
CLACKAMAS COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION

WEEKLY REPORT ON COVID-19 FOR 8/4/2021

As of August 4, 2021, Governor Kate Brown has enacted a new rule requiring healthcare workers to be vaccinated by September 30, 2021 or undergo frequent testing. This is in an attempt to further prevent the spread of the Delta variant and ensure a strong line of defense among frontline health care workers.

The County Emergency Operations Center is partially demobilizing and returning to the H3S Department Operations Center. The shift will transition Public Health into incident command with Philip Mason-Joyner as the incident commander. Each section of the response will return to their department level program areas and continue to provide specialized assistance and support to the community. The EOC will remain partially activated and Disaster Management will continue to support the response.

Delta Variant

Concerns about the Delta variant continue to increase as cases rise throughout the nation. Much of the concern centers on the fact that the Delta is far more transmissible than other strains of the virus. One of the best ways to understand a virus' ability to spread in a population is to consider the R0 (pronounced R-naught). The R0 depicts the average number of people an infected person spreads the virus to if there were no precautions in place to prevent infection and no one had immunity. Simply put, the higher the R0, the more contagious the virus. The original strain of the SARS-CoV-2 virus had an R0 of 2.4-2.6 whereas the Alpha variant has an R0 of 4-5. Comparatively, the Delta strain has an R0 of 5-8, meaning it has the ability to spread much more quickly through a population in the absence of precautions and vaccines. From 7/4/21-7/17/21 the Delta variant was responsible for 78.6-86% of the total new COVID-19 cases across the United States.

Masking Guidance

In line with the CDC and based on the latest science on the spread of the Delta variant, Governor Kate Brown has directed the Oregon Health Authority and the Oregon Department of Education to require masks indoors for K-12 schools statewide for the upcoming 2021-22 school year.

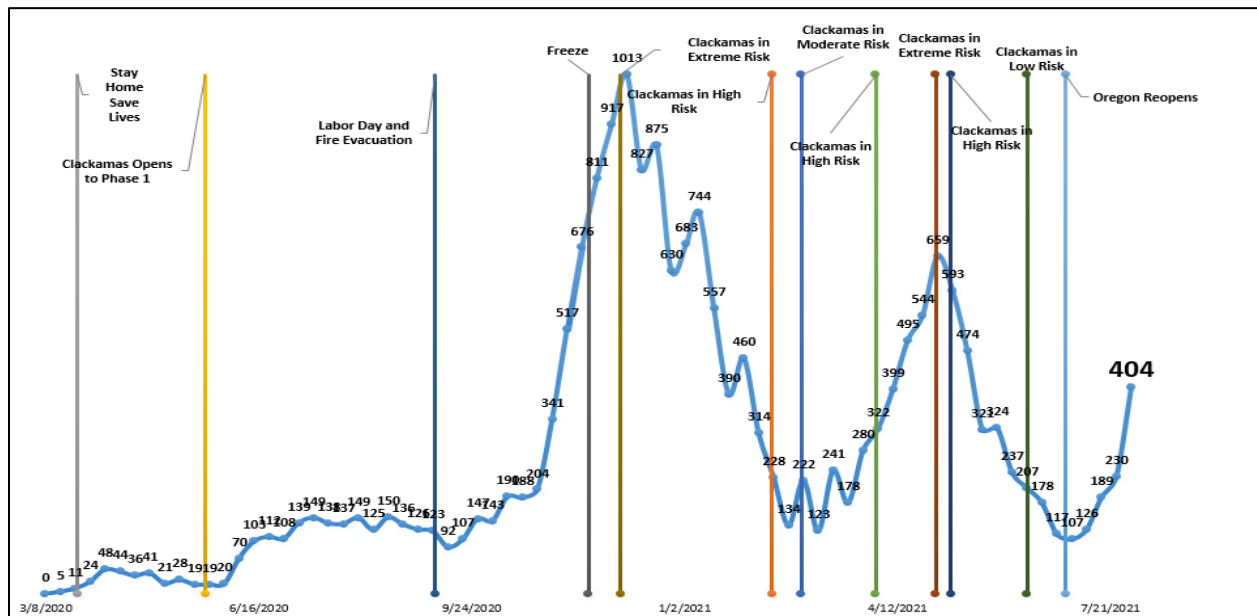
Several studies have shown the real world effectiveness of mask wearing. Wearing a mask in group and public settings has consistently resulted in a 70-79% reduction in risk of transmission of SARS-CoV-2.

Awareness Month

August is National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM). Join the CDC and other partners in educating and increasing awareness of the importance of catching up on healthcare appointments and routine vaccinations. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some families and individuals missed their routine checkups and vaccinations, which is completely understandable. However, with children going back to school and adults returning to the workplace, it is now more important than ever for everyone to stay up-to-date with routine vaccinations. Clackamas County Public Health will continue to work with schools to help families get back on track with immunizations.

Clackamas County weekly case counts continue to increase.

Week	Case Count	Cases per 100k	Test Positivity
7/18-7/31	635	148.9	5.5%
7/11-7/24	419	98.2	4%
7/4-7/17	315	73.9	3.5%



Disease Surveillance & Response

Case surveillance for the month of July shows the highest amount of cases per 100,000 in zip codes pertaining to Beavercreek, Molalla, Sandy, Boring, Damascus, Estacada, and Canby. There were 183 new confirmed and presumptive COVID-19 cases reported in Clackamas County on 8/3, which is adding to the burden on the contact tracing unit.

