



COVID-19 Update

House Health and Social Services Committee Hearing

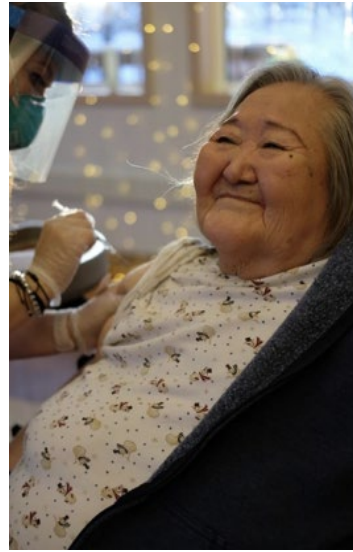
Alaska Department of Health and Social Services,
Division of Public Health



September 2, 2021



Continuing COVID-19 Response



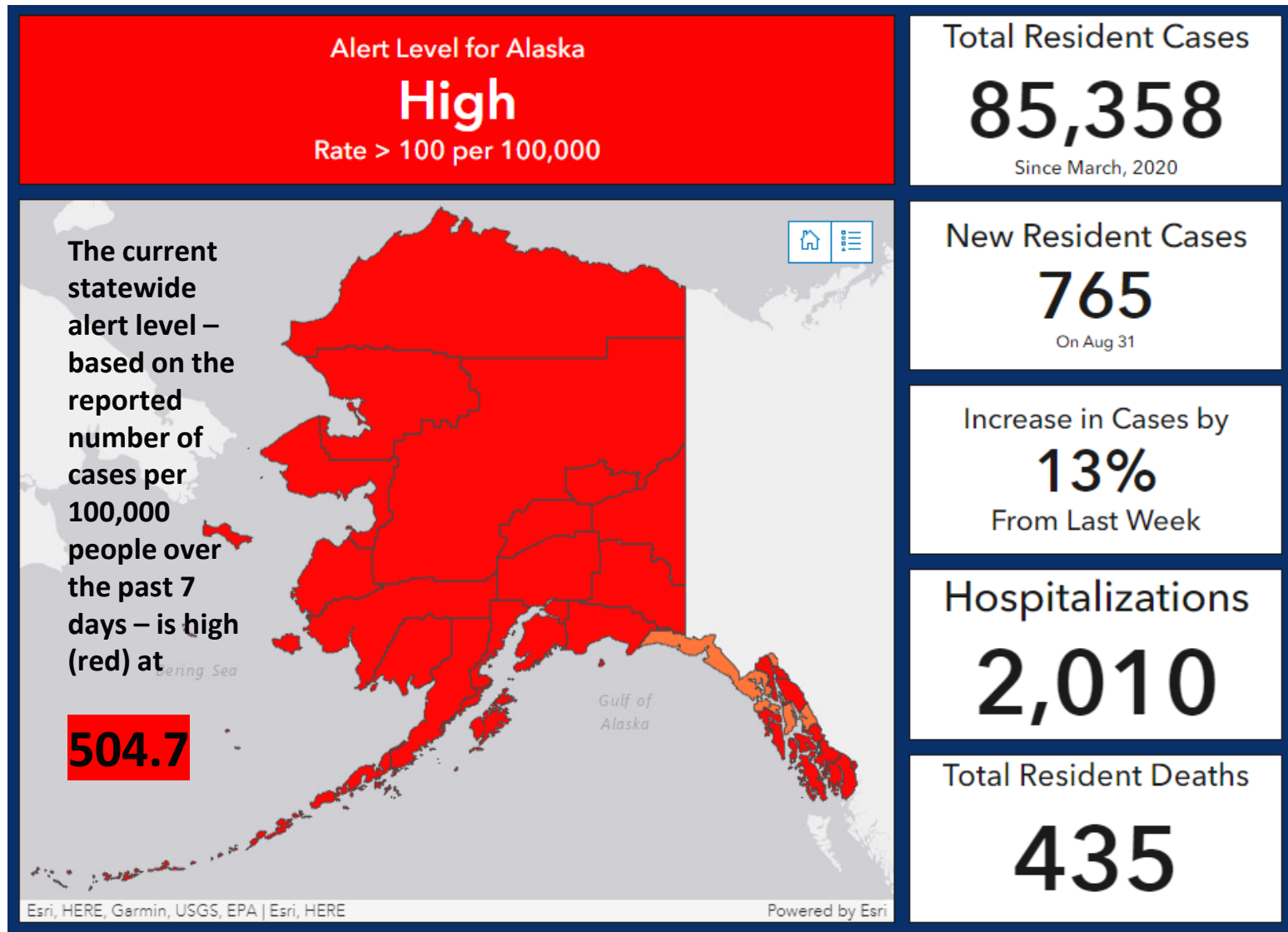
COVID-19 Current Trends

Dr. Joe McLaughlin, State Epidemiologist



COVID-19 Statewide Dashboard

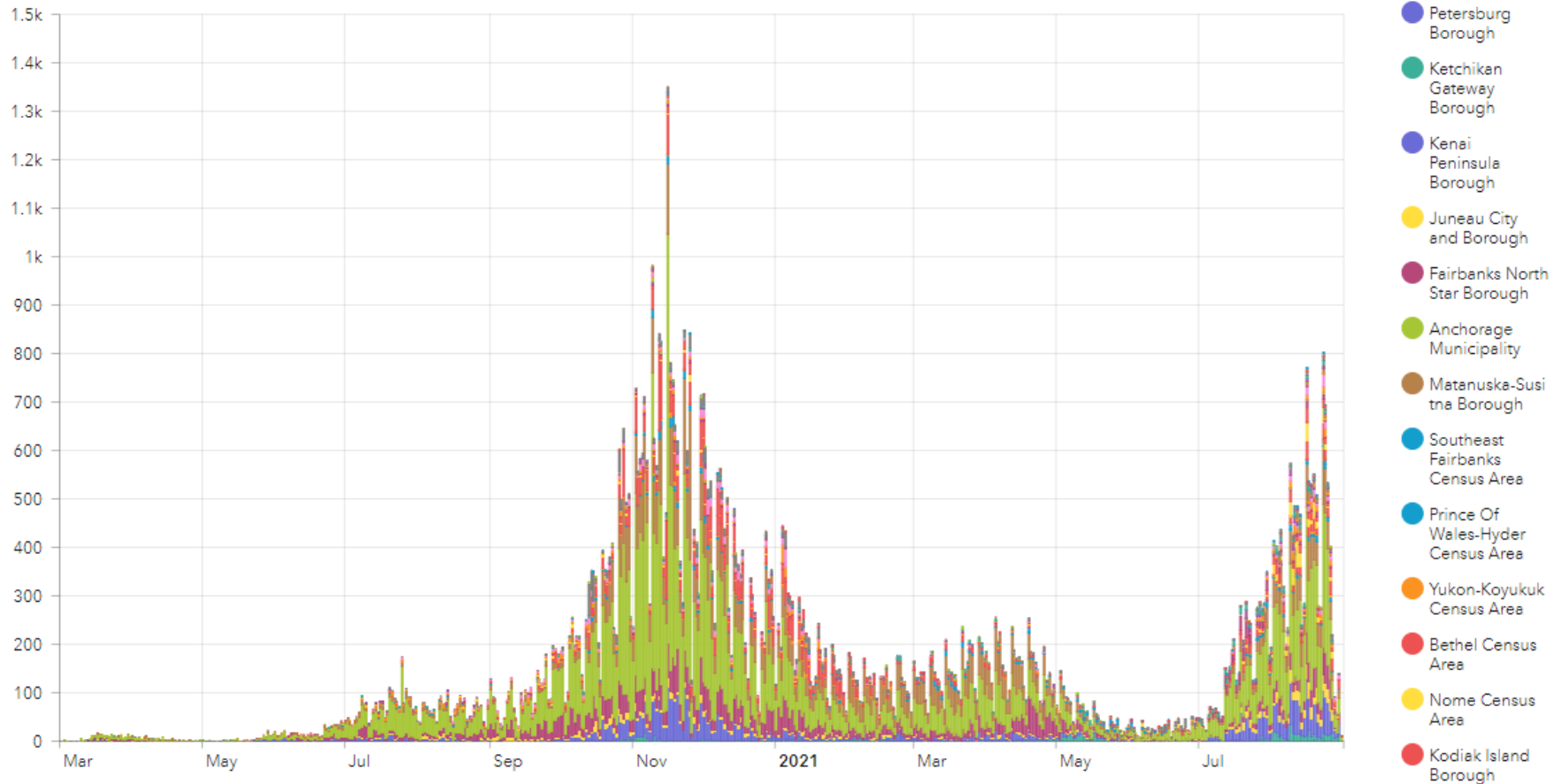
Sept. 1, 2021



COVID-19 Cases by Onset Date, Statewide

March 2020 - August 31, 2021

COVID-19 Cases by Symptom Onset Date*



*Includes "confirmed" and "probable". Missing onset dates are substituted with report, hospitalization, or specimen collection date (whichever is earlier); dates will change with confirmed onset date.

