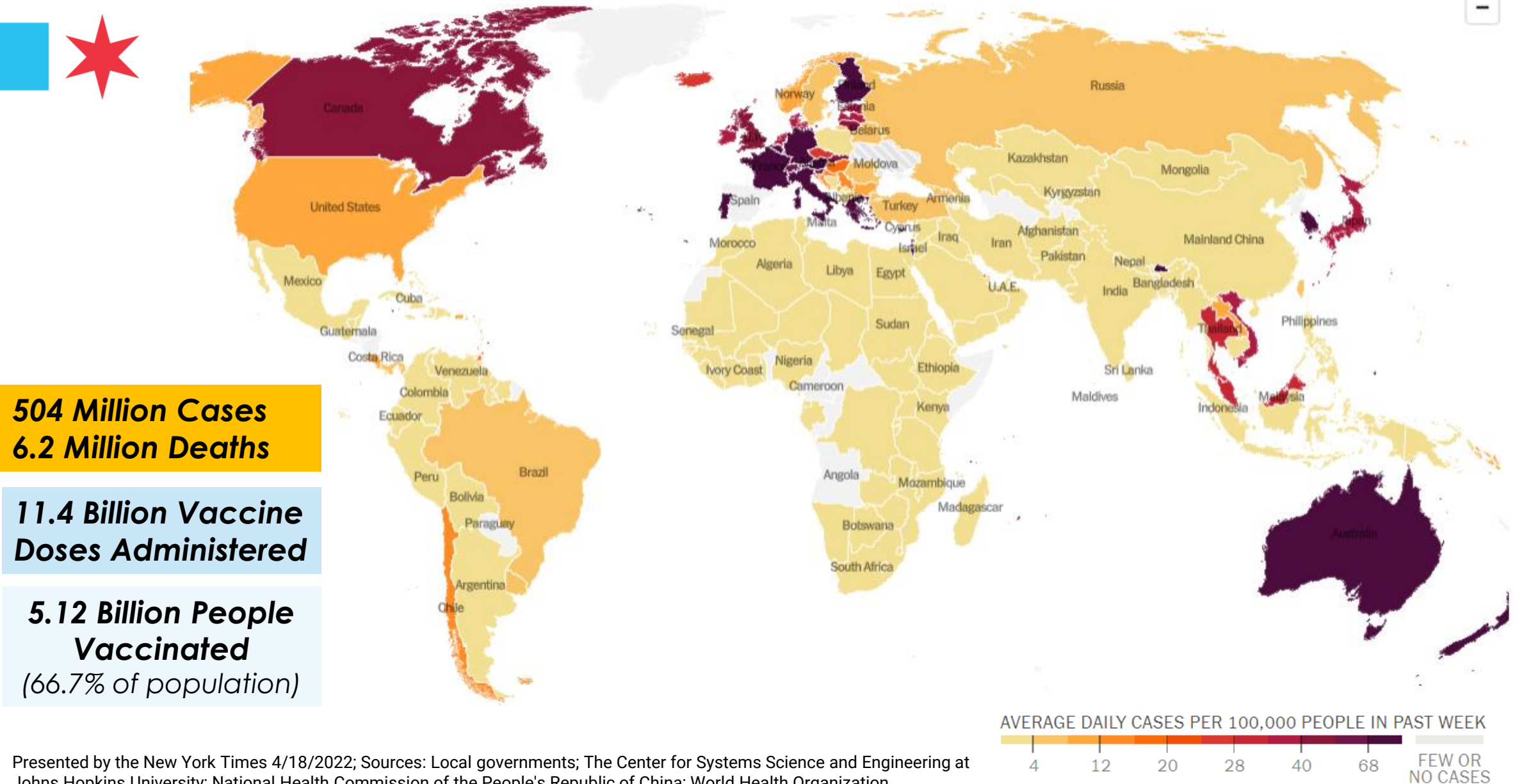


Ask Dr. Arwady

April 19, 2022

Average daily COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population



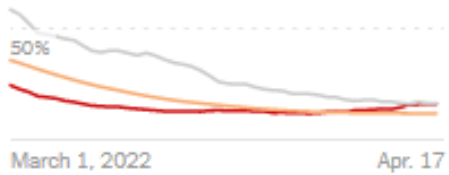
Seeing slight case increases in other areas of the U.S., but nothing causing alarm at this point



■ Cases ■ Hospitalizations ■ Deaths

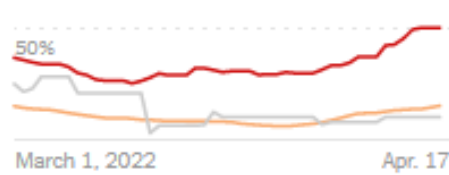
United States

100% of pre-Omicron peak



Vermont

100%



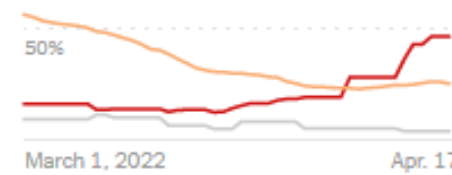
Puerto Rico

100%



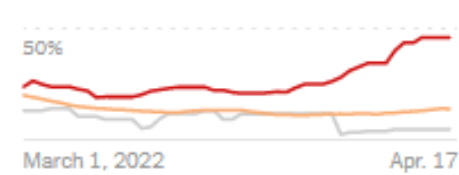
Washington, D.C.