Outbreaks are surging. The team opened 21 new outbreaks in the last week in addition to the 19 already being monitored. Outbreaks are primarily in worksites and congregate care settings where low vaccinations rates among caretakers contribute significantly to these outbreaks. Outbreaks are increasing in size; most notably, the team is currently managing a camp outbreak with 28 cases. In response to the rapid surge in cases, the case investigation team moved to surge protocol, which involves the use of an automated interview tool and a shortened interview in addition to making fewer attempts to reach people. CCPHD is seeing a slight uptick in people seeking vaccinations at weekly, walk-in vaccine [clinics](#) in Canby, Happy Valley, Oregon City, Molalla, and Sandy. The CCPHD mobile vaccine team is also experiencing a slight uptick in worksite vaccination clinic requests. The mobile vaccine team has three upcoming vaccine events for local business employees. Vaccinations of homebound individuals continues, with 32 Clackamas County residents vaccinated in their homes during the month of July. [Read more about homebound vaccination efforts here.](#)

In Clackamas County, 68.6% of people age 18+ have been fully vaccinated (State of Oregon = 69.1%). The overall vaccination rate fails to depict the persistent disparity in [vaccination rates](#) within rural and BIPOC communities. CCPHD has made [grant funding](#) available for community partners to support efforts to build vaccine confidence, connect individuals with vaccine opportunities, and increase access to COVID-19 vaccines through community-based and customized distribution. Funding provided by the Oregon Health Authority focuses on Black, Indigenous, Latinx and other communities of color, low-income, houseless, people with disabilities, and rural communities.

CCPHD continues to collaborate with school districts and private schools regarding Ready School, Safe Learners. CCPHD is also planning 'back to school' vaccination events for COVID-19 vaccines in addition to childhood vaccines required for school attendance.

Weekly Vaccinations in Clackamas County (per OHA)	
7/27-8/2	3,009
7/20-7/26	2,771
7/13-7/19	2,837

COVID-19 Hospitalizations

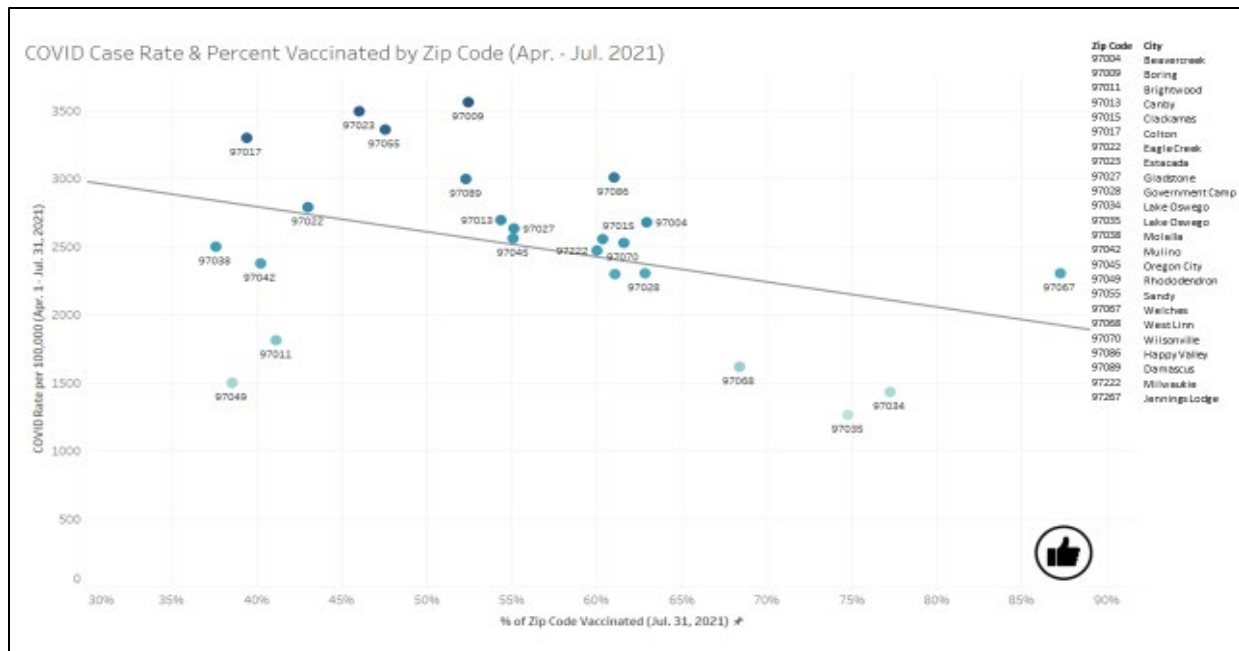
Across Oregon, there are 340 patients hospitalized with COVID-19, which is nearly 100 more patients than last week. One hundred and two of those patients are being cared for in the intensive care unit (ICU). The total number of patients in hospital beds fluctuates between report times and does not reflect daily admissions or the length of hospital stay. The data do not capture staffing shortages that likely further limit hospital bed capacity. CCPHD leadership, along with Washington and Multnomah County Public Health, are meeting regularly with the region's hospital chief medical officers to monitor hospital capacity and proactively plan.

[More information about hospital capacity can be found here.](#)

Does the Vaccine Work?

The rise of the Delta variant has resulted in a higher number of breakthrough cases (cases in fully vaccinated people). While the Delta variant is very contagious and can affect vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals, the vaccine is still effective at priming a vaccinated person's immune system to respond rapidly to the virus. This means even if a vaccinated individual gets sick from COVID-19, their illness will be less severe. The vaccine continues to be effective in preventing hospitalizations and deaths from COVID-19.

The graph below shows the case rate per 100,000 population by zip code on the y-axis and percentage vaccinated by zip code on the x-axis. Note this is the case rate for cases diagnosed during the period 4/1/21-7/31/21. Communities with higher vaccination rates are experiencing lower case rates.



Stories from the Public Health Frontline

A teen with COVID-19 was on our case investigator's assignment for the day, she called the teen to complete the case investigation education and interview. The case investigator found the teen very distraught and unable to complete the interview. She learned that the teen had recently lost their father to Covid and that the teen's mom was currently very sick, without health insurance and without a family support system. The case investigator talked to the mom on the phone, assessed her symptoms and recommended she go directly to the hospital. This teen was about to be all alone. COVID-19 has impacted this family in a big way.

