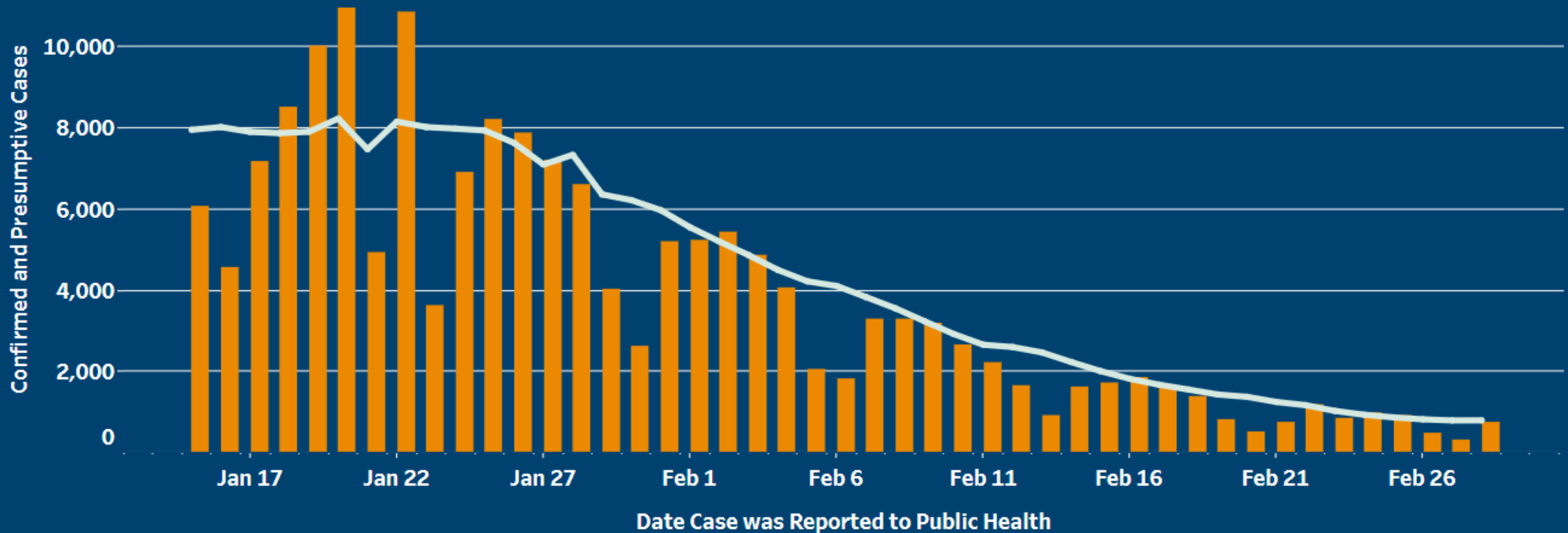


Statewide Numbers from 2/28/2022

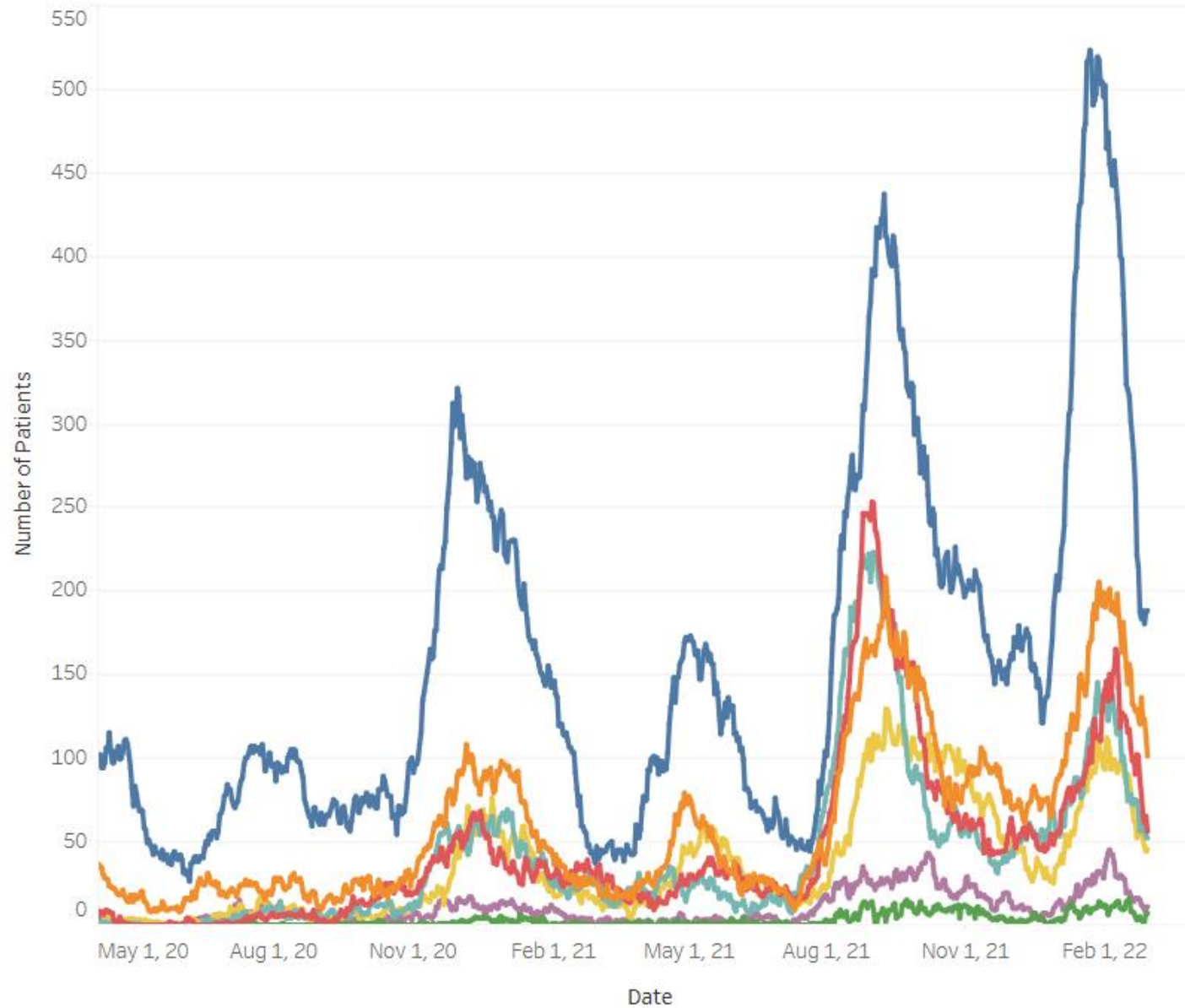
New Cases	7 Day Daily Average of Cases	Cases Per 100k in Previous 7 Days	COVID-19 Patients Hospitalized†	Tests Reported	Test Positivity	New Deaths
741 ▲	774.3	127.0	460 ▼	14,586	5.2%	26

Arrows indicate an increase or decrease from the previous