100%



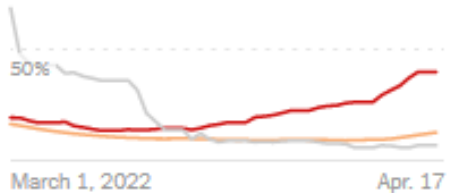
Rhode Island

100%



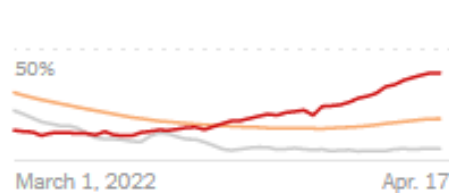
Massachusetts

100% of pre-Omicron peak



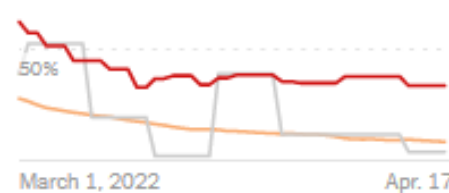
New York

100%



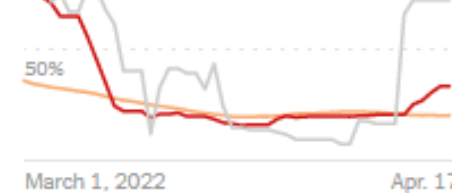
Alaska

100%



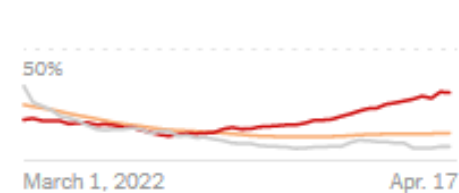
Maine

100%

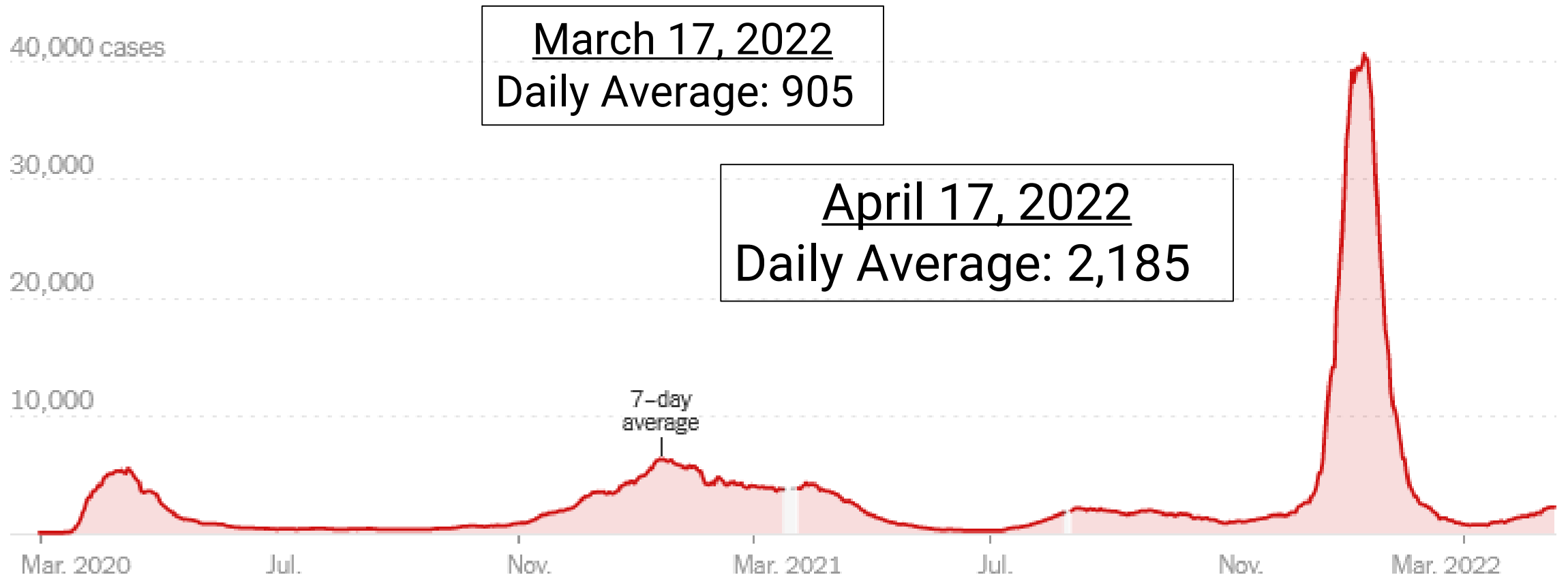


New Jersey

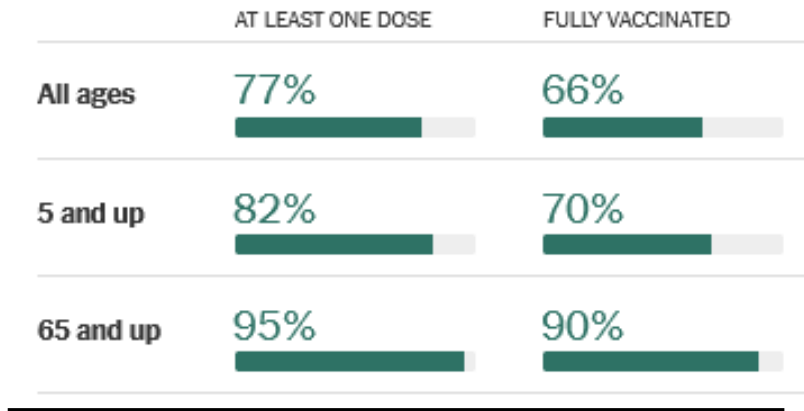
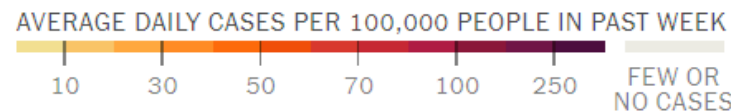
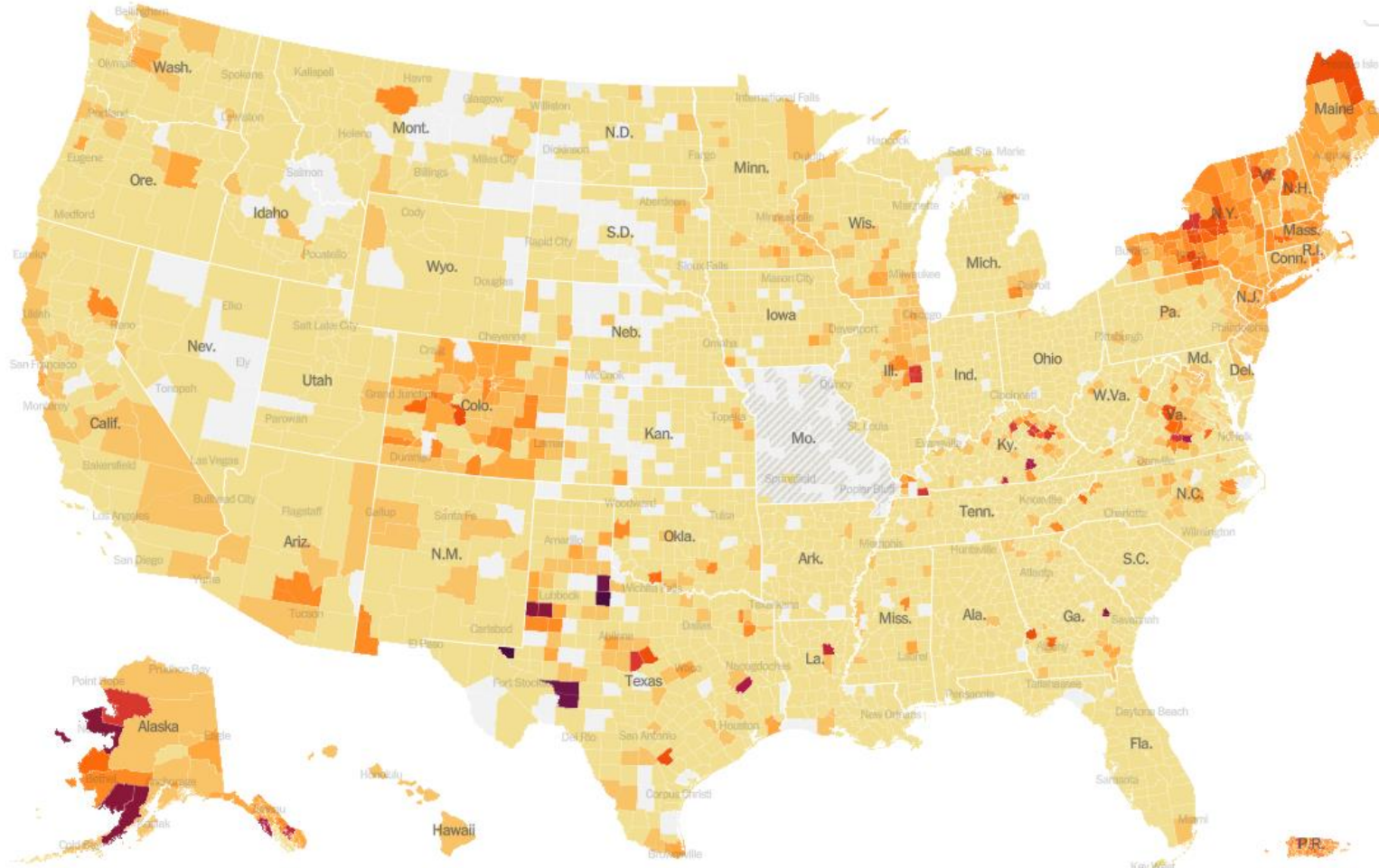
100%



★ Cases are rising quickly in New York City, though not at rate of initial Omicron surge



Average daily COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population



National currently:

11 diagnosed daily cases per 100,000 people

Illinois currently:

16 diagnosed daily cases per 100,000 people

Chicago currently:

17 diagnosed daily cases per 100,000 people

80.1 Million Cumulative Cases
987,228 Cumulative Deaths



**Chicago's Current CDC COVID-19
Community Level is:**

LOW



WHAT'S A COVID-19 COMMUNITY LEVEL?

- It's a new tool to help communities decide what prevention measures to take based on the latest data
- Every community in the United States is classified as:

Low

Limited impact on healthcare system, low levels of severe illness

Medium

Some impact on healthcare system, more people with severe illness

High

High potential for healthcare system strain; high level of severe illness

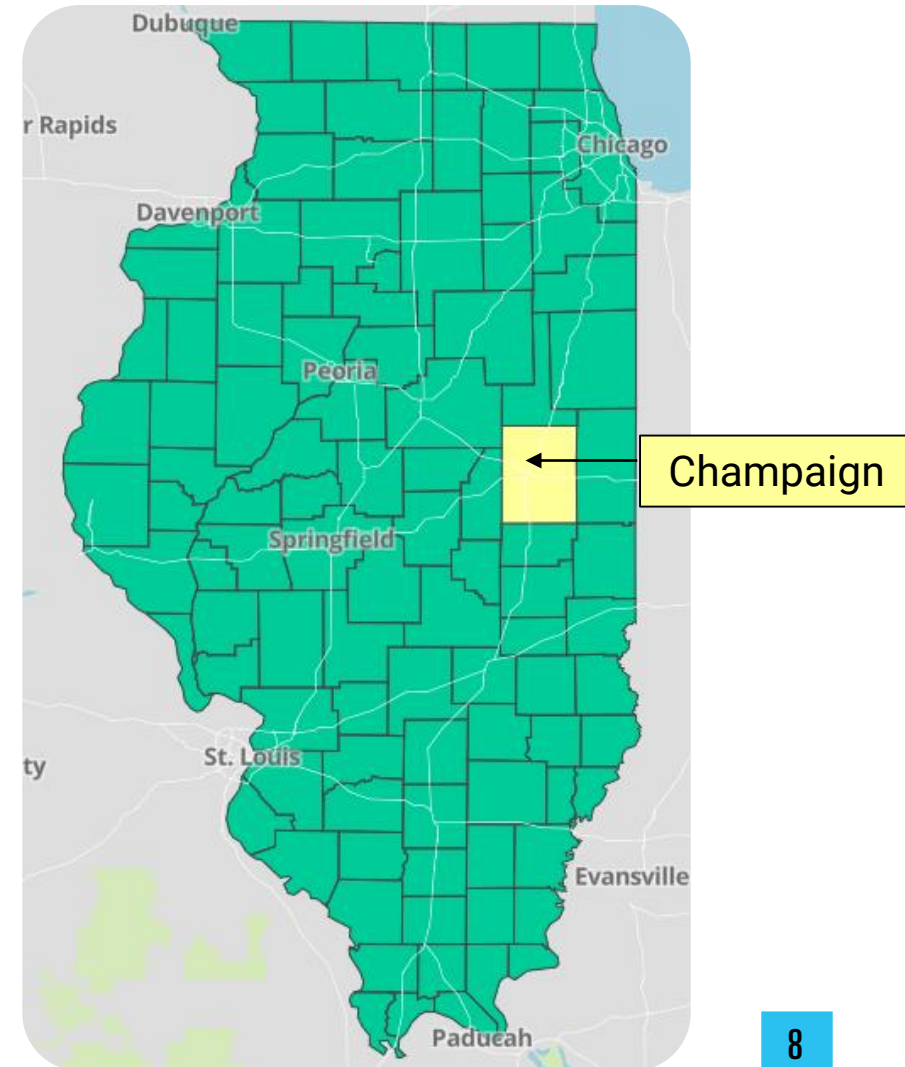
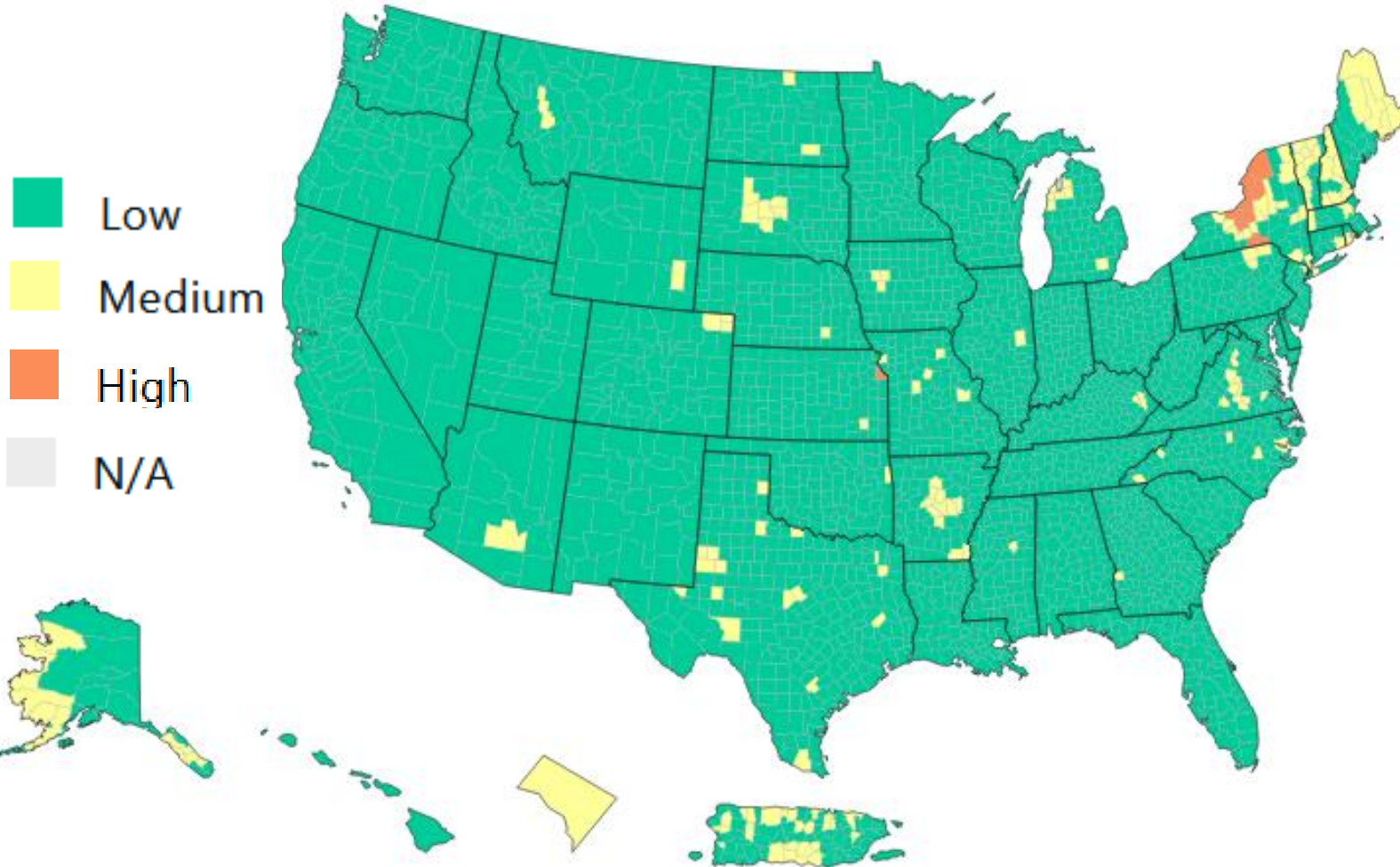


cdc.gov/coronavirus

CS329821-B 02/25/2022

U.S. COVID-19 Community Levels *by County* Map

5.9% (189) of 3,220 counties are in medium or high risk – down 4% from previous week





Chicago's COVID-19 Risk Level is **LOW**



Metrics

	New Cases (Per 100,00 people in last 7 days) [LOW is <200]	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total) [LOW is <10]	Proportion of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average) [LOW is <10%]
Chicago	118	1.4	ICU: 2.1% Non-ICU: 2.3%
Cook County	119.8	4.4	1.6%

Chicago metrics are calculated based on Chicago-level data (data as of 4/18/2022).