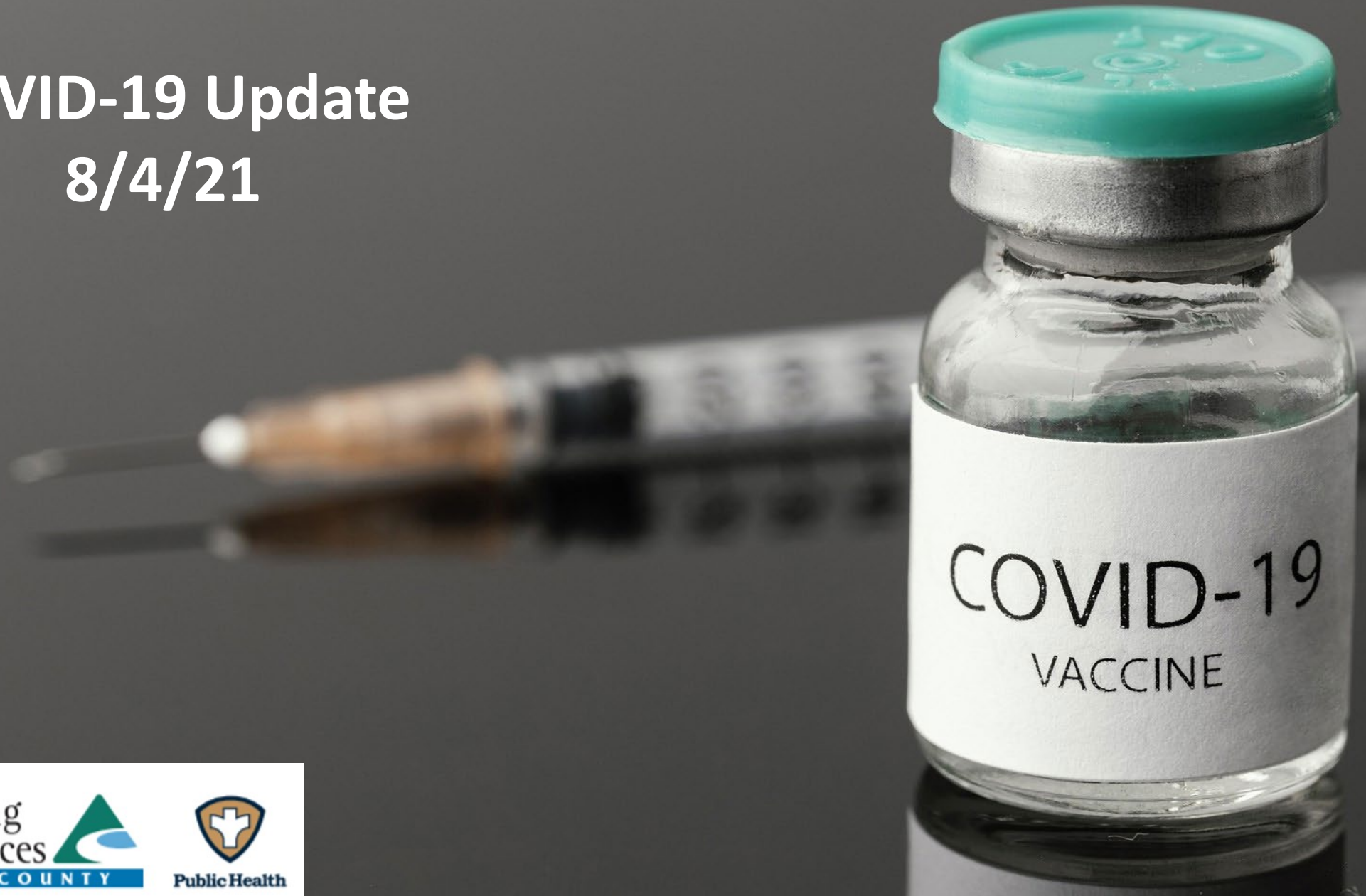
Public Health's social supports navigator was able to link this family to one of the community organizations we partner with to assist this teen in accessing resources.

At a Public Health vaccine clinic in rural Clackamas County, an older gentleman cautiously approached. The greeter for the clinic welcomed him and quickly assessed this gentleman's hesitancy. After a brief conversation, the greeter invited him in to speak with the nurse vaccinator and have his questions and concerns addressed. He was allowed to examine the syringe and vaccine vial and have his questions respectfully answered. When he was confident there was no chip and the vaccine was safe, he accepted the Johnson and Johnson vaccine. One on one conversations with trusted advisors and providers are a critical part of vaccine acceptance.

With the introduction of incentives, the jail was able to vaccinate 35 adults in custody in one day this week. The jail is a high risk, congregate setting and vaccines are an important tool in managing disease spread.

COVID-19 Update

8/4/21



COVID current case/death data

as of 8/3/2021	Total cases	Total deaths	Change since prior week
Clackamas County	20,244	243	Cases: +468 Deaths: +2
Multnomah County	41,554	618	Cases: +731 Deaths: +0
Washington County	27,645	257	Cases: +441 Deaths: +2



