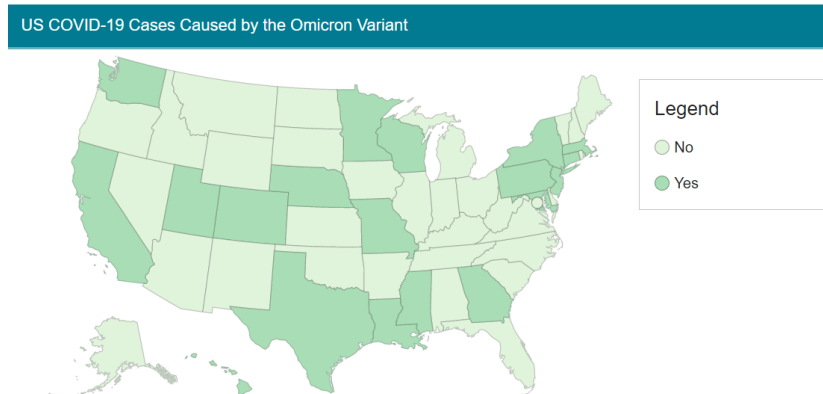# CLACKAMAS COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION WEEKLY REPORT ON COVID-19 FOR 12/8/2021

Emergence of Omicron in the United States

The fast-spreading Omicron variant of the coronavirus has now been reported in 50 countries and 19 states.

US COVID-19 Cases Caused by the Omicron Variant

The Omicron variant likely will spread more easily than the original SARS-CoV-2 virus and how easily Omicron spreads compared to Delta remains unknown. CDC expects that anyone with Omicron infection can spread the virus to others, even if they are vaccinated or don't have symptoms. More data are needed to know if Omicron infections, and especially reinfections and breakthrough infections in people who are fully vaccinated cause more severe illness or death than infection with other variants. Scientists are working to determine how well existing treatments for COVID-19 work. Based on the changed genetic make-up of Omicron, some treatments are likely to remain effective while others may be less effective.

Layered mitigation strategies effective against Delta and other previous variants remain the best strategies to prevent the spread of Omicron. These strategies include vaccination (including boosters), masking, improving ventilation, distancing, handwashing, and testing to slow SARS-CoV-2 transmission.

Weekly cases in Oregon climb 50% as testing rebounds from holiday

Oregon posted a 50% increase in weekly coronavirus cases Monday, with the spike largely tied to a resurgence in testing following the Thanksgiving holiday. The Oregon Health Authority recorded 6,435 cases in the past week, including 2,041 announced Monday for the preceding three days. The jump in weekly cases corresponds with a roughly 44% increase in weekly testing. Both cases and tests plummeted during the Thanksgiving week, making the rapid climb less concerning, particularly given a continued decline in test positivity rates.

Oregon has seen weekly cases drop in 12 of the past 14 weeks, with no consecutive weeks of gains since August. Officials are expected to keep watch of any potential reversal in long-term trends, either from a renewed spread of the delta variant or the new omicron variant, which has yet to be discovered in Oregon.

Voluntary digital vaccine record planned

The Oregon Health Authority is developing a [voluntary digital vaccine verification tool](#). The tool itself is completely voluntary. The goal of the digital vaccine record, called OR Verify, is to provide people vaccinated in Oregon with an electronic way to access their personal COVID-19 vaccination record and share their vaccination status with businesses that ask for proof of verification.

Many businesses and venues now require proof of vaccination for entry. This tool will give people a convenient option, rather than using their paper record. Many health systems have developed their own digital solutions, so their patients have a simple and convenient way to show proof of vaccination. Oregon's tool is modeled on a similar optional tool used in Washington and California. Oregon is currently testing its voluntary verification tool with communities disproportionally impacted by the COVID-19 virus to gather consumer feedback that will ensure the tool is accessible and convenient for everyone in Oregon. Oregon Health Authority anticipates making its voluntary tool available for free for anyone in Oregon who chooses to use it in the spring of 2022.

COVID-19 treatment authorization expanded to include infants

In Feb. 2021, the FDA authorized monoclonal antibody treatment for adults and children 12 and older weighing 88 pounds who have tested positive for COVID-19 and are at high risk of severe disease or hospitalization. The treatment includes the drugs bamlanivimab and etesevimab to be administered together. On Dec. 3, 2021, the agency [expanded emergency use](#) of bamlanivimab/etesevimab to include all patients at risk of severe disease, including newborns. "Children under one year of age who are exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19 may be at particularly high risk for severe COVID-19 and this authorization addresses the medical needs of this vulnerable population," said Patrizia Cavazzoni, M.D., director of the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research.

Monoclonal antibodies are laboratory-made proteins that mimic the immune system's ability to fight off harmful pathogens, such as viruses. Bamlanivimab and etesevimab are monoclonal antibodies that are specifically directed against the spike protein of SARS-CoV-2, designed to block the virus' attachment and entry into human cells.

Why get mAb therapy?
This therapy can be extremely effective, but it's not a replacement for vaccination. Monoclonal antibody therapy is a 4 hour treatment and not widely available.

- It can reduce hospitalization by up to 70% for COVID-positive people with mild to moderate symptoms.
- It reduces the risk of getting COVID-19 by up to 81%, if a person gets treated after exposure.
- It reduces the risk of death.
- It is proven effective against the Delta variant.

CDC recommends booster doses for immunocompromised people

After expanding eligibility for COVID-19 booster shots to all adults, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) now [recommends booster doses for immunocompromised people](#) who have received a third dose of Pfizer or Moderna. The booster dose should be given six months after the third dose of Pfizer or Moderna and would constitute a fourth dose. The Moderna booster dose is half the strength of the primary doses. Everyone who received a Johnson & Johnson vaccine should get a booster dose of any one of the three authorized vaccines two months after the initial vaccination.

Oregon State University analyzing wastewater for omicron

Scientists believe it is only a matter of time before a case of the Omicron variant is detected in Oregon. SARS-CoV-2 can be identified in the feces of infected people, and OHA is working with researchers at Oregon State University (OSU) to test wastewater from around the state. This functions as an early detection system to determine what variants are circulating. Wastewater surveillance initially helped find Delta throughout Oregon.

