
CLACKAMAS COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION

WEEKLY REPORT ON COVID-19 FOR 9/22/2021

FDA briefed on boosters for Pfizer

Friday September 17th the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) heard from medical experts about the need for a booster dose of vaccine to maintain vaccine effectiveness. The expert committee recommended that people age 65 and older and those considered at high risk of severe COVID-19 receive a booster dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine at least six months after their second dose.

Booster doses have not been recommended for people who received the Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccine. It is expected that federal officials will consider booster doses for people who've received these vaccines in coming weeks.

The FDA briefings are just the first step, no boosters will be authorized in Oregon until all the steps are completed. Next steps include:

- The Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP) will meet Sept 22 and 23 to review the recommendations. The CDC will review the ACIP recommendations and make official recommendations for boosters.
- The Western States Scientific Safety Review will meet September 24 and issue a recommendation for Western states (Oregon, California, Nevada and Washington).
- The Oregon Health Authority will adopt the Western States Scientific Safety Review Committee's recommendation. Boosters will be widely available in pharmacies and from local providers.
- Clackamas County Public Health will begin boosters for eligible populations by appointment only beginning October 1. Public Health is also arranging for boosters for home bound and congregate care settings for eligible populations.

Vaccine is effective

Even though a booster for Pfizer is likely to be recommended, all of the Covid-19 vaccinations are highly effective in preventing hospitalization and death from Covid-19. Boosters were recommended because there was some evidence to show that the immune response the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine produces to protect against COVID-19 disease could begin to wane many months after a person was first immunized, especially in older adults. As with other vaccines, a booster shot will strengthen the body's ability to prevent disease from the virus that causes COVID-19.

Pfizer announces vaccine is safe and effective for kids 5-11 years old

Pfizer plans to submit their data to the FDA for review by the end of the month and emergency use authorization could be approved by Halloween. Pfizer and BioNTech is stating their vaccine is safe and generates a robust immune response in clinical trials. The companies tested a two-dose regimen of 10 micrograms, about 1/3 of the adult dose.

Vaccine mandates

Unvaccinated workers subject to the Oregon mandate to be fully vaccinated by the October 18 deadline must receive a Johnson and Johnson vaccine by October 4. A person is not considered fully vaccinated until two weeks after the final dose in their initial vaccine series. It is too late to begin the series for Moderna or Pfizer and be fully vaccinated by October 18.

Testing

As disease prevalence rises, so does the need for testing. Testing is recommended for anyone who has Covid-19-like symptoms or for anyone who is a close contact to someone with Covid-19. A close contact is advised to be tested 3-5 days after exposure, vaccinated or not. Additionally many airlines requires testing before travel. Some employers are now requiring testing. All of this testing puts a burden on the testing system. Most pharmacies and some providers and urgent cares offer testing, but it can be several days to find an open appointment, and may require travelling some distance. Home tests are becoming more widely available but are frequently out of stock and the cost, at nearly \$30 for a two pack, is prohibitive for many families. Limited access to testing means people with Covid-19 may not know it and may not be isolating correctly, further spreading disease. It is likely that the number of people with Covid-19 is much greater than reported due to people not testing or testing at home and not reporting.

Canvassing begins in Clackamas County

New Ground Strategies, a contractor of the Oregon Health Authority, will begin canvassing in Clackamas County on September 23rd. Canvassing will begin in the Canby zip code and will extend to areas of unincorporated Clackamas and Milwaukie. Canvassers will provide residents with educational materials on the vaccine and how and where to access it.

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
September 12th	857	200.9	9.2%
September 5th	982	230.2	10.0%
August 29 th	1024	240.1	9.9%
August 22 nd	1,040	243.8	10.7%

