



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
Division of Public Health

COVID-19 in Children



August 31, 2021



Why We Are Concerned About COVID-19 in Kids

While the total number of COVID-19 cases and the severity of infection in children is typically less than for adults, **children are not immune from COVID-19 or its consequences.** A total of 18,173 children ages birth to 18 in Delaware have tested positive for the disease. Additionally, pediatric hospitalizations in the state are increasing and at least 430 children in the U.S., including two in Delaware, have died from COVID.



Many children are at higher risk for consequences from COVID-19 due to their underlying health conditions. Delaware children who have asthma, are obese, or have other similar conditions are among those most at risk. Nonetheless, approximately 30% of hospitalized children have no underlying health condition and would otherwise be considered healthy.

We do not fully understand long-COVID in children, but we know it happens. Headaches and fatigue are the most common post-COVID symptoms. But children can suffer cardiovascular, respiratory, neurodevelopmental, cognitive (brain-fog), and mental health issues after being infected with COVID-19.

The explosion of the Delta variant has become a game-changer on all fronts. Children are more likely to become infected by the Delta variant compared to the original virus and are more likely to spread the infection. Based on [studies](#), we know even infants and toddlers are playing a role in spreading the virus to others in the household, putting immunocompromised, and elderly persons, at risk.

According to the CDC, pediatric hospitalizations are at their highest number of cases so far during this pandemic. Pediatric hospitals in Florida, Louisiana and Texas are reportedly overwhelmed with COVID-19. Delaware does not want to follow their lead if we can prevent it.

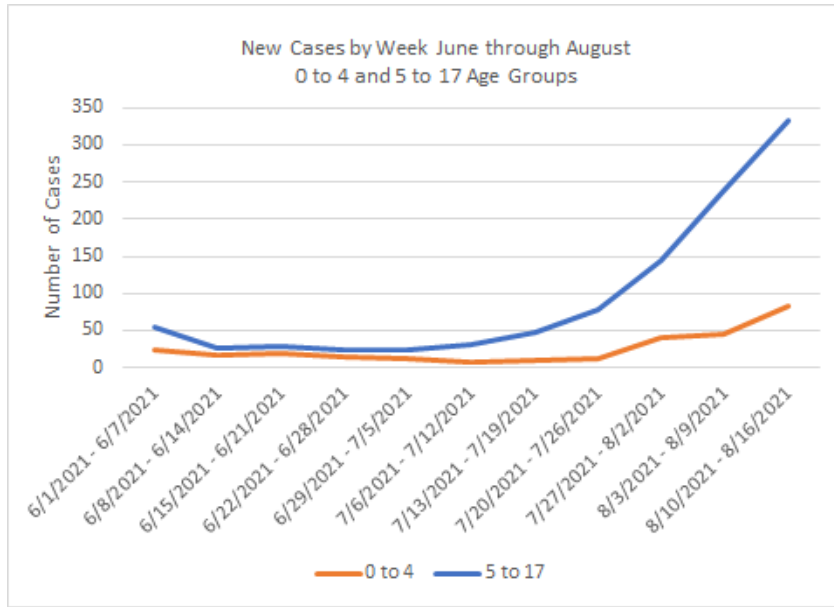
As we approach the start of a new school year, getting all kids back in school is a priority. While CDC guidance allows reducing social distancing to three feet between students as long as masks are worn consistently and correctly, at all times, full classrooms can increase the risk to those who cannot be vaccinated, or are at higher risk due to chronic conditions, including being immunocompromised.

This document provides an overview of current data regarding COVID-19 in children, and the importance of two key mitigation strategies: vaccination and face masks.

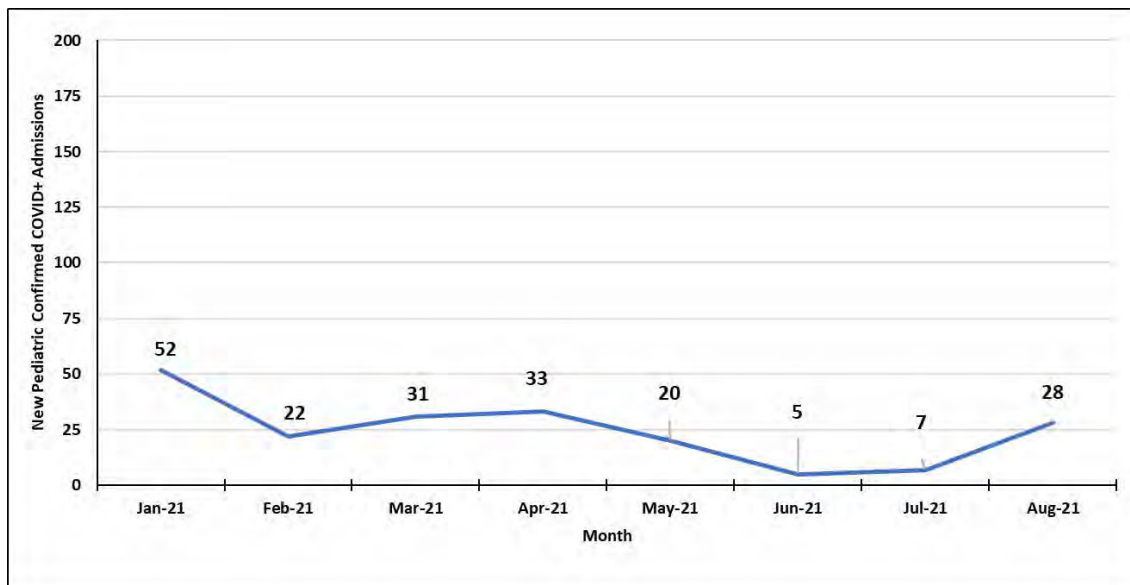


Current Situation/Data

- On June 28th Delaware had 10 total new COVID-19 cases; on August 26th we had 547 total new cases. Cases increased from 25 to 84 (up 236%), in the birth to 4 age group and increased from 54 to 333 (up 517%) among children 5-17 since early June.

