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# CLACKAMAS COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION

## WEEKLY REPORT ON COVID-19 FOR 8/25/2021

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### Oregon reaches a grim milestone of 3,000 COVID-19 deaths

August 24<sup>th</sup> there were 30 new COVID-19 related deaths in Oregon, which raises the state's death toll to 3,066.

### New Statewide Outdoor Mask Requirements

The Governor announced new statewide outdoor mask requirements to help stop the spread of the highly contagious Delta variant. Effective Friday, August 27, masks will be required in most public outdoor settings, including large outdoor events where physical distancing is not possible, and regardless of vaccination status. The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) also strongly recommends masking for outdoor gatherings at private residences when individuals from different households do not consistently maintain physical distance.

Under the Governor's direction, the OHA rule will require masks for all individuals — regardless of vaccination status — in outdoor settings in which individuals from different households are unable to consistently maintain physical distance. The rule does not apply to fleeting encounters, such as two individuals walking by one another on a trail or in a park. While the rule does not apply to outdoor gatherings at private residences, masks are strongly recommended in those settings when individuals from different households do not consistently maintain physical distance.

The rule aligns with the exceptions outlined in the recent statewide indoor mask requirements, and does not apply to:

- Children under 5 years old;
- Individuals who are actively eating, drinking, or sleeping — as well as individuals living outdoors, such as persons experiencing homelessness;
- Persons playing or practicing competitive sports, or engaged in an activity in which it is not feasible to wear a mask — such as swimming;
- Individuals delivering a speech or performing — such as with outdoor music or theater;
- Mask requirements for day-to-day operations at K-12 schools are not governed by this rule, and will instead continue to fall under the school mask rule. Outside public events, spectator events, and gatherings of the public on K-12 school grounds will be subject to the rule. Child care and youth programs will continue to follow existing OHA mask guidance; and
- In addition, entities subject to the ADA must continue to comply with that law.

The OHA rule will go into effect this Friday, August 27, however Oregonians are strongly encouraged to immediately start wearing masks outdoors, as outlined above.

Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine approved by the FDA for 16 and older, remains under emergency use authorization (EUA) for ages 12 through 15 and immunocompromised

August 23<sup>rd</sup>, the [U.S. Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\) granted full approval](#) to the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine, which will be marketed as “Comirnaty.”

Under the newly granted FDA approval, Comirnaty will be available to all people ages 16 and older to prevent COVID-19 disease. Under the EUA, the vaccine will continue to be available to all people ages 12 and older, and a third dose will be available to immunocompromised people.

The FDA thoroughly reviews the quality, safety and effectiveness of medical products before granting an FDA approval. Following an extensive review of vaccine effectiveness and safety data in tens of thousands of participants, the FDA determined Comirnaty was both safe and highly effective in preventing COVID-19 disease.

Because of Comirnaty’s full FDA approval, the vaccine is immediately available for approved use in Oregon.

## The Governor Announces Two New Vaccination Measures to Address Hospital Crisis, Help Keep Students Safe

Governor Kate Brown announced two new vaccination measures to address Oregon’s hospital crisis, caused by the Delta variant surge, and to help keep Oregon students safe in the upcoming school year and minimize disruptions to in-person instruction:

- Oregon’s vaccination requirement for health care workers will no longer have a testing alternative. Health care workers will be required to be fully vaccinated by October 18, 2021.
- All teachers, educators, support staff, and volunteers in K-12 schools will be required to be fully vaccinated by October 18, 2021.

## OHA releases new pediatric dashboard

Oregon Health Authority published a new dashboard report of [pediatric COVID-19 case data in Oregon](#). This dashboard replaces the previous report and will be published weekly on Thursdays with the most recent full week’s data. Here are some key findings:

- There have been 31,394 confirmed and presumptive cases in Oregon of COVID-19 among people under 18 years old (12.7% of the total cases).
- As with COVID-19 cases overall, weekly COVID-19 pediatric cases have increased dramatically since July 2021.
- Pediatric case rates are highest among some communities of color and Tribal communities: people who identify as Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native, Black or Hispanic.
- The report indicates that while pediatric case counts have increased, severe outcomes among pediatric patients are rare.

## OHA releases new COVID-19 vaccine breakthrough report

- Breakthrough cases are people diagnosed with Covid more than two weeks after being fully vaccinated.
- Oregon Health Authority's recent [update on COVID-19 breakthrough cases](#) found that 85.6% of the 20,701 reported COVID-19 cases between Aug. 1 and Aug. 14 occurred in people who were unvaccinated. There were 2,982 breakthrough cases, accounting for 14.4% of all cases.
- Cases of COVID-19 are far more common in unvaccinated people. The report shows that the rate of COVID-19 in unvaccinated people is now approximately six times higher than in vaccinated people. "Vaccination remains the most effective tool to reduce the spread of COVID-19," according to the report.
- The number of vaccine breakthrough cases identified in Oregon remains very small when compared to the more than 2.36 million Oregonians who have completed their COVID-19 vaccination series.

