



Committee on Health and Human Relations

12/9/2021

Allison Arwady, MD, Commissioner



[Chi.gov/coviddash](https://chi.gov/coviddash)



Chicago COVID-19 Community Transmission and Risk Matrix

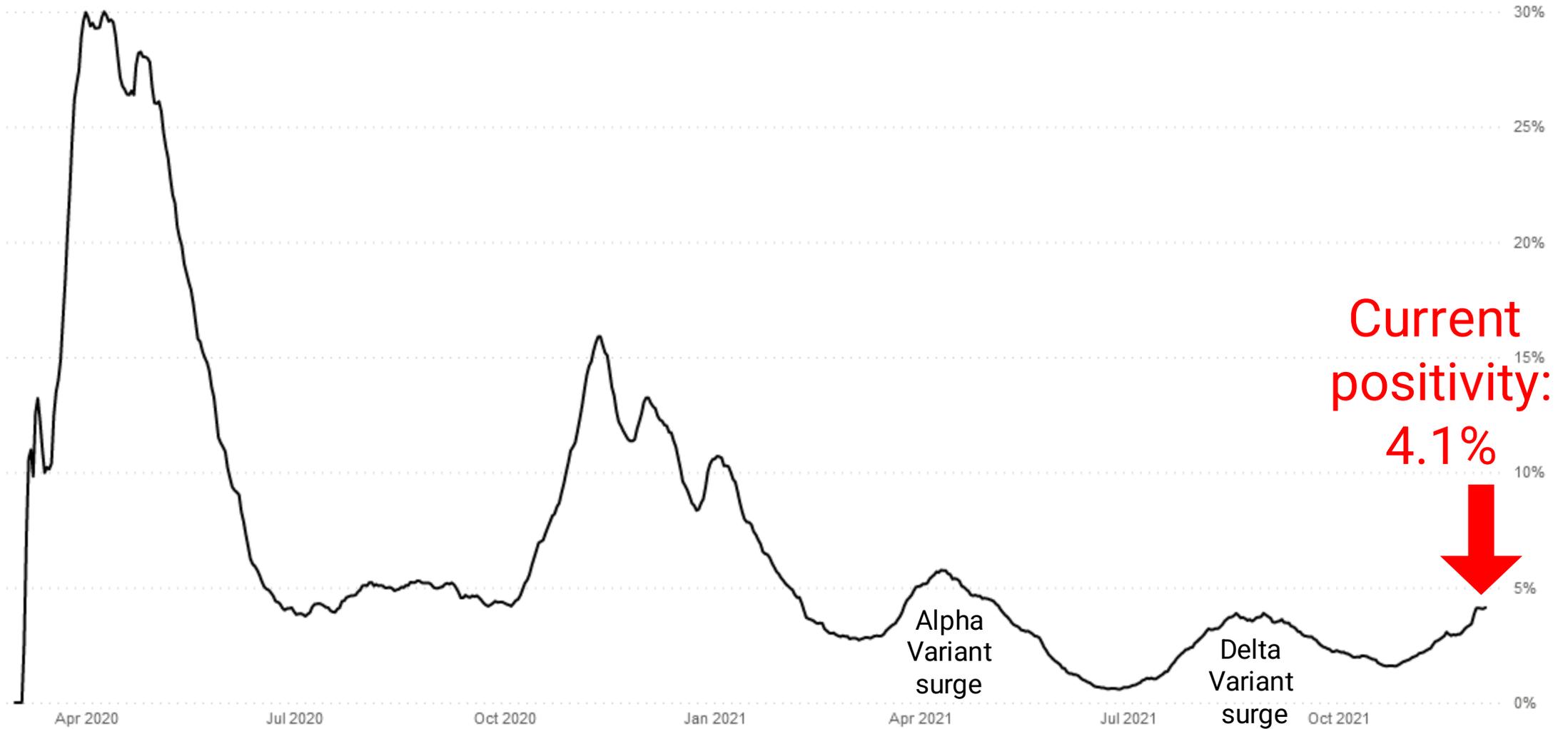
	VERY HIGH TRANSMISSION	HIGH TRANSMISSION	SUBSTANTIAL TRANSMISSION	LOWER TRANSMISSION	LOW TRANSMISSION
COVID-19 CASES DIAGNOSED PER DAY Chicago residents - 7-day rolling daily average	800+ Current: 948 Increasing	400 - 799	200 - 399	20 - 199	<20
COVID-19 TEST POSITIVITY Chicago residents - 7-day rolling daily average	10%+	6.6 - 9.9%	5.0 - 6.5%	2 - 4.9% Current: 4.1% Increasing	<2%
HOSPITAL BEDS (NON-ICU) OCCUPIED BY COVID PATIENTS Chicago hospitals - 7-day rolling daily average	1250+	750 - 1249	250 - 749 Current: 379 Increasing	100 - 249	<100
ICU BEDS OCCUPIED BY COVID PATIENTS Chicago hospitals - 7-day rolling daily average	400+	300 - 399	100 - 299 Current: 114 Increasing	20 - 99	<20

Source: Chicago Department of Public Health, data current as of December 9, 2021. These metrics represent general community COVID transmission and should not be applied to individual settings that have mitigation practices in place.

Chicago: Highest average COVID case rate since January 2021



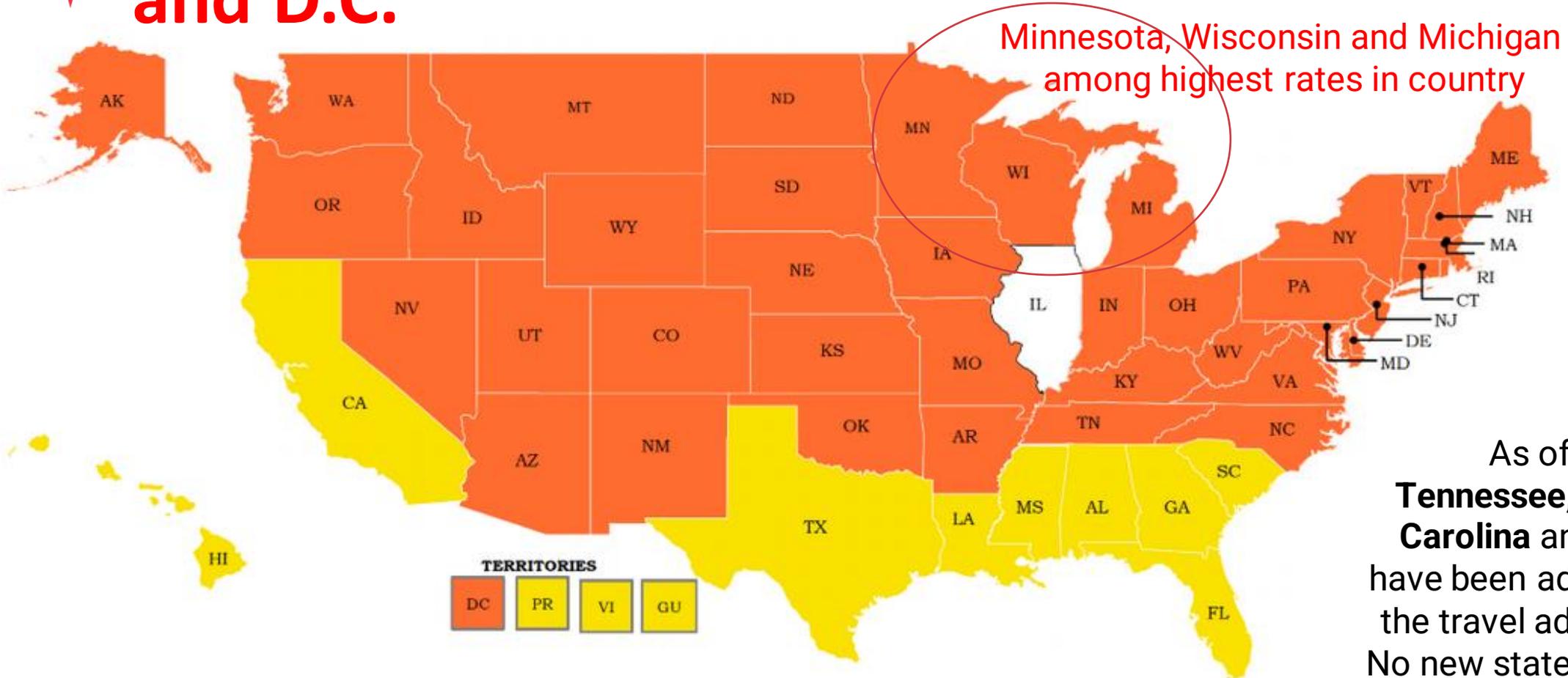
Chicago: COVID test positivity continues to increase; still adequate testing overall