Next week, scientists with Oregon State University's TRACE-COVID-19 project will begin processing samples that were taken twice a week last month from 40 wastewater treatment plants across the state. Researchers will extract tiny bits of virus RNA from those samples as a key part of the state's surveillance for the new variant of concern. Compared to genomic testing that relies on clinical samples taken from people with suspected COVID-19 infections, the wastewater sampling captures signals from a much larger population statewide.

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	9,572	11.7%
12 to 17	22,117	67.2%
18 to 19	6,727	69.0%
20 to 49	115,528	70.8%
50 to 64	67,385	67.7%
65+	71,943	80.9%

COVID-19 cases among people under age 18

The population of ages 0-17 in Clackamas County is 86,962. The number of pediatric cases in Clackamas County the week of November 21 is 69. The pediatric case rate in Clackamas County the week of November 21 is 79.3 per 100,000.

For more information on pediatrics, visit the OHA Pediatric Dashboards.

COVID-19 hospitalizations

As of December 7th, the number of hospitalized patients with COVID-19 across Oregon is 405, which is 13 fewer than yesterday. There are 110 COVID-19 patients in intensive care unit (ICU) beds, which is five fewer than yesterday. There are 63 available adult ICU beds out of 664 total (9% availability) and 307 available adult non-ICU beds out of 4,156 (7% availability).

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
November 28th	**539**	**126.4**	**5.6%**
November 21st	**416**	**97.5**	**6.3%**
November 14th	**552**	**129.4**	**6.7%**
November 7th	**539**	**126.4**	**7.8%**

COVID-19 Testing at Clackamas County Fairgrounds

285 COVID-19 tests were administered at the Clackamas County Fairgrounds in November. Due to space needs at the Fairgrounds, the testing site will be relocating to Clackamas Community College Harmony Campus at the end of the month, with an anticipated launch date of January 3rd, 2022. The new weekly schedule for the site is currently being developed.

Disease Response

The vaccine team saw a large increase in adult booster vaccines. All Public Health provided clinics are filling appointments. The team is offering 16 different vaccination clinics throughout the county this week. Clinics include five standing clinics, school based clinics and special clinics with a cultural focus. The FEMA vaccine van was in Estacada last week and administered 790 vaccines including first doses for pediatrics and adults and boosters. The van will be in Sandy on December 12th-14th.

The case investigation team opened 539 cases last week and was able to interview 121, 22%. They are monitoring 78 open outbreaks. There is a decline in outbreaks in long term care facilities from 30 a month ago to 16 last week, likely due to overall decline in COVID-19 cases but may also be a result of improved vaccination rate of staff and boosters.
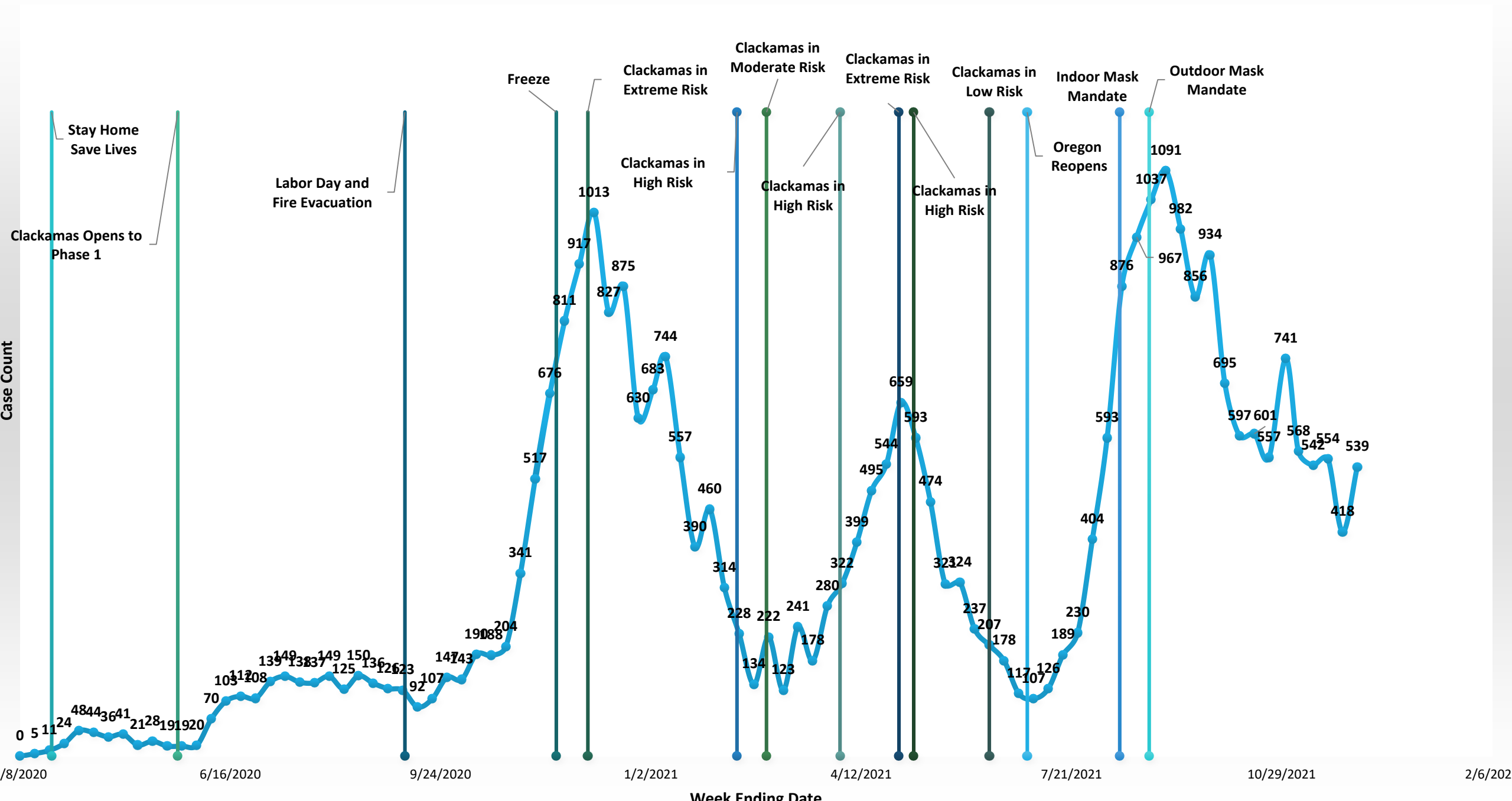
COVID current case/death data

as of 12/6/2021	Total cases	Total deaths	Change since prior week
Clackamas County	33,256	388	Cases: +534 Deaths: +11
Multnomah County	61,066	850	Cases: +887 Deaths: +14
Washington County	42,631	406	Cases: +721 Deaths: +11