Report Date

Onset Date

Hospitalization Date

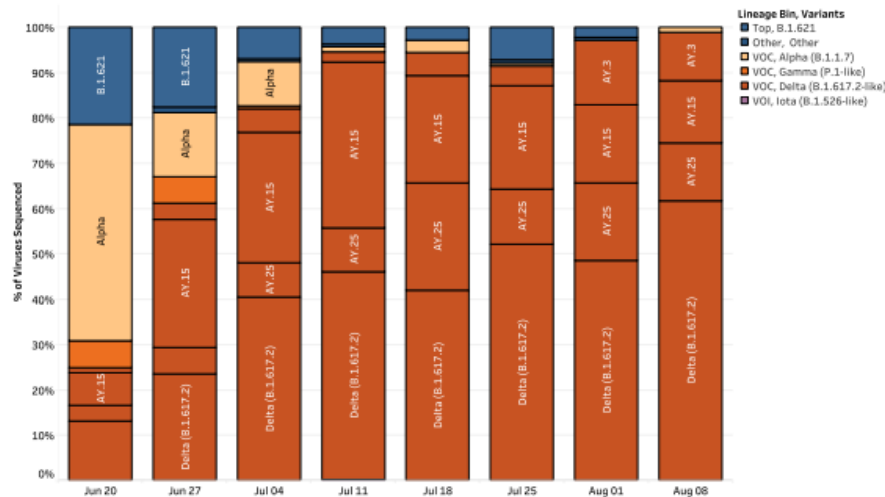
Deaths

Case Rate by Age

COVID-19 Variants of Concern in Alaska

Weekly COVID Genomics Surveillance Report – Sept. 1, 2021

Recent Prevalence of Variants in Alaska



*Estimated prevalence per week period beginning on the date. This estimate is based on genome sequencing from a non-targeted convenience sample of cases. This estimate excludes cases sequenced from targeted contact tracing. Rare sub-lineages of Delta are aggregated with the parent lineage, B.1.617.2, proportion.