Current positivity: 4.1%

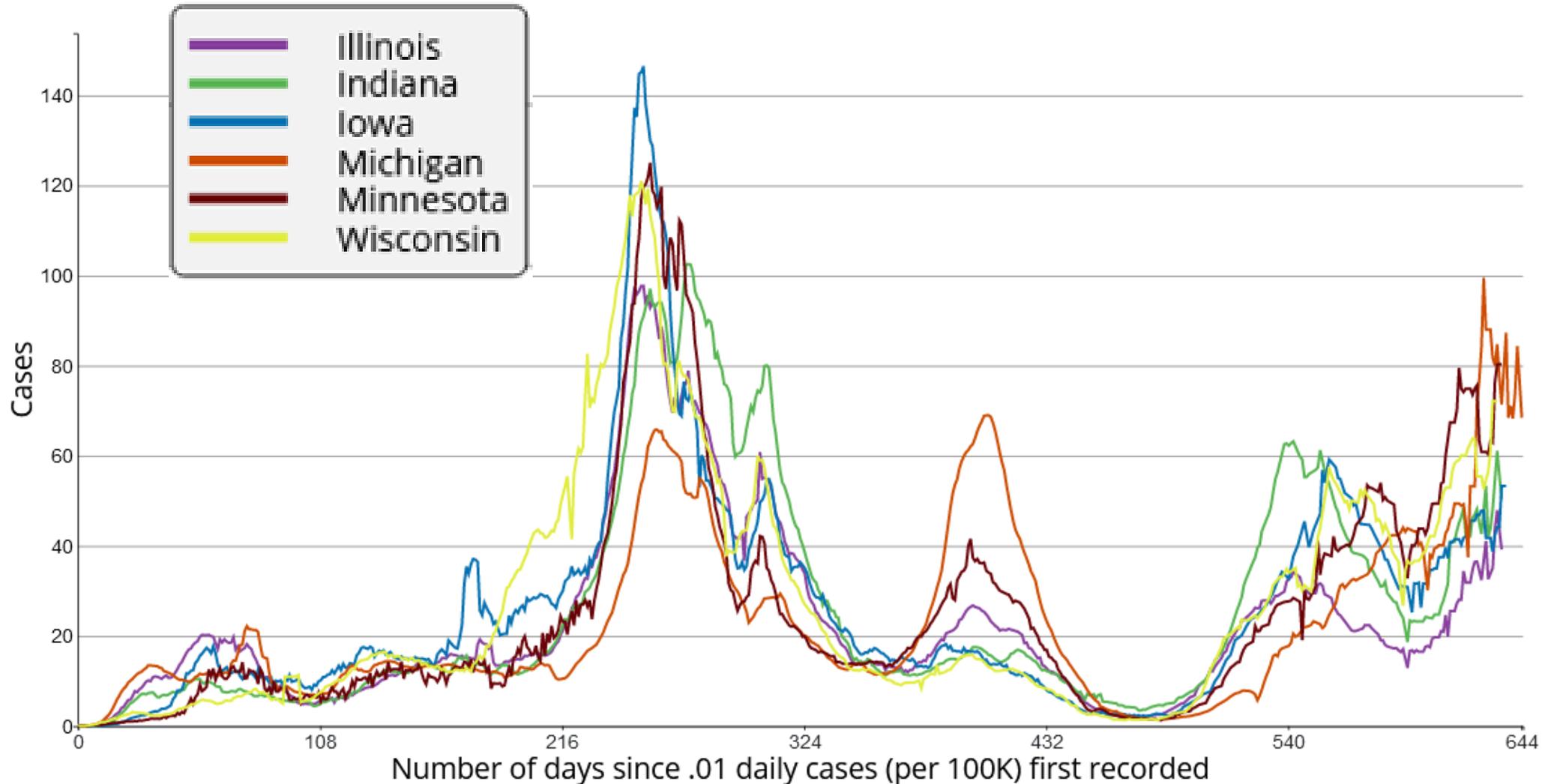


Chicago's COVID-19 Travel Advisory: 40 States and D.C.



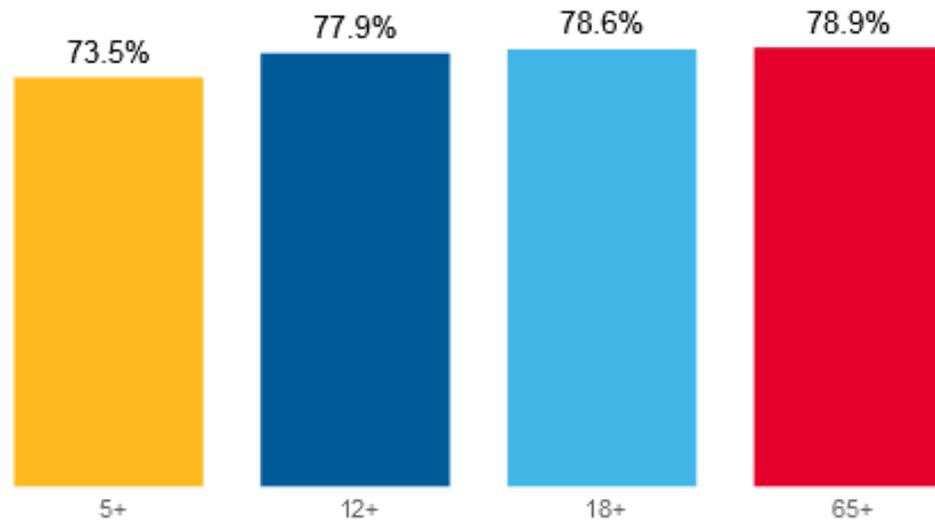
As of today, Tennessee, North Carolina and D.C. have been added to the travel advisory. No new states were removed.

Average daily new cases per 100,000 population, Midwest region

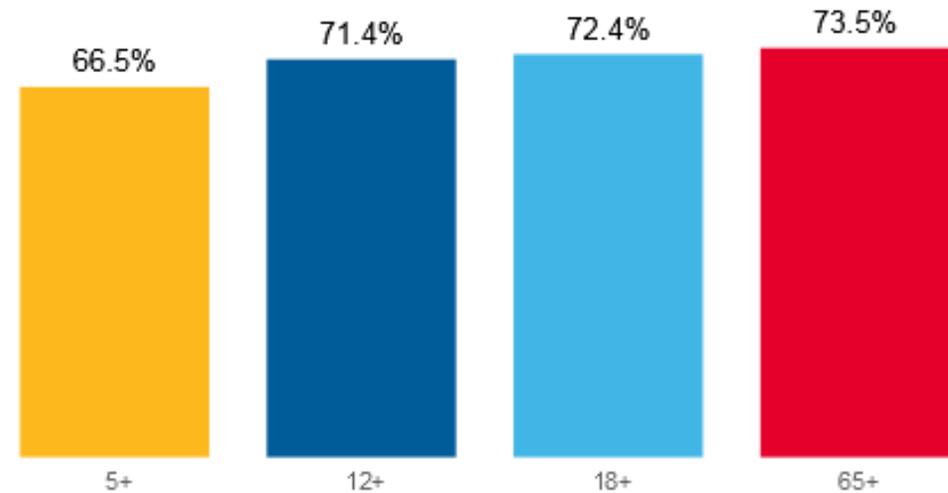


★ Citywide Vaccination Rate

At least one dose (% vaccinated as of 12/7/2021)