Health, Housing & Human Services
CLACKAMAS COUNTY

Public Health

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Case Count by Week for 3/1/20 - 12/04/21

Statewide Numbers from 12/3/2021 to 12/5/2021

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
2,041 ▼*	925.6	151.8	418 ▲	53,963	4.9%	25

* 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
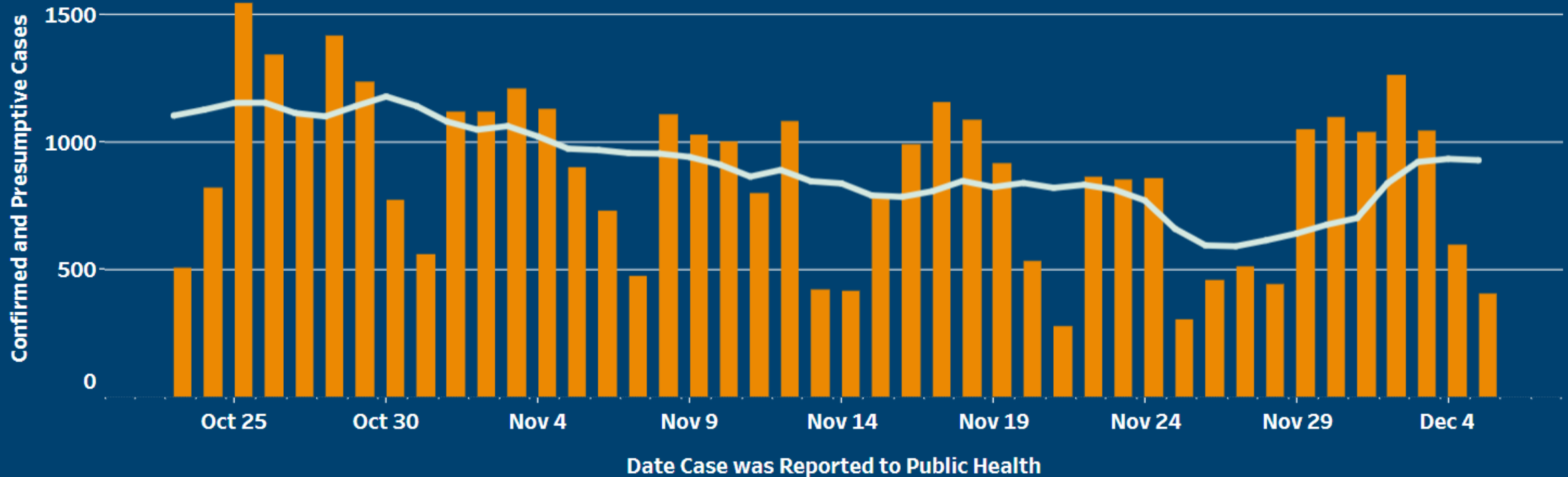
Unvaccinated, Vaccinated Case Rates
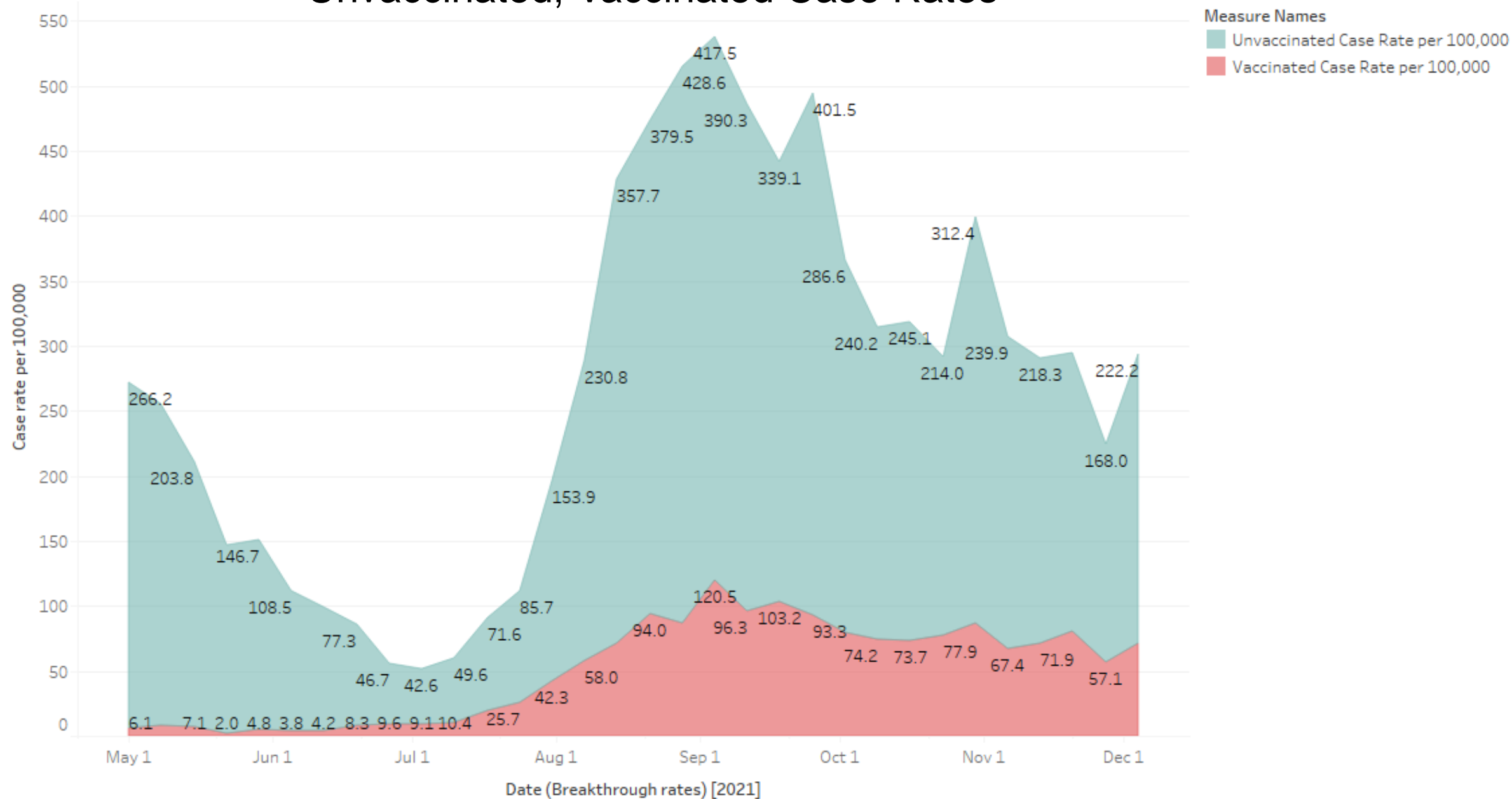
The plots of Unvaccinated Case Rate per 100,000andVaccinated Case Rate per 100,000 for Date (Breakthrough rates). Colour shows details about Unvaccinated Case Rate per 100,000andVaccinated Case Rate per 100,000.The data is filtered on Date (Breakthrough rates), which keeps 32 of 32 members.
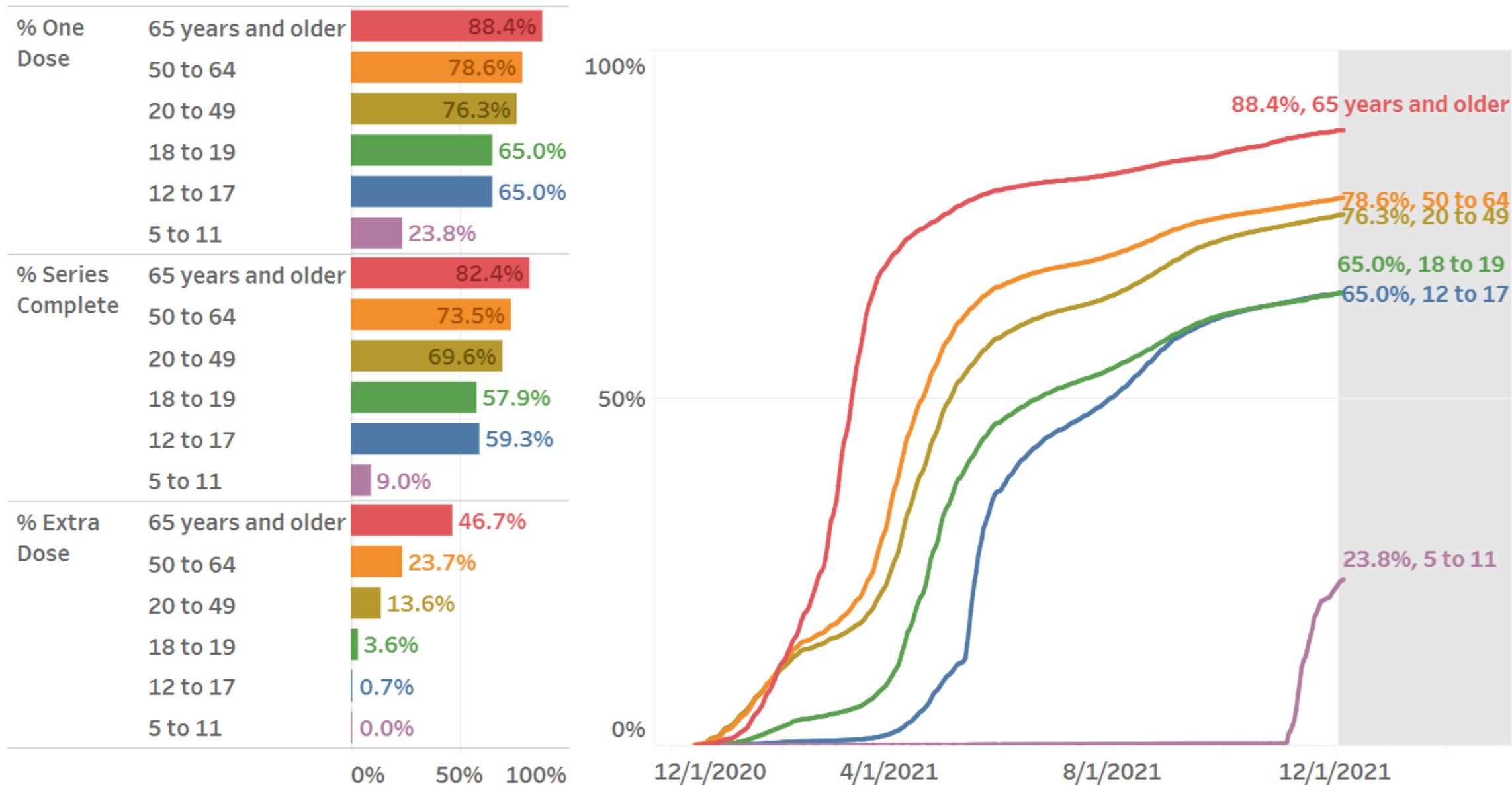
Oregon Pediatric COVID-19 cases by age range