COVID-19 vaccinations in Clackamas County

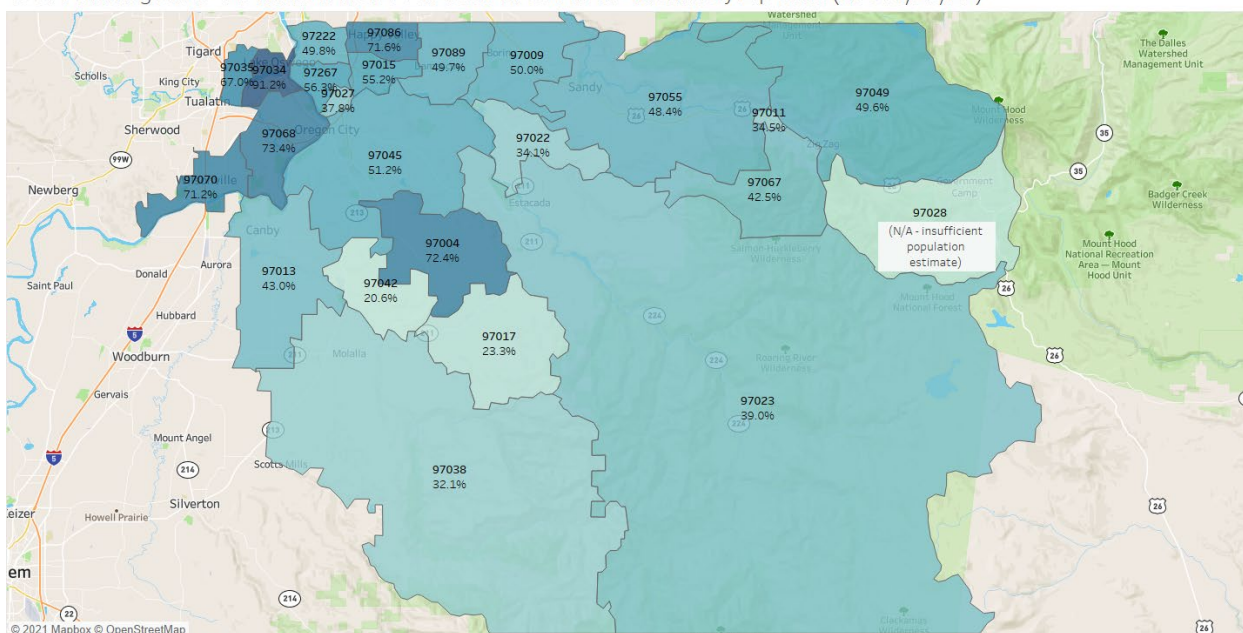
72.8% of people 18 years old and older have received at least one Covid-19 vaccine dose. 247,167 people vaccinated, 16,427 are in progress and 230,470 have completed the vaccine series. The Oregon vaccination rate for people 18 and older is 74.4%. More details available [here](#).

Vaccinations in school age students

The start of the school year has seen some students and staff with Covid-19 in our schools. These cases tend to have large exposures resulting in high numbers of students in quarantine. Despite the large exposures, the measures in place in schools, such as distancing, masking, hand washing, vaccinating and quarantining exposed people, are working to control the spread of disease in the school environment. Vaccinated students and staff that are exposed to someone with Covid-19 do not have to quarantine. Public Health is providing vaccination opportunities for the community in several schools, and students and their families are taking advantage of these opportunities.

The graph below shows the percentage of kids 12-18 years old vaccinated in each zip code. Zip codes do not directly align with district boundaries but it gives some idea.

% of Youth Aged 12 - 18 With At Least One Dose of COVID-19 Vaccine by Zip Code (as of 9/19/21)



Disease response

The Case Investigation team continues in surge mode, reaching about 21% of cases for interview. OHA is piloting a self-administered electronic interview tool that will upload directly to the data system. It should be ready for roll out in the next few weeks, and may increase the number of completed interviews. The outbreak team is managing 81 open outbreaks, 19 of which are in schools and daycares. The majority continue to be in long-term care facilities.

The immunization team is seeing a steady turnout at the Molalla community-based clinic housed at a Providence clinic. With increasing demand for vaccinations, we have outgrown our space there and will move to the United Methodist Church on Mathias Road this week, and in a few weeks will shift the clinic from Friday to Monday. With the expectation of booster approval, the team expects an increase in attendance at the community vaccine sites. To manage the increased demand they will switch to scheduled appointments. The booster dose may be a different size, and to avoid confusion will offer boosters at a different time than 1st/2nd dose of the Pfizer series.

Stories from the Front Line

A case investigator received this comment from one of the people she called. *"I am so thankful for you taking the time to call and provide information. It's good to see that there are still people who care about how we that are sick are doing. I hope God multiplies all the good you are doing. I really can't thank you enough for calling."*

A leader in the Clackamas local public health response attempted to access testing for a sick family member. A search of several local pharmacy appointment systems turned up one appointment in Hood River. The staff was able to locate one appointment 30 miles away at an urgent care – the family member was too sick to drive themselves and the staff did not want to be in the car with them for that long. The next available community clinic was four days away. Ultimately they were able to secure a home test after checking online stock at multiple stores and reserving one on back order. Accessing a Covid-19 test was challenging for someone who knew where to look, has transportation, has insurance or ability to pay out of pocket, and has English skills and reliable internet access.