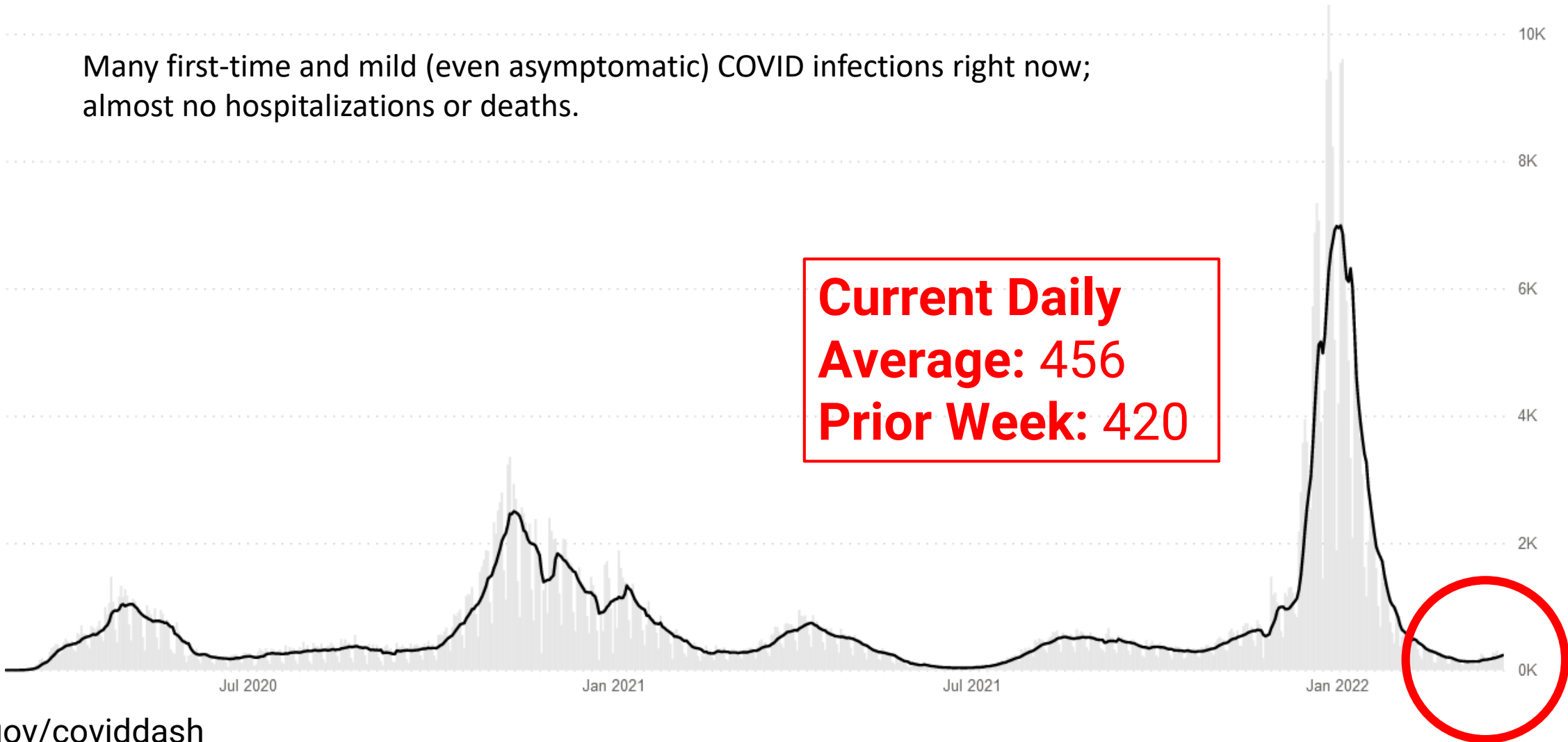
Cook County metrics are calculated by the CDC and posted on the CDC Community Levels website (data as of 4/14/2022).



New COVID-19 Cases Per 100,000 people in the past 7 days	Indicators	Low	Medium	High
Fewer than 200	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	<10.0	10.0-19.9	≥20.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	<10.0%	10.0-14.9%	≥15.0%
200 or more	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	NA	<10.0	≥10.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	NA	<10.0%	≥10.0%

★ Chicago: COVID-19 Cases

Many first-time and mild (even asymptomatic) COVID infections right now;
almost no hospitalizations or deaths.



What's going on with positivity? It reflects changes in testing patterns.
With CPS and other schools on spring break, reported tests dropped more than 50% over the last week. Test positivity (positive tests divided by all tests) therefore more than doubled. As school testing returns this week, we expect to see testing numbers increase and positivity decrease again by next week.



+ POSITIVITY RATE

5.4% ▲

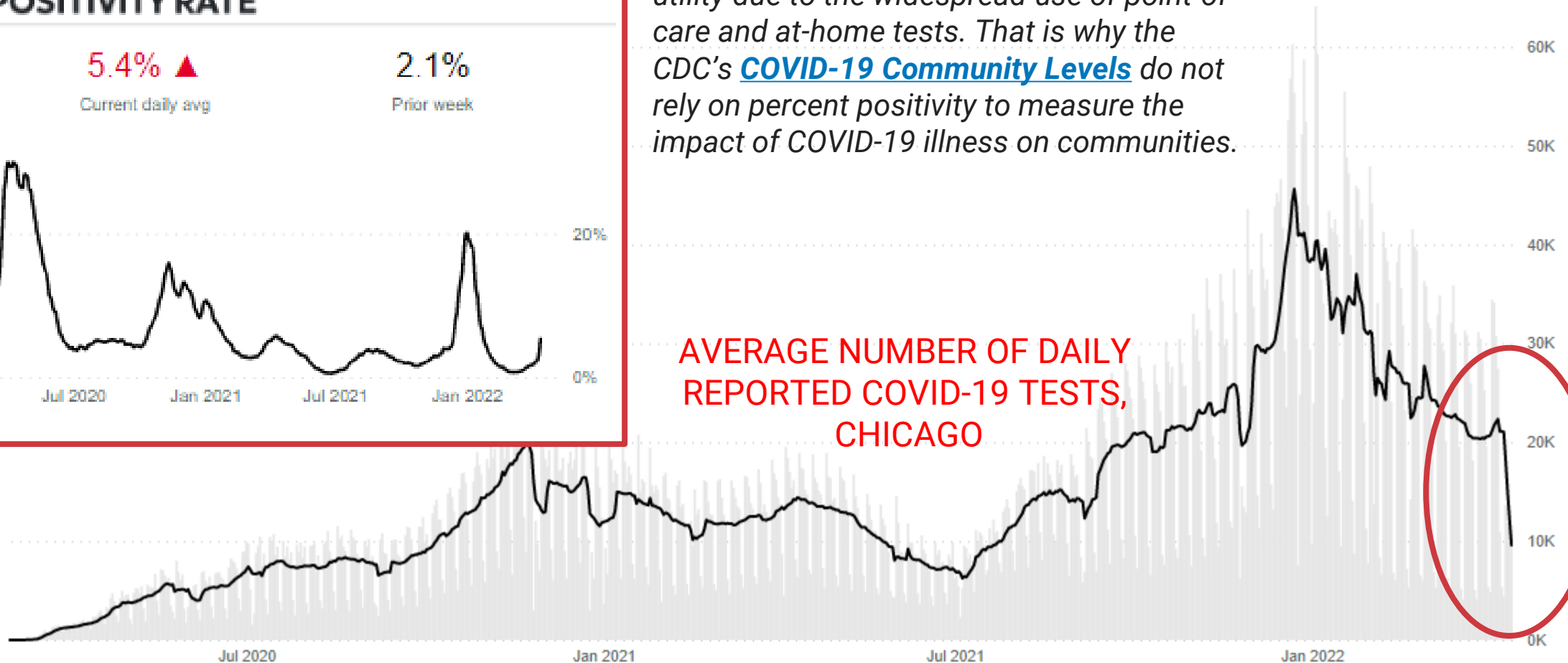
Current daily avg

2.1%

Prior week

In general, test positivity has a reduced utility due to the widespread use of point-of-care and at-home tests. That is why the CDC's [COVID-19 Community Levels](#) do not rely on percent positivity to measure the impact of COVID-19 illness on communities.

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAILY
REPORTED COVID-19 TESTS,
CHICAGO**

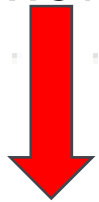


Spring
break



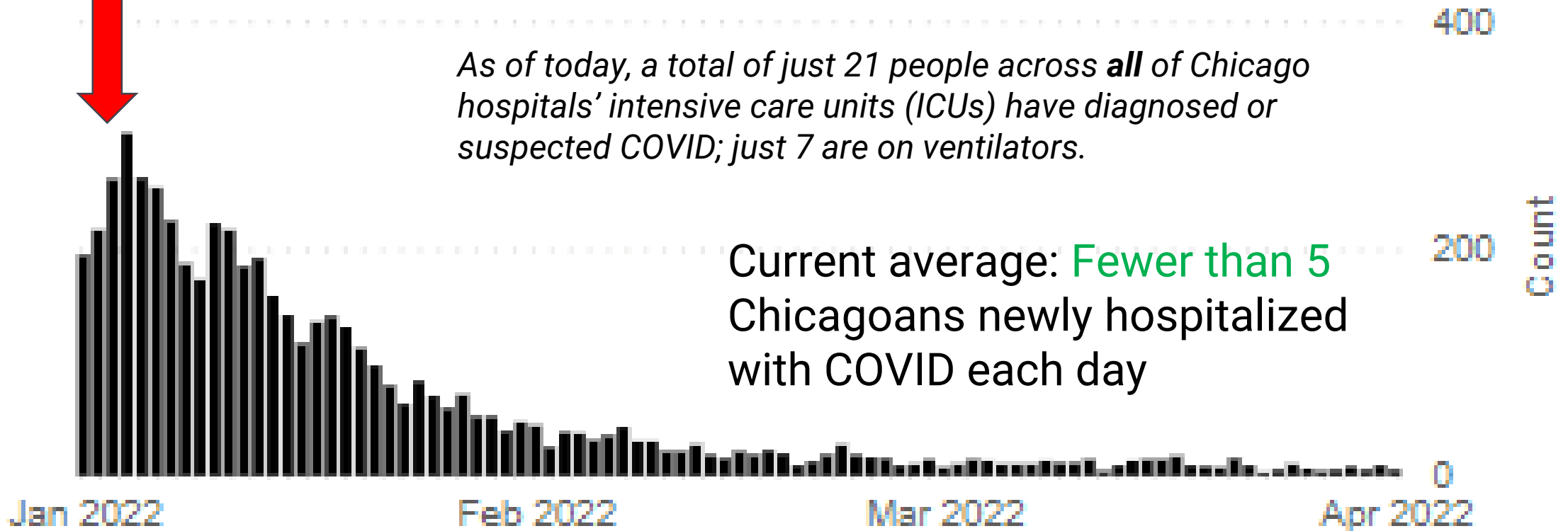
Great news: Fewer Chicagoans are now being hospitalized with COVID-19 than at **any** point in the pandemic.