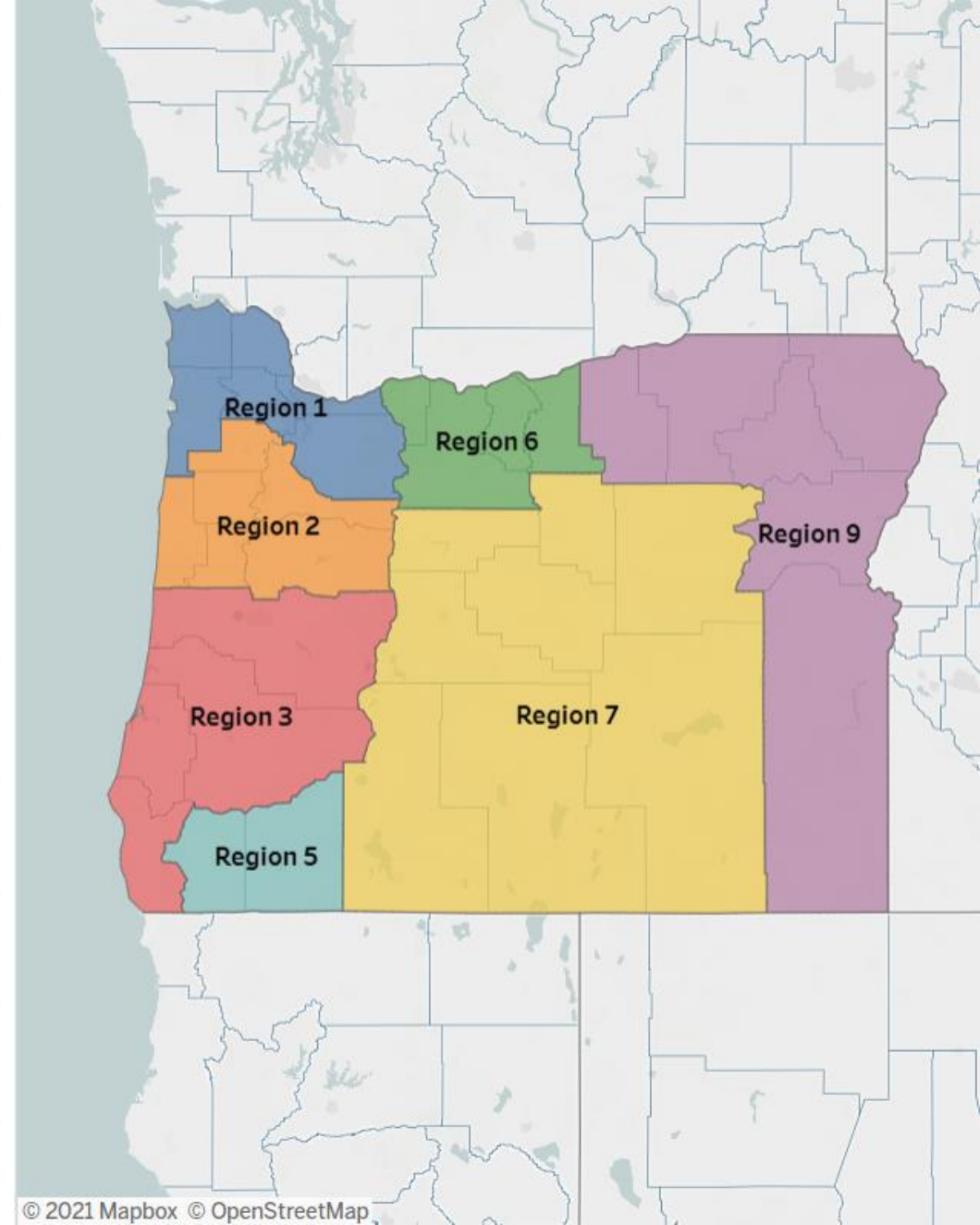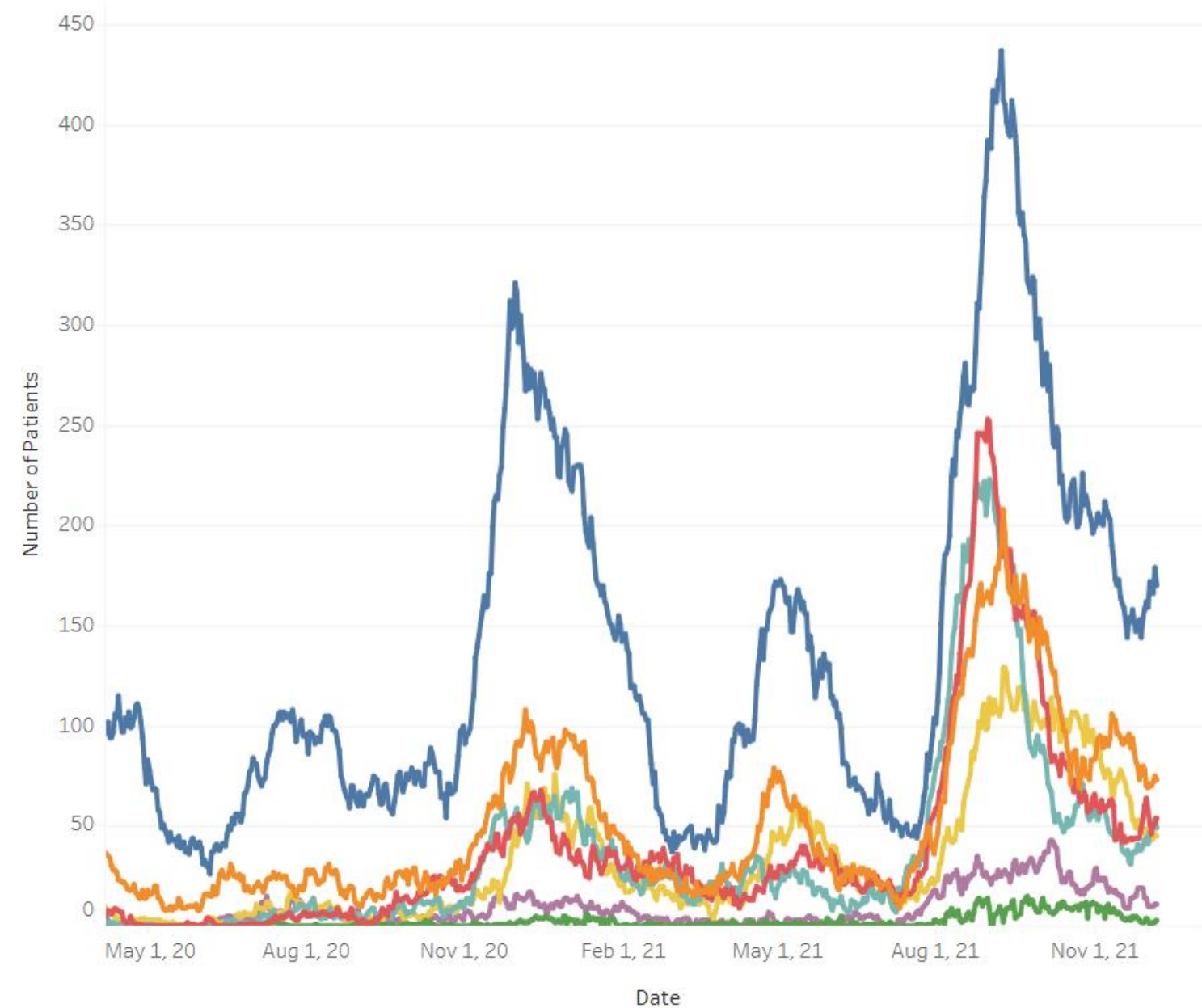**Recent pediatric COVID-19 case rates are highest among people age 5-11**