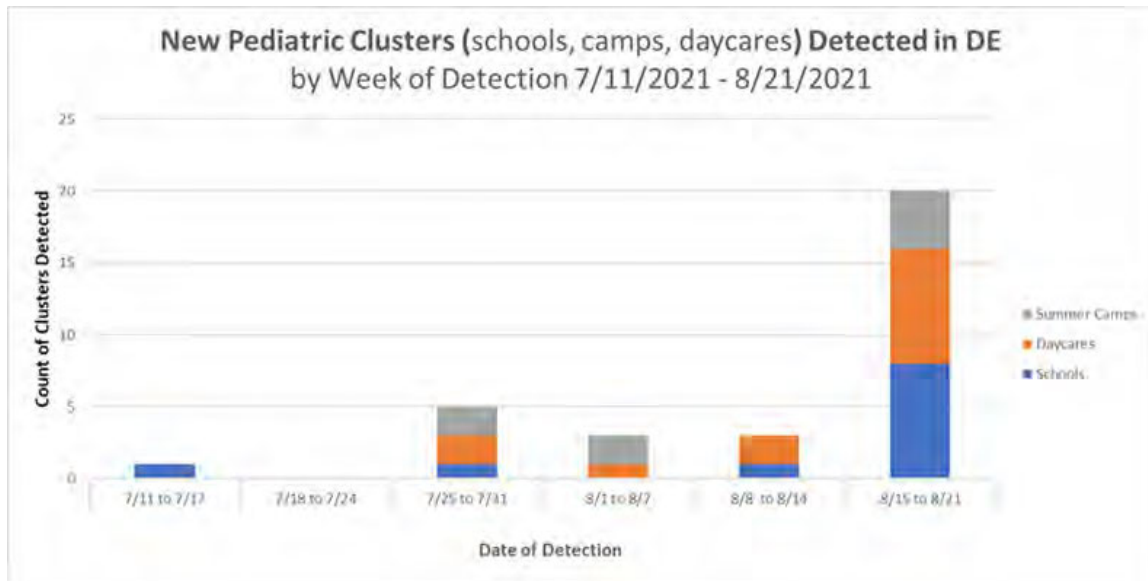


- Cases across all ages are increasing in multiple towns and cities statewide, but the greatest increases are in Kent and Sussex counties, especially in the areas with the lowest vaccination rates.
- Southern states have seen significant increases in pediatric hospitalizations. Delaware hospitalization data show that the number of hospitalized children and youth have increased from 7 to 28 in the last month alone.





- K-12 schools have either just opened or will open soon, therefore, there are no 2021-22 school year data yet. However, we have been seeing clusters in early childhood settings daily, with several individual facilities seeing more than 20 confirmed cases each recently. Additionally, quarantine from exposure to COVID-19-positive persons pushes numbers of children and staff who must stay at home significantly higher, with some rooms or entire facilities closing because of the lack of staff or children present. In almost all of these clusters, lack of mask wearing, in addition to unvaccinated staff, are the key contributors.
- In the last month (7/25 to 8/25), **32** school/camp/daycare clusters have been detected. A cluster is defined as more than 2 cases. The average positive number of cases per cluster was 5; the average number of potentially exposed individuals per cluster was 38 and an average of 12% of exposed individuals became positive for COVID. For the week of 8/15 – 8/21, the number of pediatric clusters almost equaled the number of non-pediatric clusters.



- Vaccination is the most important tool for preventing infections and the consequences of COVID-19. The under-12 age group is the only portion of Delawareans that are not yet eligible to be vaccinated. Among eligible youth ages 12-17, as of Aug. 25, only 51.5% have received at least one dose and 40.2% are fully vaccinated.



Precautions and Protections

Precautions taken in schools and other settings will protect those at home. Precautions taken at home will likewise protect those in schools. A layered mitigation strategy is key for a safe return to school and includes a combination of protective actions, such as vaccination, mask wearing, social distancing, screening, testing, ventilation, hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes, staying home when sick, and more.

Vaccination

- It's hard to overstate how simple this is: Get vaccinated. That's it. Get vaccinated to protect yourself, your family, and do your part to reduce community spread.
- If you have staff, visitors, eligible students, or others in your school who are choosing not to get vaccinated, they are putting your children and staff at risk.
- Staff and children who are able to be vaccinated can help avoid putting others at risk by getting vaccinated.



Masks

- Masks are one of the best protections we have available, particularly if you are not able to get vaccinated.
- There are abundant studies that show masks work to prevent the spread of COVID by as much as 70%. This includes studies that show that [school districts with mask mandates have a lower rate of virus transmission](#) from student-to-student, student-to-teacher, and teacher-to-student. ([Science Brief: Community Use of Cloth Masks to Control the Spread of SARS-CoV-2 | CDC](#))
- Last year, we saw minimal spread in Delaware schools. We attribute much of this to mask wearing.
- What masks do:
 - **Limit transmission and protect people.** Masks reduce the spray of spit and respiratory droplets, protecting you from other people (and other people from you).
 - **Help reduce the need to quarantine.** Correct, consistent mask use can reduce the number of people that need to quarantine when exposed to someone who is infected with COVID-19.





- What masks don't do:
 - Masks do not impact lung development. In fact, they help protect developing lungs from COVID-19.
 - Masks do not weaken the immune system.
 - Masks don't make it harder for children to breathe.
 - Masks don't trap CO₂ or force us to re-breathe air we exhale. These particles are smaller than respiratory droplets and can get past masks. Prior studies claiming otherwise have since been debunked as not scientifically sound.
- Masks need to fit over the mouth and nose and fit snugly around the face. They should have two or more layers, be as comfortable as possible and made from breathable material. Parents may need to work with their children and help them adjust to wearing a mask. Parents and siblings can set a good example by wearing their masks when younger children have to wear theirs. [Your Guide to Masks | CDC](#)

TRUSTED ANSWERS TO YOUR COVID-19 VACCINE QUESTIONS



Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe for children?

The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is authorized by the FDA for children 5 and older, and it helps protect them from getting COVID-19.



Are there long-term side effects from the COVID-19 vaccine?

No. There are no long-term side effects from the vaccine; however, there are numerous long-term side effects from COVID-19.



Does the COVID-19 vaccine affect fertility?

No. There is no evidence that any vaccine, including COVID-19 vaccines, causes infertility.



Should I be worried about myocarditis?

Myocarditis is an extremely rare side effect. Most cases are mild, and individuals often recover on their own or with minimal treatment. Your child is more likely to get it from COVID-19, not the vaccine.



Can my child get the COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as other vaccines?

Yes. Your child can get the COVID-19 vaccine with other vaccines, during the same visit.



Will the vaccine alter DNA?

No. COVID-19 vaccines do not interact with your DNA, so they cannot alter it.



If my child already had COVID-19 and now has natural immunity, do they still need to get the vaccine?

Yes. Those who have had a COVID-19 infection should still get vaccinated. They need longer-lasting protection against the virus and any variants.



Aren't kids immune to COVID-19?

No. When the delta variant exploded, it spread so easily that Delaware saw a rise in cases and hospitalizations among children. Getting vaccinated is the best protection. And vaccinated children don't have to quarantine and miss school if exposed to someone with COVID-19.

**Find out where to
get your FREE COVID-19 vaccine.**



VISIT
de.gov/youthvaccine



CALL
1-833-643-1715



EMAIL
vaccine@delaware.gov



VACCINE INGREDIENTS AND ALLERGY INFORMATION

Vaccines contain a variety of ingredients, such as lipids, sugars, and salts. See additional information below.



YOU SHOULD NOT RECEIVE THE VACCINE IF:

You have had a severe or immediate¹ allergic reaction after a previous dose of this vaccine or to any ingredient of this vaccine, particularly polysorbate 80 or polyethylene glycol (PEG).

- If you have a polysorbate 80 allergy, do not take the J&J vaccine; discuss with your health care provider if you should get Pfizer or Moderna.
- If you have a PEG allergy, do not take Pfizer or Moderna; you may take the J&J vaccine.



IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS:

Talk to your health care provider before getting vaccinated to review your medical conditions, including allergies to any of the vaccine ingredients listed below or severe reactions to other vaccines in the past.