healthoregon.org/coronavirus

Health, Housing
& Human Services 
CLACKAMAS COUNTY



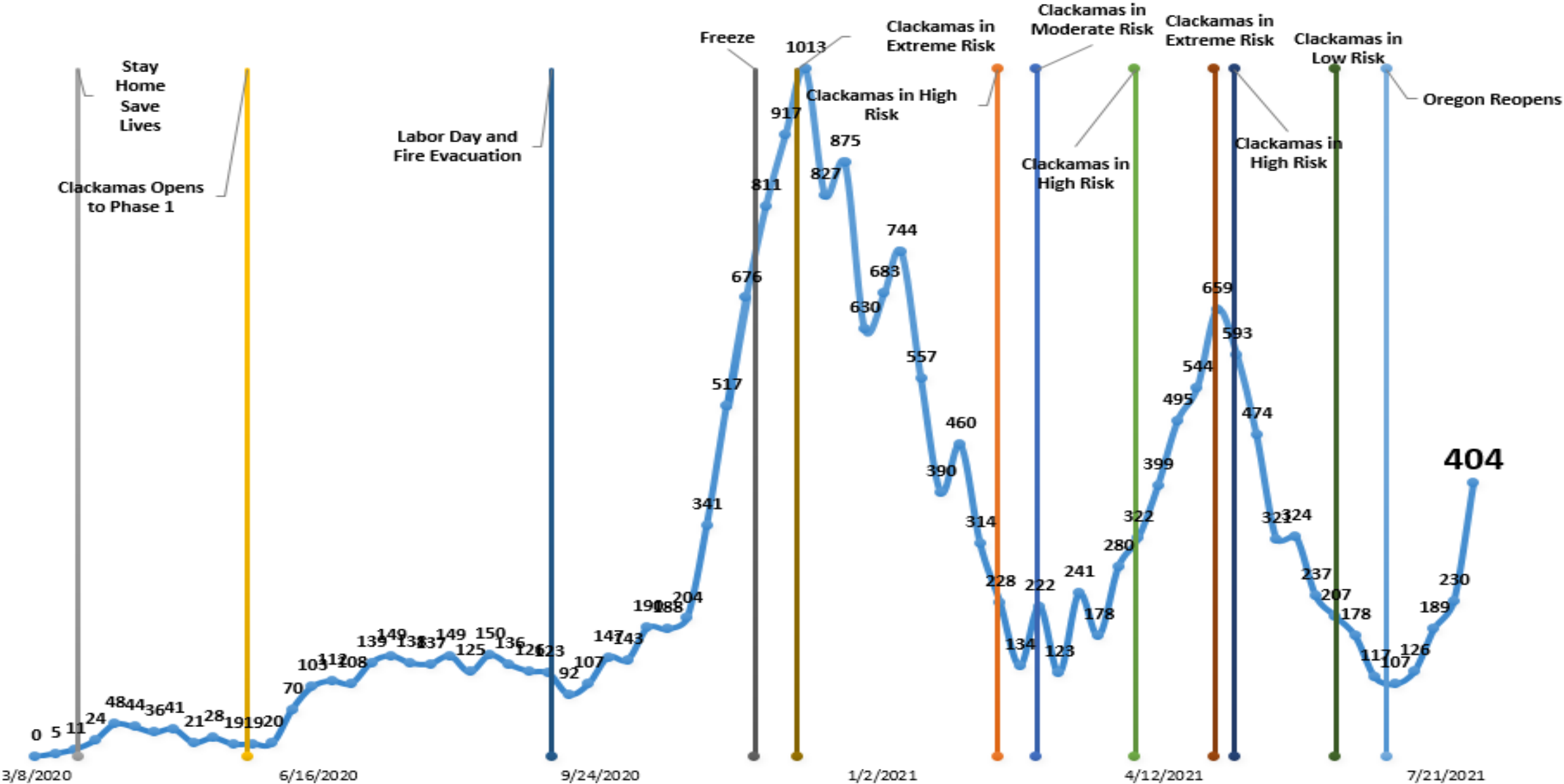
Public Health

CDC Transmission Categories

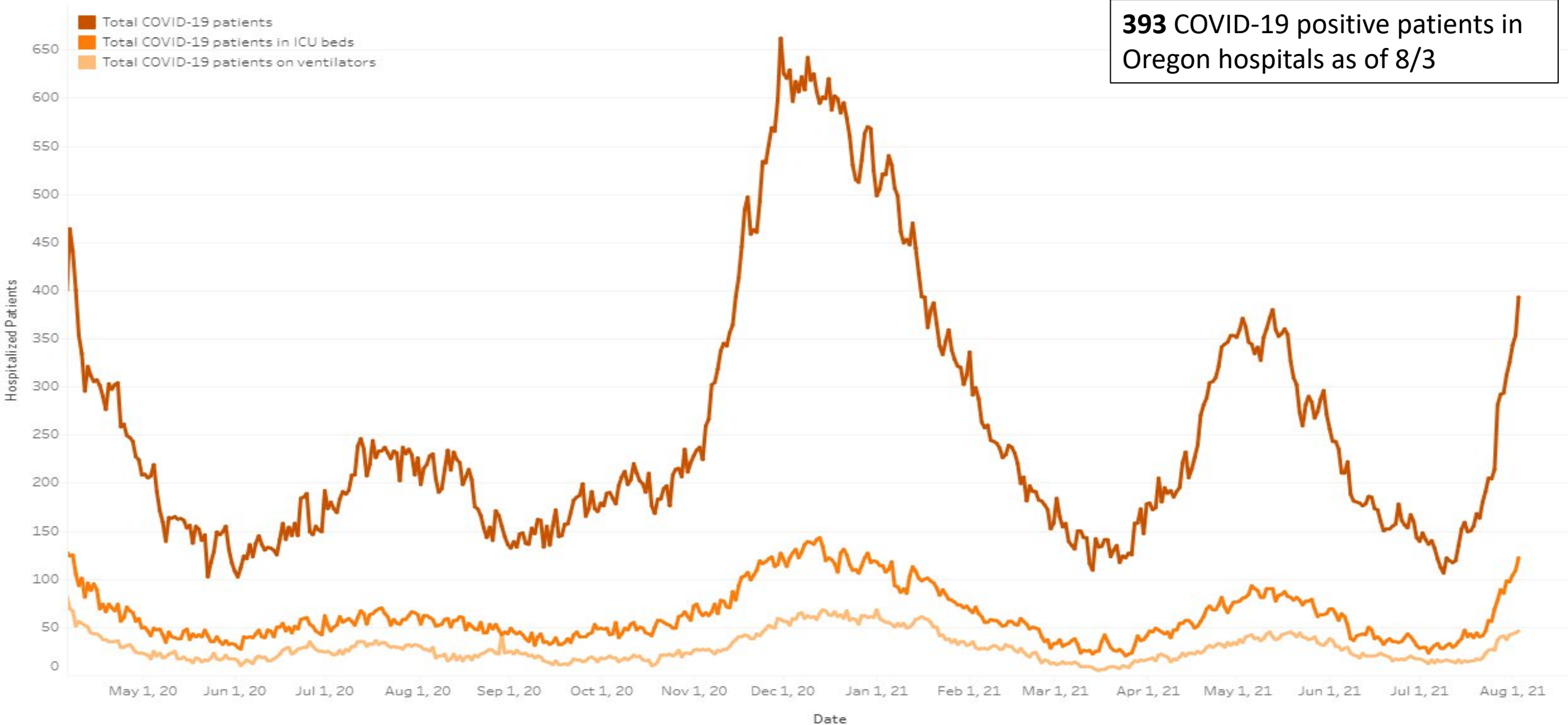
Indicator (If the two indicators suggest different transmission levels, the higher level is selected)	Low Transmission	Moderate Transmission	Substantial Transmission	High Transmission
Total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days	0-9.99	10-49.99	50-99.99	≥100
Percentage of tests that are positive during the past 7 days	0-4.99%	5-7.99%	8-9.99%	≥10.0%