The chart below shows the rate of pediatric cases per 100,000 by week of onset and age group, in years.
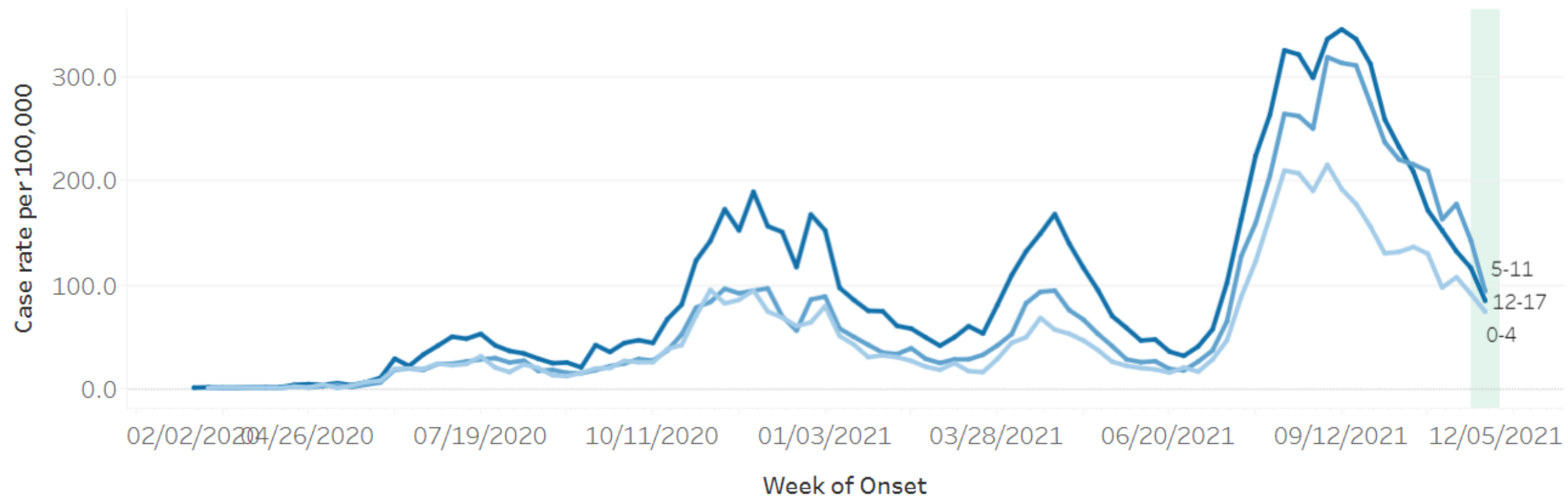
Clackamas County Vaccination Rates by Age Group