The Johnson & Johnson (J&J) COVID-19 vaccine contains the following ingredients ²	The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine contains the following ingredients ³	The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine contains the following ingredients ⁴
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recombinant • Replication incompetent adenovirus type 26 expressing the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein • Citric acid monohydrate • Trisodium citrate dihydrate • Ethanol • 2-hydroxypropyl-β-cyclodextrin (HBCD) • Polysorbate 80 • Sodium chloride 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA) • Tromethamine • Tromethamine hydrochloride • Acetic acid • Sodium acetate • Sucrose • Lipids: SM-102, polyethylene glycol [PEG] 2000 dimyristoyl glycerol [DMG], cholesterol, and 1,2-distearoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine [DSPC] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mRNA • Potassium chloride • Monobasic potassium phosphate • Sodium chloride • Dibasic sodium phosphate dihydrate • Sucrose • Lipids: (4 hydroxybutyl)azanediyl bis(hexane 6,1 diyl)bis(2 hexyldecanoate), 2 [(polyethylene-2000)-N,N- ditetradecylacetamide, 1,2 Distearoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine, and cholesterol

¹ An immediate allergic reaction happens within four hours of getting vaccinated and may include symptoms such as hives, swelling, and wheezing (respiratory distress). For additional information on anaphylaxis, review: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/downloads/IntermConsid-Anaphylaxis-covid19vaccine-sit-es.pdf>.

² Johnson & Johnson (J&J) EUA fact sheet (<https://www.fda.gov/media/146305/download>)

³ Moderna EUA fact sheet (<https://www.modernatx.com/covid19vaccine-eua/eua-fact-sheet-recipients.pdf>)

⁴ Pfizer EUA fact sheet (<https://www.cvdvaccine-us.com/images/pdf/fact-sheet-for-recipients-and-caregivers.pdf>)



de.gov/covidvaccine | 1-833-643-1715 | vaccine@delaware.gov

Follow the Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH) on social media.

IS THE COVID-19 VACCINE SAFE IF YOU ARE PREGNANT, WANT TO GET PREGNANT, OR ARE BREASTFEEDING?

It is **safe** for pregnant and breastfeeding women to get a COVID-19 vaccine. **The CDC recommends you do.**



There is **no evidence** that COVID-19 vaccination causes any problems with pregnancy, including the development of the placenta.

Want to get pregnant someday? It's recommended you get the vaccine too. **No loss of fertility has been reported** among the millions of people who have received the vaccine.



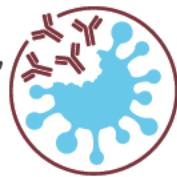
No increased risk of miscarriage was reported among 2,500 pregnant women who received a mRNA COVID-19 vaccine before 20 weeks of pregnancy.*

No safety issues were identified among the more than 130,000 women who indicated they were pregnant when they got the COVID-19 vaccine.



Antibodies can be passed through breast milk and **help protect children from the virus.**+

None of the COVID-19 vaccines contain the live virus that causes the disease, so the vaccine cannot make anyone sick with COVID-19, including pregnant women or their babies.



Pregnant women are at increased risk for serious illness and hospitalization due to COVID-19. That's why leading OB-GYN organizations recommend they get vaccinated.

Sources: *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
+American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

FIND OUT WHERE TO GET YOUR FREE COVID-19 VACCINE



VISIT
de.gov/covidvaccine



CALL
1-833-643-1715



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vaccine@delaware.gov

**COVID-19
STOPS
WITH US**





THE COVID-19 VACCINE WAS DEVELOPED QUICKLY BUT SAFELY

- More people enrolled in clinical trials, which sped up the process.
- Mass manufacturing was fast-tracked as the vaccine was going through approvals.
- Years of research laid the groundwork for the advanced science that was used to develop the COVID-19 vaccine.



GET THE VACCINE YOU ARE OFFERED, REGARDLESS OF MAKER

- All vaccines are equally effective at preventing hospitalization and death from COVID-19.
- Depending on the vaccine maker, you will need either one dose or two doses to ensure full immunity.
- You should get the vaccine even if you have had COVID-19.



NO CORNERS WERE CUT IN VACCINE DEVELOPMENT

- More than 4,000 clinical trials were conducted worldwide.
- The FDA strictly monitored vaccine development and testing.



THE COVID-19 VACCINE DOES NOT INFECT YOU WITH THE VIRUS

- The vaccine instructs your body to develop antibodies to fight the virus.



COVID-19 VACCINATION LOCATIONS



Large and small vaccination sites



Neighborhood pharmacies



Health care providers



Employers

Federal officials ensure that personal information gathered while vaccinating people for the COVID-19 virus will not be used in any way for immigration enforcement. In addition, some vaccination sites will not require photo ID. The vaccine is available to everyone in the U.S., regardless of citizenship status. The vaccine is available at no out-of-pocket cost, even to those who don't have health insurance.

Last updated: 2/28/22

FIND OUT WHEN, WHERE, AND HOW TO GET YOUR FREE COVID-19 VACCINE



VISIT
de.gov/covidvaccine


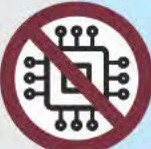






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WHAT'S THE TRUTH ABOUT THE COVID-19 VACCINE?

CONCERNS	VS	FACTS
Will the vaccine alter my DNA?		None of the vaccines interact with your DNA and therefore cannot alter it.
Does the vaccine include a microchip?		Vaccines contain a variety of salts, fats, and other chemicals, but no microchips.
Will the vaccine make it hard for me to get pregnant now or in the future?		There is no evidence that fertility is affected by any vaccine, including COVID-19 vaccines. In fact, thousands of women were pregnant during clinical trials or have gotten pregnant after getting the vaccine.
Does the vaccine contain the live virus?		None of the vaccines currently offered by Pfizer, Moderna, or Johnson & Johnson contain the live virus.
Will I be injected with a tracking device or magnet?		No magnetic material or tracking devices are in vaccine ingredients, just fats, salts, and human-made chemicals.
If I already had COVID-19 and now have natural immunity, do I still need to get the vaccine?		If you've already had a COVID-19 infection, you should still get vaccinated. You need longer-lasting protection against the variants.

FIND OUT WHERE TO GET YOUR **FREE COVID-19 VACCINE**



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COVID-19
STOPS
WITH *us*



IS THE COVID-19 VACCINE SAFE FOR CHILDREN?



The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is authorized for children ages 5 to 17 and helps **protect them** from getting COVID-19.

The COVID-19 vaccine is **safe for children**.



Minimal side effects have been reported.

Possible side effects after vaccination include:



Injection site pain & swelling



Headache



Drowsiness



Chills



Fever



Nausea



Muscle pain



The vaccine is recommended in **two doses, three weeks apart**.



Your child can get the COVID-19 vaccine **with other vaccines**, during the same visit.

Myocarditis is an extremely rare side effect, most cases are mild, and individuals often recover on their own or with minimal treatment.



There is currently **no evidence** that any vaccines, including COVID-19 vaccines, cause infertility.