## Data tracking vaccinations at Oregon long-term care facilities

- Oregon Health Authority is [launching a data dashboard that allows the agency to report vaccination rates at long-term care facilities](#) (LTCF) licensed by the Oregon Department of Human Services' (ODHS) Office of Aging and People with Disabilities.
- In Region 1, 75% of staff working in the 191 LTCF that reported were vaccinated at the end of July. Facilities who did not report may have lower vaccination rates.

## Booster vaccination

- The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorized an additional vaccine dose for the Pfizer and Moderna mRNA vaccines in [some immunocompromised people](#) on August 12, 2021. The CDC now recommends that immune compromised people who got the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine get a third dose. The third dose prompts a stronger immune response in people with weakened immune systems.
- Recently, the federal Health and Human Services agency announced a national plan to make booster doses available to all vaccine eligible people beginning this fall. The booster dose will be administered 8 months following the second dose and will boost waning immunity.

## Newest COVID-19 modeling report projects higher increases in daily cases and hospitalizations

The Oregon Health Authority released its latest [COVID-19 forecast](#), which projects the possibility of continued higher COVID-19 associated hospitalizations and daily cases through Sept. 7.

According to the model, the effective reproduction rate – the expected number of secondary cases that a single case generates – was estimated at 1.58 through July 14, more than double the 0.74 reported through mid-June.

At that same level of transmission, over the next two weeks, daily cases would increase “exponentially” according to the report. The report projects a possible increase to 1,750 cases per 100,000 people, or an estimated 5,250 cases and 300 new hospitalizations per day between Aug. 25 and Sept. 7.

## COVID-19 hospitalizations

[Oregon Health and Science University \(OHSU\) released a statement and COVID-19](#) forecast:

- By Labor Day, OHSU predicts that the state will be short 400-500 needed staffed hospital beds. This means that some Oregonians will not be able to get hospital care for COVID-19 or any other condition.
- Unless Oregonians take immediate action, there will not be an available hospital bed for many patients who need it for COVID-19 or other urgent issues like heart attacks, trauma accidents and strokes.
- Getting vaccinated is the single best thing to do to prevent severe illness from COVID-19.
- OHSU experts ask that unvaccinated adults stay at home and limit community interactions as much as possible.
- OHSU is asking Oregonians to minimize their activities to decrease the need for hospital or emergency room care for accidents or other injuries.

## Updated Gathering Guidance

- Any gathering is risky right now. Take gatherings outside, limit the size and allow space for distancing. See guidance document in ([English](#) and [Spanish](#)).

## COVID-19 Cases in Clackamas County

The number of [new confirmed and presumptive COVID-19 cases reported](#) on 8/22/21 in Clackamas County is 964. [Vaccination data](#) for Clackamas County is also listed below.

| Week of Date                  | Case Count | Cases per 100k | Test Positivity |
|-------------------------------|------------|----------------|-----------------|
| <b>August 15<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>964</b> | <b>226</b>     | <b>9.9%</b>     |
| August 8 <sup>th</sup>        | 877        | 205.6          | 8.6%            |
| August 1 <sup>st</sup>        | 588        | 137.9          | 8%              |
| July 25 <sup>th</sup>         | 404        | 94.7           | 6.6%            |
| July 18 <sup>th</sup>         | 230        | 53.9           | 4.2%            |

| Weekly Vaccinations in Clackamas County<br>(per OHA) |       |
|--|-------|
| <b>8/17-8/23</b>                                     | 4,348 |
| <b>8/10-8/16</b>                                     | 3,334 |
| <b>8/3-8/9</b>                                       | 3,157 |