Peak was January 4, 2022: **301** Chicagoans newly hospitalized with COVID in one day



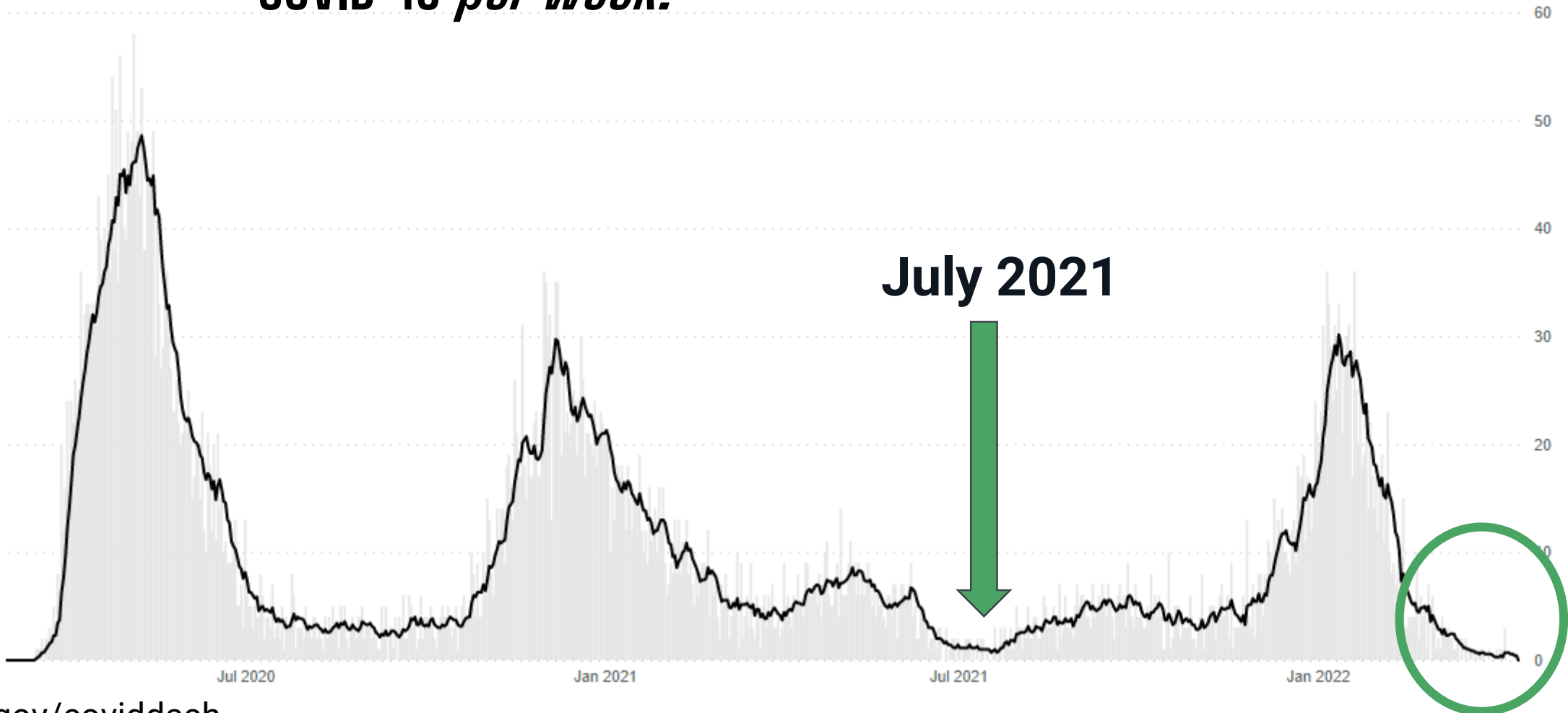
*As of today, a total of just 21 people across **all** of Chicago hospitals' intensive care units (ICUs) have diagnosed or suspected COVID; just 7 are on ventilators.*

Current average: **Fewer than 5** Chicagoans newly hospitalized with COVID each day



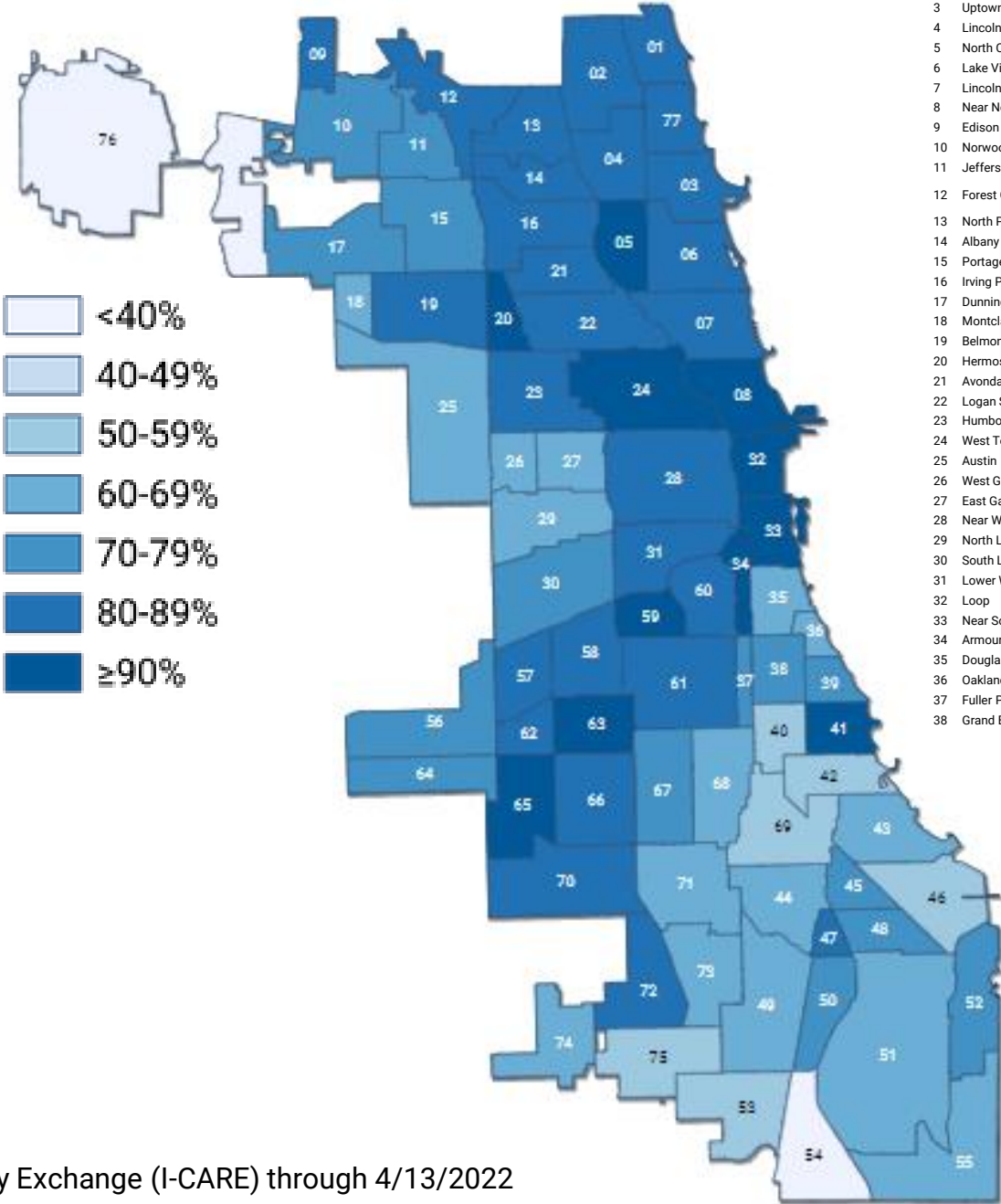
Great news: Fewer Chicagoans are now dying with COVID-19 than at **any** point in the pandemic.

Today, we are averaging fewer than 1 Chicagoan dying from COVID-19 *per week*.





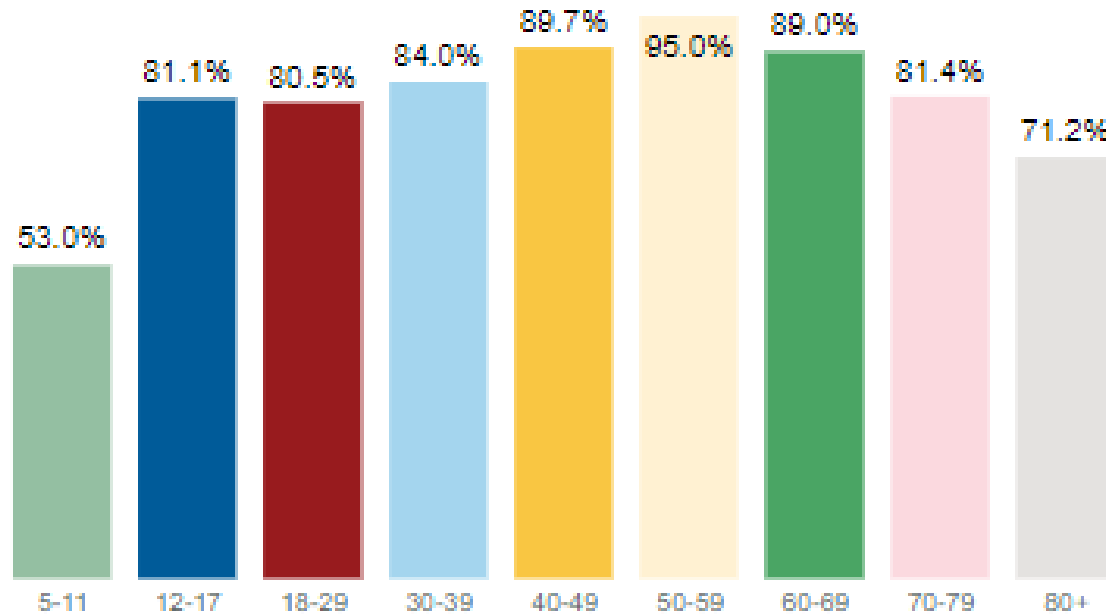
% of Chicagoans 5+ with at least one dose of a COVID-19 Vaccine by Community Area