FIND OUT WHERE TO GET YOUR FREE COVID-19 VACCINE



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**COVID-19
STOPS
WITH US**



State of Delaware



**Executive Department
Dover**

DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR THE STATE OF DELAWARE DUE TO A PUBLIC HEALTH THREAT

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) has determined that the novel coronavirus (“COVID-19”) presents a serious public health threat, and the CDC is expecting a surge of COVID-19 cases in the coming days to weeks being caused by new and highly transmissible variants of the coronavirus such as Delta and Omicron which spread more easily than the original virus; and

WHEREAS, in December 2021, Delaware has repeatedly surpassed its daily record number of COVID-19 cases since March 2020, that are caused by these variants; and

WHEREAS, the CDC expects that anyone with an Omicron infection can spread the virus to others, even if they are vaccinated or asymptomatic; and

WHEREAS, despite administering over one and a half million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to individuals who live, work, and are educated in Delaware, Delaware has experienced an extraordinary surge in recent hospitalizations with some hospitals over 100% inpatient bed capacity amid crippling staffing shortages; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to create greater flexibility for our healthcare system to respond to another COVID-19 surge; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that individuals and businesses in Delaware continue to follow vaccine, booster, social distancing, masking, and other infection control protocols as recommended by the CDC; and

WHEREAS, in the interest of protecting the citizens of this state from a public health threat, the Governor is authorized by law to issue an order reasonably necessary to suspend the provisions of any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conducting state business, or the orders, rules, or regulations of any state agency, where strict compliance with such provisions may hinder necessary action in coping with the emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN C. CARNEY, pursuant to Title 20, Chapter 31 of the Delaware Code, to control and prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the State of Delaware, do hereby order that the following provisions shall become effective January 3, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.. E.D.T., and shall continue until terminated as provided under state law:

A. POWERS OF DELAWARE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (DEMA) AND DELAWARE DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH (DPH).

1. The Public Health Authority is authorized to make, amend, and rescind orders, rules and regulations under Title 16 necessary for emergency management purposes.
2. The Public Health Authority is authorized to:
 - i. Suspend all state-required deadlines and timetables for performance of facility and agency licensure activities as the Public Health Authority deems necessary; and
 - ii. Suspend any regulatory requirement found in Title 16 of the Delaware Administrative Code that the Public Health Authority deems an impediment to staffing facilities and agencies during the pendency of the emergency; and

- iii. Suspend any regulatory requirements related to the provision of in-home medical care and personal services under Title 16 of the Delaware Administrative Code as the Public Health Authority deems necessary.
3. The requirement that long term care facilities provide documentation to the Division of Health Care Quality as to the amount of direct care time that was provided in an emergency by a Director of Nursing, Assistant Director of Nursing, or registered nurse assessment coordinator as required in 16 Del. C. § 1161(e) is hereby suspended.
4. Long term care facilities must continue to provide 3.28 hours of direct care per resident per day. However, the staffing ratios required in 16 Del. C. § 1162 are hereby suspended.
5. The requirements in Chapter 93 of Title 16 are hereby suspended for acute care hospitals that seek to increase their bed capacity in order to treat COVID-19 patients, so long as any such hospital obtains approval from the Division of Public Health. Hospitals that wish to increase their bed capacity to treat COVID-19 patients must submit a plan to OEMS@delaware.gov. Plans must include a justification for increased beds, and assurances for adequate staffing, maintenance, and safety. Plans may not be implemented until approved by the Division of Public Health. Hospitals that increase bed numbers pursuant to this section must eliminate beds and return to the previously approved number of licensed beds, or seek a Certificate of Public Review, if so ordered by the Division of Public Health or upon the termination of the State of Emergency.
6. The following requirements are waived or modified for members of the Delaware National Guard who complete a Certified Nursing Assistant course after January 1, 2022:
 - i. The requirement in 16 Del. C. §3002A that Certified Nursing Assistant trainees must complete a total of 150 clock hours of training. However, such individuals who

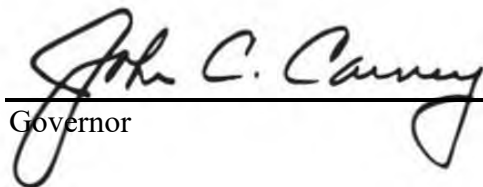
wish to become certified must complete 75 classroom hours and 16 clinical hours before sitting for a certification exam.

- ii. The requirement in 16 Del. C. §3004A that Certified Nursing Assistant trainees must complete a mandatory orientation period is hereby waived.
- iii. In lieu of the requirements in 16 Del. C. § 1141, members of the Delaware National Guard shall provide each facility they work in as a Certified Nursing Assistant a copy of their criminal history report obtained after January 1, 2022. However, no member of the Delaware National Guard may work as a Certified Nursing Assistant in a long-term care facility if they have a conviction deemed disqualifying by the Department of Health and Social Services.
- iv. In lieu of the requirements in 16 Del. C. § 1141, members of the Delaware National Guard shall provide each facility they work in as a Certified Nursing Assistant a copy of a drug screening obtained after January 1, 2022 that meets the requirements established by the Department of Health and Social Services.

B. MISCELLANEOUS.

1. This Order and any emergency rules or regulations effected therefrom remain effective until the termination of the State of Emergency, except as may be rescinded, superseded, amended, or revised by additional orders.

APPROVED this 3rd day of January 2022 at 11:30 a.m.


Governor

State of Delaware



**Executive Department
Dover**

**AMENDED FIRST REVISION TO THE DECLARATION OF A
STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR THE STATE OF DELAWARE
DUE TO A PUBLIC HEALTH THREAT**

WHEREAS, on January 3, 2022 at 11:30 a.m. E.S.T., I issued a State of Emergency for the State of Delaware due to a Public Health Threat, a complete copy of which is incorporated herein by reference and available at <https://de.gov/covidorders>; and

WHEREAS, in January 2022, Delaware has repeatedly surpassed its daily record number of COVID-19 cases since March 2020, despite administering over one and a half million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to individuals who live, work, and are educated in Delaware; and

WHEREAS, in January 2022, Delaware has experienced an extraordinary surge in recent hospitalizations, with some hospitals over 100% inpatient bed capacity amid crippling staffing shortages; and

WHEREAS, the CDC expects that anyone with an Omicron infection can spread the virus to others, even if they are vaccinated or asymptomatic; and

WHEREAS, the CDC continues to recommend wearing a mask in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high community transmission, regardless of vaccination status; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that individuals and businesses in Delaware continue to follow vaccine, booster, social distancing, masking, and other infection control protocols as recommended by the CDC; and

WHEREAS, there is a shortage of substitute teachers in school districts throughout the State, which is being exacerbated by the increased transmissibility of the Omicron variant; and

WHEREAS, in the interest of protecting the citizens of this state from a public health threat, the Governor is authorized by law to issue an order reasonably necessary to suspend the provisions of any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conducting state business, or the orders, rules, or regulations of any state agency, where strict compliance with such provisions may hinder necessary action in coping with the emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN C. CARNEY, pursuant to Title 20, Chapter 31 of the Delaware Code, to control and prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the State of Delaware, do hereby order that the following provisions shall become effective January 11, 2022 at 8:00 a.m. E.S.T., by making deletions as shown by strike through and insertions as shown by italics as follows:

B. MISCELLANEOUS. COVID-19 MITIGATION AND MASKING.

1. Definitions. For purposes of this Declaration of a State of Emergency, the following terms shall have the meaning described herein:

- i. “Mask” shall mean a type of mask or respirator recommended by CDC guidance available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/types-of-masks.html>.*

ii. *“Business or space open to the public” means any spaces, whether publicly owned or privately owned, where the public has access by right or invitation, express or implied, whether by payment of money or not, or that is open to employees, contractors, or volunteers. In addition to the public areas of businesses, such spaces may include, but are not limited to, building lobbies or common spaces, elevators, hallways, bathrooms, and buildings or meeting rooms where people gather for business, social, civic, cultural, or while traveling by taxi, bus, train, car service, ride-sharing or similar service.*

2. *Obligations for Individuals to Wear Masks.*

i. *All individuals aged Kindergarten and up must wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status, while in the following places:*

1. *when they are an employee or rider on public transportation, or a school bus, paratransit vehicle, taxi, private car service, or ride-sharing vehicle;*
2. *when they are an employee or visitor at any indoor business or space open to the public; or*
3. *when wearing a mask is otherwise required by law or regulation.*

ii. *Notwithstanding the masking requirements in Paragraph B.2.i., the following exceptions shall apply:*

1. *Any child under the age of two (2) must not wear a mask because of the risk of suffocation. Children two (2) years of age through pre-Kindergarten are strongly encouraged to wear masks if they can do so reliably in compliance with CDC guidance on Your Guide to*

Masks, available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>. Parents and caregivers must supervise use of masks by children to avoid misuse.