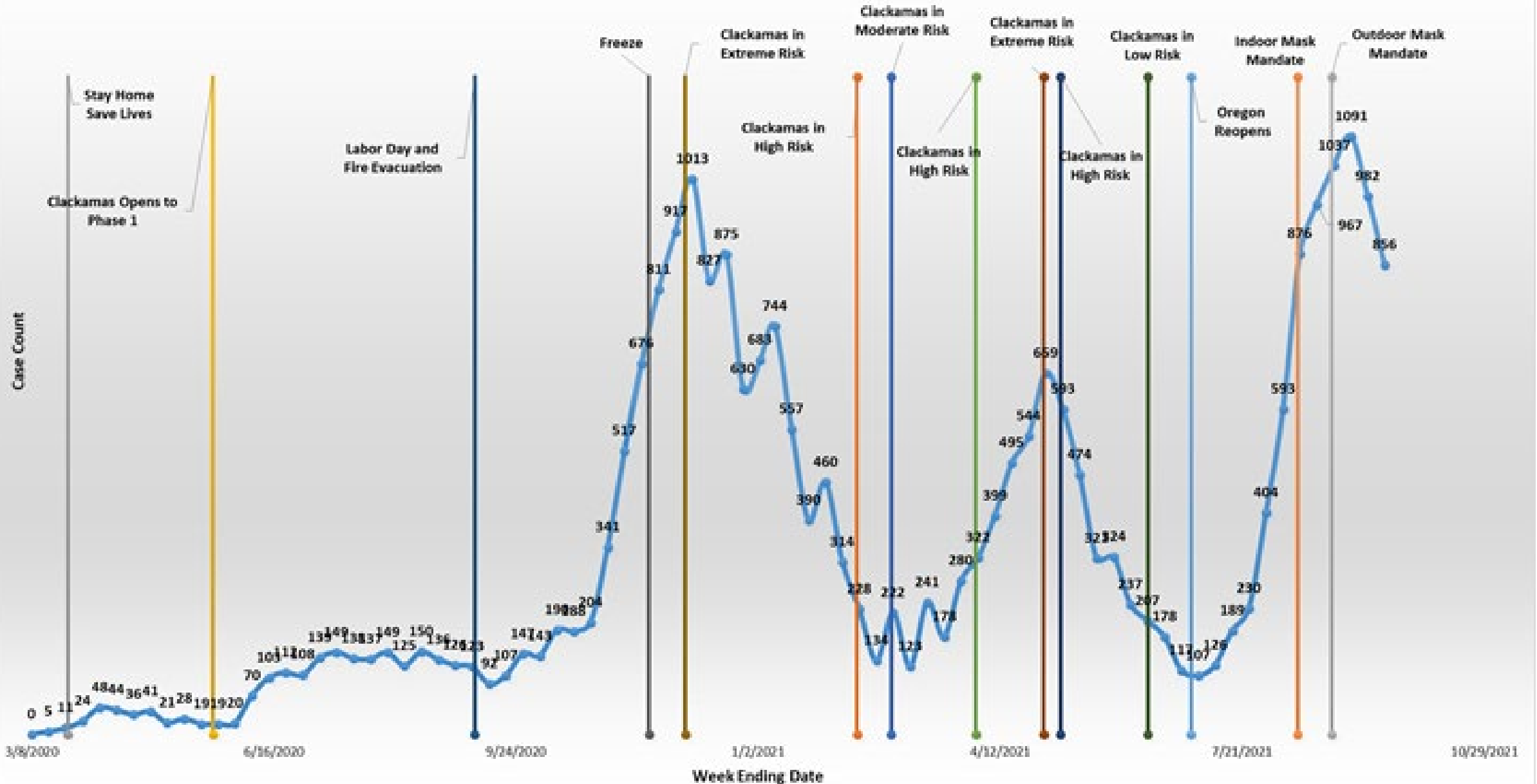


COVID current case/death data

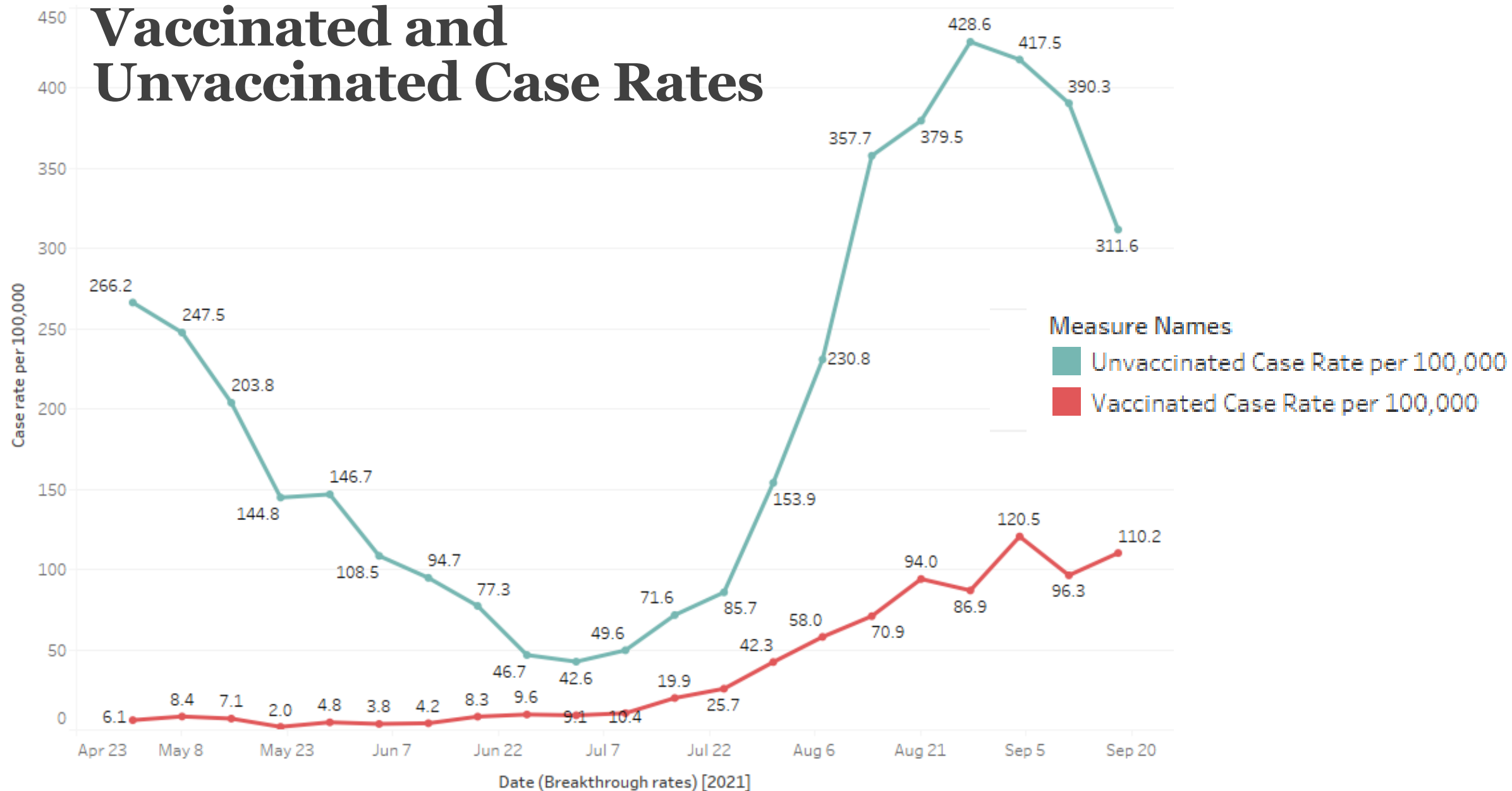
as of 9/20/2021	Total cases	Total deaths	Change since prior week
Clackamas County	26,570	271	Cases: +841 Deaths: +5
Multnomah County	50,080	642	Cases: +1,165 Deaths: +5
Washington County	33,973	276	Cases: +1022 Deaths: +5