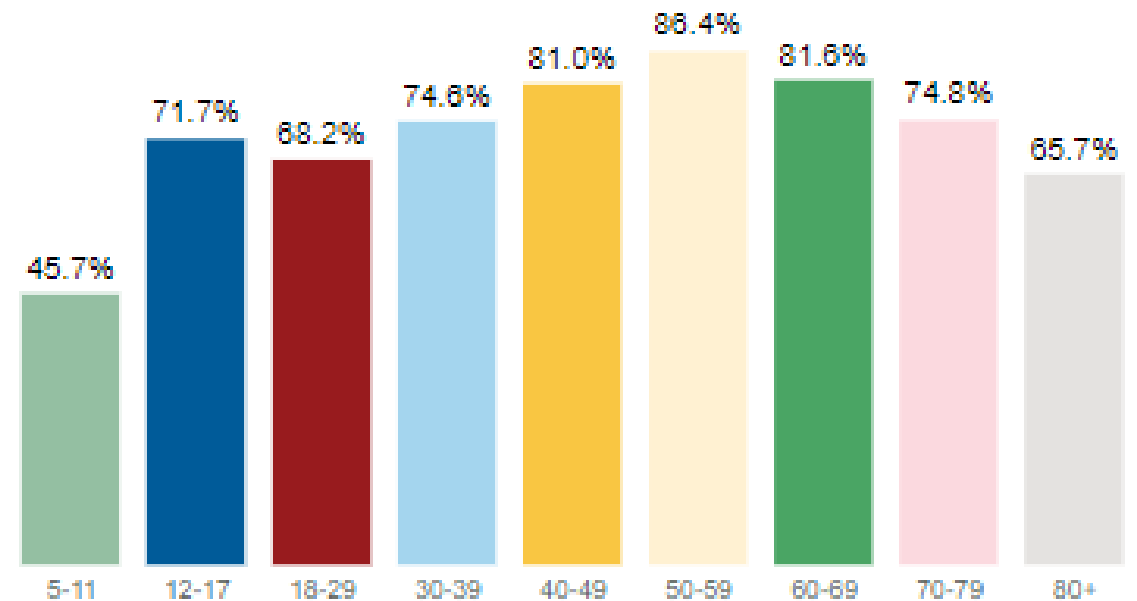
1	Rogers Park	39	Kenwood
2	West Ridge	40	Washington Park
3	Uptown	41	Hyde Park
4	Lincoln Square	42	Woodlawn
5	North Center	43	South Shore
6	Lake View	44	Chatham
7	Lincoln Park	45	Avalon Park
8	Near North Side	46	South Chicago
9	Edison Park	47	Burnside
10	Norwood Park	48	Calumet Heights
11	Jefferson Park	49	Roseland
12	Forest Glen	50	Pullman
13	North Park	51	South Deering
14	Albany Park	52	East Side
15	Portage Park	53	West Pullman
16	Irving Park	54	Riverdale
17	Dunning	55	Hegewisch
18	Montclare	56	Garfield Ridge
19	Belmont Cragin	57	Archer Heights
20	Hermosa	58	Brighton Park
21	Avondale	59	McKinley Park
22	Logan Square	60	Bridgeport
23	Humboldt Park	61	New City
24	West Town	62	West Elsdon
25	Austin	63	Gage Park
26	West Garfield Park	64	Clearing
27	East Garfield Park	65	West Lawn
28	Near West Side	66	Chicago Lawn
29	North Lawndale	67	West Englewood
30	South Lawndale	68	Englewood
31	Lower West Side	69	Greater Grand Crossing
32	Loop	70	Ashburn
33	Near South Side	71	Auburn Gresham
34	Armour Square	72	Beverly
35	Douglas	73	Washington Heights
36	Oakland	74	Mount Greenwood
37	Fuller Park	75	Morgan Park
38	Grand Boulevard	76	O'Hare
		77	Edgewater

Chicago Vaccination Rate by Age

At least one dose (% vaccinated as of 4/17/2022)

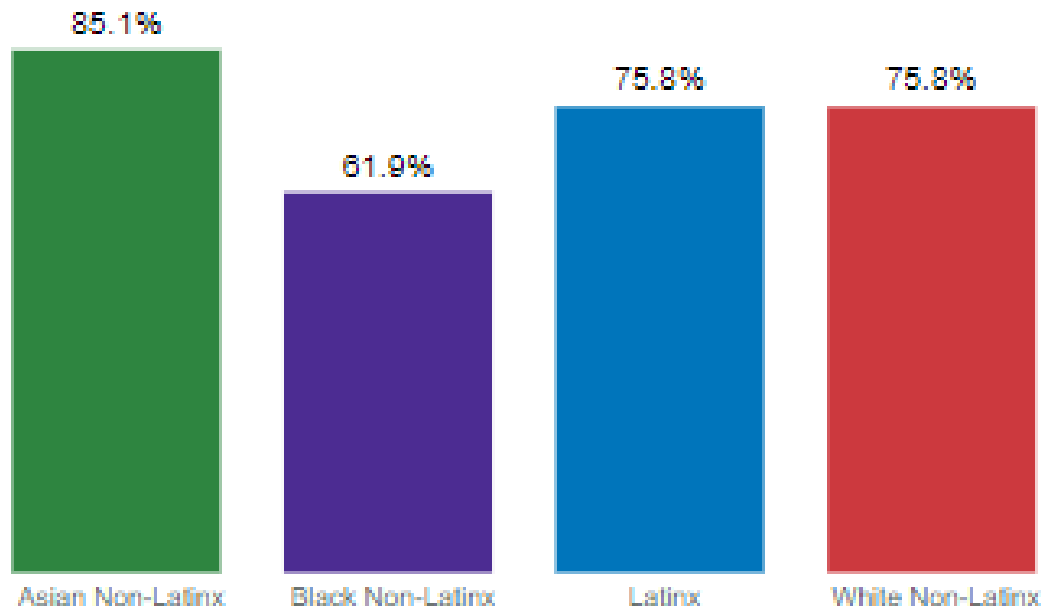


Completed vaccine series (% vaccinated as of 4/17/2022)

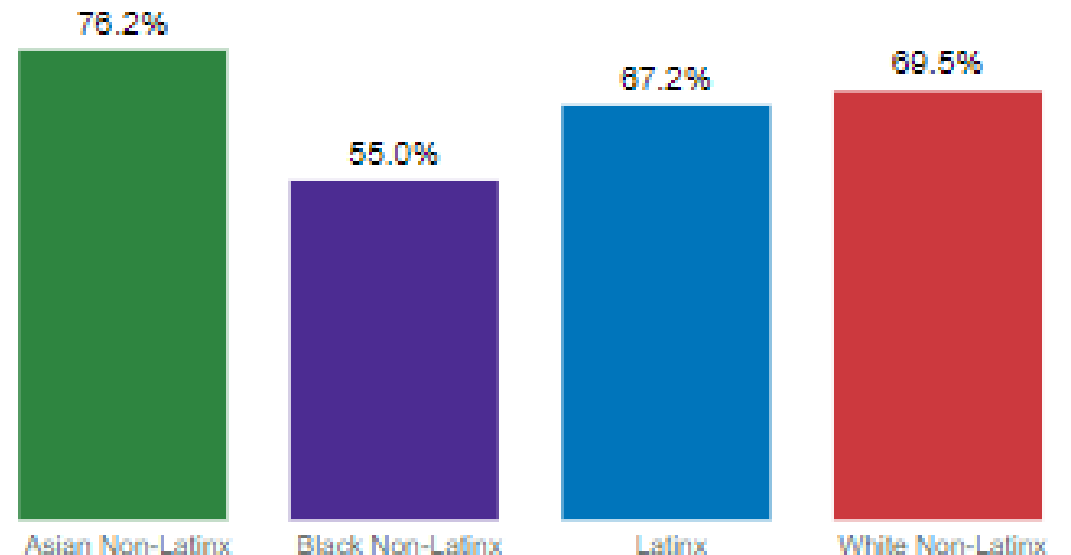


Chicago Vaccination Rate by Race/Ethnicity

At least one dose (% vaccinated as of 4/17/2022)



Completed vaccine series (% vaccinated as of 4/17/2022)



★ What's going on with masks on transit?

- **In Illinois, the Governor's Executive Order 2022-06 remains in place. This order explicitly includes a requirement for universal masking on public transit and in public transit hubs.**
- **CDC** continues to recommend that people wear masks in indoor public transportation settings at this time.
- **CTA:** Masks are still required on CTA trains and buses. If that requirement changes, CTA will notify customers.
- **Metra:** Riders on Metra must also still wear masks. The rail service isn't changing the requirement while they assess the situation.



Photo Source: Chicago Tribune

If you see someone choosing to wear a mask, please remember:

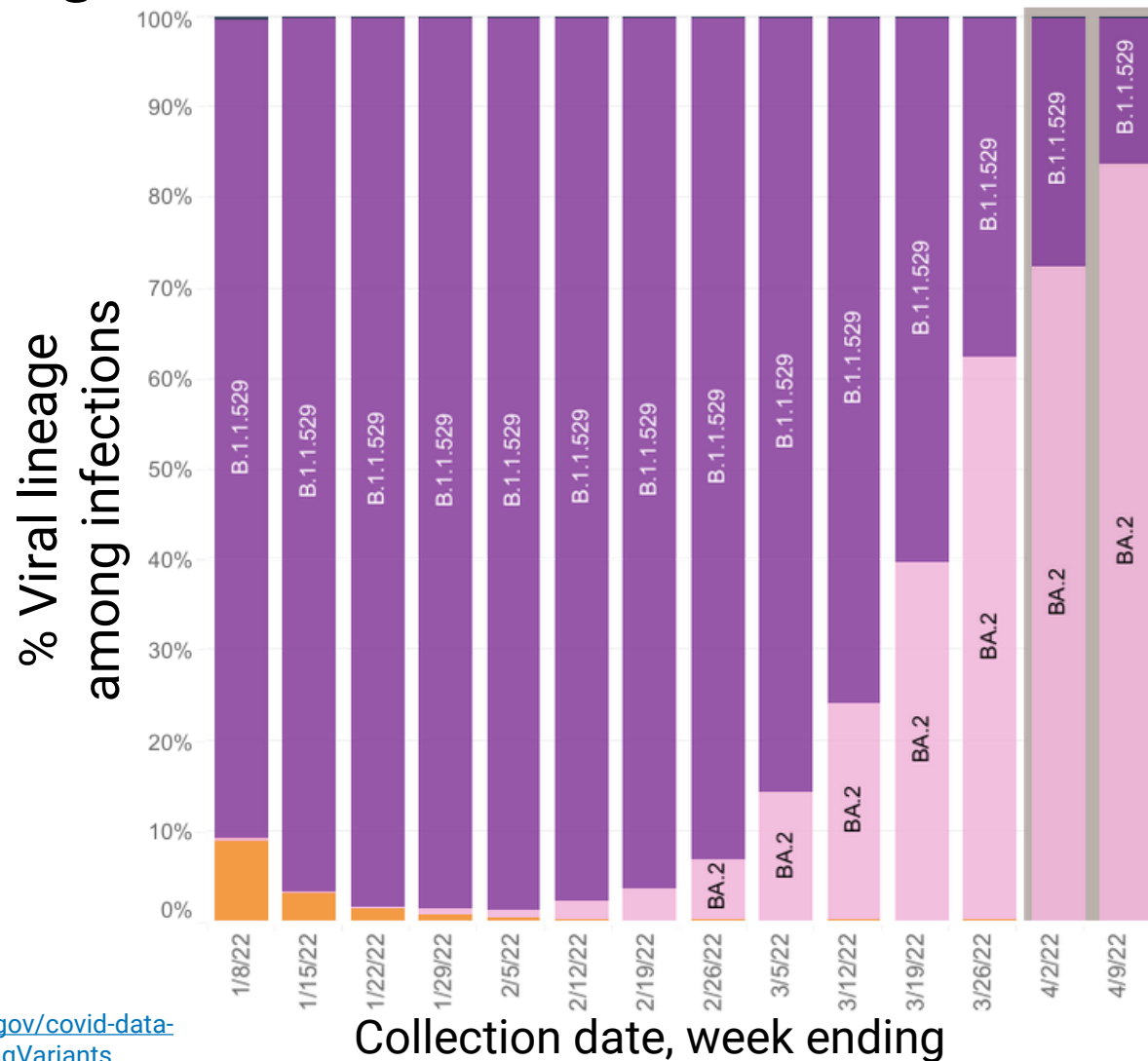
- People may have an autoimmune condition
- People may have high-risk loved ones
- People may have unvaccinated children
- People may be unvaccinated
- People may prefer to wear a mask



Please be kind and respectful of everyone's choice

SARS-CoV-2 Variant Surveillance, Midwest Region.