Variants of Concern/Interest

Name	Lineages	Cases Detected	Change from Previous Report*	First Identified in Alaska
VOC Alpha	B.1.1.7	451	+1	20 December 2020
VOC Beta	B.1.351	7	0	20 March 2021
VOC Gamma	P.1-like	74	0	8 February 2021
VOC Delta	B.1.617.2-like	1196	+238	30 May 2021
VOI Epsilon	B.1.427/429	139	-1	4 December 2020
VOI Eta	B.1.525	1	0	16 March 2021
VOI Iota	B.1.526	24	0	4 February 2021
VOI Zeta	P.2	4	0	27 January 2021

*Detected variants are identified from sequencing a combination of retrospective and contemporary SARS-CoV-2 positive specimens. Therefore, changes to the previous report do not always reflect recent collections but add to the overall understanding of variant proportions

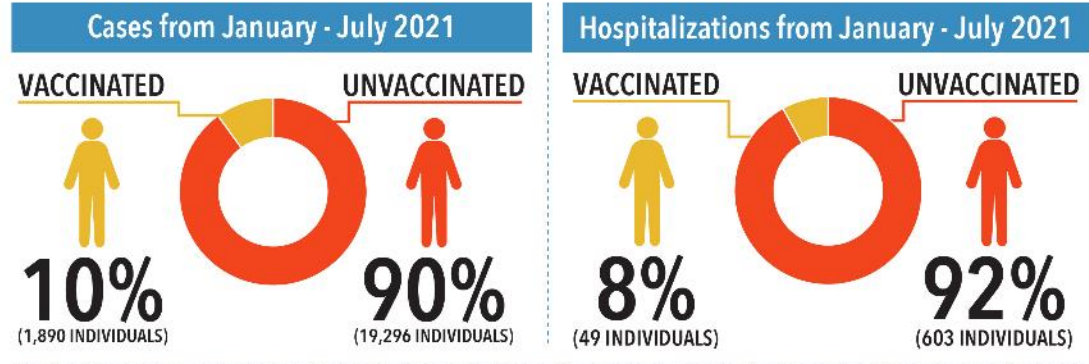
Alaska Vaccine Breakthrough Cases

Vaccinated vs. Unvaccinated Cases and Hospitalizations

January – July 2021

Vaccine breakthrough (VB) infections of COVID are those detected in a person who is more than 2 weeks beyond their second dose of a 2-dose series or the only dose of a 1-dose series.

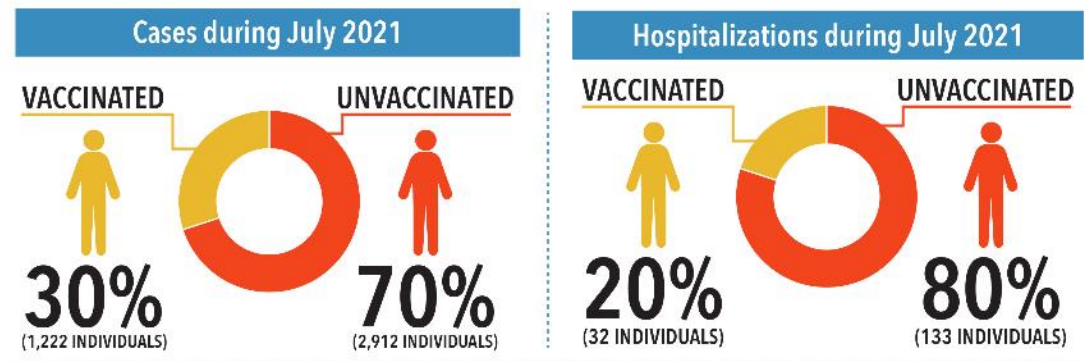
COVID-19 in Alaska



Vaccinated individuals were fully vaccinated (series complete + two weeks).
Unvaccinated individuals have not received a vaccine or are partially vaccinated.

July 2021

COVID-19 in Alaska



Vaccinated individuals were fully vaccinated (series complete + two weeks).
Unvaccinated individuals have not received a vaccine or are partially vaccinated.