Clackamas County 7 day Case Rate: 106.4 per 100k (HIGH)

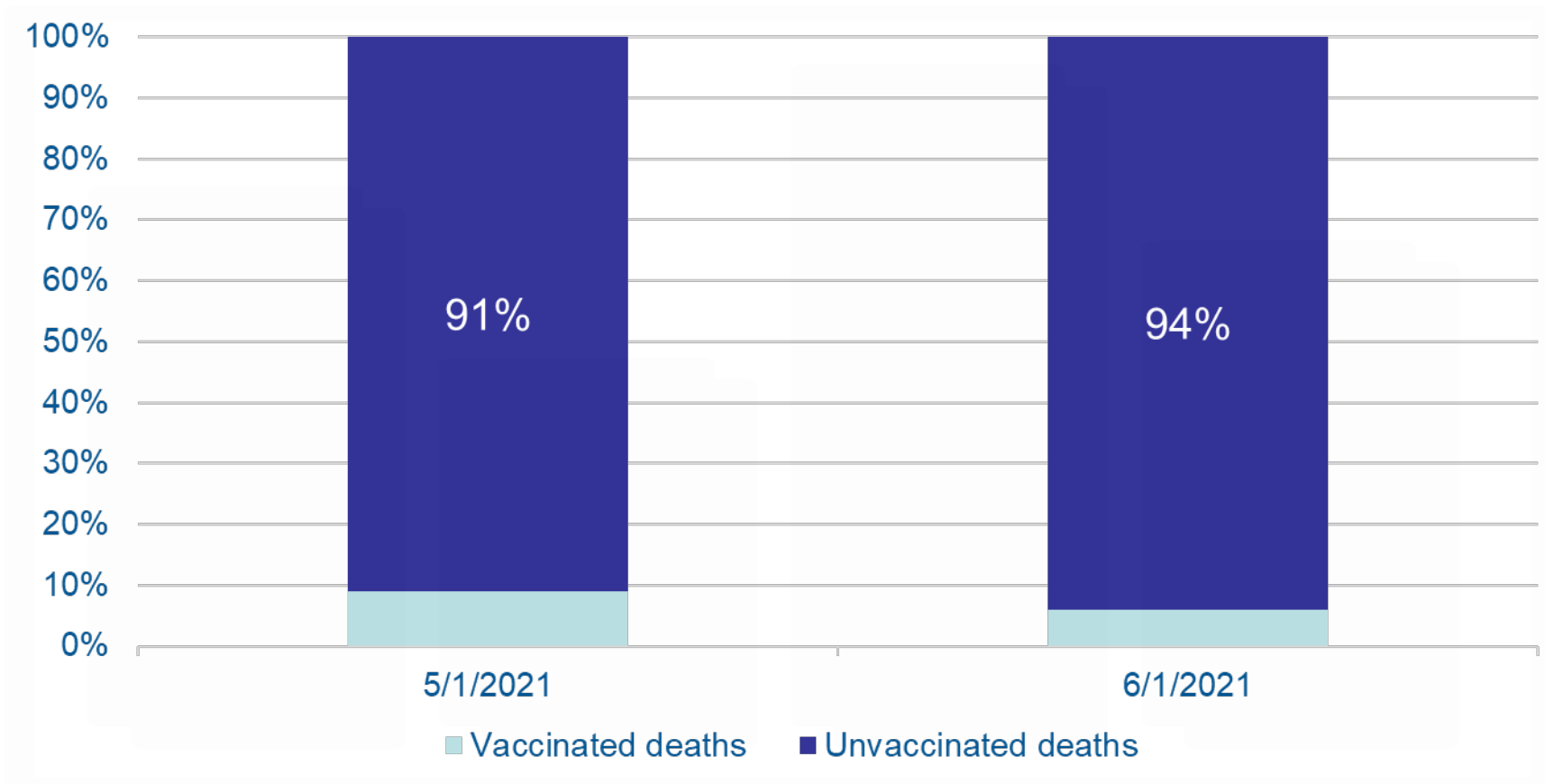
Case count by week as of 8/2/2021



Statewide COVID-19 Patients



Oregon COVID-19-associated deaths by vaccination status



Clackamas County Vaccinations

as of 8/3