## Disease Response

- Public Health COVID-19 Vaccine Mini-Grants Application is currently awarding community based organizations and community partners for work focusing on vaccine planning, distribution, education and outreach, the total of the grant is \$1.1 million. Four grants have been awarded to date.
  1. Bridging Cultures **\$16,125**
  2. Boost Oregon **\$30,000**
  3. Slavic Community Center **\$30,000**
  4. Energy Iz Everything **\$30,000**
- The Public Health immunization team continues to see increasing attendance at vaccine clinics. Our ongoing Molalla and Clackamas Town Center sites are seeing the largest increases. People express worry about the Delta variant and returning to school.
- The Public Health immunization team is planning back to school vaccination events with school districts. This includes strategizing events to help kids catch up on all required school vaccinations.
- The Public Health Case Investigation, contact notification, and outbreak teams continue to be in full surge status.
  - In surge status, the outbreak team is opening only high consequence outbreaks, despite this they are monitoring 65 open outbreaks, an increase from 16 one month ago.
  - With sports practices starting and school activities beginning, the team is monitoring cases in at least 4 districts.
  - The largest increase of outbreaks is seen in long-term care facilities (LTCF). The team is currently monitoring 27 outbreaks in these facilities amongst staff and residents. Covid surge facilities that take Covid+ hospital discharges and Covid positive cases from LTCF are full, this increases the census of Covid+ residents in LTCF. The increased number of residents with Covid-19, combined with staff shortages due to staff illness, fear of the Delta variant and a generally small workforce pool, has made it challenging to properly cohort Covid+ residents away from Covid negative residents contributing to the spread of Covid in these LTCF.
- Public Health received 7 mask compliance related complaints between Aug. 16 - Aug. 22
- Clackamas County received 30 requests for personal protective equipment (PPE). The county has ample supply of PPE for community partners, foster homes / group homes, and businesses. Please submit your request online before our warehouse staff take well-deserved time off at <https://www.clackamas.us/coronavirus/request-ppe>
- Public Health Immunization Outreach Team gave educational information to 600 people at the Clackamas County Fair

## Stories from the Front Line

The Public Health Covid Case Investigation Team contacts Covid Cases as required by law. The goals of this conversation are to provide education about isolation, identify contacts who may have been exposed to the disease and to assess the need for support for proper isolation. Last week, a case investigator received a

death threat from one of the Covid Cases living in Clackamas County who she contacted. It is never appropriate to threaten or harass the Public Health Staff who are carrying out the requirements of their job.

“Long-Covid” or “Covid long-haulers” are people who have had Covid and have ongoing symptoms weeks and months after the initial disease. It is estimated that 20%-30% of Covid cases end up becoming long-haulers. Common symptoms include: coughing, ongoing and sometimes debilitating fatigue, body aches, joint pain, shortness of breath, loss of taste or smell, difficulty sleeping, headaches, and brain fog.

Below is one County resident and employee’s experience with long-Covid.

- *I am a medical provider in my 40’s and this is my COVID story. When I started helping the county with the COVID response at the beginning of the pandemic, I never imagined that I would eventually get sick with the virus myself. My family and I were exposed by a guest in our home over the Thanksgiving holiday. Our guest was asymptomatic and didn’t find out they had COVID until it was too late. My family had mild symptoms for a few days but I was not as fortunate. I became severely ill and was hospitalized three times. I ran fevers for months and now have to take medication daily to control my blood pressure. I have residual joint pain and fatigue. I am what is considered a “long hauler.” Prior to getting COVID I was healthy with no underlying conditions. The vaccine was not available yet. I believe that if I would have been vaccinated prior to being exposed that I would not have ended up in the hospital or battling long COVID symptoms. I received my second dose of the Moderna vaccine in April. I strongly encourage people to get vaccinated to protect themselves and the people around them.*