Hospitalization By Vaccination Status

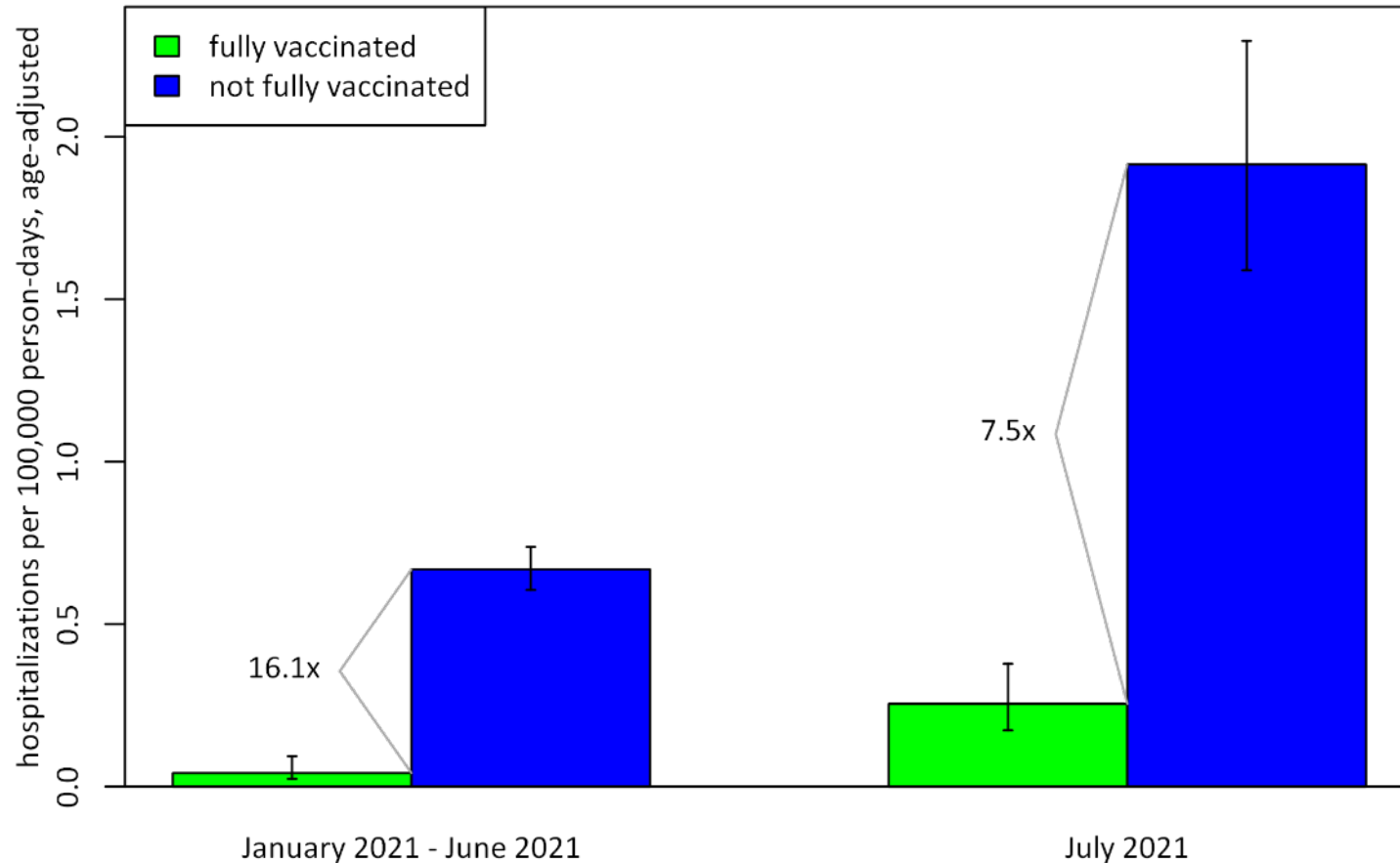


Figure 4. Age-adjusted incidence of hospitalization due to COVID-19 among Alaska residents aged ≥ 12 years by vaccination status (fully vaccinated versus not fully vaccinated), stratified by hospitalizations among COVID-19 cases with first positive specimen collected from January 16 through June 30 or during July 2021.

http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/epi/id/siteassets/pages/HumanCoV/COVID_monthly_update_July2021.pdf