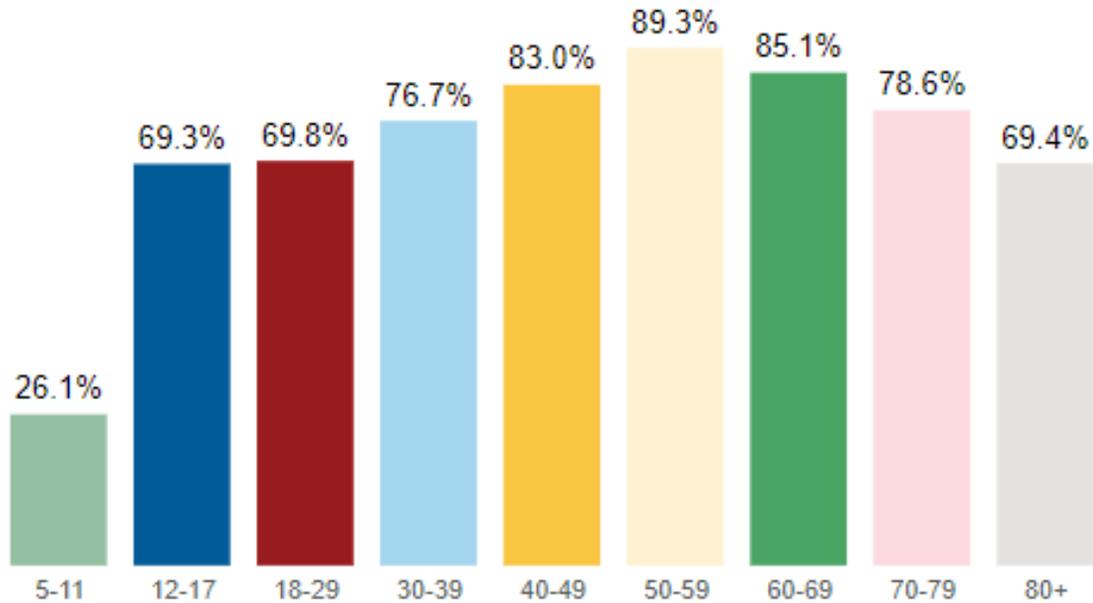
Completed vaccine series (% vaccinated as of 12/7/2021)



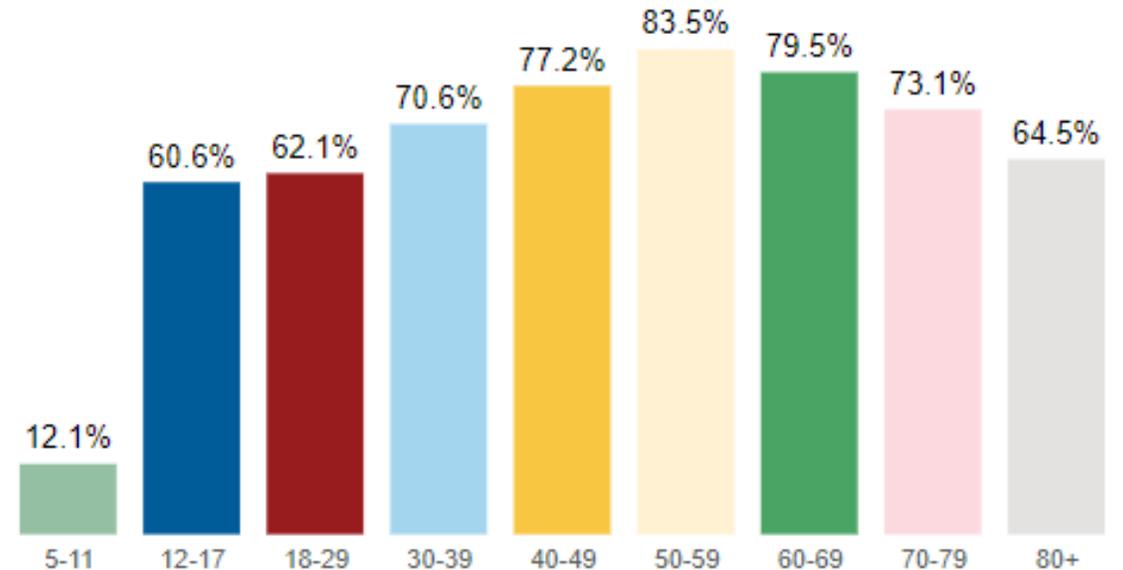
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★ Continued increase in 5-11 y/o getting vaccinated.

At least one dose (% vaccinated as of 12/7/2021)



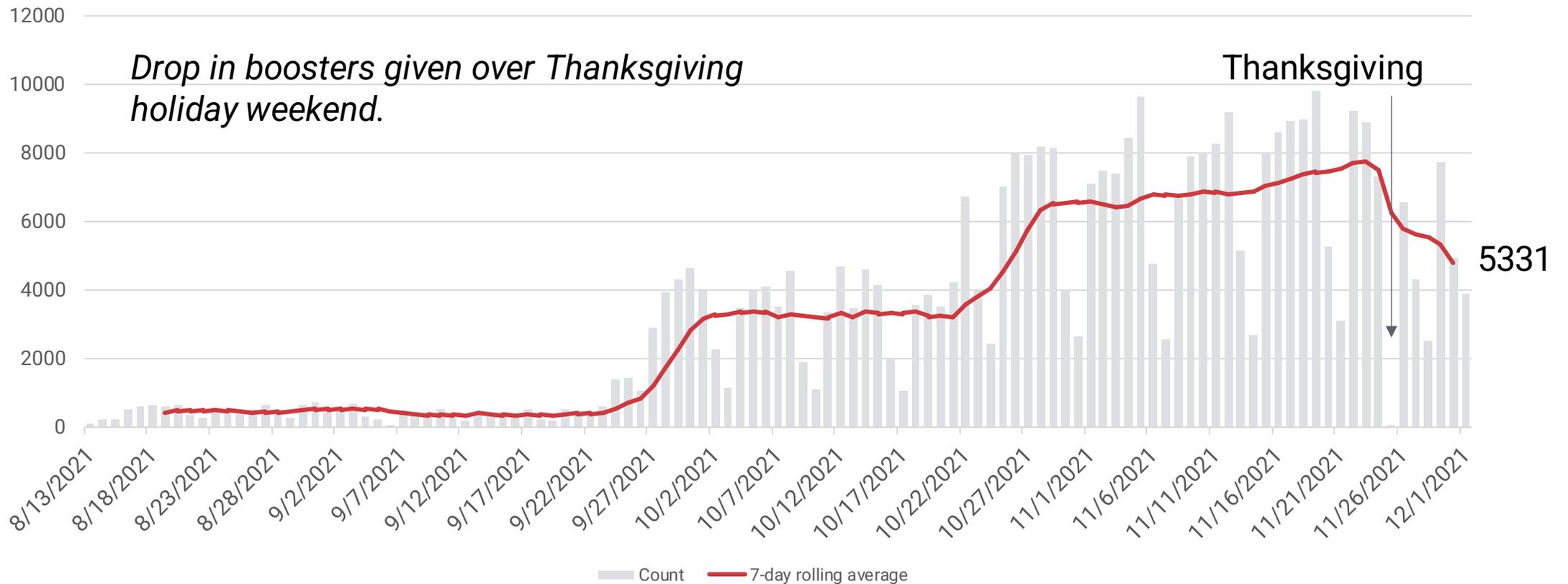
Completed vaccine series (% vaccinated as of 12/7/2021)