- 2. Masks are not required when actively eating or drinking in food and drink establishments. Masks are required at all other times in food and drink establishments, such as when walking to and from tables. Customers are strongly encouraged to wear masks when waitstaff are at the table. Masks are required on the casino floor at all times when not actively eating or drinking.*
- 3. Masks are not required when engaged in any activity that makes wearing a mask not feasible, such as swimming, dental appointments or personal care services where the face must be exposed.*
- 4. Masks are not required when a speaker, reader, or singer can maintain at least six (6) feet of distance between themselves and the audience and any other person in the space. The speaker, reader, or singer must put the mask back on immediately after speaking, reading, or singing.*
- 5. Masks are not required in houses of worship or places of religious expression. Individuals in houses of worship or places of religious expression are strongly encouraged to wear masks and maintain at least six (6) feet of distance between themselves and others outside of that person's household whenever possible.*

6. *Masks are not required when a person is in a personal office (a single room) when others outside of that person's household are not present. Masks are not required in an open plan or cubicle setting when a person is seated and can maintain at least six (6) feet of distance between themselves and others outside of that person's household. Individuals working in an open plan or cubicle setting are strongly encouraged to maintain greater physical distance whenever possible and to wear masks regardless of the distance that is maintained.*

7. *Masks are not required outdoors.*

iii. *Individuals who have a medical condition that makes it hard to breathe or a disability that prevents the individual from wearing a mask can request a reasonable accommodation from the business or individuals responsible for indoor spaces open to the public to enable full and equal access to services, transportation, and facilities open to the public. A requested accommodation that would endanger any third party or create any likelihood of further infection is per se unreasonable and therefore not required. A reasonable accommodation does not include simply allowing a customer inside without a mask. Reasonable accommodations could include curbside pickup, delivery, or pick up by appointment.*

iv. *If any individual who is not an employee, contractor, or volunteer declines to wear a mask due to a medical condition that inhibits such usage, neither the business nor its staff shall require the individual to produce medical documentation verifying the stated condition. The business or indoor space operator may need to work with*

that individual to seek a reasonable accommodation. If the business or indoor space operator is providing medication, medical supplies, food, or other essential product or service, it must, when possible, provide a reasonable accommodation to access services, such as curbside pick-up, delivery, or an appointment by phone or video. A requested accommodation that would endanger any third party or create any likelihood of further infection is per se unreasonable and therefore not required.

3. Obligations for Businesses and Individuals Responsible for Indoor and Outdoor Spaces Open to the Public.

i. Businesses and individuals responsible for indoor spaces open to the public shall require employees, contractors, and volunteers to wear a mask in compliance with this Order.

ii. Businesses and individuals responsible for indoor spaces, including indoor spaces associated with outdoor spaces, open to the public must:

- 1. Require customers and visitors to any indoor businesses or spaces open to the public to wear masks.*
- 2. Provide masks for employees, contractors, and volunteers.*
- 3. Provide accommodations for employees, contractors, customers and visitors if such accommodations are required by state or federal disabilities, labor, or public accommodations laws, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).*
- 4. Have written documentation, such as a doctor's note, supporting accommodations for any employee, contractor, or volunteer not wearing a mask. This includes having written documentation for*

any employees wearing a face shield in place of, but not in addition to, a mask.

iii. Businesses and individuals responsible for indoor and outdoor spaces open to the public are encouraged to:

- 1. Provide, at no cost, disposable masks for customers and visitors who do not have one.*
- 2. Post required mask signs in languages that are commonly spoken by customers and visitors.*

C. EDUCATION.

1. Substitute Teachers. The provisions of 29 Del. C. § 5502(d), relating to the employment of pensioners, are modified as set forth below in sub-paragraphs (i) and (ii) for any current pensioner whose effective date of retirement is on or before January 1, 2022, where such pensioner accepts employment as a substitute teacher employed by a school district in the State:

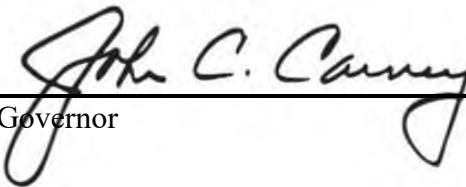
- i. The provision of 29 Del. C. § 5502(d), requiring a 6-month separation of service prior to accepting employment under paragraph (a)(4) of section 29 Del. C. § 5502, is amended to require a one-month separation of service. Any persons who accepted employment under paragraph (a)(4) from January 11, 2022 until this sub-paragraph is rescinded, would have met the bona fide separation requirement and can continue such employment without impacting their pension rights, except to the extent that they exceed the \$30,000 annual earnings limit after the expiration of sub-paragraph ii., below (exclusive of any amounts earned during the time sub-paragraph ii, below, was in effect).*

- ii. *From January 11, 2022 until this sub-paragraph is rescinded, earnings from employment as a substitute teacher employed by a school district in the State under paragraph (a)(4) of 29 Del. C. § 5502, will not count towards the annual earnings limit of \$30,000 set forth in 29 Del. C. § 5502(d).*

D. MISCELLANEOUS.

- 2. *This Order has the force and effect of law. Any failure to comply with the provisions contained in a Declaration of a State of Emergency or any modification to a Declaration of the State of Emergency may constitute a criminal offense. 20 Del. C. §§ 3115 (b); 3116 (9); 3122; 3125. State and local law enforcement agencies are authorized to enforce the provisions of any Declaration of a State of Emergency.*

APPROVED this 10th day of January 2022 at 7:30 p.m.