COVID-19 Testing and Treatment

Dr. Coleman Cutchins, State Pharmacist



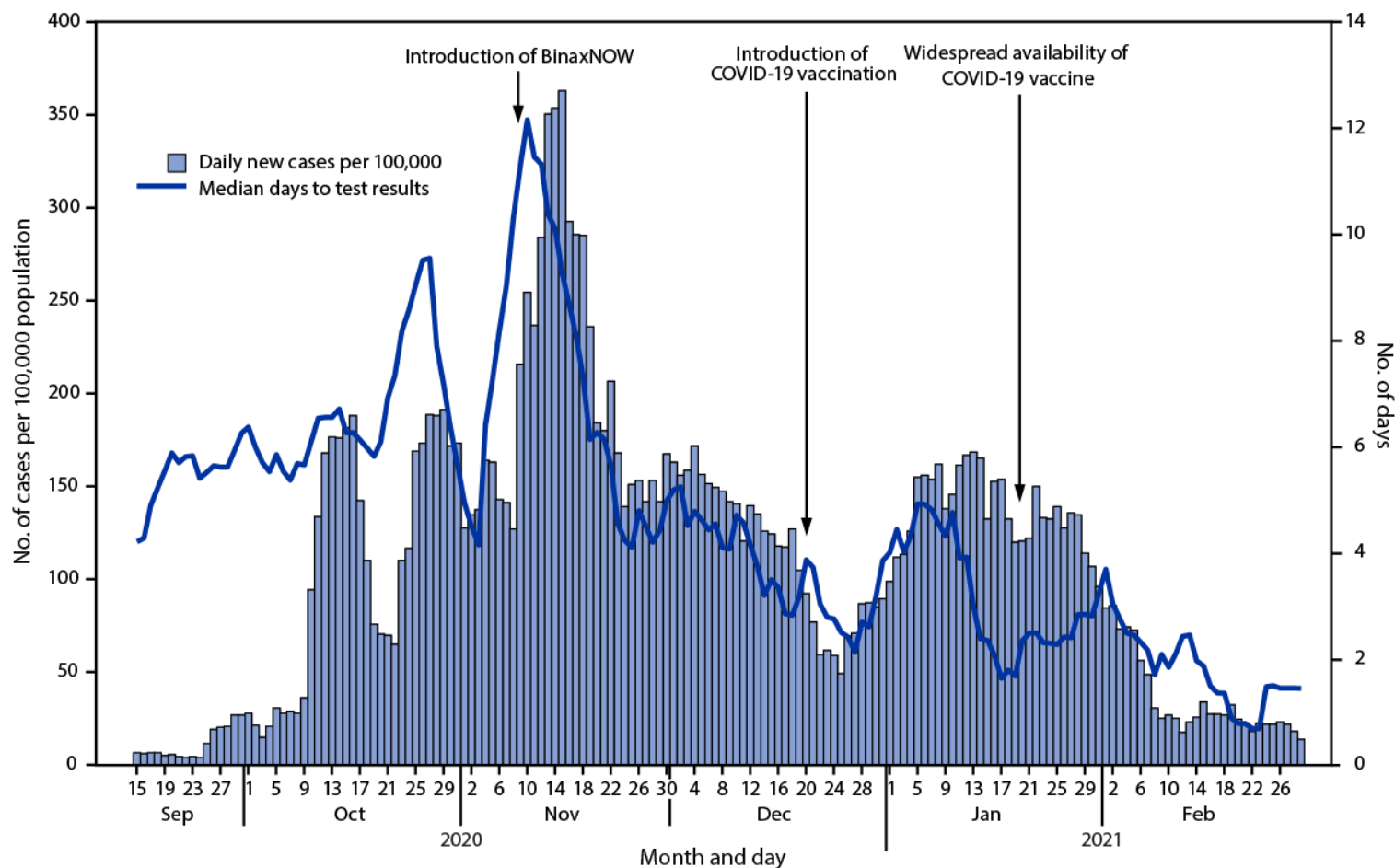
Alaska's Testing Update

- Alaska's testing program continues to serve our state well
- Longer lines but widespread access and relatively quick turn around times for results (<48 hour turn around time throughout much of Alaska)
- State warehouse continues to ship supplies
 - Rapid molecular tests for CUE and ID NOW
 - Rapid antigen for BINAX
- Testing sites can access testing supplies
- Working to acquire at-home "over the counter" tests to support schools and communities
- Airport testing is continuing



Rapid Antigen Testing by YKHC

Daily COVID-19 incidence* and median turnaround time for test results, by week — Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region, Alaska, September 15, 2020–March 1, 2021



Hodges E, Lefferts B, Bates E, et al. Use of Rapid Antigen Testing for SARS-CoV-2 in Remote Communities — Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Region, Alaska, September 15, 2020–March 1, 2021. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2021;70:1120–1123. DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7033a3external_icon