250,712 people vaccinated in Clackamas

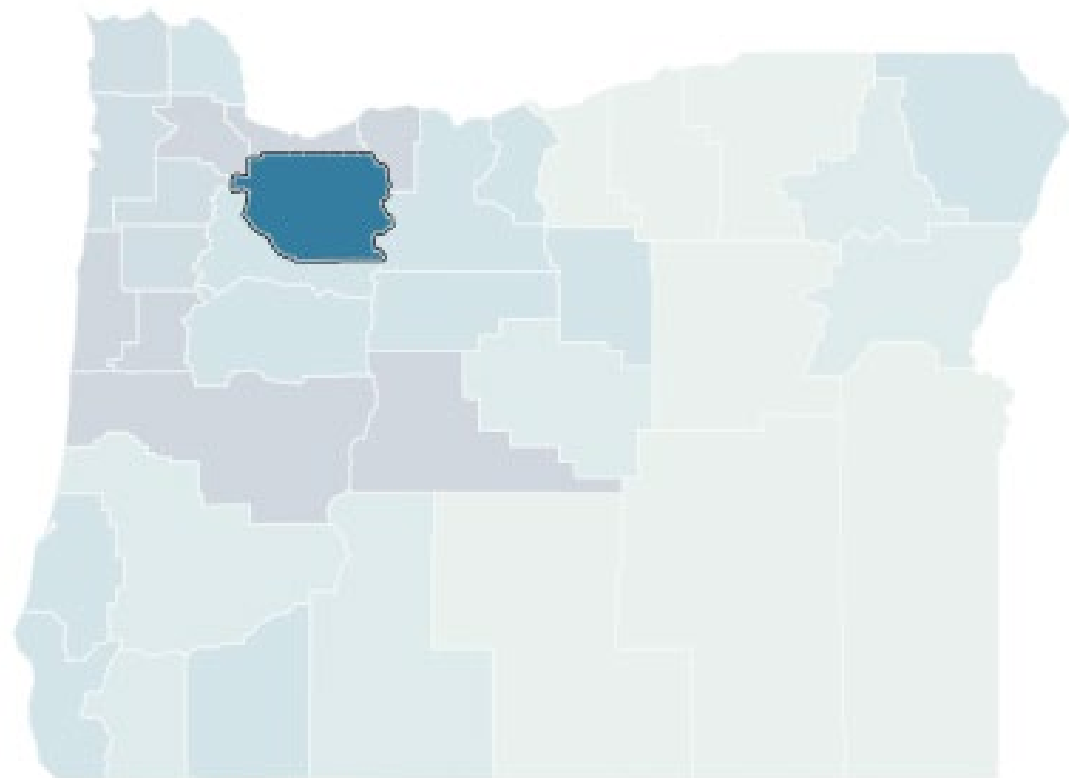
15,087

Series In Progress

235,625

Series Completed

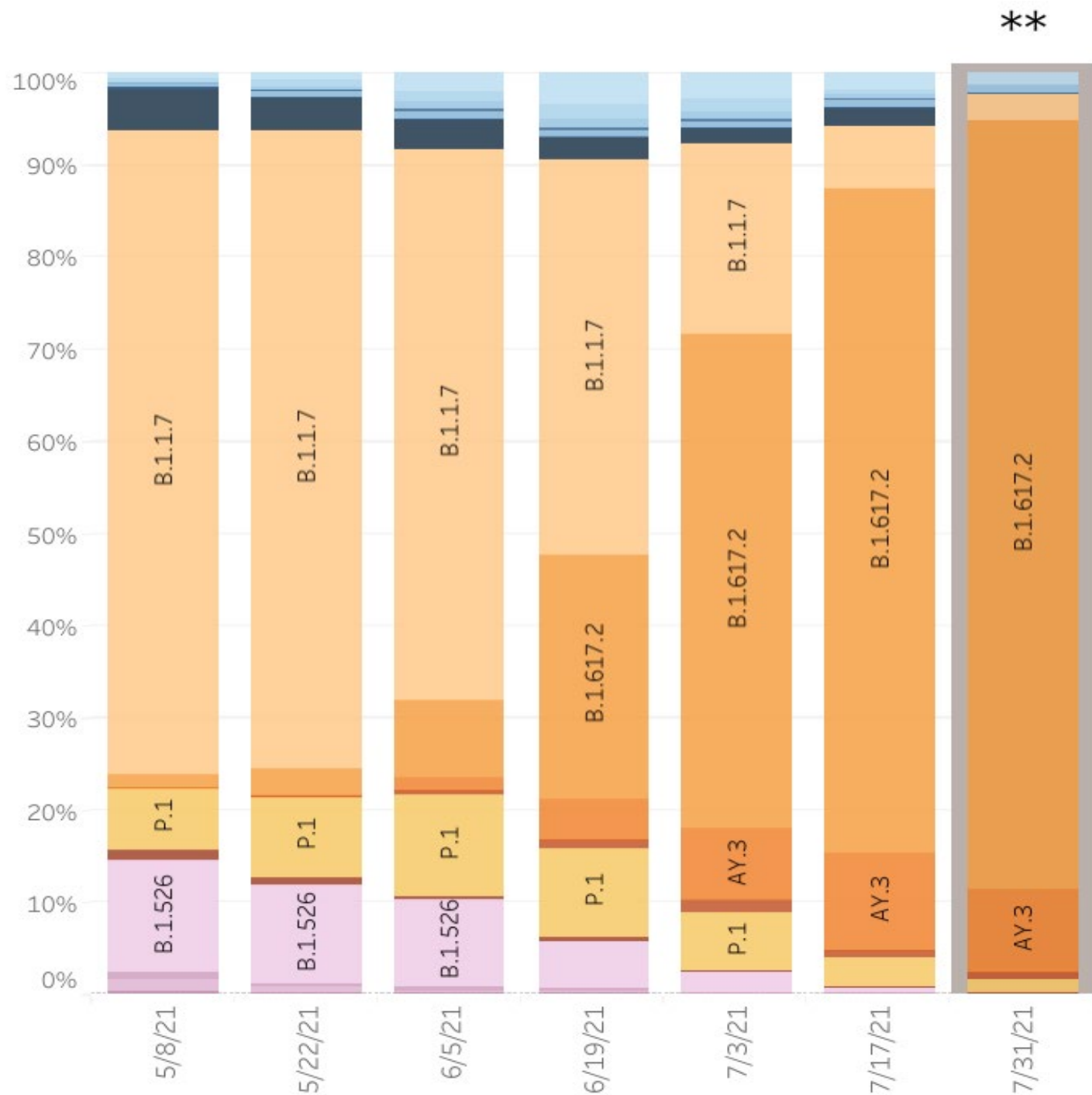
Note: 87,565 people vaccinated have an address on file that is outside of Oregon.