# COVID-19 Update

## 8/25/21





# COVID current case/death data

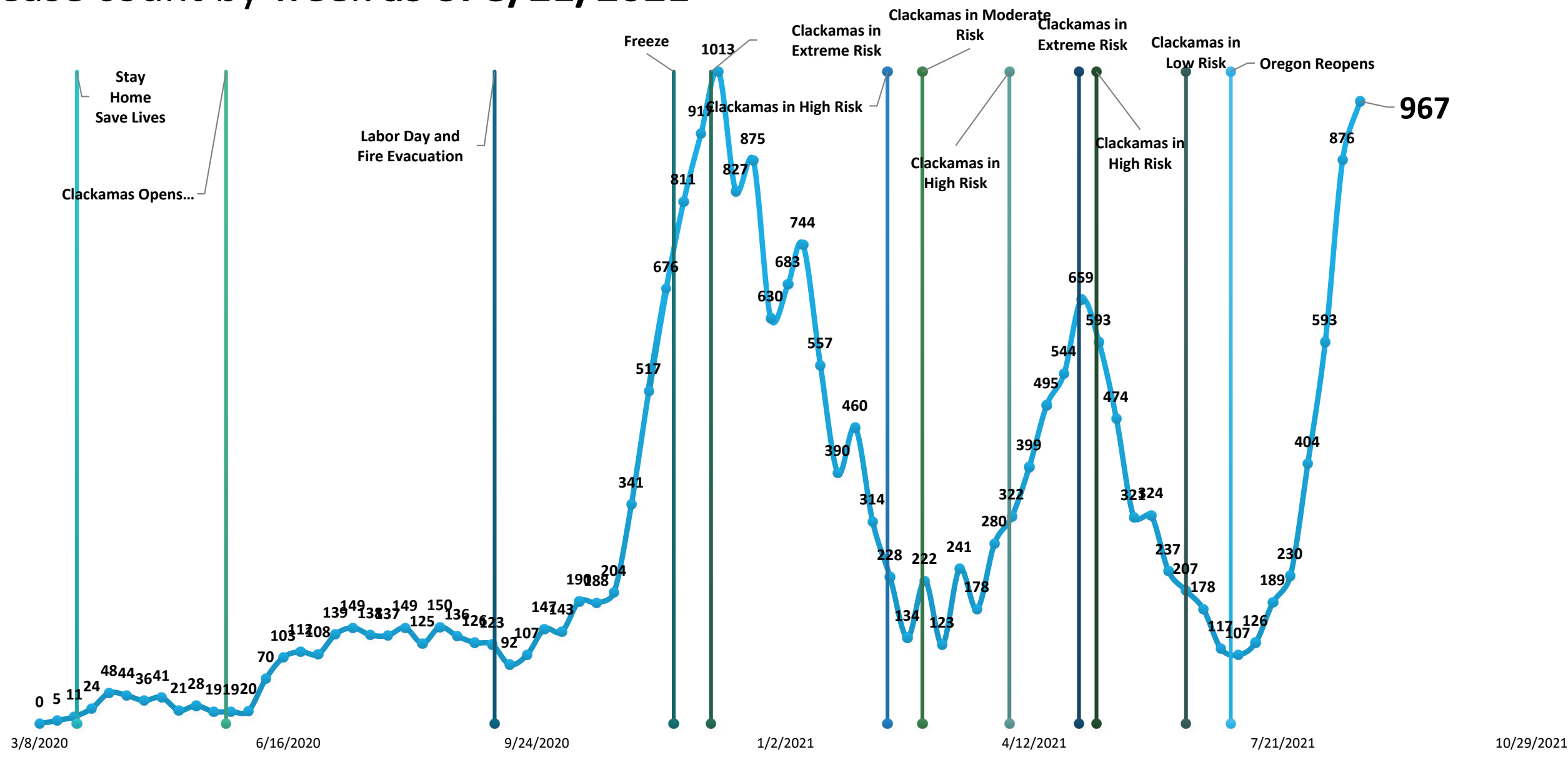
| as of 8/23/2021   | Total cases | Total deaths | Change since prior week     |
|-------------------|-------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Clackamas County  | 22,596      | 251          | Cases: +810<br>Deaths: +5   |
| Multnomah County  | 45,701      | 622          | Cases: +1,229<br>Deaths: +2 |
| Washington County | 30,552      | 262          | Cases: +870<br>Deaths: 0    |



[healthoregon.org/coronavirus](https://healthoregon.org/coronavirus)