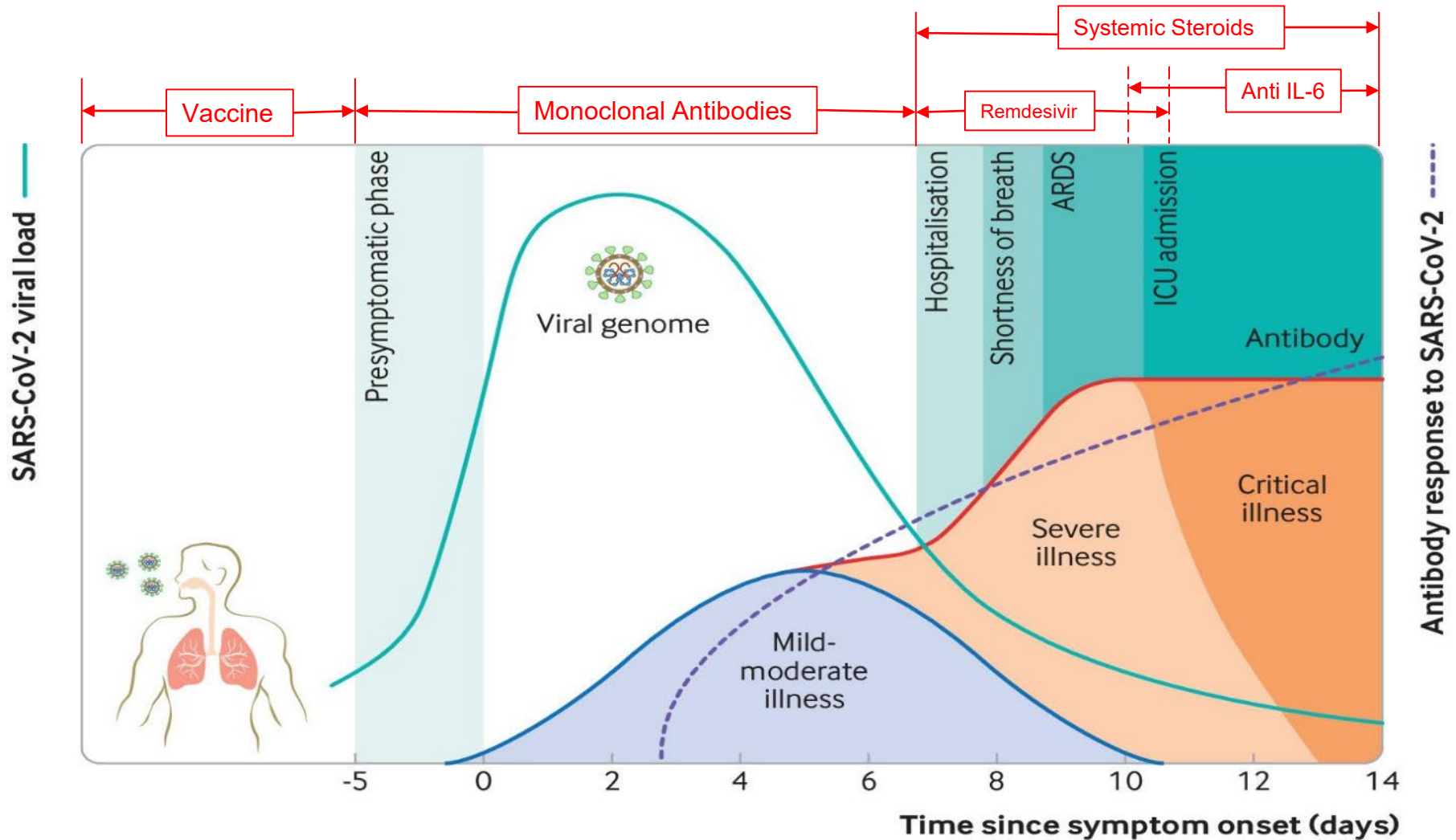
Diverse Testing Partners + Locations

Testing, vaccination and monoclonal antibody treatment at nontraditional sites with partners including:

- Schools
- University sports centers
- Fishing boats in the Bering Sea
- Reality TV show production sites
- The Iditarod sled dog race
- Churches
- Rural community clinics on the Aleutian chain
- Offshore drilling pads in the Arctic Ocean



Disease Progression + Treatment



Monoclonal Antibodies

- Prevents severe COVID illness and hospitalizations
- Ask your health care provider or **call the statewide COVID helpline, 907-646-3322** for more information for help finding treatment. Language interpreters available upon request.
- Testing ensures those who test positive get the treatment they need.