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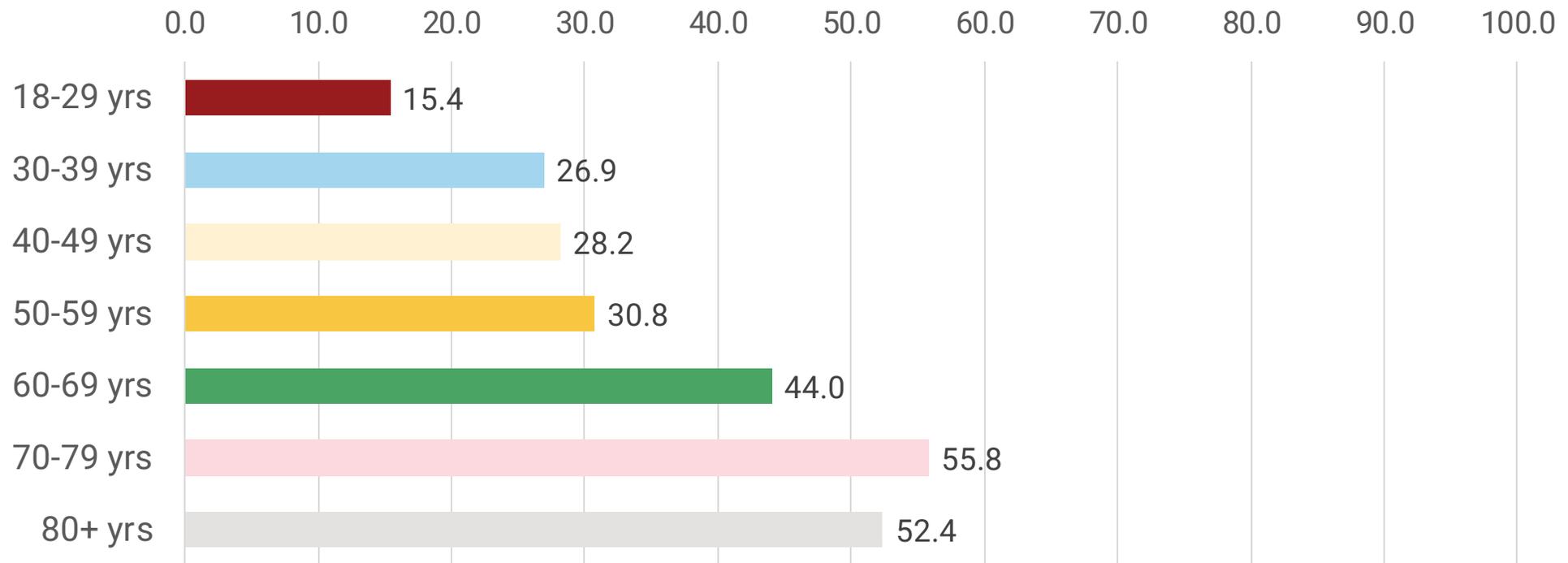
Chicagoans who received a booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine (n=368,458)



Data as of 12/1/2021. The count of people who received a booster dose includes anyone who is fully vaccinated and has received another dose of COVID-19 vaccine since August 13, 2021. This includes people who received booster doses and people who received additional doses.



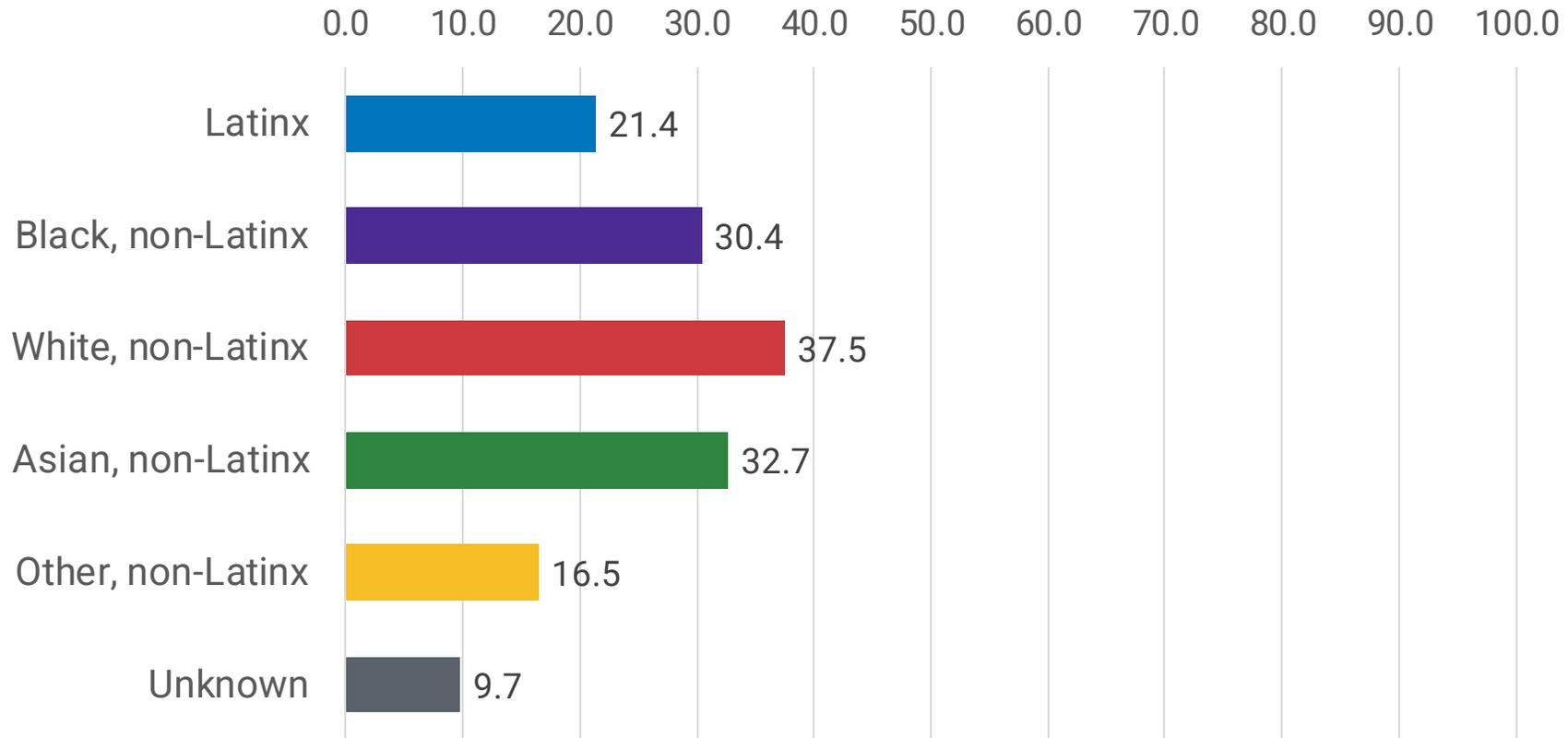
Booster uptake among those due for a booster dose is highest among oldest Chicagoans



Data as of 12/1/2021. The population due for a booster is determined by the length of time from last dose and type of vaccine received for the primary series. The count of people who received a booster dose includes anyone who is fully vaccinated and has received another dose of COVID-19 vaccine since August 13, 2021 as reported in I-CARE. This includes people who received booster doses and people who received additional doses.