day. †Hospitalization data from Oregon's Hospital Capacity Web System (HOSCAP).

Daily Cases and 7 Day Moving Average over the Previous Six Weeks

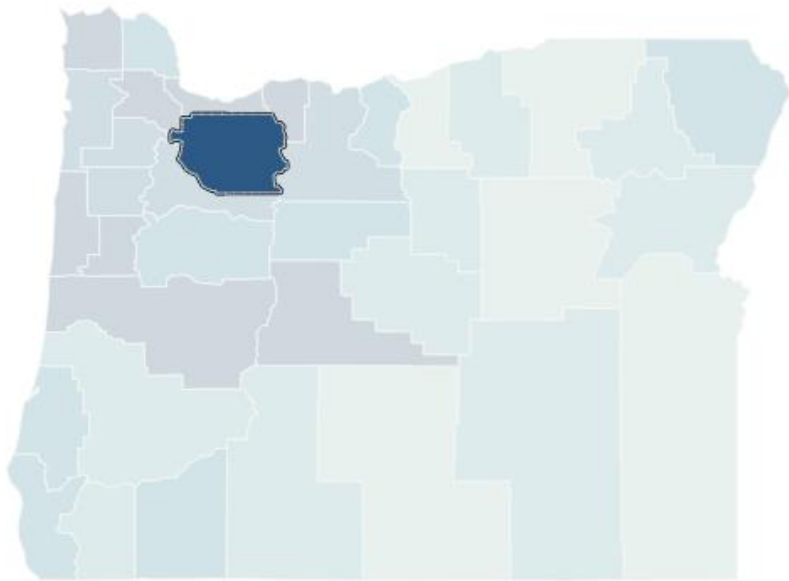


COVID-19 Positive Patients in Oregon Hospitals



Clackamas County Vaccinations

as of 3/1/2022



People ages 18 years and older living in ClackCo

80.0% have received at least one dose.