Governor

State of Delaware



Executive Department
Dover

SECOND REVISION TO THE DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR THE STATE OF DELAWARE DUE TO A PUBLIC HEALTH THREAT

WHEREAS, on January 3, 2022 at 11:30 a.m. E.S.T., I issued a State of Emergency for the State of Delaware due to a Public Health Threat, a complete copy of which is incorporated herein by reference and available at <https://de.gov/covidorders>; and

WHEREAS, on January 10, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. E.S.T., I issued an Amended First Revision to the State of Emergency for the State of Delaware due to a Public Health Threat, requiring Delawareans to wear masks in indoor public settings, including convenience stores, grocery stores, gyms, restaurants, bars, hair salons, malls, and casinos; and

WHEREAS, except as specifically set forth herein, this Revision shall in no way modify, alter or amend the remaining terms of the Declaration, all of which shall remain in full force; and

WHEREAS, in the interest of protecting the citizens of this state from a public health threat, the Governor is authorized by law to issue an order reasonably necessary to suspend the provisions of any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conducting state business, or

the orders, rules, or regulations of any state agency, where strict compliance with such provisions may hinder necessary action in coping with the emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN C. CARNEY, pursuant to Title 20, Chapter 31 of the Delaware Code, to control and prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the State of Delaware, do hereby order that the following provisions shall become effective immediately, by making deletions as shown by strike through and insertions as shown by italics as follows:

B. COVID-19 MITIGATION AND MASKING.

2. Obligations for Individuals to Wear Masks.

ii. Notwithstanding the masking requirements in Paragraph B.2.i., the following exceptions shall apply:

8. *The Division of Public Health (“DPH”) shall have the discretion to permit the use of alternate COVID-mitigation strategies in lieu of masks by (1) performers at performing arts venues during professional practices or performances, or (2) professional and NCAA athletes/sports teams while practicing or competing in a business or indoor space open to the public as part of their regular employment or team schedule, upon submission of a plan to hspcontact@delaware.gov. Plans must consider how to prevent, reduce the spread of, and suppress*

*COVID-19 in relation to any activity permitted under this paragraph.
Plans may not be implemented until approved by DPH.*

APPROVED this 14th day of January 2022 at 8:00 a.m.


Governor

State of Delaware



Executive Department
Dover

THIRD REVISION TO THE DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR THE STATE OF DELAWARE DUE TO A PUBLIC HEALTH THREAT

WHEREAS, on January 3, 2022, at 11:30 a.m. E.S.T., I issued a State of Emergency for the State of Delaware due to a Public Health Threat, a complete copy of which is incorporated herein by reference and available at <https://de.gov/covidorders>; and

WHEREAS, on January 10, 2022, at 7:30 p.m. E.S.T., I issued an Amended First Revision to the State of Emergency for the State of Delaware due to a Public Health Threat, requiring Delawareans to wear masks in indoor public settings, including convenience stores, grocery stores, gyms, restaurants, bars, hair salons, malls, and casinos; and

WHEREAS, on January 14, 2022, at 8:00 a.m. E.S.T., I issued the Second Revision to the State of Emergency for the State of Delaware due to a Public Health Threat, allowing the Division of Public Health (DPH) to approve alternative mitigation measures in place of the mask mandate for professional and NCAA athletes; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has directly impacted the number of commercial motor vehicle drivers able to drive and move essential supplies and provide critical services throughout the State, including the intrastate movement of poultry and poultry supplies which is critical to Delaware's economy; and

WHEREAS, in the interest of protecting the citizens of this state from a public health threat, the Governor is authorized by law to issue an order reasonably necessary to suspend the provisions of any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conducting state business, or the orders, rules, or regulations of any state agency, where strict compliance with such provisions may hinder necessary action in coping with the emergency.

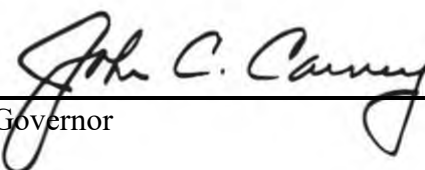
NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN C. CARNEY, pursuant to Title 20, Chapter 31 of the Delaware Code, to control and prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the State of Delaware, do hereby order that the following provisions are hereby modified and shall become effective on January 31, 2022, at 12:00 p.m. E.S.T, by making insertions as shown by italics as follows:

D. MISCELLANEOUS. STATE GOVERNMENT.

- 1. Transportation. The Secretary of the Delaware Department of Transportation is authorized to issue waivers of state enforcement of laws and regulations applicable to commercial motor vehicles operating in support of a declared emergency in accordance with 21 Del. C. Chapter 45 and 49 CFR §390.23(a)(1)(i)(A).*

E. MISCELLANEOUS.

APPROVED this 31st day of January 2022 at 10:00 a.m.


Governor

State of Delaware



**Executive Department
Dover**

FOURTH REVISION TO THE DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR THE STATE OF DELAWARE DUE TO A PUBLIC HEALTH THREAT

WHEREAS, on January 3, 2022 at 11:30 a.m. E.S.T., I issued a State of Emergency for the State of Delaware due to a Public Health Threat, a complete copy of which is incorporated herein by reference and available at <https://de.gov/covidorders>; and

WHEREAS, on January 10, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. E.S.T., I issued an Amended First Revision to the State of Emergency for the State of Delaware due to a Public Health Threat, requiring Delawareans to wear masks in indoor public settings, including convenience stores, grocery stores, gyms, restaurants, bars, hair salons, malls, and casinos; and

WHEREAS, on January 14, 2022 at 8:00 a.m. E.S.T., I issued the Second Revision to the State of Emergency for the State of Delaware due to a Public Health Threat, allowing the Division of Public Health (DPH) to approve alternative mitigation measures in place of the mask mandate for professional and NCAA athletes; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2022 at 12:00 p.m. E.S.T., I issued the Third Revision to the State of Emergency for the State of Delaware due to a Public Health Threat, authorizing the Secretary of the Delaware Department of Transportation to issue waivers of state enforcement of laws and regulations applicable to commercial motor vehicles operating in support of the declared emergency; and

WHEREAS, on December 14, 2021, the Delaware Department of Education and the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services extended the emergency masking requirement in child care centers and public and private K-12 schools, and such regulations will soon expire; and

WHEREAS, evidence has shown that children do better when they are able to attend school full time, in person, and while the youngest children in Delaware are unable to get vaccinated against COVID-19, the best way to mitigate the spread of the virus is through a tiered strategy that combines encouraging vaccination with additional steps including continued face mask usage; and

WHEREAS, effective implementation of multiple strategies is imperative to prevent or significantly decrease transmission of COVID-19 and other infections within schools and child care facilities; and

WHEREAS, the CDC recommends universal indoor masking by all individuals (ages 2 and older) in schools and child care facilities, regardless of vaccination status; and

WHEREAS, the availability of COVID-19 vaccines has helped to mitigate some of the risk, health and safety protocols must continue, especially for those who are unable to be vaccinated; and

WHEREAS, face mask use in within schools and child care facilities while continuing to work towards increasing the vaccinated population in Delaware is imperative to mitigate this public health risk; and

WHEREAS, except as specifically set forth herein, this Revision shall in no way modify, alter or amend the remaining terms of the Declaration, all of which shall remain in full force; and

WHEREAS, in the interest of protecting the citizens of this state from a public health threat, the Governor is authorized by law to issue an order reasonably necessary to suspend the provisions of any regulatory statute prescribing the procedures for conducting state business, or the orders, rules, or regulations of any state agency, where strict compliance with such provisions may hinder necessary action in coping with the emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN C. CARNEY, pursuant to Title 20, Chapter 31 of the Delaware Code, to control and prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the State of Delaware, do hereby order that the emergency masking regulations published by the Delaware Department of Education at 14 DE Admin Code 933 at Section 5.3, 14 DE Admin Code 934 at Section 5.3, and 14 DE Admin Code 815 at Section 6.0 and the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services at 16 DE Admin Code 4202 at Section 7.7.1, are hereby rescinded effective on February 8, 2022, at 12:01 a.m. E.S.T, and are implemented going forward through this State of Emergency Order, effective on February 8, 2022, at 12:01 a.m. E.S.T, and continuing until March 31, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. E.S.T., by making insertions as shown by italics as follows:

C. EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE

2. Obligations for Mask Wearing in Child Care Facilities and Schools.

- i. Definitions. For purposes of this Declaration of a State of Emergency, the term “mask” shall mean a type of mask or respirator recommended by CDC*

guidance available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/types-of-masks.html>.

ii. Early Care and Education and School-Age Centers

- 1. All persons or associations conducting child care as defined in 14 Del. C. §3002A(1) shall recommend mask use by children ages 2 through pre-kindergarten and shall require mask use by children in kindergarten through twelfth grade, staff, family members, and visitors inside the child care facility, regardless of vaccination status.*
- 2. Persons who have a medical condition or disability that prevents that person from wearing a mask can request a reasonable accommodation from the child care facility.*
- 3. Masks are not required in child care facilities:*
 - a. When seated at a table to eat or drink.*
 - b. When asleep.*
 - c. When engaged in any activity that makes wearing a mask not feasible, such as swimming.*
 - d. When a person is in a personal space (i.e., single office) and others outside of that person's household are not present.*
 - e. When outdoors.*
 - f. When children are not in the building.*
- 4. All child care facilities that provide bus service to and from the child care facility shall recommend mask use by children ages 2 through pre-kindergarten and shall require mask use by children in kindergarten*

through twelfth grade, faculty, staff, and visitors riding school buses, regardless of vaccination status.

iii. Family and Large Family Child Care Homes

- 1. All persons or associations conducting child care as defined in 14 Del. C. §3002A(1) shall recommend mask use by children ages 2 through pre-kindergarten and shall require mask use by children in kindergarten through twelfth grade, staff, family members, and visitors inside the child care facility, regardless of vaccination status.*
- 2. Persons who have a medical condition or disability that prevents that person from wearing a mask can request a reasonable accommodation from the child care facility.*
- 3. Masks are not required in child care facilities:*
 - a. When seated at a table to eat or drink.*
 - b. When asleep.*
 - c. When engaged in any activity that makes wearing a mask not feasible, such as swimming.*
 - d. When a person is in a personal space (i.e., single office) and others outside of that person's household are not present.*
 - e. When outdoors.*
 - f. When children are not in the building.*
- 4. All child care facilities that provide bus service to and from the child care facility shall recommend mask use by children ages 2 through pre-kindergarten and shall require mask use by children in kindergarten*

through twelfth grade, faculty, staff, and visitors riding school buses, regardless of vaccination status.

iv. Schools

- 1. All schools that serve students kindergarten through twelfth grade shall require mask use by all students, faculty, staff, and visitors inside school buildings, regardless of vaccination status.*
- 2. Persons who have a medical condition or disability that prevents that person from wearing a mask can request a reasonable accommodation from the school.*
- 3. Masks are not required in school buildings:*
 - a. When seated at a table to eat or drink;*
 - b. When engaged in any activity that makes wearing a mask not feasible, such as swimming;*
 - c. When a person is in a personal space (i.e., single office) and others outside of that person's household are not present;*
 - d. When outdoors; or*
 - e. When students are not in the building except when students travel on school buses.*
- 4. All schools that provide bus service to and from school shall require mask use by all students, faculty, staff, and visitors riding school buses, regardless of vaccination status.*
- 5. For schools with student housing, masks are not required inside an individual student's residence hall room.*

FURTHERMORE, pursuant to Title 20, Chapter 31 of the Delaware Code, I do hereby order that the following provisions are hereby rescinded effective on February 11, 2022, at 8:00 a.m. E.S.T, by making deletions as shown by strike through and by making insertions as shown by italics as follows:

~~B. COVID-19 MITIGATION AND MASKING~~

~~1. Definitions. For purposes of this Declaration of a State of Emergency, the following terms shall have the meaning described herein:~~

~~i. “Mask” shall mean a type of mask or respirator recommended by CDC~~

~~guidance available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/types-of-masks.html>.~~

~~ii. “Business or space open to the public” means any spaces, whether publicly owned or privately owned, where the public has access by right or invitation, express or implied, whether by payment of money or not, or that is open to employees, contractors, or volunteers. In addition to the public areas of businesses, such spaces may include, but are not limited to, building lobbies or common spaces, elevators, hallways, bathrooms, and buildings or meeting rooms where people gather for business, social, civic, cultural, or while traveling by taxi, bus, train, car service, ride sharing or similar service.~~

~~2. Obligations for Individuals to Wear Masks.~~

~~i. All individuals aged Kindergarten and up must wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status, while in the following places:~~

~~1. when they are an employee or rider on public transportation, or a school bus, paratransit vehicle, taxi, private car service, or ride sharing vehicle;~~

- ~~2. when they are an employee or visitor at any indoor business or space open to the public; or~~
 - ~~3. when wearing a mask is otherwise required by law or regulation.~~
- ~~ii. Notwithstanding the masking requirements in Paragraph B.2.i., the following exceptions shall apply:~~
- ~~1. Any child under the age of two (2) must not wear a mask because of the risk of suffocation. Children two (2) years of age through pre-Kindergarten are strongly encouraged to wear masks if they can do so reliably in compliance with CDC guidance on Your Guide to Masks, available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>. Parents and caregivers must supervise use of masks by children to avoid misuse.~~
 - ~~2. Masks are not required when actively eating or drinking in food and drink establishments. Masks are required at all other times in food and drink establishments, such as when walking to and from tables. Customers are strongly encouraged to wear masks when waitstaff are at the table. Masks are required on the casino floor at all times when not actively eating or drinking.~~
 - ~~3. Masks are not required when engaged in any activity that makes wearing a mask not feasible, such as swimming, dental appointments or personal care services where the face must be exposed.~~
 - ~~4. Masks are not required when a speaker, reader, or singer can maintain at least six (6) feet of distance between themselves and the audience and~~

~~any other person in the space. The speaker, reader, or singer must put the mask back on immediately after speaking, reading, or singing.~~

~~5. Masks are not required in houses of worship or places of religious expression. Individuals in houses of worship or places of religious expression are strongly encouraged to wear masks and maintain at least six (6) feet of distance between themselves and others outside of that person's household whenever possible.~~

~~6. Masks are not required when a person is in a personal office (a single room) when others outside of that person's household are not present. Masks are not required in an open plan or cubicle setting when a person is seated and can maintain at least six (6) feet of distance between themselves and others outside of that person's household. Individuals working in an open plan or cubicle setting are strongly encouraged to maintain greater physical distance whenever possible and to wear masks regardless of the distance that is maintained.~~

~~7. Masks are not required outdoors.~~

~~8. The Division of Public Health ("DPH") shall have the discretion to permit the use of alternate COVID mitigation strategies in lieu of masks by (1) performers at performing arts venues during professional practices or performances, or (2) professional and NCAA athletes/sports teams while practicing or competing in a business or indoor space open to the public as part of their regular employment or team schedule, upon submission of a plan to hspcontact@delaware.gov. Plans must consider~~

~~how to prevent, reduce the spread of, and suppress COVID-19 in relation to any activity permitted under this paragraph. Plans may not be implemented until approved by DPH.~~