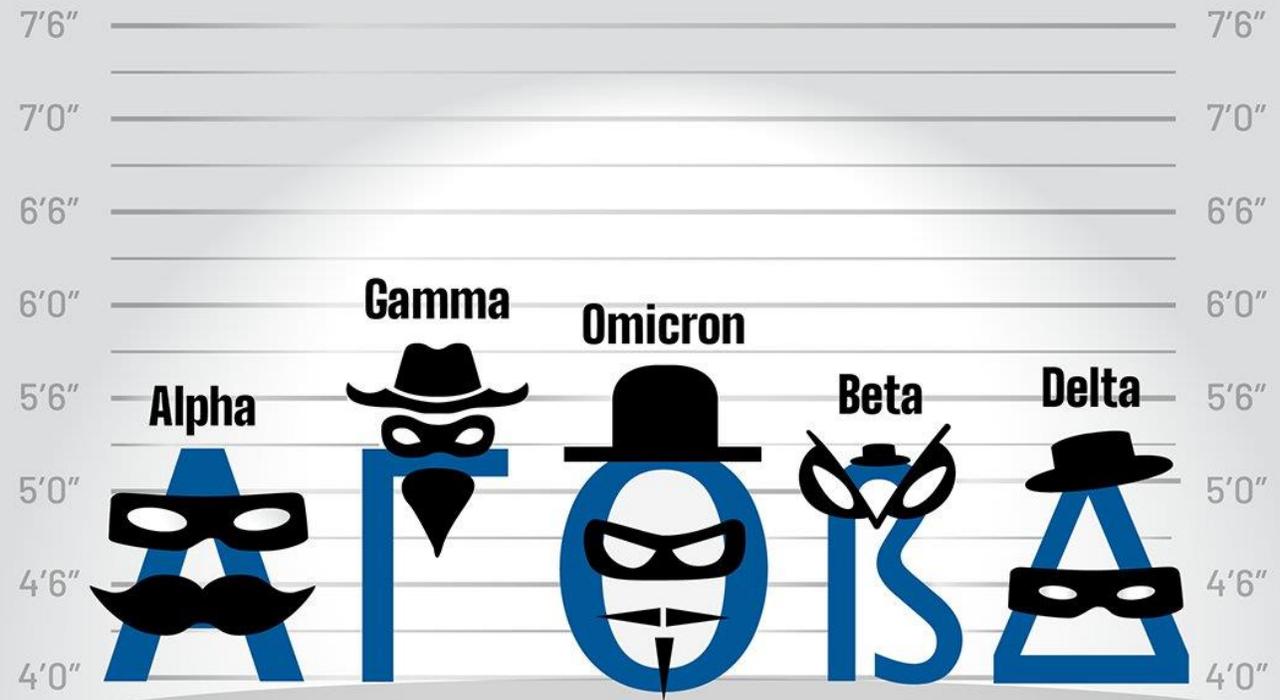
Booster uptake lowest among adult Latinx Chicagoans who are due for a booster dose



Data as of 12/1/2021. The population due for a booster is determined by the length of time from last dose and type of vaccine received for the primary series. The count of people who received a booster dose includes anyone 18 years and older who is fully vaccinated and has received another dose of COVID-19 vaccine since August 13, 2021 as reported in I-CARE. This includes people who received booster doses and people who received additional doses.



the Variant Villains





Variants are normal in every virus...
As COVID-19 spreads, it mutates, but
some mutations are more scary than others
(e.g. by allowing the virus spread more easily, or cause more severe disease)



 CDPH

We are still learning what makes Omicron different from the rest.

The WHO has defined it as a "Variant of Concern" like Delta. Scientists world over, including right here in Chicago, are studying this new variant.



 CDPH



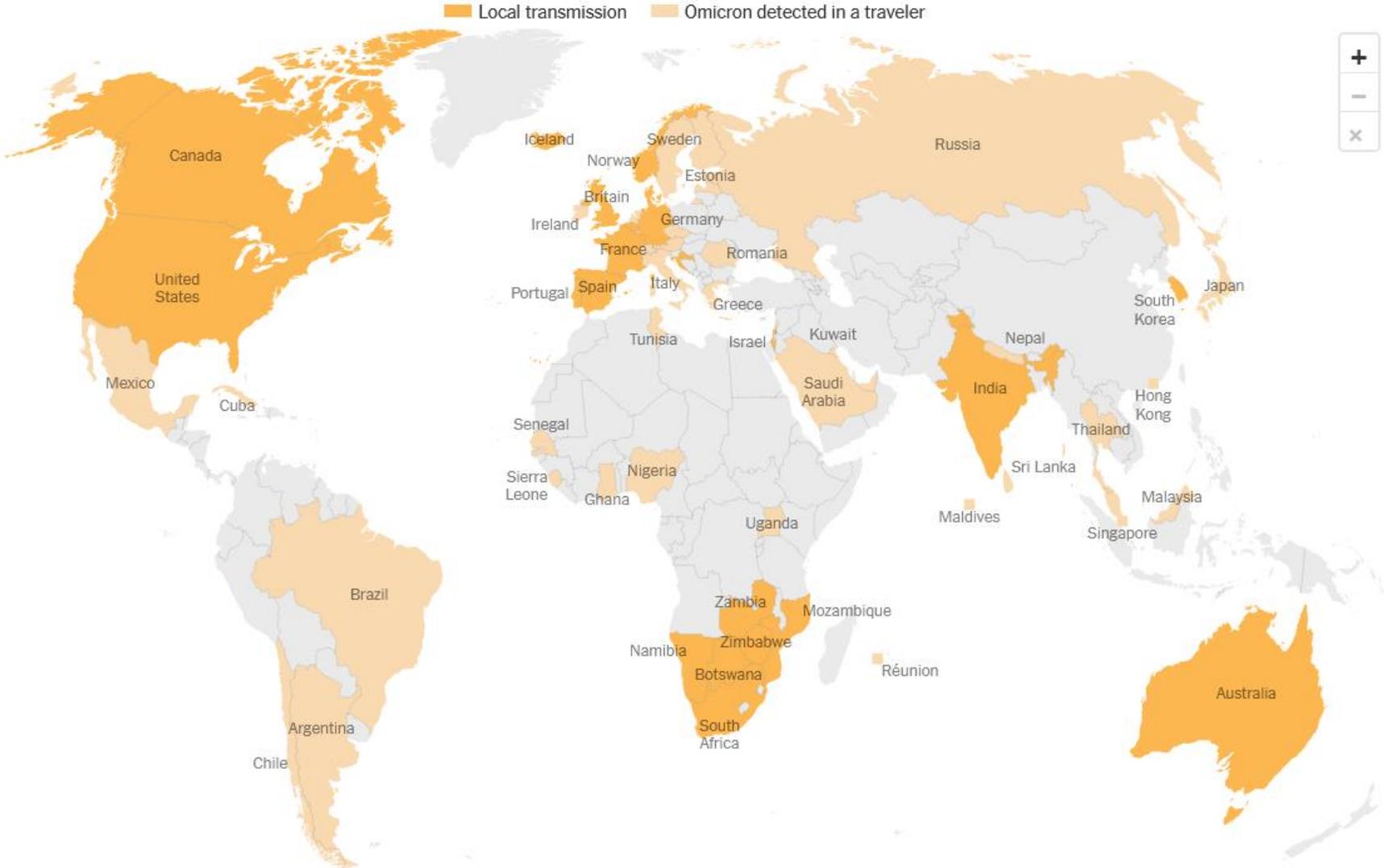
How can you help stop Variant Villains?

Getting vaccinated (and boosted) is the best way to protect yourself from infection, hospitalization, and death.

Plus, it gives the variants fewer opportunities to change and grow more powerful!