★ Omicron BA.2 doubling about every 7 days; now dominant strain in Midwest Region and entire U.S.



Omicron B.1.1 (16.3%)

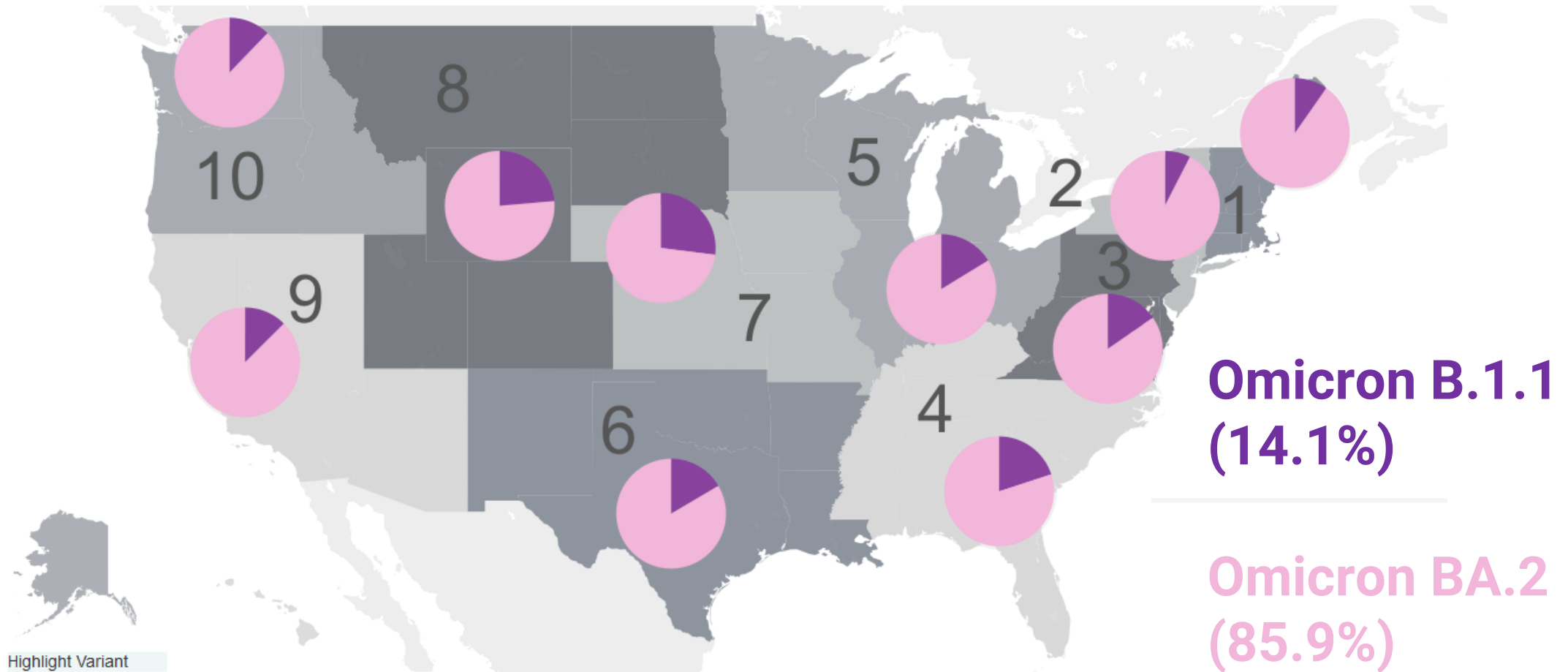
Omicron BA.2 (83.7%)

Delta (0.0%)

Other (0.0%)

★ SARS-CoV-2 Variant Surveillance, United States

United States: 4/3/2022 – 4/9/2022 NOWCAST





SARS-CoV-2 Recombinant Variants (XE, XD, XF)

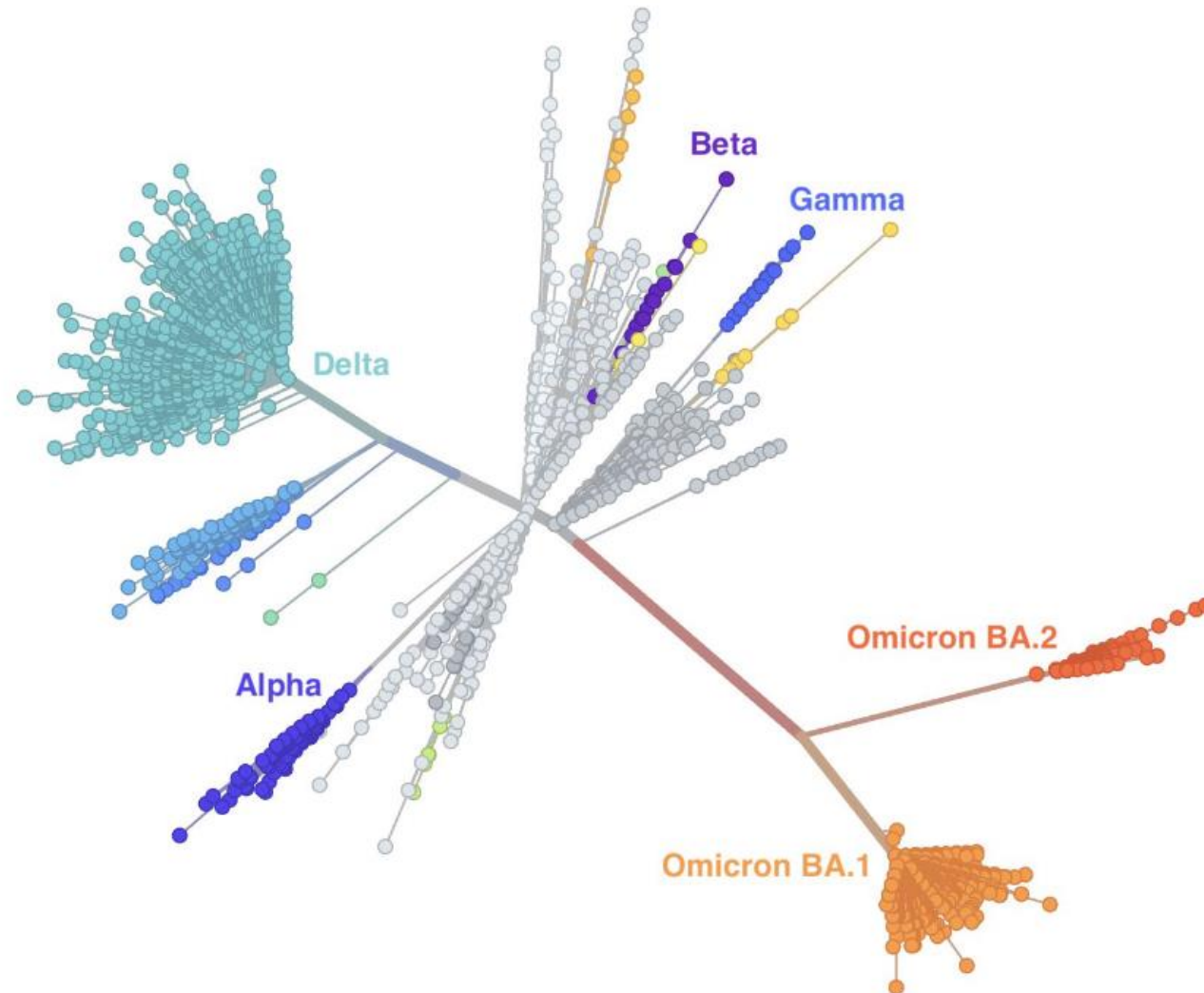
- No new variants of concern identified; we continue to monitor the way the virus changes and evolves every day.
- XD and XF are a combination of Delta and Omicron BA.1.
- XE is a BA.1/BA.2 recombinant, with the majority of the genome (including the S gene) belonging to BA.2.
 - Early growth rates for XE were not significantly different from BA.2.
 - mRNA vaccines shouldn't be any less effective against this variant.

Country	Total Variant Sequences
Brazil	1
Denmark	4
France	1
Germany	1
India	1
Ireland	3
Israel	7
Sweden	1
Switzerland	3
United Kingdom	1246
United States	10

US State	Number Samples
California	2
Hawaii	1
Illinois	1
Kansas	1
Maryland	1
New York	1
Pennsylvania	1
Wisconsin	2