healthoregon.org/coronavirus

Case count by week 3/1/20 – 9/18/21



Vaccinated and Unvaccinated Case Rates



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 Vaccinations

as of 9/20

267,432 people vaccinated in Clackamas

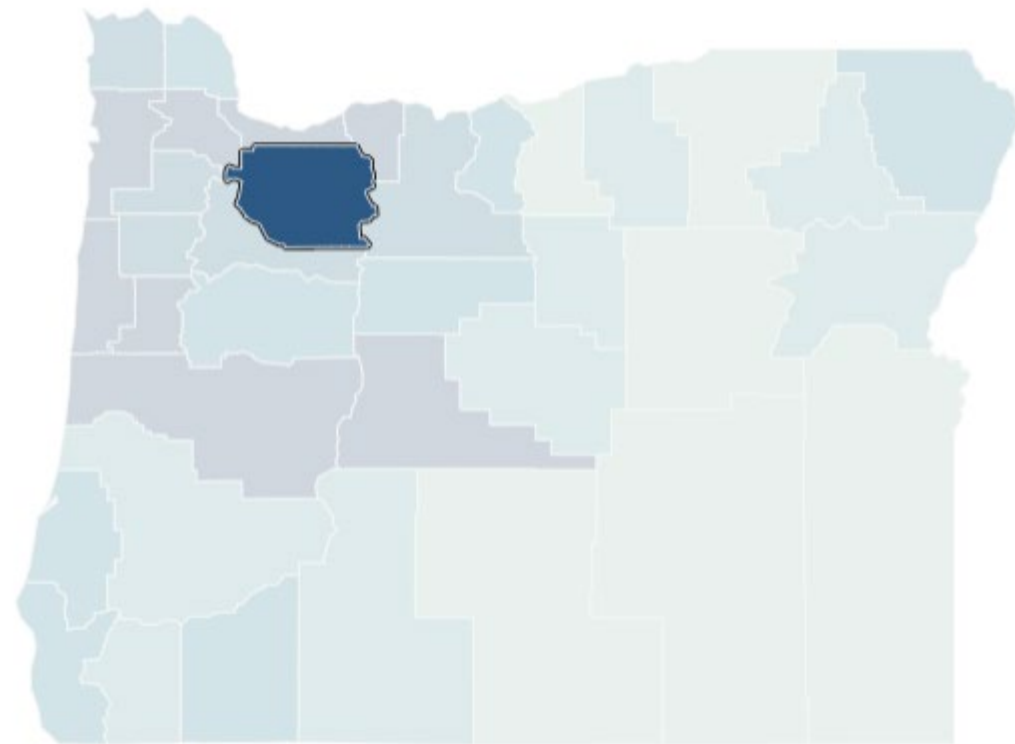
18,820

Series In Progress

248,612

Series Complete†

Note: 101,328 people vaccinated have an address on file that is outside of Oregon.