74.4% have completed their primary series.

45.9% have received an extra dose (*3rd dose or booster*)

Entire ClackCo Population

Primary Series In Progress: **22,647**

Primary Series Complete: **288,150**

742,780 doses administered in Clackamas

310,797 people vaccinated in Clackamas

Omicron Updates

- Worldwide case count dropped 14.8%
- U.S. averaging 65,858 new cases a day
- U.S. case counts dropped 43% in two weeks
- Oregon averaging 774 cases a day
- Oregon case counts dropped 43%
- ClackCo averaging 61 cases a day
- ClackCo case counts dropped 69% in two weeks



Stacking up mask options

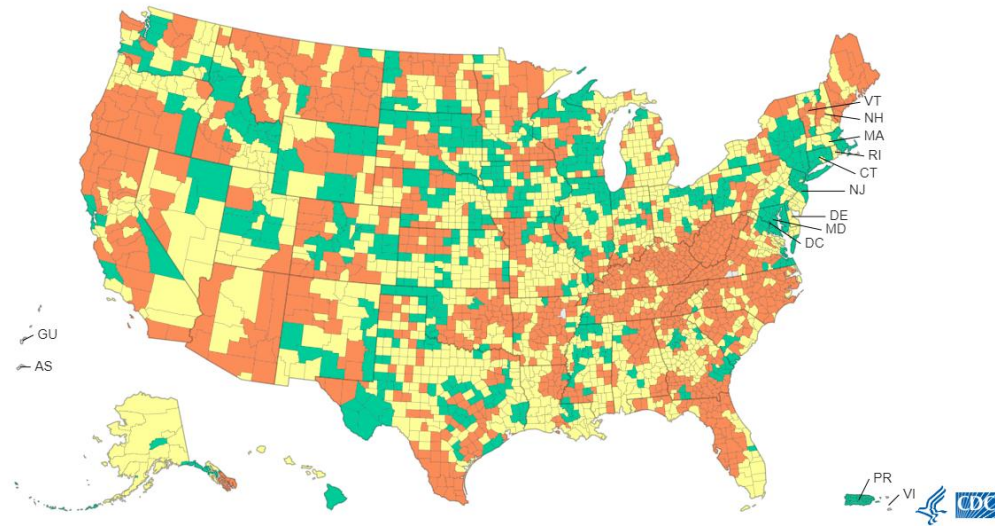


- Indoor mask mandate for general public and K-12 to be lifted on March 12
- CCPH will follow the OHA's lead on mask mandates
- Masking remains a critical public health tool for preventing spread of COVID-19
- Well-fitted N95 and KN95 respirators offer the highest level of protection
- Any mask is better than no mask
- Many of Oregon's pharmacies are distributing free masks

U.S. COVID-19 Community Levels by County

Data provided by CDC

Updated: Feb. 24, 2022



COVID-19 Community Levels

- New metrics to guide COVID-19 mitigation practices
- Help communities decide what prevention steps to take based on the latest data
- Packages 3 metrics:
 1. New COVID19 hospital admissions over the previous week;
 2. Percentage of hospital beds occupied by COVID patients; and,
 3. New cases per 100,000 people over the previous week
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>

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

School Updates



Effective March 12:

- Pause contact tracing and quarantine for general population, including K-12 settings
- Individuals may also choose to mask based on their individual risk assessment
 - We need to honor and support individuals' personal decisions to continue wearing masks
 - We encourage those who are immunocompromised or with underlying health conditions to continue wearing a mask around others
- Masks not required on school buses or vans
- Continue to support and promote physical distancing and cohorting
- Test to stay will shift from a form of modified quarantine to enhanced exposure testing