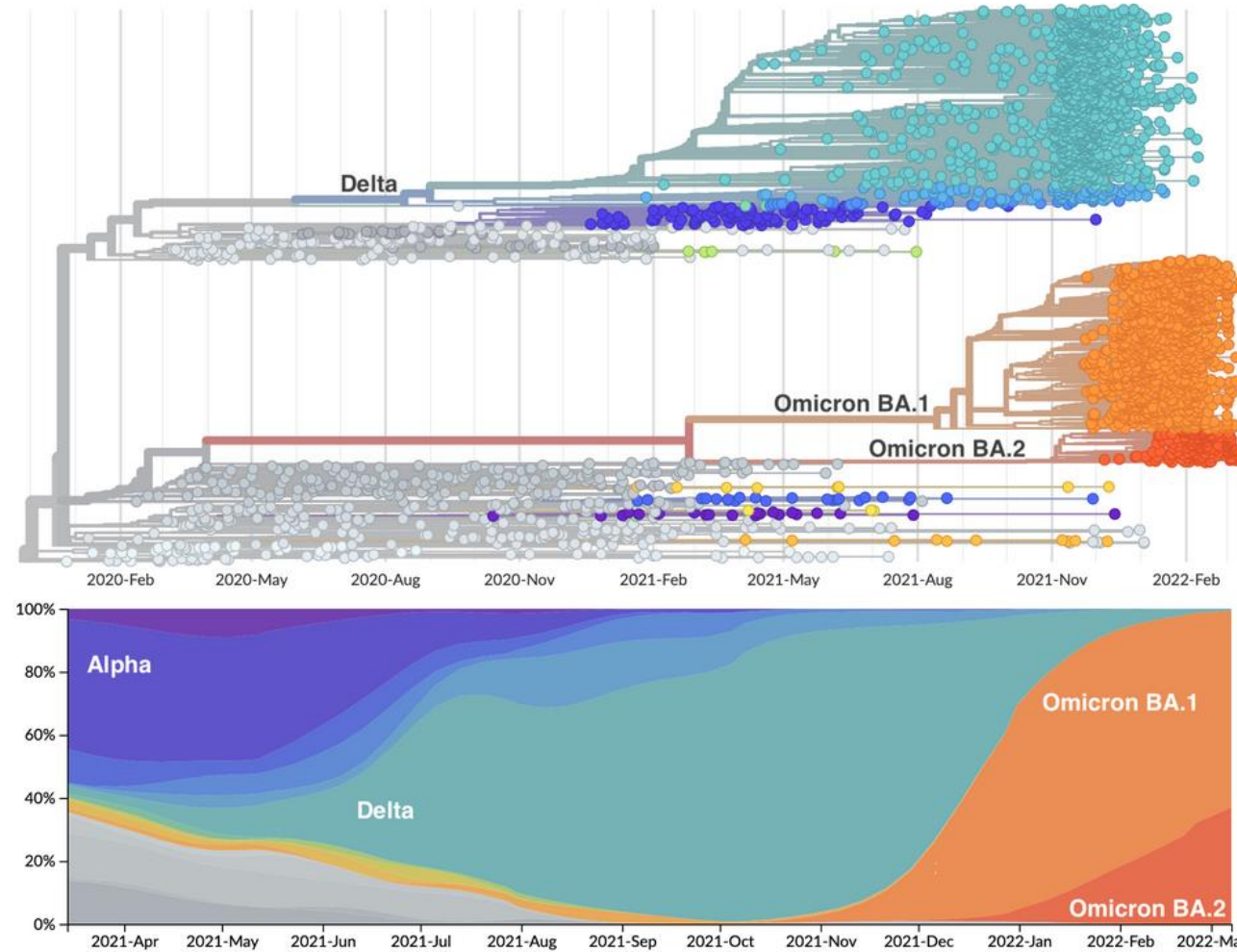


Genetic relationships of globally sampled SARS-CoV-2 to present

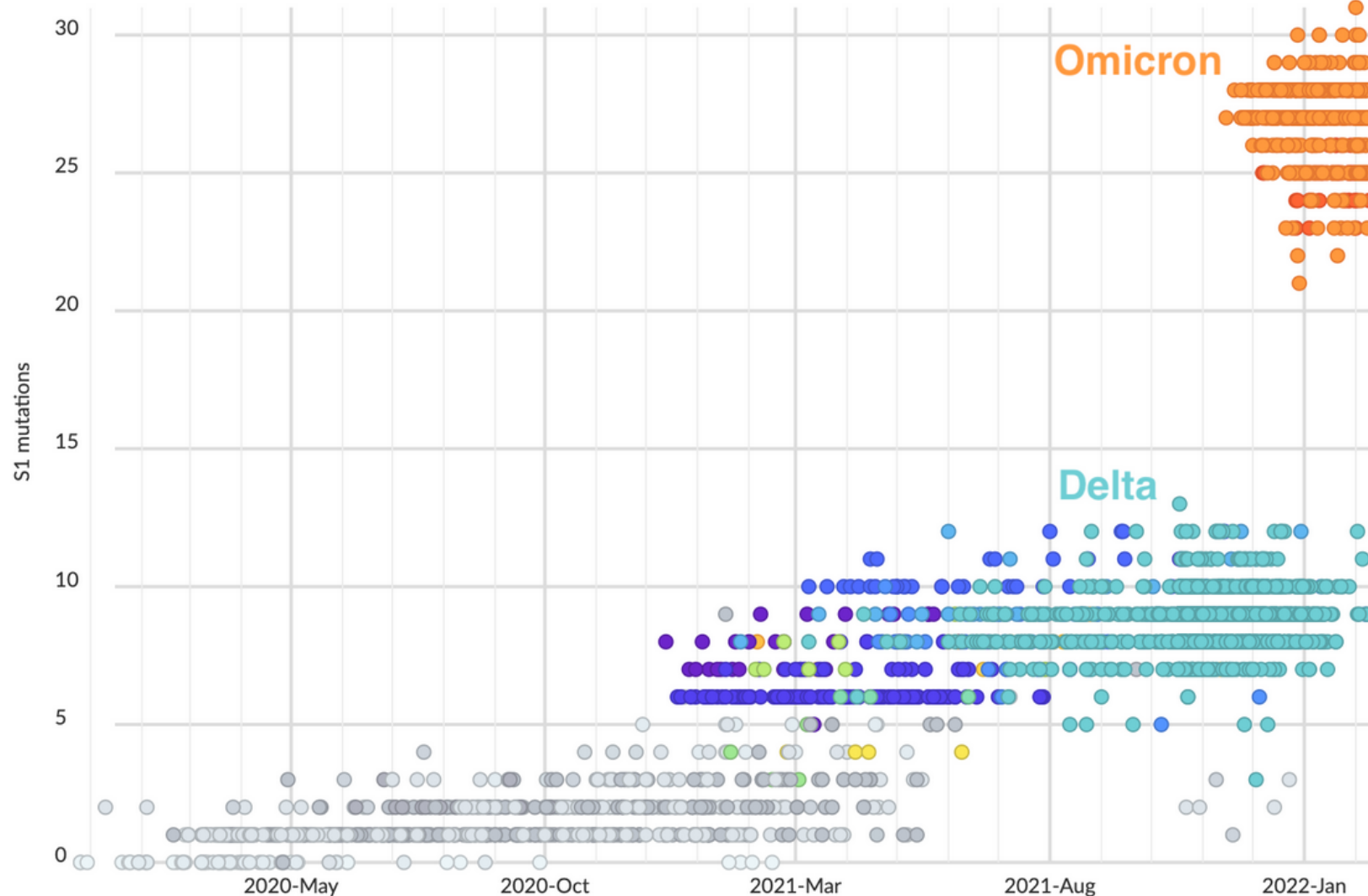


nextstrain.org

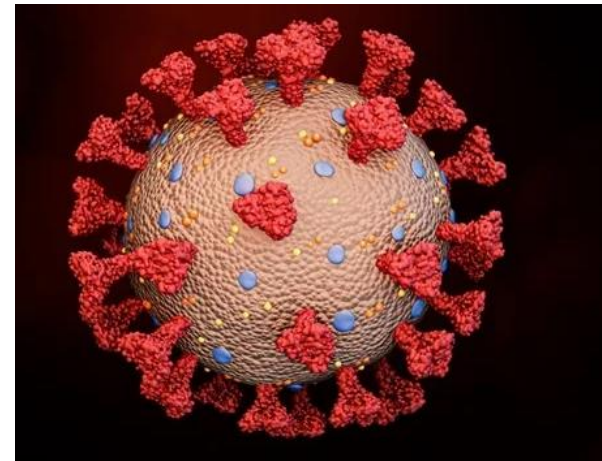
Rapid displacement of existing diversity by emerging variants



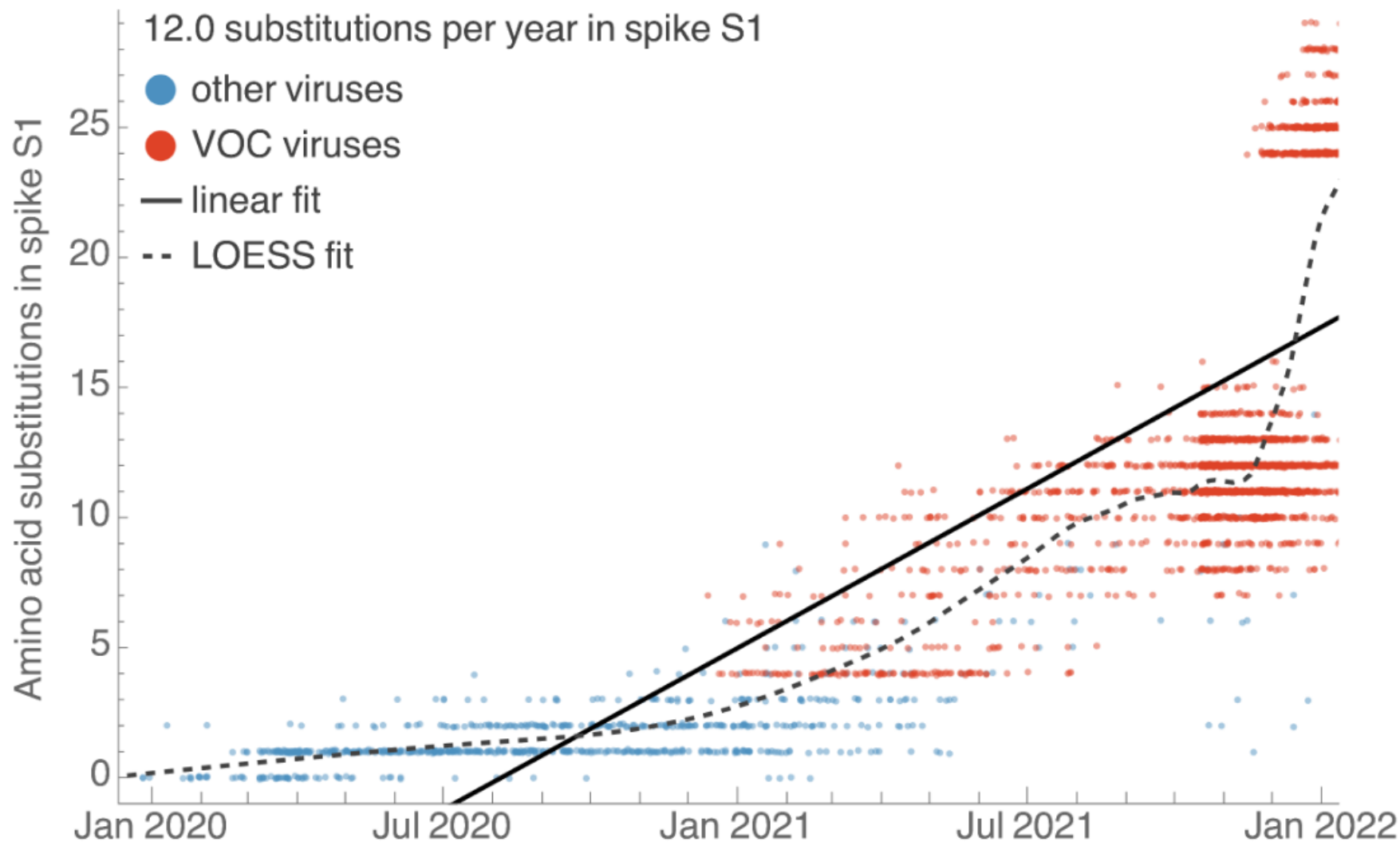
Omicron shows particular excess of mutations at S1