COVID-19 positive patients in Oregon hospitals

Clackamas County Vaccinations

as of 12/06/2021

Adults age 18+

72.4% of Clackamas County Residents have completed their primary series.

77.0% of Clackamas County residents initiated vaccination and have received at least one dose.

25.1% of Clackamas County residents have received an extra dose (3rd dose or booster)
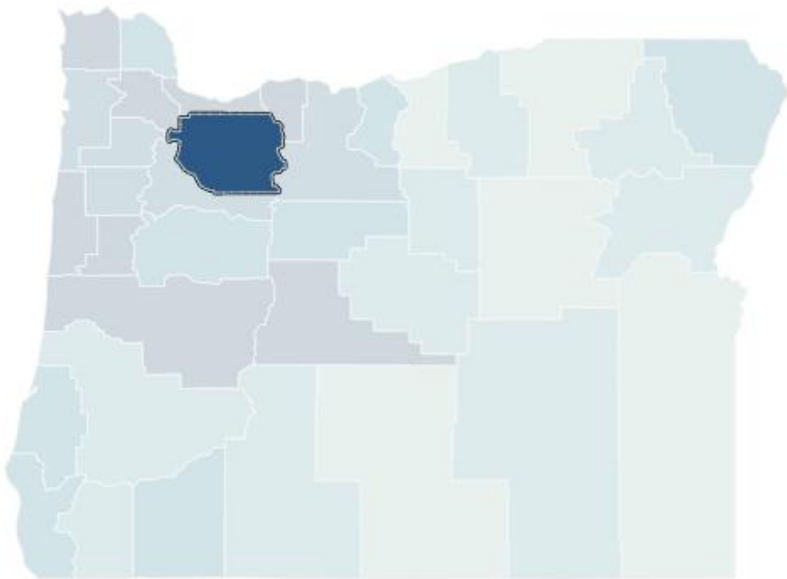
Entire Population