Free Tests

Federal Free At-Home Tests

- Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order 4 free at-home COVID-19 tests
- Orders will usually ship in 7-12 days
- Order your tests today at

covidtests.gov



CCPH Free At-Home Tests

- Local governments and municipalities can request test kits
- Small businesses and a variety of organizations serving vulnerable populations can also request test kits
- Available at all vaccine clinics
- Organizations interested in requesting kits should visit


<https://www.clackamas.us/coronavirus/testkits>

[irus/testkits](https://www.clackamas.us/coronavirus/testkits)

Free Drive-Through Tests

- Weekly at Clackamas Community College Harmony Campus
- Tuesday-Saturday, 8 a.m. -3 p.m.
- Schedule an appointment

cur.tv/milwaukie

 **curative**


COVID-19 Testing

No out of pocket costs


Self-collected, shallow nasal PCR test
Results within 1-2 days from receipt of the sample at the lab
Schedule an appointment at cur.tv/canby

OHA COVID-19 Hotline and Website


COVID-19 Support Hotline
New Oregon Health Authority resource for those who have tested positive and for COVID-19 questions




General health information




Isolation and quarantine information




Advice on how to talk to close contacts



Resources to help with isolation



help with reporting of positive test result



Multiple languages available

Call: 866-917-8881 or visit Oregon.gov/positivecovidtest
Phone hours: 8am-6pm Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm Saturday

- Report positive at-home or testing provider COVID-19 tests
- Take a 20-45 minute online survey
- Get information about what to do if you test positive
- Now supporting school-related questions

Supporting Mental Health and Emotional Health

Mental health struggles look different for everyone. Common things that might mean it's time to reach out to get support:

- Anxious, feeling helpless or worries all the time
- Tired, sad or low most of time
- Trouble falling sleep or sleeping too much
- Disconnected from others

A few tips for taking care of yourself:

- Focus on things you can control
- Limit screen time
- Fuel your body by eating a healthy, well-balanced diet
- Spend time outside
- Take deep breaths and stretch often
- Stay connected to friends and family



Reach out to Clackamas Safe+Strong for resources or to connect with people who care:

Clackamas County Crisis and Support Line 503-655-8585 or safestrong@clackamas.us

Vaccine Clinics Through March 2022

Walk-ins available, while vaccine supplies last, and within 30-minutes of clinic closing time.

Date	Location
Monday 2pm – 7pm	Molalla United Methodist Church 111 S. Mathias Rd, Molalla
Tuesday 2pm – 8pm	Canby Foursquare Church 2350 SE Territorial Rd, Canby
Wednesday - Saturdays 11am – 7pm	Clackamas Town Center 12000 SE 82 nd Ave, Happy Valley (2 nd floor next to LensCrafters)
Thursday 3pm – 7pm	Providence Willamette Falls Community Center 519 15 th St, Oregon City
Friday 2pm – 5pm	Sandy Community/Senior Center 38348 Pioneer Blvd, Sandy

VACCINE SCHEDULING



Local opportunities in ClackCo:
clackamas.us/coronavirus/vaccine

Schedule via Email:
COVIDvaccine@clackamas.us

Schedule via Phone:
[\(503\) 655-8224](tel:(503)655-8224) *(Mon-Fri. from 8am-5pm)*

Register to receive notification for when an appointment is available:
GetVaccinated.oregon.gov

COVID-19 Wraparound Services

Available Resources

- Rent, Mortgage, Utilities, Food, Emergency Shelter, Financial Assistance

How to Refer Someone for Assistance

- Email EOCCBO_Coordinator@Clackamas.us with the client's full name, date of birth, address, and what their current needs are
- Direct them to call the PIC line to be connected with one of our referral coordinators: 503-655-8224

Eligibility

- Clients are eligible for wrap-around support if they have tested positive for COVID-19, meet presumptive criteria, or are a confirmed close contact

What can you do for vaccine safety?

- Report adverse events following vaccination to VAERS even if you aren't sure if the vaccination caused the adverse event
- Enroll yourself in v-safe
- Healthcare providers, encourage your patients to enroll in v-safe
- Parents and guardians, you can enroll your children in v-safe



VAERS

Vaccine Adverse Event
Reporting System

<http://vaers.hhs.gov>



vsafe.cdc.gov/en/

Please get involved, your participation matters



County Resources

Help protect yourself and others by staying home if you are sick. Visit our webpage for more resources:

www.clackamas.us/coronavirus