Legend for Rate per 10,000:

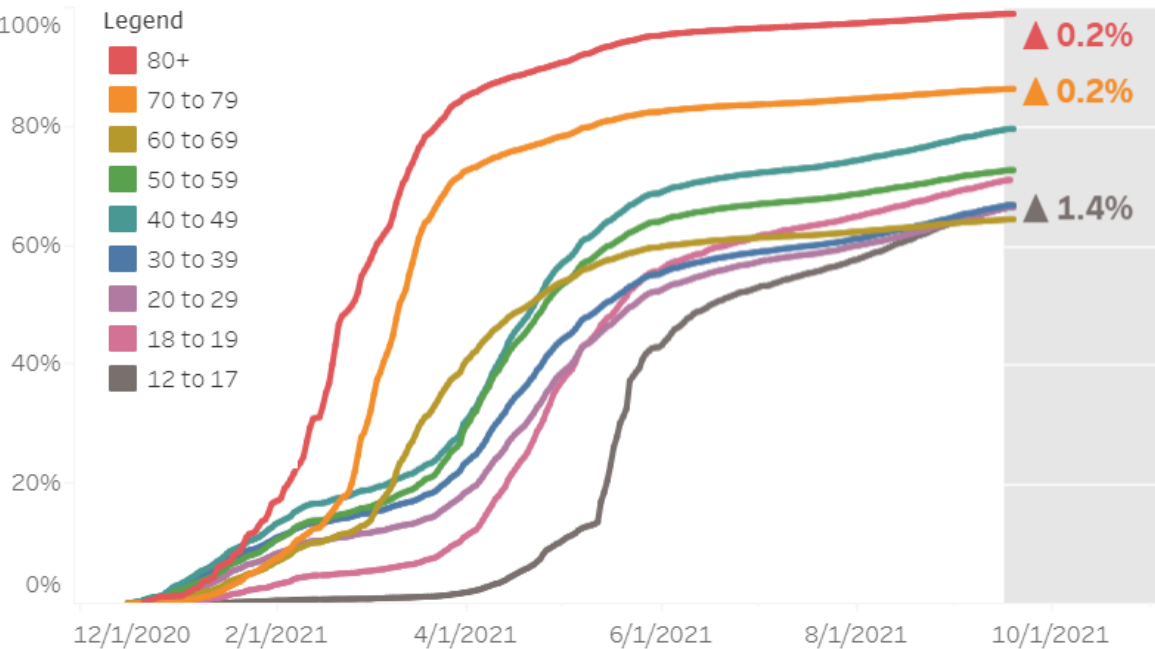


Clackamas County Vaccination Rates by Age Group

Clackamas County

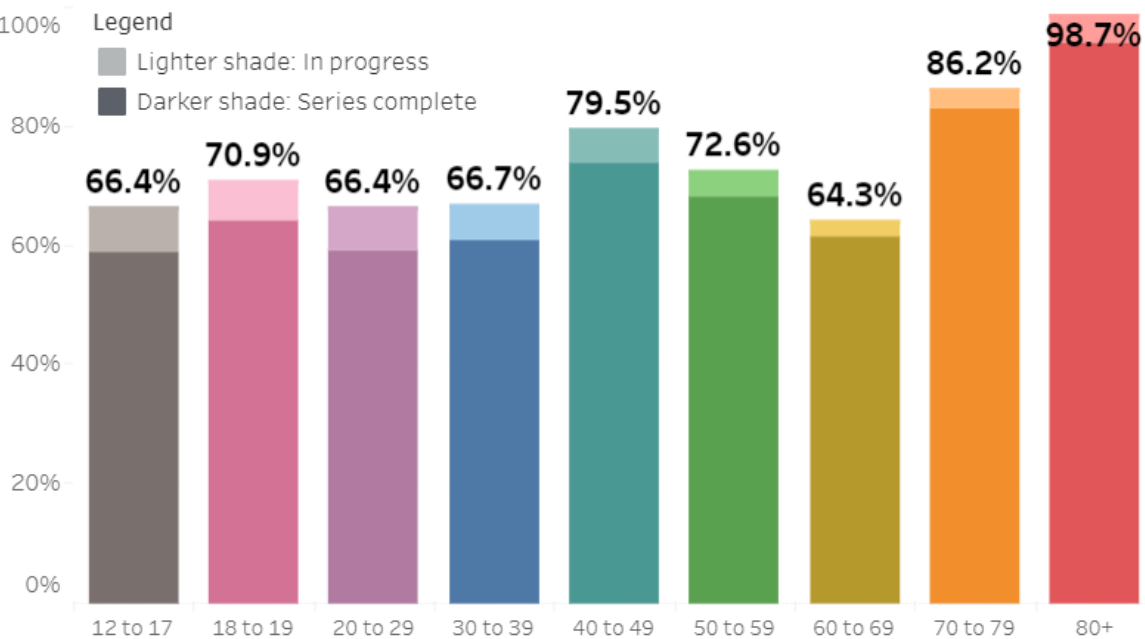
People vaccinated over time by age

Labeled with relative percent change between 09/09/2021 to 09/16/2021.