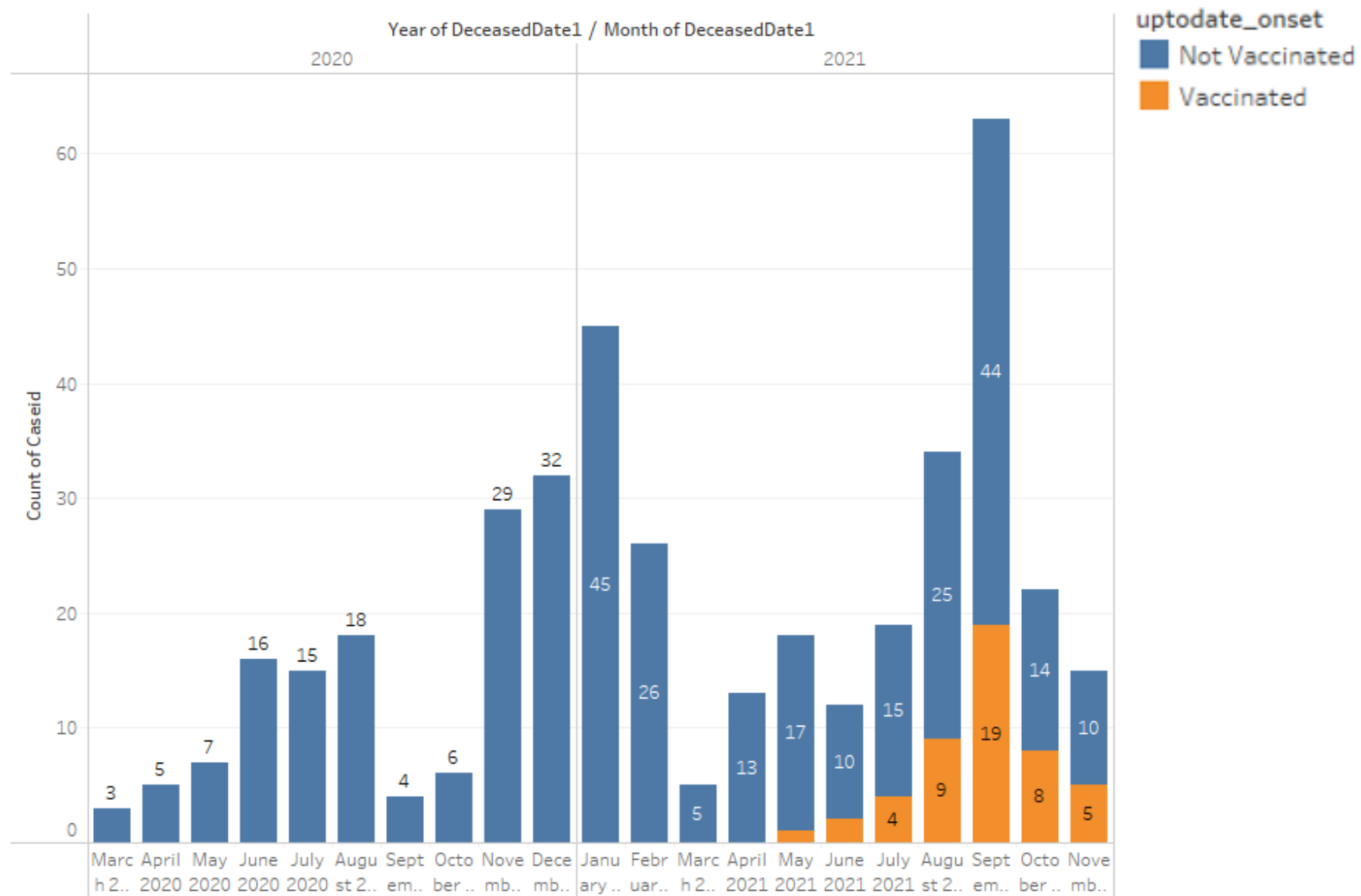**626,625** doses administered in Clackamas

293,284 people vaccinated in Clackamas

Primary Series In Progress: **23,359**

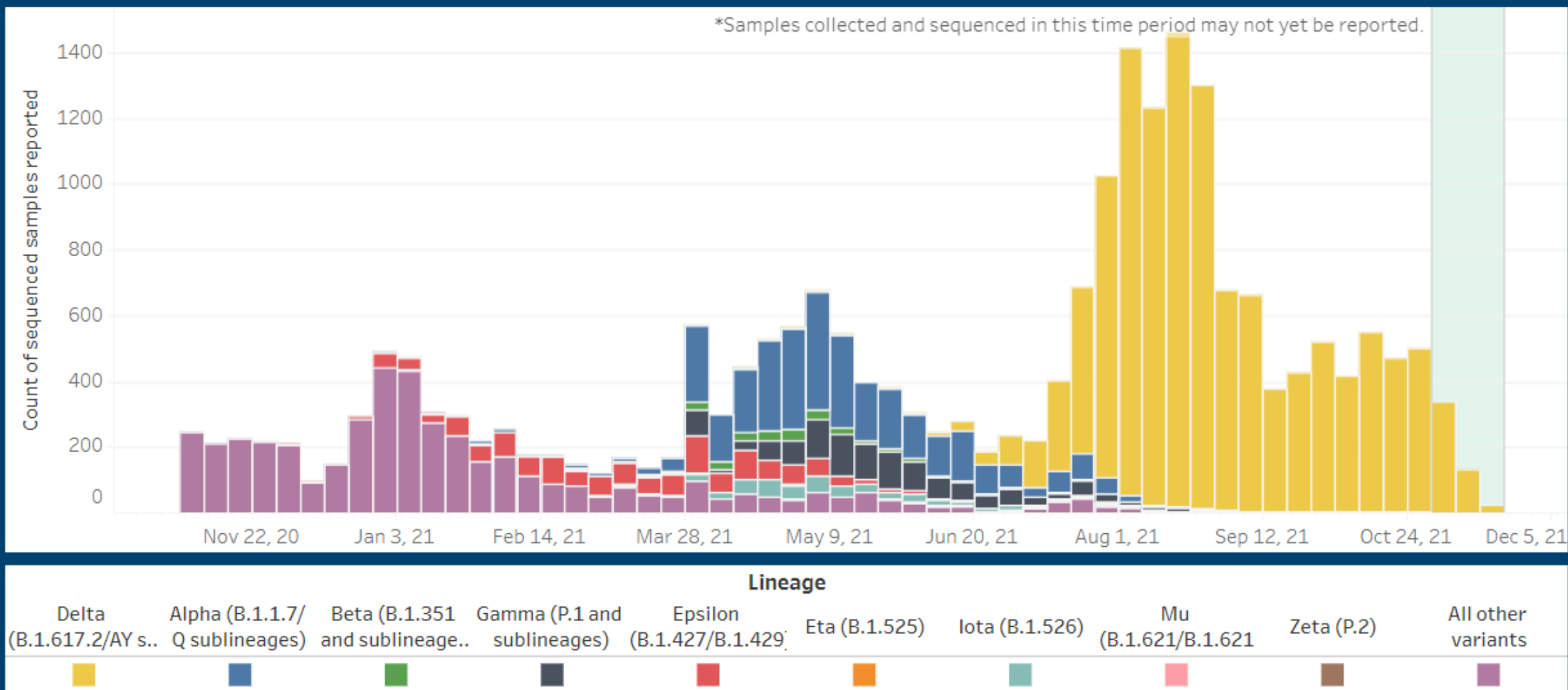Primary Series Complete: **269,925**

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Deaths by Month (Deceased Date) And Vaccination Status