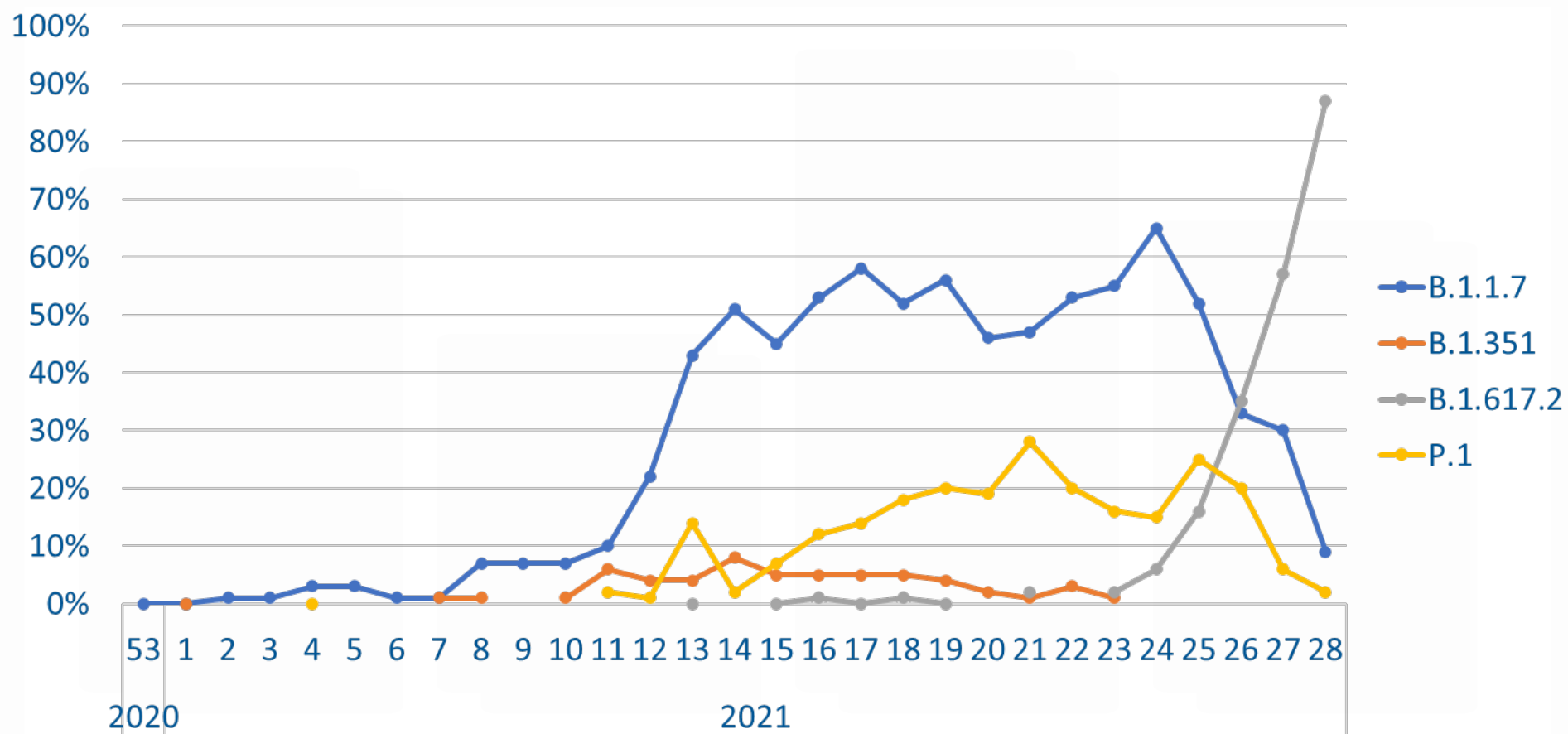
Clackamas County Vaccinations

People Vaccinated	At Least One Dose	Fully Vaccinated
Total	246,890	233,962
% of Total Population	59%	55.9%
Population ≥ 12 Years of Age	245,931	233,279
% of Population ≥ 12 Years of Age	68.1%	64.6%
Population ≥ 18 Years of Age	228,227	217,646
% of Population ≥ 18 Years of Age	69.3%	66.1%
Population ≥ 65 Years of Age	63,686	62,464
% of Population ≥ 65 Years of Age	81.2%	79.6%

Estimated proportions of variants nationwide



Variant of concern circulation in Oregon by epidemiologic week



Delta variant updates

- As contagious as chickenpox
- Associated with higher viral load and longer duration of shedding
- In multiple countries Delta variant has been linked to increased disease severity
- Vaccines still prevent >90% of severe disease but may have decreased ability to prevent infection or transmission
- Potential for more community spread despite vaccination
 - Importance of continuing to encourage vaccination for protection

Recurring Vaccine Events

Canby	Happy Valley	Molalla	Oregon City	Sandy
<p>Canby Foursquare Church <i>Every Tuesday</i> 4–8 p.m. 2350 SE Territorial Road Canby map</p>	<p>Clackamas Town Center <i>Every Thursday and Friday</i> 11 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. 12000 SE 82nd Avenue Happy Valley 97086 map</p>	<p>Providence Medical Clinic <i>Every Friday</i> 4–7 p.m. 110 Center Ave. Molalla map</p>	<p>Providence Willamette Falls Community Center <i>Every Thursday</i> 3–7 p.m. 519 15th St. Oregon City map</p>	<p>Sandy Health Center <i>Every Friday</i> 3–6 p.m. 38872 Proctor Blvd. Sandy 97055 map</p> <p>Community Church of Sandy <i>Every 2nd and 4th Thursday</i> 3–5 p.m. 39290 Scenic St. Sandy map</p>

Vaccine Scheduling

Local opportunities in Clackamas County

- Those with any barriers or access concerns:
 - Call for assistance at **503-655-8224** (Mon-Fri. from 8am-5pm)
- Appointments / walk-in options available in your community!