Current rates by age

Labeled with % people vaccinated with at least one dose



Source: OHA

Oregon COVID-19 breakthrough cases

Figure 2. Weekly count of cases, hospitalizations and deaths among breakthrough cases

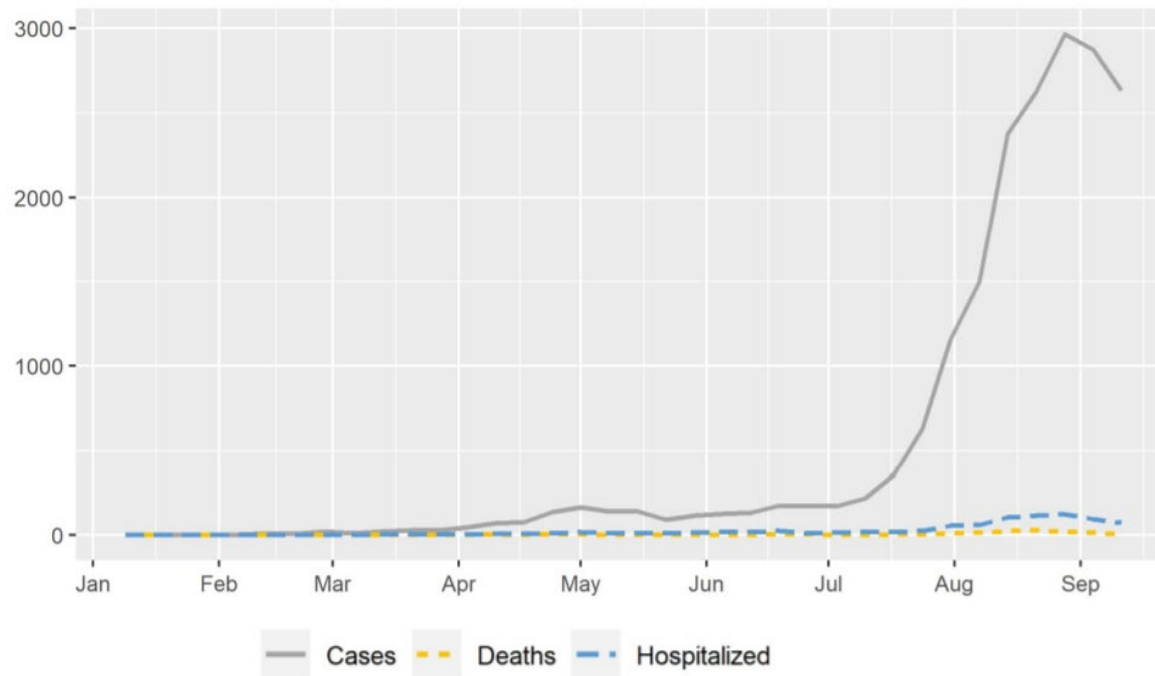


Table 1. Breakthrough cases by age group and severity

Age Group	Cases	Hospitalized	Deaths
12-19	747	4	0
20-29	2,828	14	0
30-39	3,298	29	0
40-49	3,281	36	3
50-59	3,003	84	5
60-69	2,784	180	24
70-79	2,167	250	47

Data are provisional and subject to change.

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Source: [OHA](#) 9/16/21 Breakthrough report

Oregon's Hospitalization Trends by Region

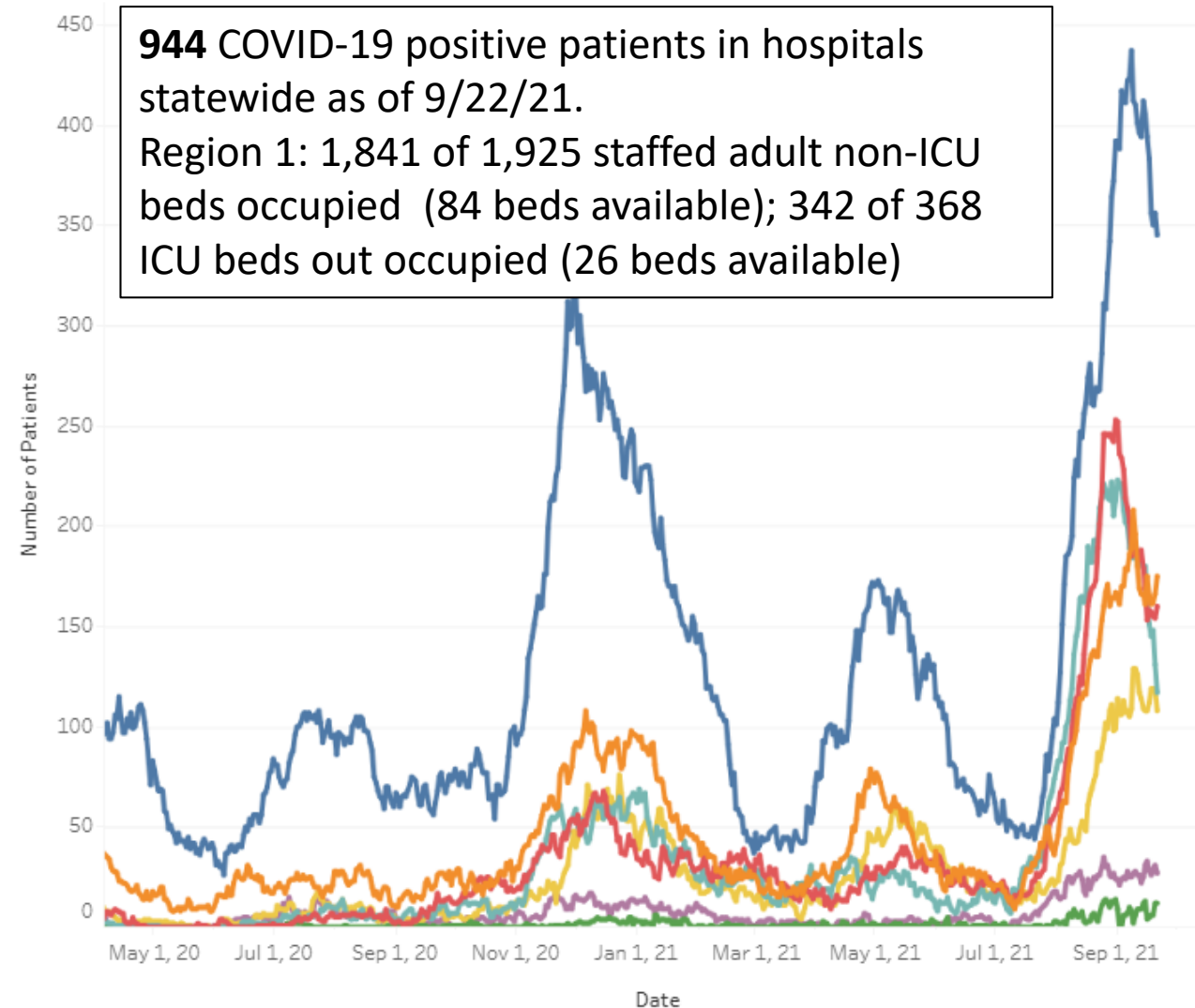
More on OHA's hospitalization data sources 