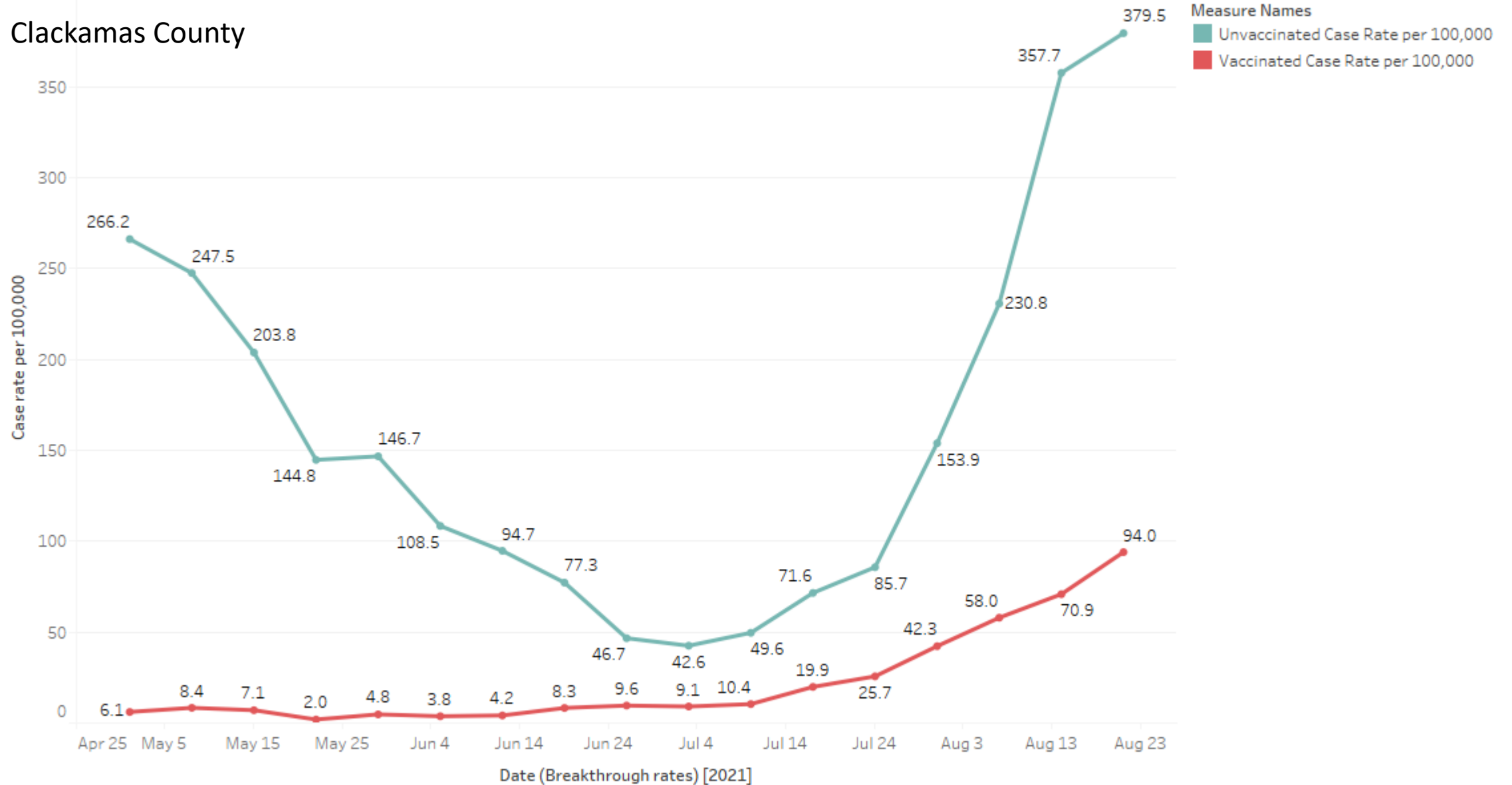


# Case count by week as of 8/21/2021



# Vaccinated, Unvaccinated, and Combined Case Rates

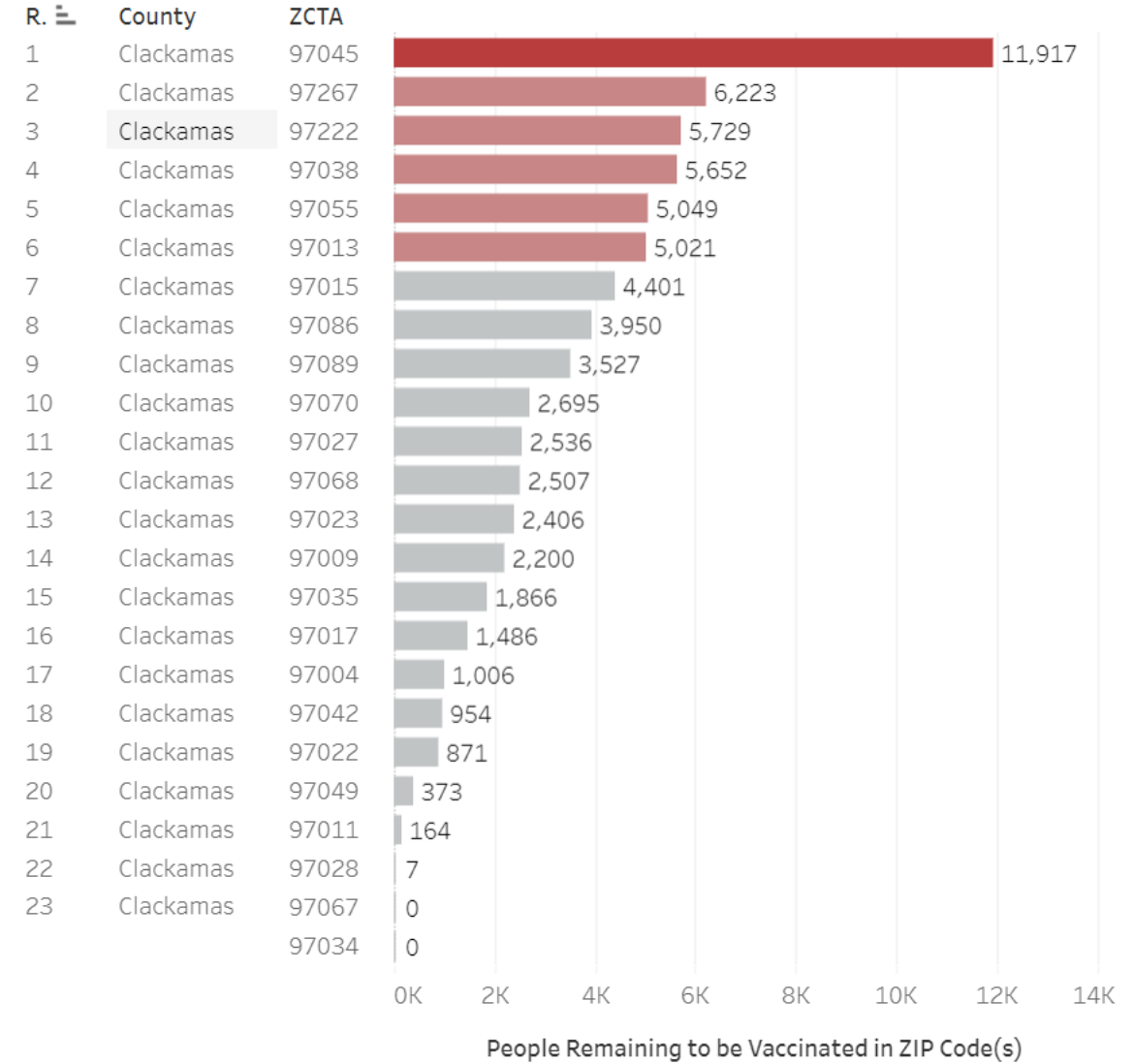
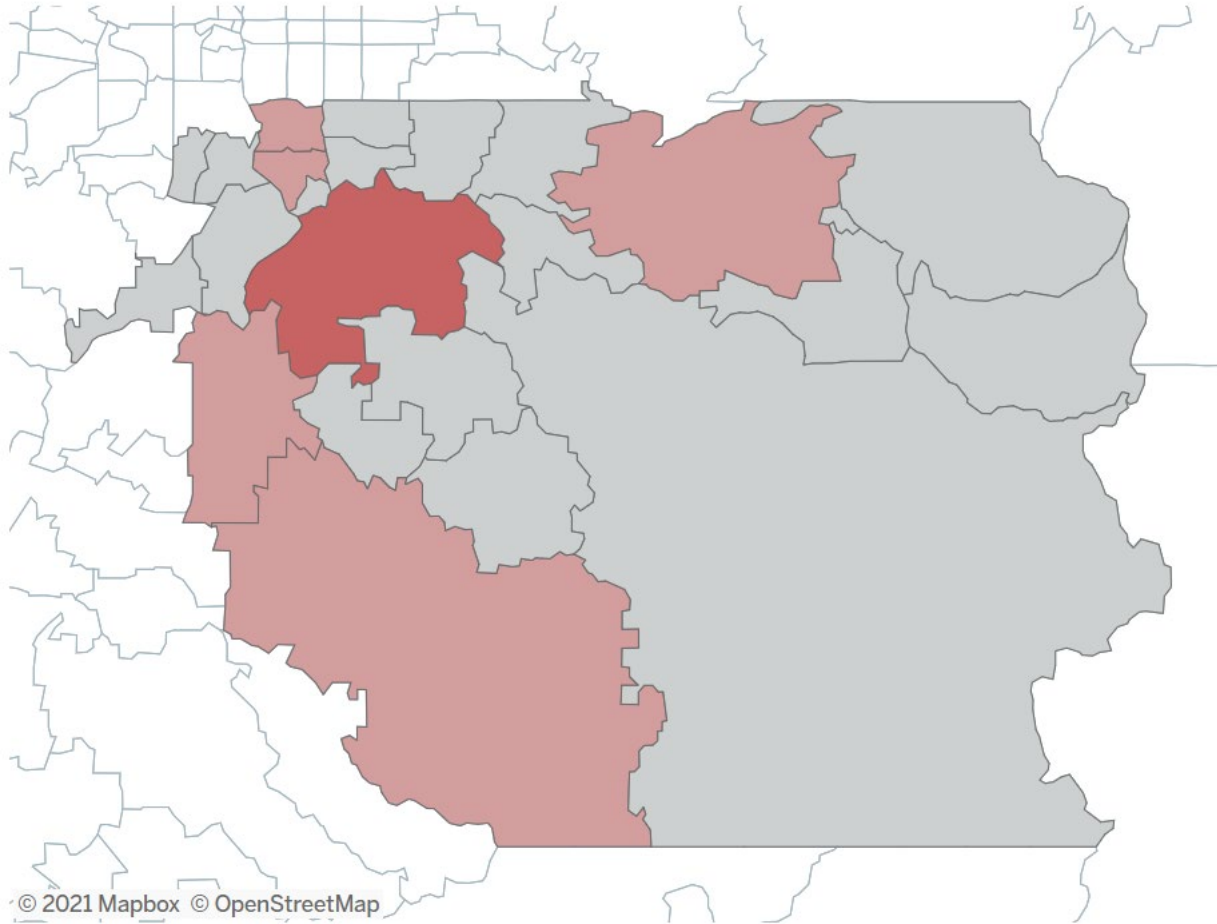
## Clackamas County



The trends of Unvaccinated Case Rate per 100,000 and Vaccinated Case Rate per 100,000 for Date (Breakthrough rates). Colour shows details about Unvaccinated Case Rate per 100,000 and Vaccinated Case Rate per 100,000.