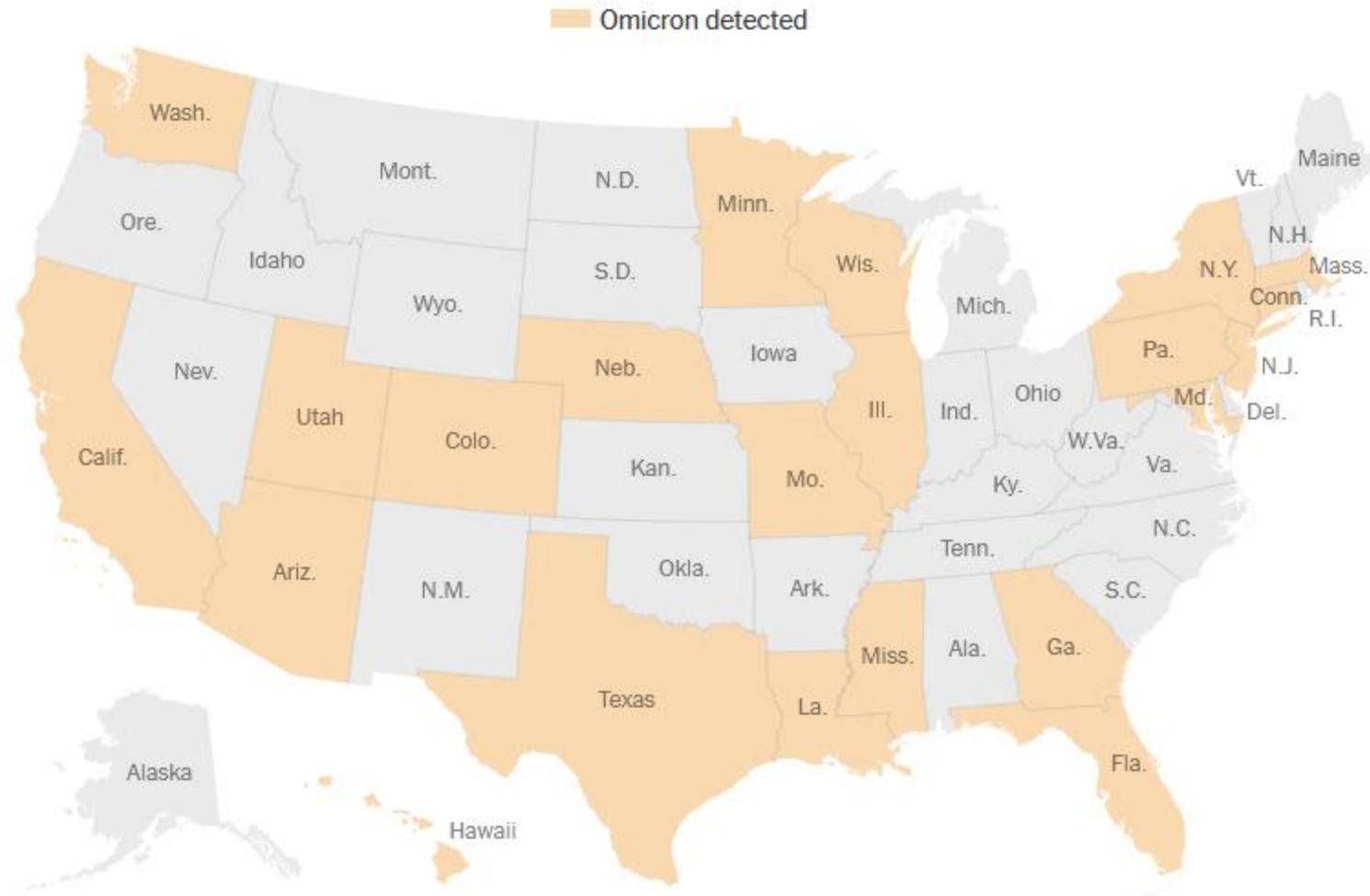


On Nov. 26, WHO named the Omicron variant of the coronavirus a new variant of concern





Omicron detected in the U.S.

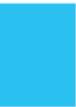


- In the United States, the Omicron variant has been detected in 22 states
- On Dec 7, we announced the first case of the Omicron Variant in Illinois was found in a Chicagoan



Viruses replicate (copy themselves), leading to mutations

- Viruses need a host (YOU!) to survive; they use human/animal cells to copy themselves.
- Once a virus enters a human, it starts copying itself millions of times. The human immune system works to fight off the virus, but not before these copies are made. The virus is looking for opportunities to reproduce and spread.
- Mutations are random “errors” in the virus’ genetic code that can be introduced when the virus copies itself, and when it spreads between new hosts.
- **The more virus that is circulating in a population, the more the virus itself can change.**
- If a mutation makes it more likely that a virus will survive/replicate, it may out-compete versions of the virus that don’t have that mutation.



Variants are versions of the virus with certain patterns of genetic mutations.

Three main levels of variants:

Variant of Interest (VOI): Repeated transmission

Variant of Concern (VOC): Repeated transmission that is concerning from a public health standpoint (e.g. Delta, Omicron)

- A VOC may
 - be more transmissible (contagious)
 - be more able to evade our immune system's lessons from prior infection and/or vaccine
 - make us sicker
 - make our treatments less likely to work

Variant of High Consequence: Repeated transmission that is highly concerning from a public health standpoint

- *Not had one of these yet (could it be Omicron?)*

Why the concern?

★ Omicron has many more mutations than any prior variant, including mutations already known to be concerning

- Omicron has 50 different mutations, many in the “spike region”

ALPHA
VARIANT

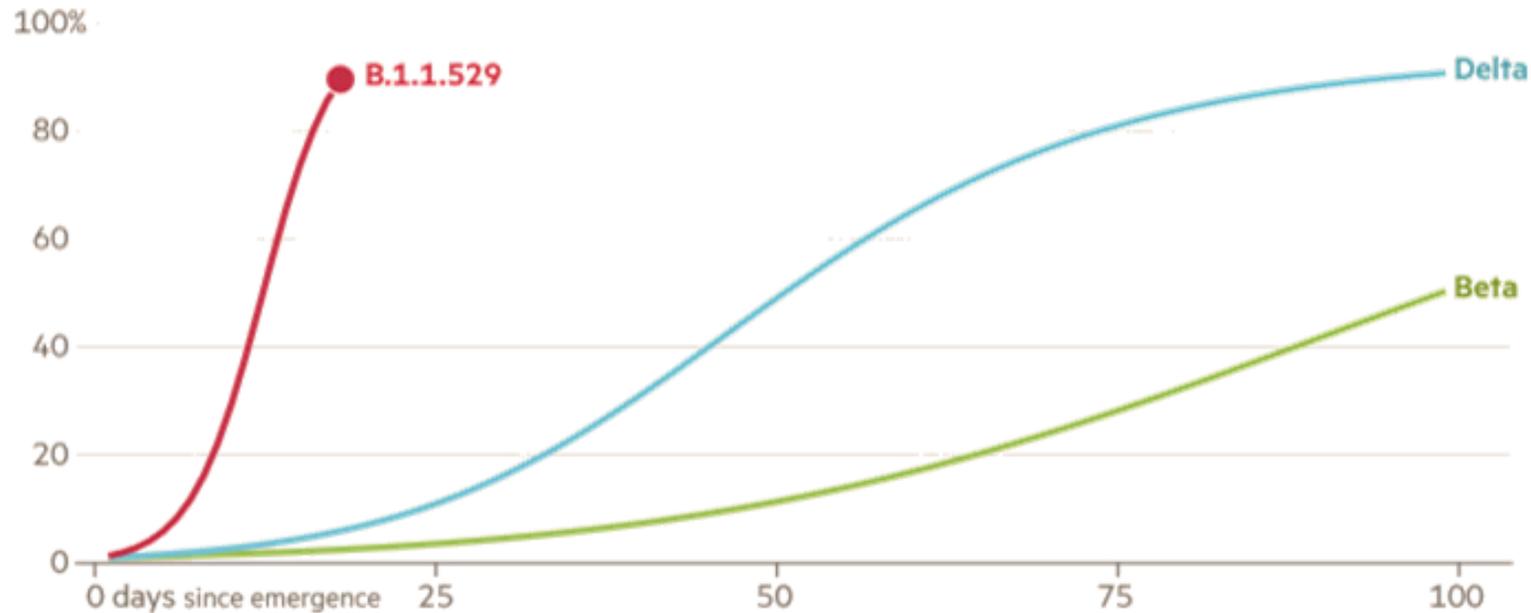
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OMICRON
VARIANT