This chart shows COVID-19 hospitalization trends by Hospital Preparedness Program Region¹ as reported to Oregon's Hospital Capacity Web System (HOSCAP)². Use the dropdown menu to choose the type of hospitalization³ and/or click a region on the map to filter the chart (ctrl+click to select multiple regions).

Select Patient Type

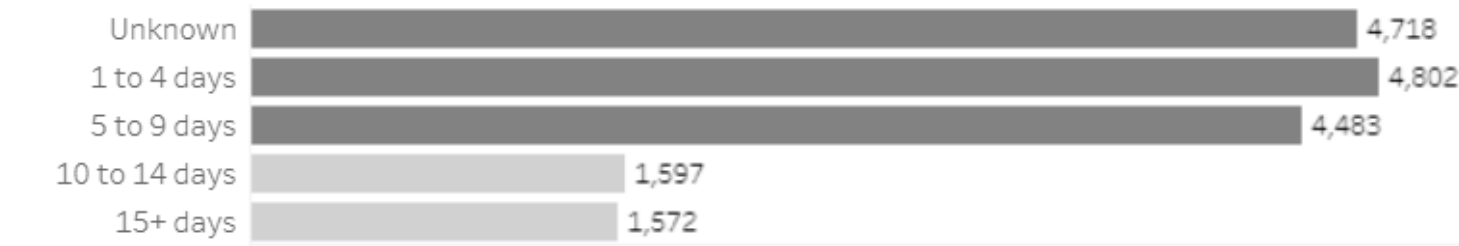
COVID-19 positive patients

COVID-19 positive patients in Oregon hospitals



Length of Hospital Stay

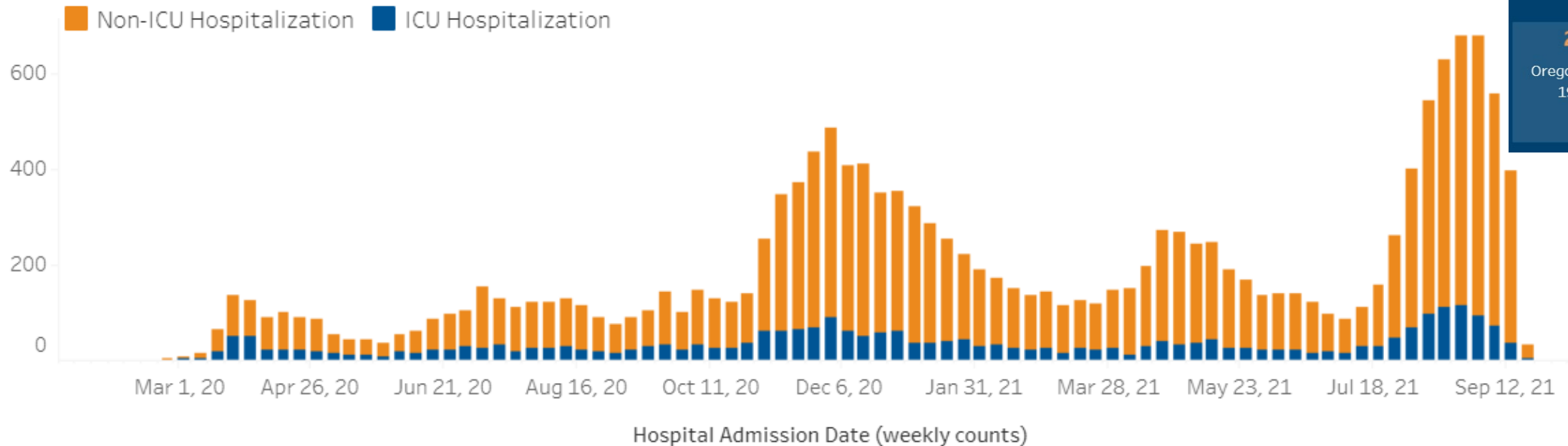
This chart shows the number of COVID-19 cases in Oregon who were ever hospitalized for their illness and the length of their hospital stays.