clackamas.us/coronavirus/vaccine

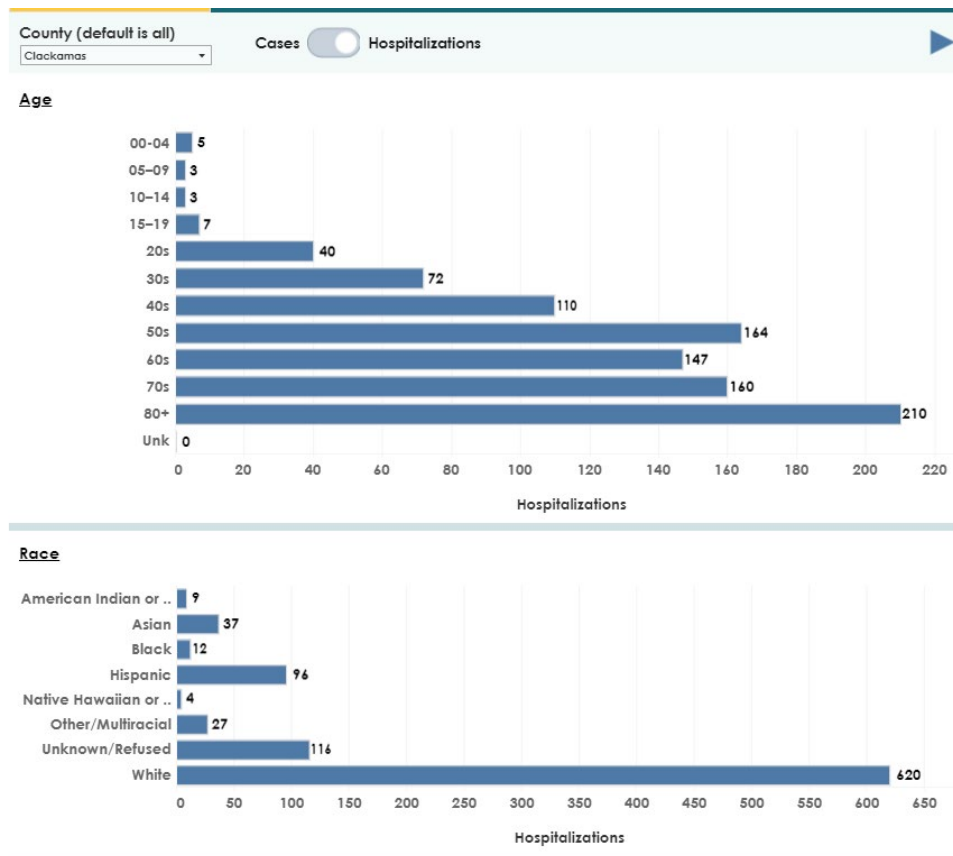
Mass vaccination clinics now CLOSED

Email COVIDvaccine@clackamas.us to schedule an on-site mobile COVID-19 vaccine at your workplace or event this summer!

Responses to Questions during August 3rd County Administrator Issues Session – COVID-19 Update

1. # of COVID patients in hospitals = **393**
2. # of COVID patients in ICU = **122**
3. % of occupied beds that are COVID patients = **9.5%**
4. Ages of those in hospital for COVID
 - a. We do not have data on ages of people currently hospitalized with COVID-19. Since January 1, 2020 these are the rates of individuals in each age group that have ever been hospitalized for COVID-19:

Ages 9 and younger:	1.2%
Ages 10 to 19:	0.8%
Ages 20 to 29:	1.6%
Ages 30 to 39:	2.5%
Ages 40 to 49:	3.9%
Ages 50 to 59:	6.8%
Ages 60 to 69:	12.7%
Ages 70 to 79:	22.5%
Ages 80+:	30.2%



5. # of deaths related to COVID-19 statewide = **2,872** total and 5 so far during the week of August 1st
6. # of deaths related to COVID-19 in Clackamas County = **243**
7. # of co-morbidity
 - a. The most common co-morbidities are cardiovascular disease, neurological conditions, diabetes, chronic lung disease, and other chronic illnesses.

Percent of people who have died with COVID-19 with any underlying conditions		
Yes	No	Unknown
92%	3%	6%

8. Average age of death related to COVID
 - a. Individuals age 80+ account for 50% of total COVID-19 deaths statewide. For other age groups: 70-79 (25% of total deaths), 60-69 (15% of total deaths), 50-59 (7% of total deaths), 40-49 (3% of total deaths).
9. How many of the listed above are “long haulers”?
 - o This relies on timely and appropriate diagnoses by medical providers, and cannot be directly associated with case-count data. From multiple data sources, it is estimated that 10% to 30% of cases of COVID-19 have persistent symptoms months later, regardless of the severity of their original illness.
10. Why is Oregon (this region) rated as having low hospital capacity per capita? What are hospitals doing to increase their capacity? Is OHA helping?
 - o This is a long-standing issue, with many influencing factors, including the rapid population rise of the region and staffing shortages. This is not something local public health has control over, but we are actively in conversation with OHA, hospitals, and EMS agencies in the region about ways to address this as a long-term, complex problem, in addition to ways to address short term/temporary capacity challenges.
11. What is the difference between isolate and quarantine?
 - o Isolation separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick. Quarantine separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.
12. Is there a test for the Delta variant? What is number of sequencing events we have seen in Oregon? Is Delta variant easily identifiable?
 - o Oregon, sequences more samples than most states; however, the percentage of total samples sequenced is still relatively small. Sequencing can only be done on PCR tests with enough viable virus to test. There are criteria for requesting sequencing through OSPHL, and there is routinely random sample sequencing. Many private laboratories also sequence tests, and these results may or may not be included in the total Oregon variant reports.
 - o In the most recent week, over 90% of samples sequenced in Oregon were the Delta variant, up from 5% only one month ago. The state is monitoring the Delta variant and predicts a slowdown in October.

13. # of positive delta variant cases in Clackamas Co?
 - This is not information that is readily and reliably available to us, but given the spread characteristics and statewide data, we have no doubt this is the dominant variant in Clackamas County currently.
14. What actions are schools taking to make sure those environments are healthy?
 - Schools and school boards are reviewing Oregon Department of Education – Ready Schools, Safe Learners Guidance and having conversations with their stakeholders and Public Health about plans for COVID-19 Safety for Fall including masking, distancing, establishing cohorts, contact tracing plans and other safety measures.
15. Consider a mobile vaccine clinic at the County Fair?
 - Public Health will be tabling at the fair as well as the Molalla rodeo to provide vaccine information and assist people in navigating to vaccine sites. We will not be vaccinating at the fair for the following reasons:
 - The vaccine is temperature sensitive, it must be refrigerated
 - The fair is a celebration and we expect low uptake
 - Potential for anti-vaccination hostility
 - Vaccinating requires space for privacy for the individual being vaccinated, as well as space for post-vaccination observation. We have evaluated the fairgrounds for this, and have determined that a safe and appropriate space is not available.
16. Where are the cases rising?
 - Case surveillance for the month of July shows the highest amount of cases per 100,000 in zip codes pertaining to Beavercreek, Molalla, Sandy, Boring, Damascus, Estacada, and Canby. Lowest vaccinated rates are in Sandy, Estacada and Molalla.
17. Any info on which vaccine has highest efficacy rate to variants and breakthrough cases?
 - They are all highly effective against severe disease and death. Data from different vaccines in different countries is variable regarding delta variant, and these countries have different communities than ours. The Delta variant has not been in our region long enough to have definitive data on this in our population (or a similar one).
18. Questioning viability/efficacy of the vaccine?
 - The vaccines are still working well. People continue to demonstrate a robust antibody response >6 months out from vaccination. The more people who get vaccinated, the more effective they will be –this is not a vaccine physiology challenge now, but a disease spread challenge that is leading to breakthrough cases.