Count of Caseid for each DeceasedDate1 Month broken down by DeceasedDate1 Year. Colour shows details about Uptodate Onset. Details are shown for DeceasedDate1 Month. The data is filtered on Coviddeath, which keeps 1. The view is filtered on Exclusions (MONTH(DeceasedDate1),uptodate_onset,YEAR(DeceasedDate1))and DeceasedDate1 Year. The Exclusions (MONTH(DeceasedDate1),uptodate_onset,YEAR(DeceasedDate1)) filter keeps 29 members. The DeceasedDate1 Year filter keeps 2020and2021.

# Count of Variant Sequenced Samples from Oregon over Time

*Samples collected and sequenced in this time period may not yet be reported.

Count of sequenced samples reported

Lineage

Delta (B.1.617.2/AY s..) | Alpha (B.1.1.7/ Q sublineages) | Beta (B.1.351 and sublineage..) | Gamma (P.1 and sublineages) | Epsilon (B.1.427/B.1.429) | Eta (B.1.525) | Iota (B.1.526) | Mu (B.1.621/B.1.621 | Zeta (P.2) | All other variants

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Omicron Variant Information

US COVID-19 Cases Caused by the Omicron Variant

- Reported in 50 countries and 19 states

- Detected in California and Washington –

  this makes it very likely that it is also in Oregon

- OHA is monitoring the emergence of Omicron

  closely with a robust variant surveillance system

- No unusual symptoms have been reported

  following Omicron infection

- Current tests remain accurate in diagnosing

  COVID-19 infection caused by Omicron

- Contains approximately 50 mutations across its entire genome – half in the spike region which raises concern

  for increased transmissibility and an impact on vaccine effectiveness

- Three doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine neutralize the Omicron variant

Vaccination remains the best protection against COVID-19 infection and transmission.

Legend
- No
- Yes

Pfizer
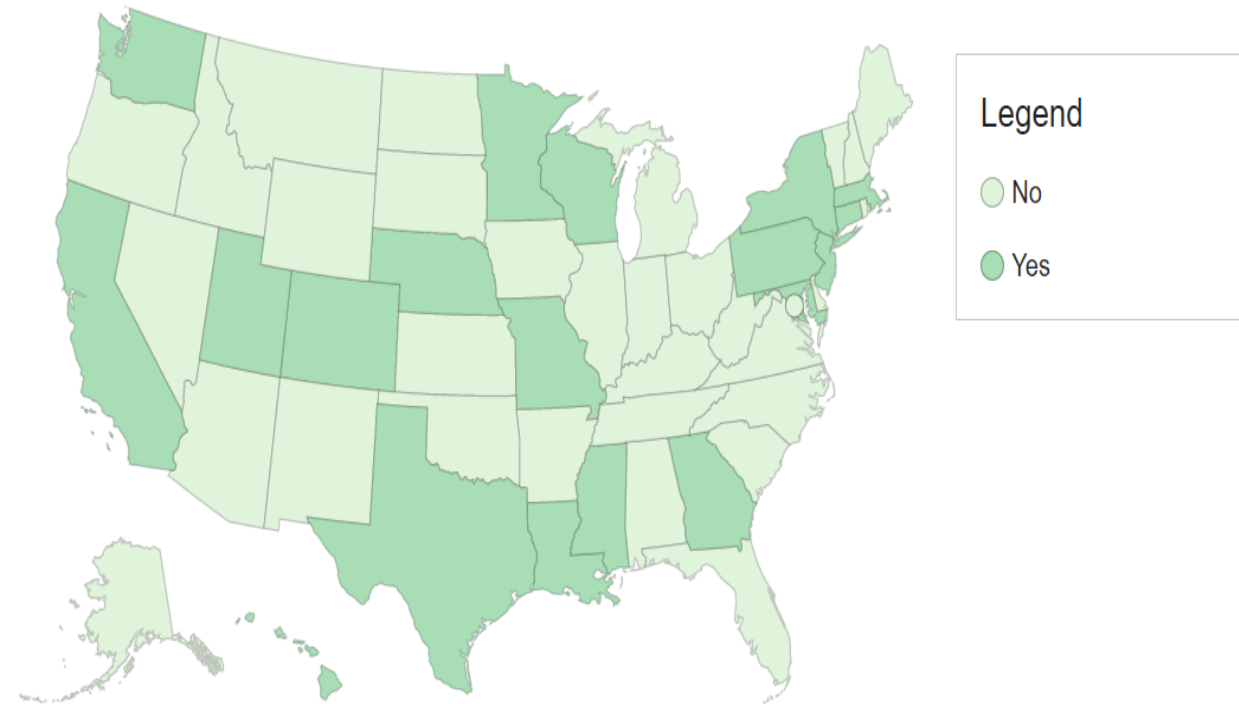
Why get a booster?

➢ Virus fighting antibodies generated from the vaccine wane over time

➢ A booster dose builds on the initial immune response.

➢ Results in higher antibody levels that help people maintain their immunity longer and protect against new variants.

➢ If you are re-exposed to something [via a booster shot, that follows the original exposure by vaccination] → the memory response is even more vigorous than the original.

Vaccine Scheduling

Local opportunities in Clackamas County
clackamas.us/coronavirus/vaccine

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

Questions? Email COVIDvaccine@clackamas.us or call our
Public Inquiry Center at **503-655-8224** (Mon-Fri. from 8am-5pm)

FREE COVID-19 Testing

- Weekly at Clackamas County Fairgrounds!

- Thursday - Monday 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

- Drive-Through

- 140 appointment available each clinic day

- Schedule an appointment cur.tv/canby

Thank you to community partners Curative, Canby Fire Department, and Clackamas County Fairgrounds

✳ 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

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

Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System

http://vaers.hhs.gov

v-safe
after vaccination health checker

vsafe.cdc.gov/en/

Please get involved, your participation matters