Note:
4718 hospitalized COVID-19 patients have an unknown length of hospital stay. This is because information on their exact date of hospital admission or discharge is still pending.

Hospitalizations of Oregon's COVID-19 Cases

This chart shows the number of COVID-19 cases in Oregon who were ever hospitalized for their illness and whether they received care from an Care Unit (ICU).



COVID-19 Quick Facts

Median length of stay (in days): **6**

When we look at the length of stay for all hospitalized cases in Oregon, the median is the length of stay that falls in the middle.

2,861 out of **17,172**

Oregonians hospitalized with COVID-19 received care from an ICU.

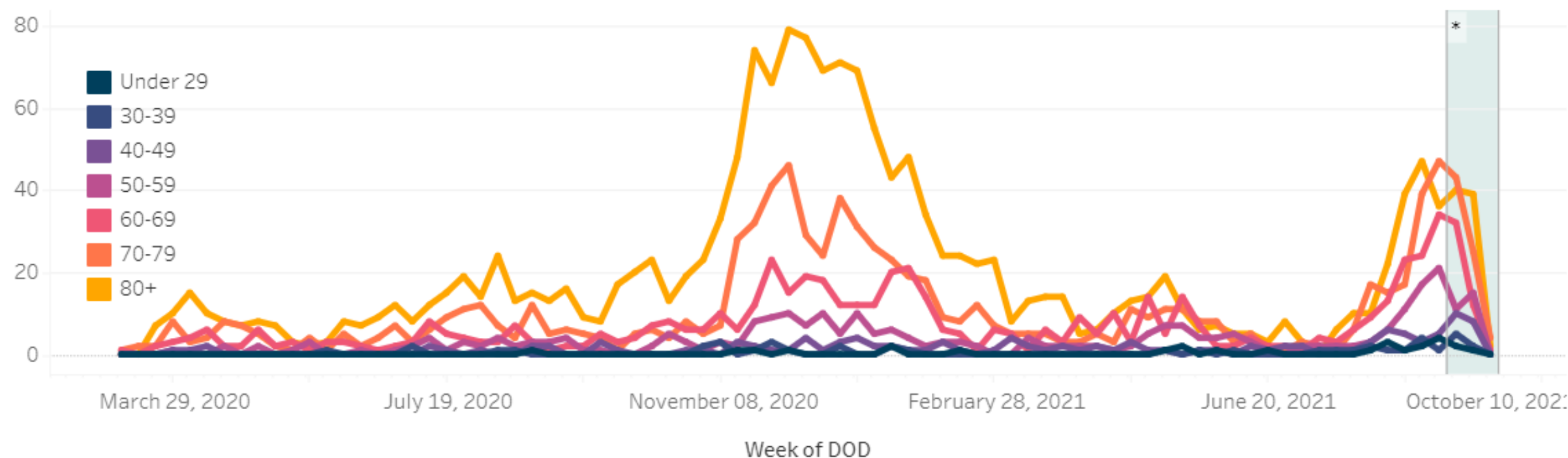
Source:
[OHA](#) 9/22/21

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](#) 9/22/2021

Pfizer boosters for people 65+ and those at risk of severe COVID-19

Next steps:

- Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP) makes recommendation to CDC
- CDC reviews ACIP materials; makes official booster recommendations
- Western States Scientific Safety Review issues recommendation for Oregon, California, Nevada and Washington
- OHA adopts Western States Scientific Safety Review Committee's recommendation; boosters available in pharmacies and providers
- ClackCo Public Health begins booster appointments on 10/1; arranging boosters for home bound and congregate care settings





Natural immunity

- Exposure to a disease organism that occurs through infection with the actual disease
- Variable levels of protection based on individual's immune response
- Can receive vaccination once an individual has completed its isolation period
- Individual should discuss with their healthcare provider

Testing updates

Testing is recommended for:

- anyone who has Covid-19-like symptoms
- close contacts to someone with Covid-19 (should test 3-5 days after exposure, vaccinated or not)

Limited access to testing means

- people are not getting tested
- people with Covid-19 may not know it and may not be isolating correctly, further spreading disease



Vaccine equity grants

- Applications must be submitted by **October 1, 2021** and grant money must be used by December 30, 2021
- 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
- To apply visit <https://www.clackamas.us/grants>

Vaccine scheduling

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 or call our
Public Inquiry Center at **503-655-8224** (Mon-Fri. from 8am-5pm)**