COVID-19 Vaccination Update

Matt Bobo, DHSS Immunization Program Manager

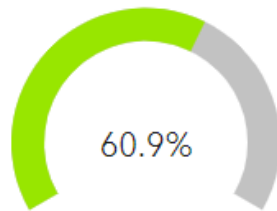


COVID-19 Vaccine Summary Dashboard

September 1, 2021

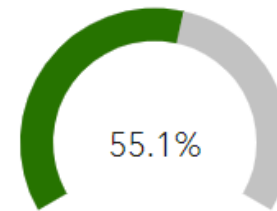
Residents (12+) with 1+ Dose

369,566



Residents (12+) Fully Vaccinated

334,707



Doses Administered

16,749

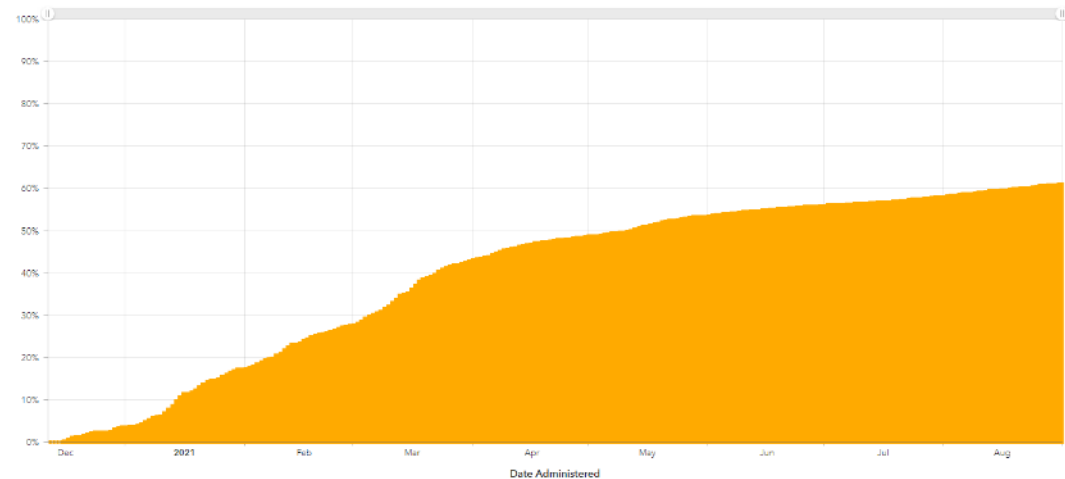
Aug 18 - Aug 31

Increase by

43.6%

Compared to Jul 21 - Aug 03

Cumulative Percent of Residents (12+) with 1+ Dose



Cumulative Doses by Date

Administered Doses by Manufacturer and by Date

COVID Vaccine Rates by Age Group

August 31, 2021

Residents with 1+ Dose as of August 31	Ages 12+	Ages 65+	All Ages
Aleutians East Borough	88%	67%	83%
Aleutians West Census Area	73%	57%	67%
Anchorage Municipality	65%	80%	55%
Bethel Census Area	77%	82%	59%
Denali Borough	70%	70%	62%
Dillingham Census Area	62%	73%	49%
Fairbanks North Star Borough	52%	67%	43%
Haines Borough	73%	79%	63%
Juneau City and Borough	83%	91%	72%
Kenai Peninsula Borough	50%	66%	42%
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	69%	82%	60%
Kodiak Island Borough	70%	84%	60%
Kusilvak Census Area	81%	87%	60%
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	43%	61%	35%
Nome Census Area	84%	93%	65%
North Slope Borough	40%	92%	33%
Northwest Arctic Borough	67%	80%	52%
Petersburg Borough	68%	78%	58%
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	69%	83%	58%
Sitka City and Borough	82%	82%	71%
Skagway Municipality	86%	99%	71%
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	35%	56%	29%
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	65%	80%	54%
Wrangell City and Borough	65%	73%	56%
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	81%	89%	68%
Bristol Bay plus Lake and Peninsula	91%	87%	76%
Yakutat plus Hoonah-Angoon	79%	83%	69%
Overall	60.7%	76.0%	50.6%

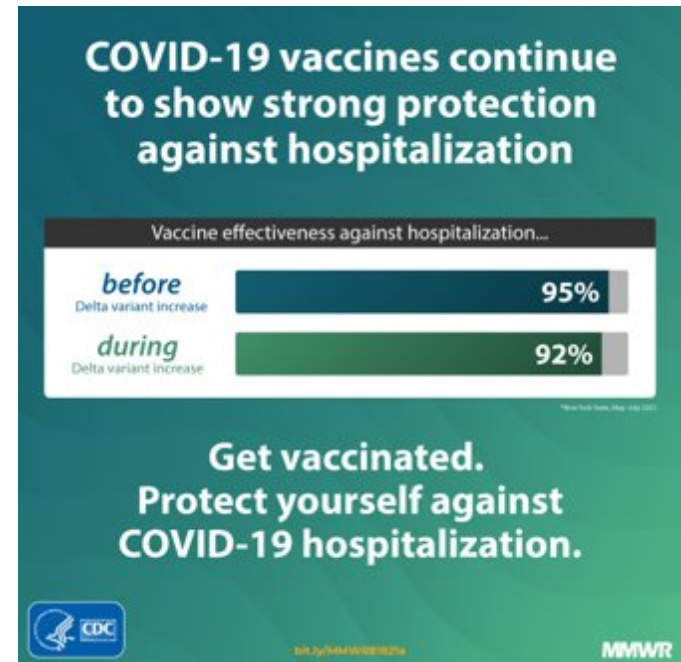
Additional Dose for Immunocompromised People

- CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended that people whose immune systems are moderately to severely compromised receive an additional dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine at least four weeks after an initial two-dose mRNA series.
- CDC's recommendation includes people with a range of conditions, such as recipients of organ or stem cell transplants, people with advanced or untreated HIV infection, active recipients of treatment for cancer, people who are taking some medications that weaken the immune system, and others.
- Vaccine providers should administer vaccine in accordance with the updated EUA per the COVID-19 vaccine provider agreement.



Pending Booster Doses

- COVID-19 vaccines continue to be highly effective in reducing risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death, even against the widely circulating delta variant.
- However, we are seeing a decrease in vaccine effectiveness against infection.
- Nearly all the cases of severe disease, hospitalization, and death continue to occur among those not yet vaccinated at all.
- HHS has developed a plan to begin offering these booster shots this fall subject to FDA authorization and CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) issuing booster dose recommendations based on a thorough review of the evidence.