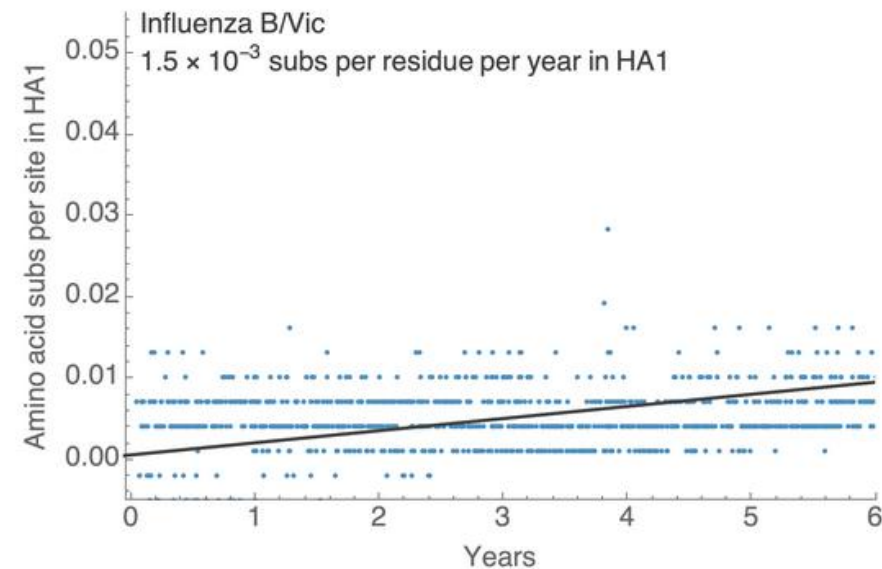
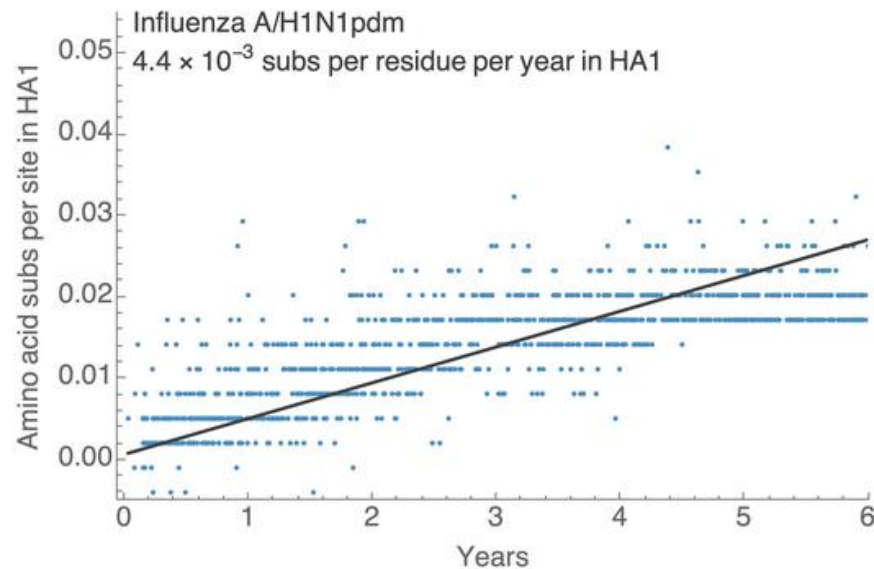
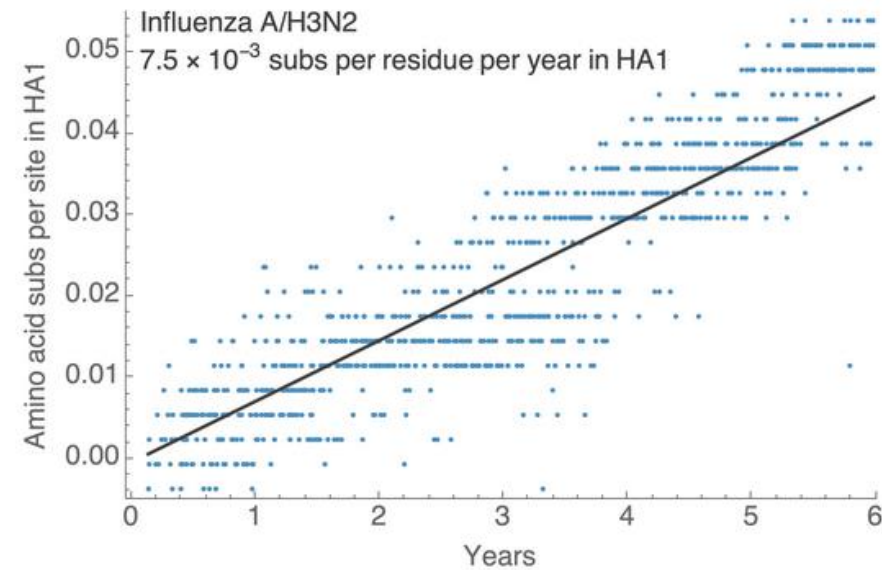
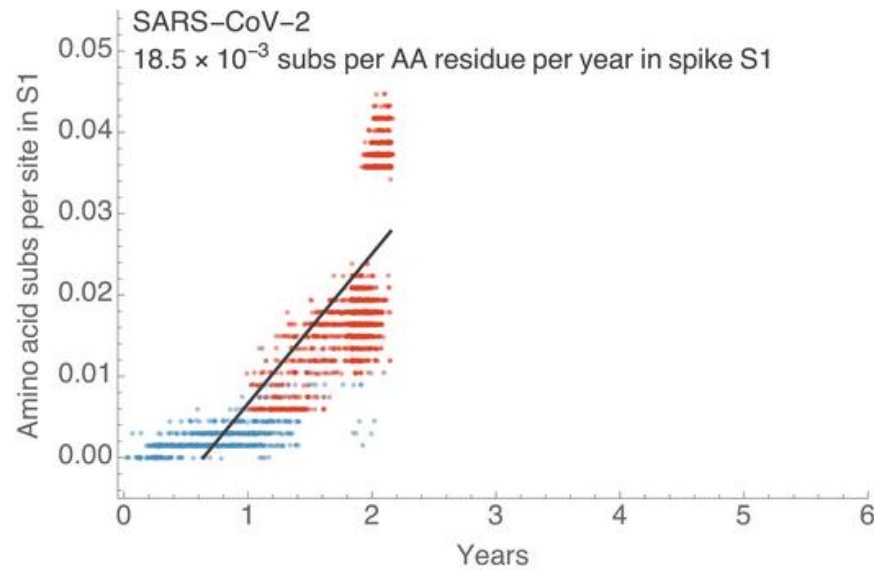
S1 is part of the **Spike** protein, on the outside of SARS-CoV2 virus (it is unique to the virus and does not look like other proteins your body makes; vaccines focus on it)



S1 evolved at a rate of 12 amino acid changes per year in 2021



This is remarkably fast relative to seasonal influenza





Multistate Outbreak of Infection with SARS-CoV-2 Omicron Variant after Event in Chicago, Illinois, USA, 2021

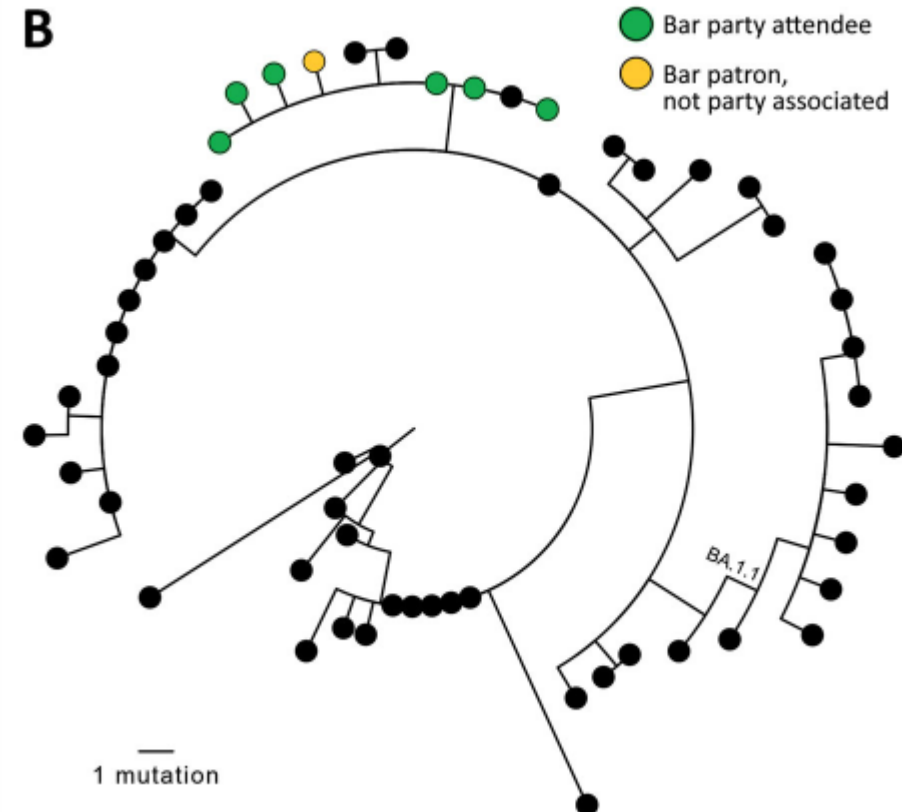
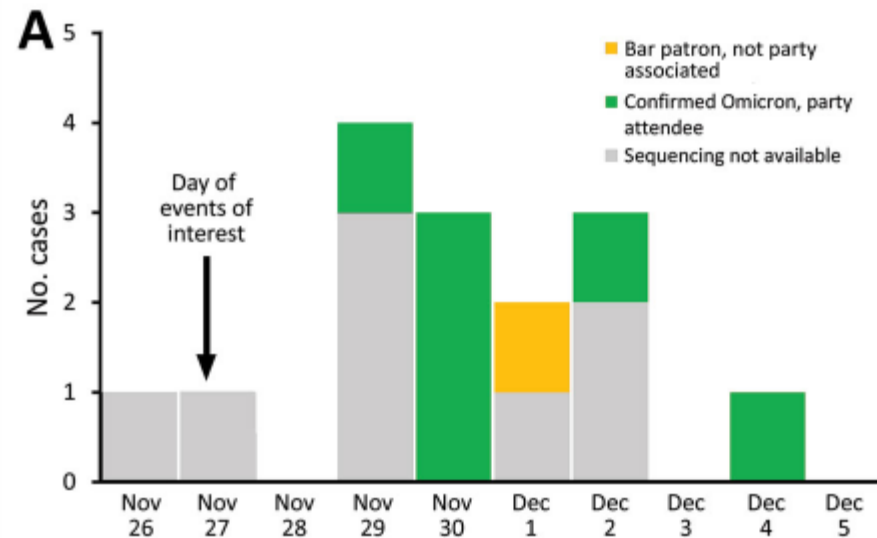
Hillary Spencer^{1,2}, Richard A. Teran, Hannah J. Barblian, Sarah Love, Rachel Berg, Stephanie R. Black, Isaac Ghinai¹, and Janna L. Kerins¹

Author affiliations: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia, USA (H. Spencer, R.A. Teran); Chicago Department of Public Health, Chicago, Illinois, USA (H. Spencer, R.A. Teran, S. Love, R. Berg, S.R. Black, I. Ghinai, J.L. Kerins); Rush University, Chicago (H.J. Barblian)

On This Page

[Research Letter](#)

Figure





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FAM**

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for resources, info and more.



“Dr. Taylor’s Table” on Instagram Live **THIS THURSDAY** **April 21 at 6pm**



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Instagram Live, where we
focus on health, wellness,
community, and racial equity.

Dr. Erica Taylor

Every Other Thursday
Instagram Live ▶ 6:00 pm

@chiPublichealth

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