★ Why the concern? Epidemiologic evidence

A new variant is spreading rapidly in South Africa, and appears to be out-competing other variants much faster than previous variants of concern did

Share of all sequenced cases* in South Africa accounted for by each variant, by number of days since it passed 1%



*Growth of B.1.1.529 is modelled from SGTF data rather than full genomic sequences
Source: FT analysis of data from Gisaid and the South African National Health Laboratory Service
© FT

★ U.S. has restricted travel from 8 countries and will tighten testing requirements for international travelers

- Starting 11/29, non-citizens who visited any of 8 African countries during the 14 days prior to arrival in the U.S. are denied entry
 - Includes Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zimbabwe
 - See [Presidential Proclamation](#) for more information
- ALL INTERNATIONAL TRAVELERS TO THE U.S. must:
 - Be tested for COVID-19 **within one day** of travel to U.S., *regardless of vaccination status*
 - Continue to recommend testing for COVID-19 **3-5 days** after arrival in the U.S.
 - For non vaccinated, recommend self-quarantine for **7 days** after arrival in the U.S., even if post-arrival test is negative

[CDC Traveler Information](#)

GLOBAL HEALTH ALERT: COVID-19

After travel:



Get tested at 3-5 days.



Watch your health for COVID-19 symptoms.



If not fully vaccinated, stay home for 7 days.



www.cdc.gov/COVID19/travel



What are we doing to prepare in Chicago?

Travelers

- Individuals who arrive from the 8 restricted countries with Chicago as their final destination are being contacted to reinforce requirements.
- Individuals who are known close contacts of out-of-state Omicron variant cases have already been contacted and tested.

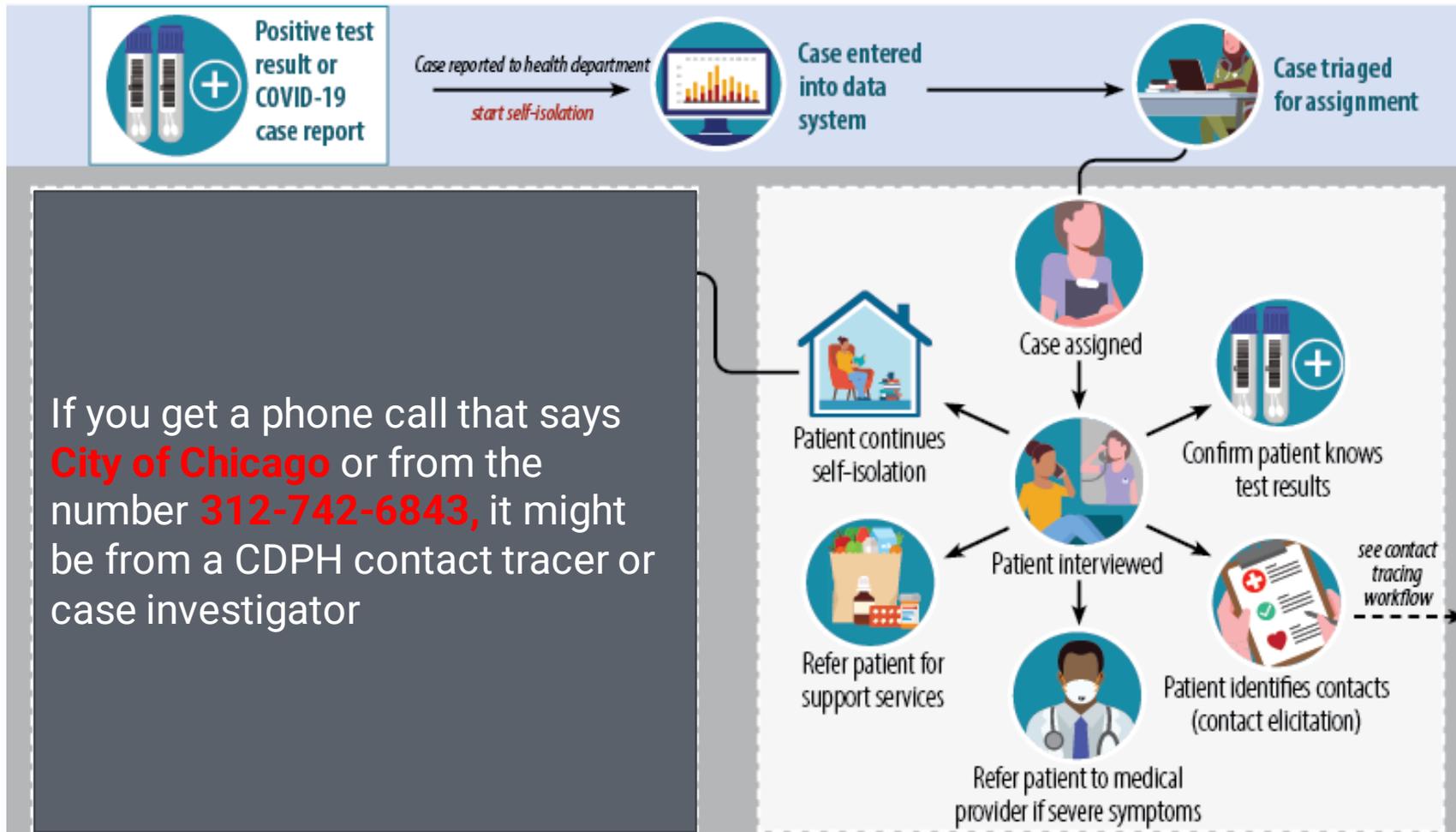
Detection

- Chicago's new Regional Innovative Public Health Laboratory (RIPHL), created by CDPH with federal funds in partnership with Rush University Medical Center, has doubled the number of samples routinely being sequenced (looking for variants) from across the city and added a preliminary testing test. Other academic laboratories and hospitals are also routinely sharing sequenced data.
- RIPHL also continues to do genomic sequencing (looking for variants) when CDPH is investigating outbreaks, or unusual breakthrough or reinfection cases.
- Wastewater sampling and sequencing continues to grow, performed by members of the Discovery Partners Institute (UIC) with many other partners, through a contract with CDPH

Data Collection

- CDPH is prepared to gather complete information to act quickly when the first case(s) are detected
 - Focus on travel history, vaccination status, symptoms/outcomes, isolation, close contacts