COVID-19 Update

Hospital Capacity

Gene Wiseman



COVID-19 Hospitalizations Dashboard

Sept. 1, 2021

Currently Hospitalized

161

COVID Positive

Hospitalized with COVID-19

16.9%

Out of Total Hospitalizations

Currently on Vent

20

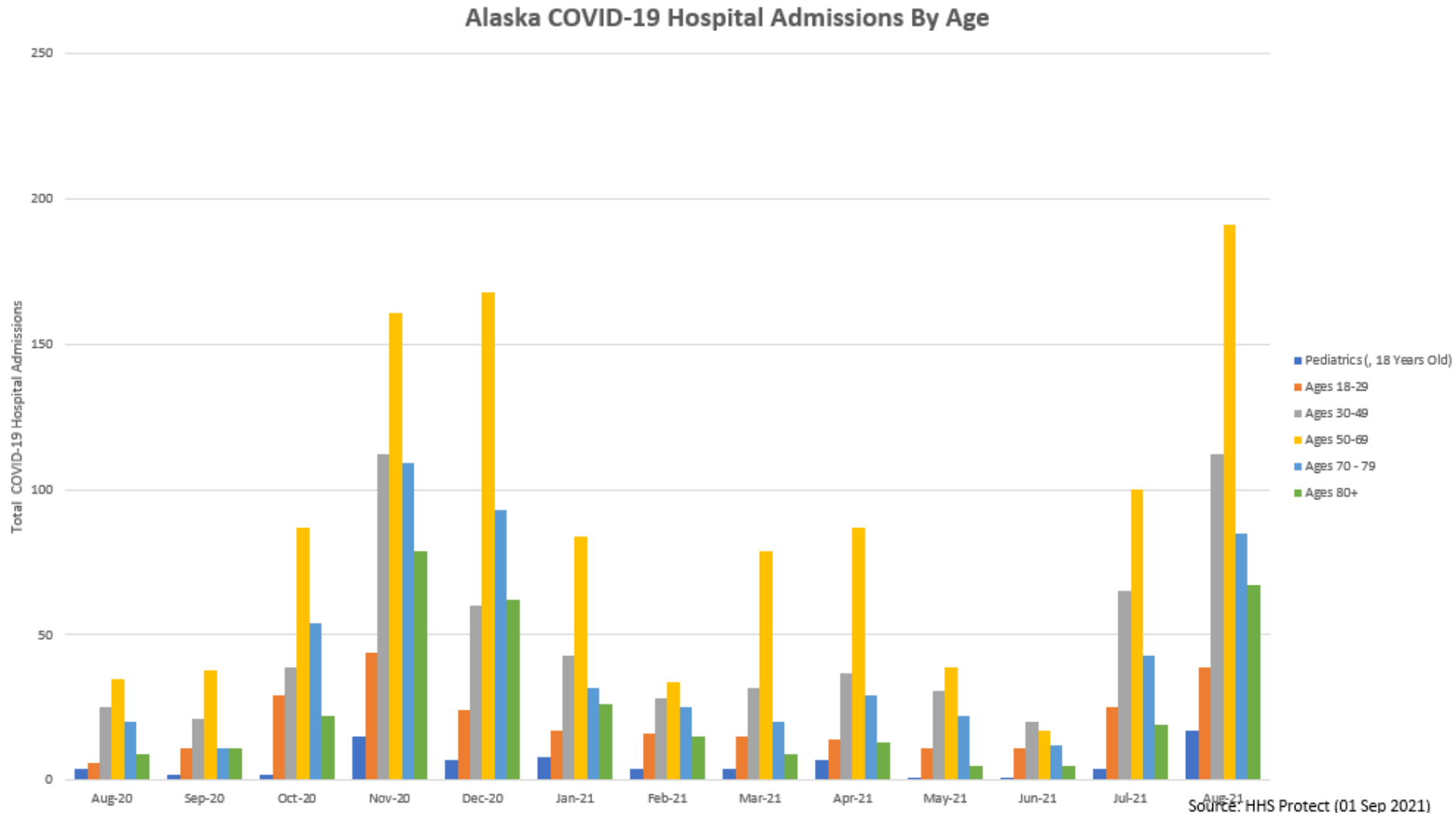
COVID Positive and Suspected

Total Confirmed COVID Beds Occupied



Based on most recently completed survey of Alaska health facilities, reported as of the previous day. Not all facilities may report results each day. Includes 13 Critical Access Hospitals (CAH), 8 General Acute Care Hospitals (GACH), 1 Long-Term Acute Care Hospital (LTACH), and 2 Psychiatric Hospitals. Military Hospitals are not reported. Reporting standards and frequency vary by facility type.

Alaska COVID 19 Hospital Admissions By Age



Covid-19 Update on Hospital Capacity

- COVID-19 admissions increasing, including pediatric admissions
- Severe staffing shortages and generally exhausted health care workers
- Busy summer season, non-COVID health issues

Resulting In -

- Decreased access to specialty care
- Decreased access to urgent care
- Decreased ability to transfer patients



Supporting Alaska's Health Care System

- Expedited licensing and background checks for health care providers
- Assessing ways to temporarily support hospitals with increased staffing
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid 1135 waivers to allow for Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) flexibilities, allowing for alternate care sites, urgent care sites and other health care delivery systems to be more efficiently used to strengthen health care capacity.
- DHSS is continuing to procure medical supplies to support hospitals. Cost savings achieved through bulk purchasing.



Hospital Situational Awareness

Internal Hospital Dashboard Used by Hospitals and DHSS

Hospital Status Dashboard Southcentral/Interior	Adult ICU	Adult Non-ICU Inpatient	Psych	Emergency Department
Alaska Native Medical Center <small>Call ANMIC to verify bed availability before using an alternative transfer</small> Hospital Services Phone Notes	Closed	Near Capacity	Closed ED Psych divert	Closed ED Recovery
Alaska Regional Hospital <small>Last Update: 9/1/2021, 1:43 PM</small> Hospital Services Phone Notes	Closed	Closed	Closed ED Psych divert	Closed ED Recovery, Adult Med
Providence Alaska Medical Center <small>Last Update: 9/1/2021, 7:18 AM</small> Hospital Services Phone Notes	Near Capacity	Near Capacity	Closed ED Psych divert	Closed ED Recovery
Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson Hospital <small>Last Update: 9/1/2021, 2:27 AM</small> Hospital Services Phone Notes	Open	Open	Open	Open
Central Peninsula Hospital <small>Last Update: 9/1/2021, 11:48 AM</small> Hospital Services Phone Notes	Near Capacity	Closed	N/A	N/A
Fairbanks Memorial Hospital <small>Last Update: 8/31/2021, 11:58 PM</small> Hospital Services Phone Notes	Closed	Near Capacity	Open	N/A
Mat-Su Regional Medical Center <small>Last Update: 9/1/2021, 12:41 PM</small> Hospital Services Phone Notes	Near Capacity	Open	Open	N/A
SC/Interior CAH Southeast				

The Next Few Months



Supporting Alaskans



- Keep current on COVID-19 through our ECHO videoconferences. Visit the [DHSS ECHO web page](#) for more information.
- [School health information](#) and [resiliency resources](#) for youth, parents, educators, and families
- [Speaker's Bureau web page](#)
- DHSS offers support for one-time or reoccurring COVID-19 vaccination events. Submit your request by [filling out this form](#).

We can do this, Alaska!