# Clackamas County Zip Codes with most people remaining to be vaccinated [OHA 8/23/21](#)

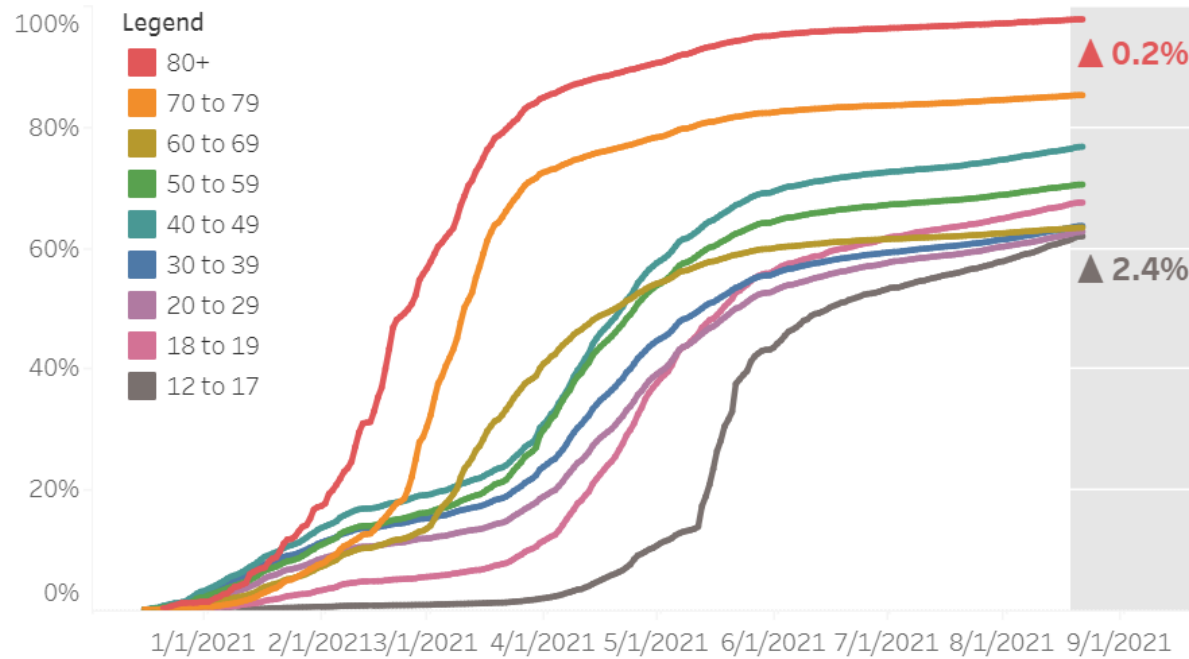


# Clackamas County Vaccination Rates by Age Group

## Clackamas County

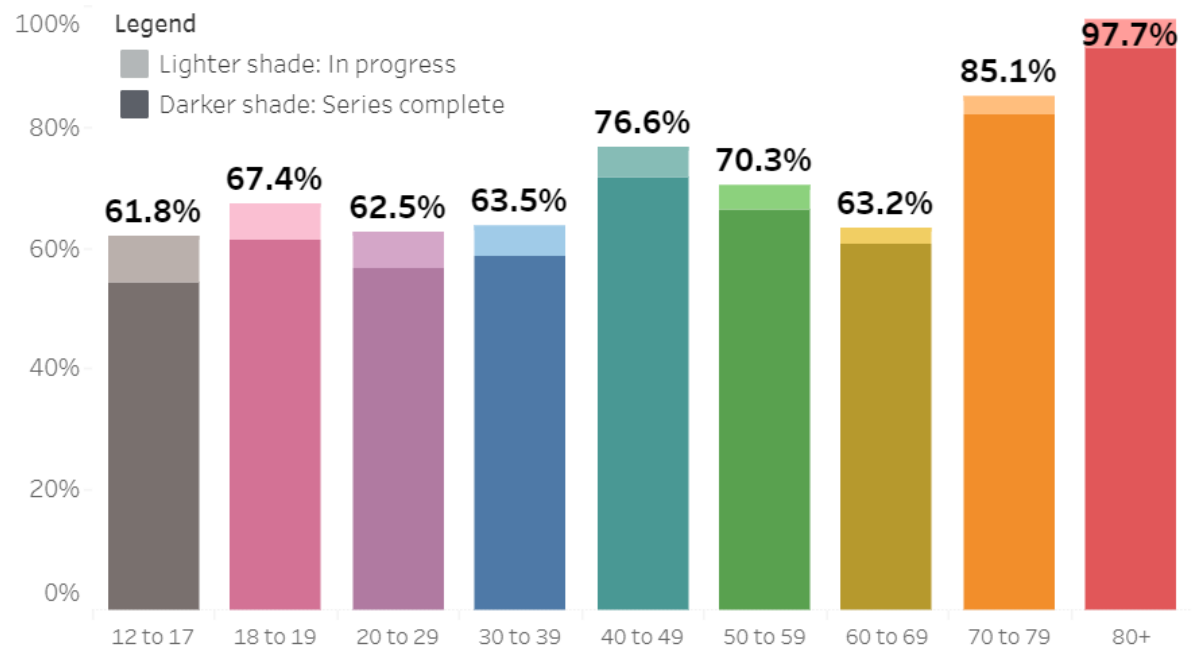
### People vaccinated over time by age

Labeled with relative percent change between 08/12/2021 to 08/19/2021.



### Current rates by age

Labeled with % people vaccinated with at least one dose



Source: OHA

## COVID Deaths in Oregon

### Length of Illness

Among those who have died with COVID-19, OHA defines length of illness as the number of days from onset date to the date of death. Onset date is the date a person started having symptoms. If symptom start date is not reported their onset date is calculated as two days before the specimen was collected for testing. This means that the length of illness presented here is a conservative estimate of actual length of illness.

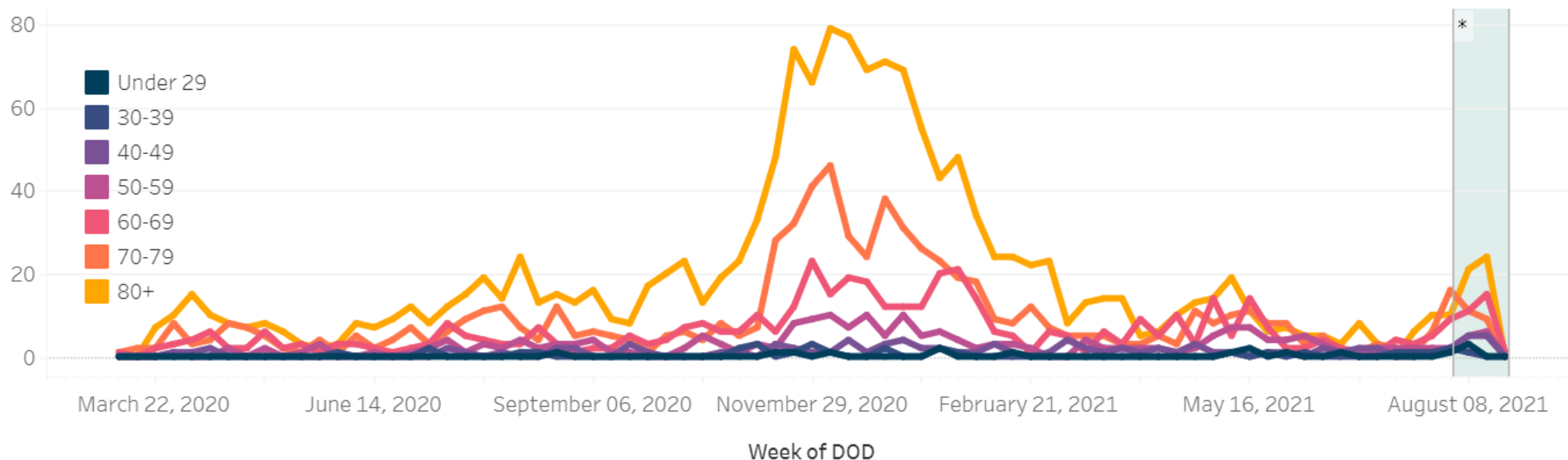
The Median Length of Illness for those who have lost their lives is **14** days.

### Deaths by Week (Hospitalization Status and Age Group)

The graph below depicts the number of Oregonians who have died with COVID-19 by week of death and either their age group or whether they were hospitalized during the course of their illness. Use the toggle to switch between age group and hospitalization status.

Deaths by Age Group  Deaths by Hospitalization Status

#### Deaths by Age Group



Source: [OHA](#)

# Vaccine Grants

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- Community partners continue to be instrumental in meeting vaccine equity goals
- Eligible community partners in Clackamas County, including 501c3 nonprofits and faith-based communities, can apply for grants to help with the costs of vaccine work
- Grants of up to \$30,000 per organization \$1.1 million in funds are available from OHA
- Applications must be submitted by October 1, 2021 and grant money must be used by December 30, 2021
- To apply visit <https://www.clackamas.us/grants>



# Vaccine Scheduling

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## Local opportunities in Clackamas County

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

## On-site COVID-19 Vaccinations for businesses

Businesses in Clackamas County can request an on-site COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic for staff. For more information visit <https://www.clackamas.us/coronavirus/business#vaccinations>

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