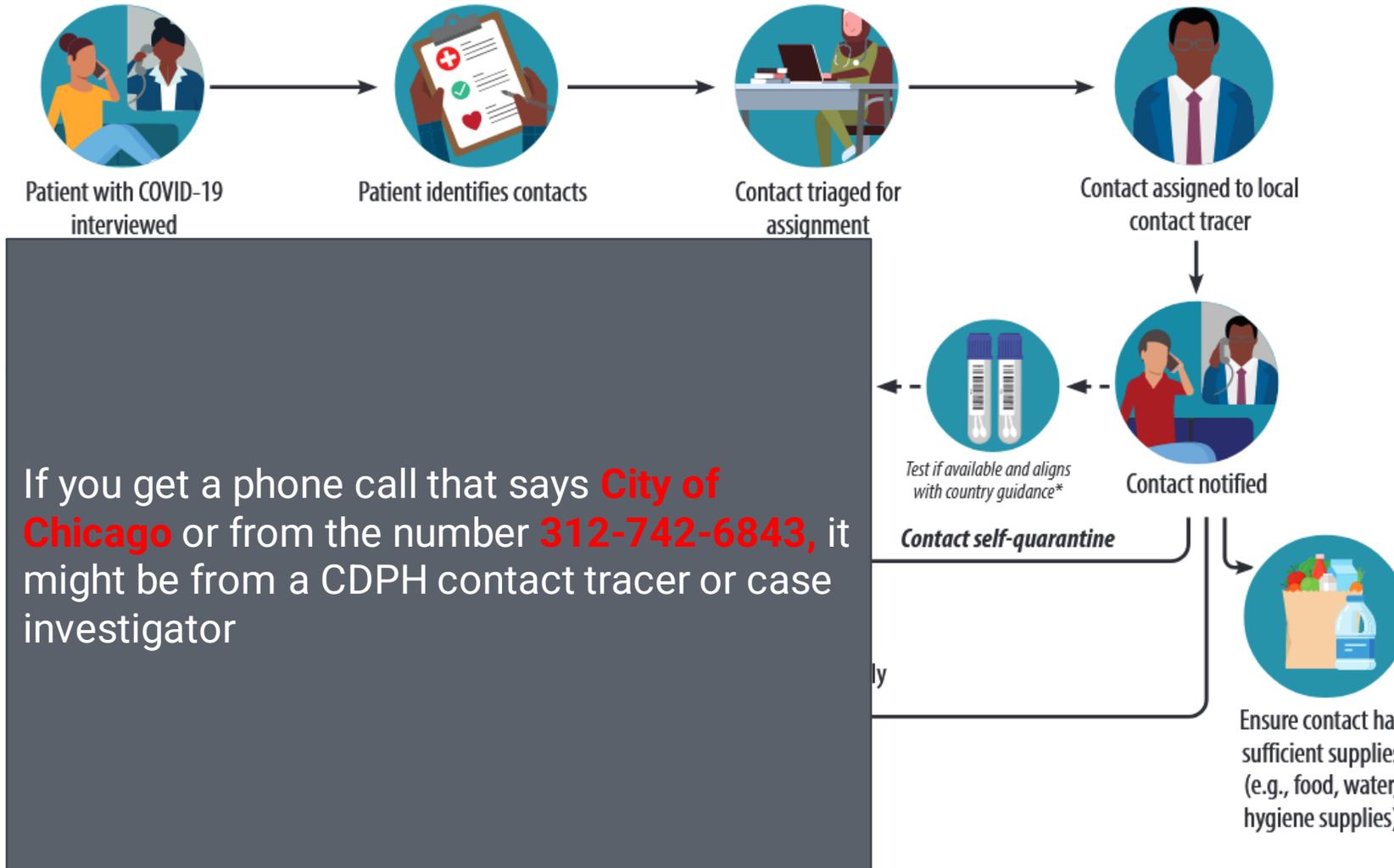
REMINDER: How does case investigation work?



If you get a phone call that says **City of Chicago** or from the number **312-742-6843**, it might be from a CDPH contact tracer or case investigator

In **case investigation**, public health staff work with a patient to recall everyone with whom they have had close contact during the timeframe while they may have been infectious.

REMINDER: How does contact tracing work?



Contact tracing includes warning exposed individuals (contacts) of their potential exposure as rapidly and sensitively as possible.

If you get a phone call that says **City of Chicago** or from the number **312-742-6843**, it might be from a CDPH contact tracer or case investigator



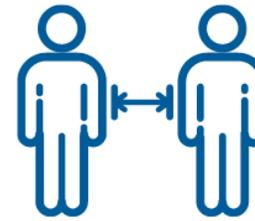
So, what should we do to protect ourselves and community from COVID and its variants?



VAX UP



MASK UP



BACK UP



WASH UP



TEST UP

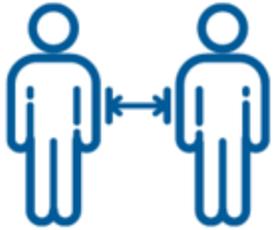


VAX UP

- The vaccine makes you much less likely to die or be hospitalized if you do catch COVID.
 - **98%** of Chicago's **6,253 COVID deaths** have been in people who were **NOT** fully vaccinated.
 - In contrast, **0** Chicagoans have died as a direct result of being vaccinated.
- Preliminary laboratory studies demonstrate 3 doses of Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine help neutralize the Omicron variant
- **All** Chicagoans 18+ should get a booster **NOW**
 - 6 months after Pfizer/Moderna, 2 months after J/J
- Family Vaccine Clinics at City Colleges happening this weekend (9am-2pm; walk ins welcome, registration encouraged)
 - Saturday, December 11 – Kennedy King College
 - Sunday, December 12 – Olive Harvey College
- Walgreens is hosting pediatric clinics at select locations throughout the city
 - Saturdays through Jan 15 (9:30am-4pm; appointment only)
- Visit chi.gov/covidvax or call 312-746-4835



MASK UP



BACK UP



WASH UP

- Masks continue to be required in all public indoor settings, regardless of vaccination status.
 - Choose masks that:
 - Have two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric
 - Completely cover your nose and mouth
 - Fit snugly against the sides of your face and don't have gaps
 - Have a nose wire to prevent air from leaking out of the top of the mask
- Stay home if you're sick and/or waiting on results from a COVID-19 test

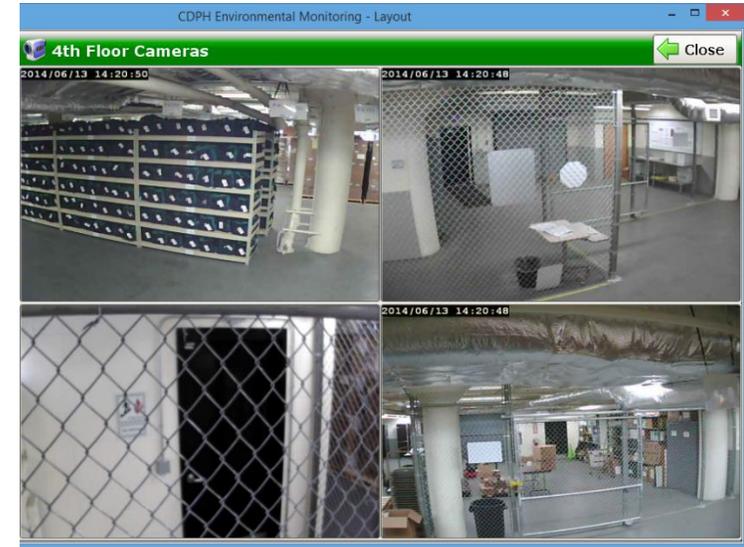


- Low or no-cost testing is available at local health centers and select pharmacies:
 - [COVID-19 Testing Sites – Map](#)
- CDPH distribution
- Biden Administration to invest \$650 million in rapid diagnostic testing
 - Funding will expand and sustain testing capacity for hospitals, urgent care, pharmacies and other community health care settings

City of Chicago – COVID-19 Vaccine International Donation



- Chicago/CDPH has been one of the only (perhaps the only!) U.S. jurisdiction to successfully return **28,000 unused vaccine doses** to CDC for international donation prior to vaccine expiration
- CDPH was able to meet all required qualifying criteria for the reverse distribution/retrieval
 - Strict vaccine storage and handling procedures
 - Vaccine packed in our Greenbox thermal shipping containers with 24-hour real-time log monitoring
 - Alarm notification platform that meets Federal, state, and industry standards for data integrity, user accountability, and product security





Get Covered Illinois! **Enroll by December 15th** to have your coverage start on January 1, 2022

- Open Enrollment goes through January 15, 2022 – however if you enroll after December 15, coverage will not start until February 1
- Sign up for a free visit with a patient navigator to help you understand how to pick a plan!
 - Widget.GetCoveredAmerica.org

**YOUR HEALTH
COVERAGE
STARTS HERE**



GetCoveredIllinois.gov
The Official Health Marketplace

*Insurance is not required
for COVID-19 vaccination

Need a vaccine or a booster? Have questions?

visit **CHI.GOV/COVIDVAX**

or call **312-746-4835**