~~iii. Individuals who have a medical condition that makes it hard to breathe or a disability that prevents the individual from wearing a mask can request a reasonable accommodation from the business or individuals responsible for indoor spaces open to the public to enable full and equal access to services, transportation, and facilities open to the public. A requested accommodation that would endanger any third party or create any likelihood of further infection is per se unreasonable and therefore not required. A reasonable accommodation does not include simply allowing a customer inside without a mask. Reasonable accommodations could include curbside pickup, delivery, or pick up by appointment.~~

~~iv. If any individual who is not an employee, contractor, or volunteer declines to wear a mask due to a medical condition that inhibits such usage, neither the business nor its staff shall require the individual to produce medical documentation verifying the stated condition. The business or indoor space operator may need to work with that individual to seek a reasonable accommodation. If the business or indoor space operator is providing medication, medical supplies, food, or other essential product or service, it must, when possible, provide a reasonable accommodation to access services, such as curbside pick up, delivery, or an appointment by phone or video. A~~

~~requested accommodation that would endanger any third party or create any likelihood of further infection is per se unreasonable and therefore not required.~~

~~3. Obligations for Businesses and Individuals Responsible for Indoor and Outdoor Spaces Open to the Public.~~

~~i. Businesses and individuals responsible for indoor spaces open to the public shall require employees, contractors, and volunteers to wear a mask in compliance with this Order.~~

~~ii. Businesses and individuals responsible for indoor spaces, including indoor spaces associated with outdoor spaces, open to the public must:~~

~~1. Require customers and visitors to any indoor businesses or spaces open to the public to wear masks.~~

~~2. Provide masks for employees, contractors, and volunteers.~~

~~3. Provide accommodations for employees, contractors, customers and visitors if such accommodations are required by state or federal disabilities, labor, or public accommodations laws, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).~~

~~4. Have written documentation, such as a doctor's note, supporting accommodations for any employee, contractor, or volunteer not wearing a mask. This includes having written documentation for any employees wearing a face shield in place of, but not in addition to, a mask.~~

~~iii. Businesses and individuals responsible for indoor and outdoor spaces open to the public are encouraged to:~~

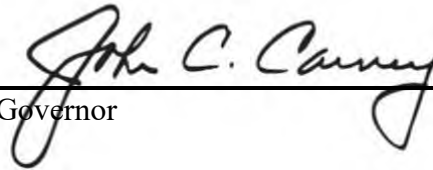
- ~~1. Provide, at no cost, disposable masks for customers and visitors who do not have one.~~
- ~~2. Post required mask signs in languages that are commonly spoken by customers and visitors.~~

~~C.B. EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE~~

~~D.C. STATE GOVERNMENT~~

~~E.D. MISCELLANEOUS~~

APPROVED this 7th day of February 2022 at 8:00 a.m.


Governor

DELAWARE'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Press Briefing
December 7, 2021

de.gov/covidvaccine

STATE OF DELAWARE

DATA UPDATE

572.7

New Cases

7-day Average

8.7%

Positive Tests

7-day Average

296 with **34** critical
Hospitalizations

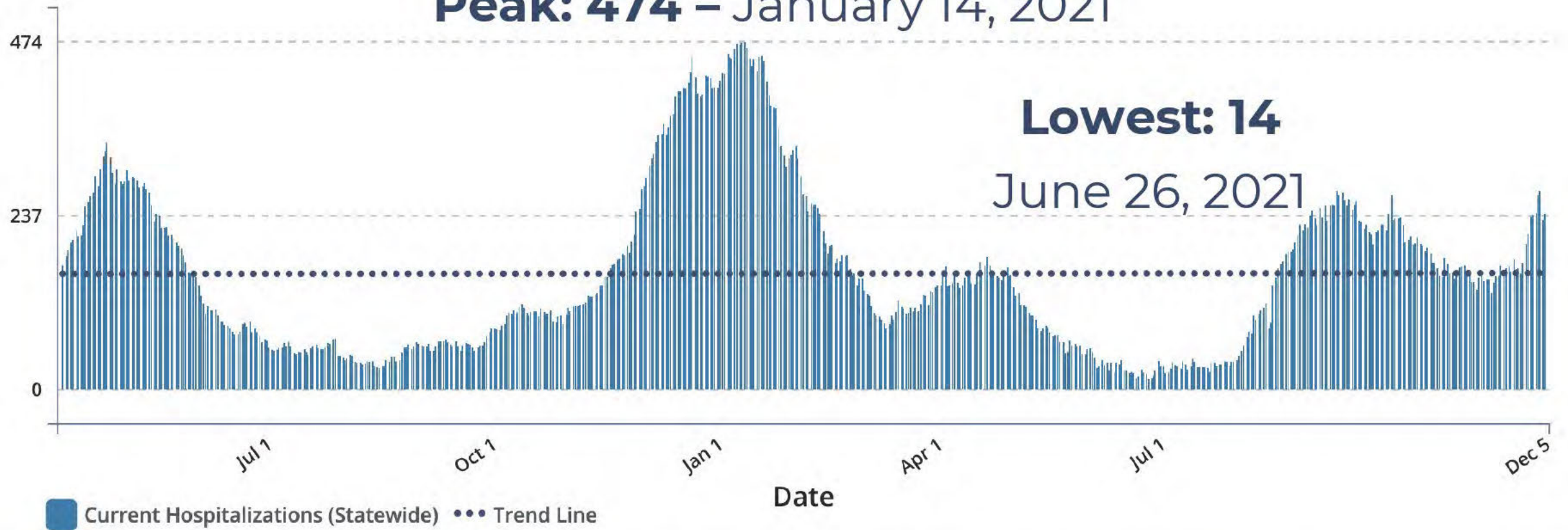
2,203
Lives Lost

View more COVID-19 data: de.gov/healthycommunity

STATE OF DELAWARE

HOSPITALIZATIONS

Peak: 474 – January 14, 2021



View more COVID-19 data: de.gov/healthycommunity

STATE OF DELAWARE

VACCINE UPDATE

**Total Vaccines
Administered**

1,460,016

**Fully
Vaccinated**

602,585 (61.9%)

65.6%

Delawareans 5+
fully vaccinated

71.6%

Delawareans 12+
fully vaccinated

73.2%

Delawareans 18+
fully vaccinated

91.8%

Delawareans 65+
fully vaccinated

Data as of: December 6, 2021 - 6:00am

CDC Data: covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations

Fully Vaccinated - Rates by Age Group

Age	Statewide	New Castle County	Kent County	Sussex County
5-11	4.9%	5.8%	2.9%	4.2%
12-17	51.9%	58.9%	43.4%	39.9%
18-34	49.3%	53.8%	39.7%	44.5%
35-49	61.6%	65.0%	55.4%	57.0%
50-64	72.4%	73.7%	70.1%	71.3%
65+	91.5%	90.2%	87.8%	95.2%

Total Population Fully Vaccinated: 61.4%

View more COVID-19 data: de.gov/healthycommunity

Boosters

Population	Percentage of Population	Number of People
Total Population	24.6%	148,064
65+	49.8%	86,267
50+	37.1%	122,823
18+	26.2%	147,938

Wear Face Coverings Indoors

All Delawareans are **STRONGLY ADVISED** to wear face coverings indoors regardless of vaccination status.



**Cases are on the rise.
Here is what you can do:**

- Wear a mask indoors
- Get vaccinated
- Get your booster



Get your
COVID-19 VACCINE

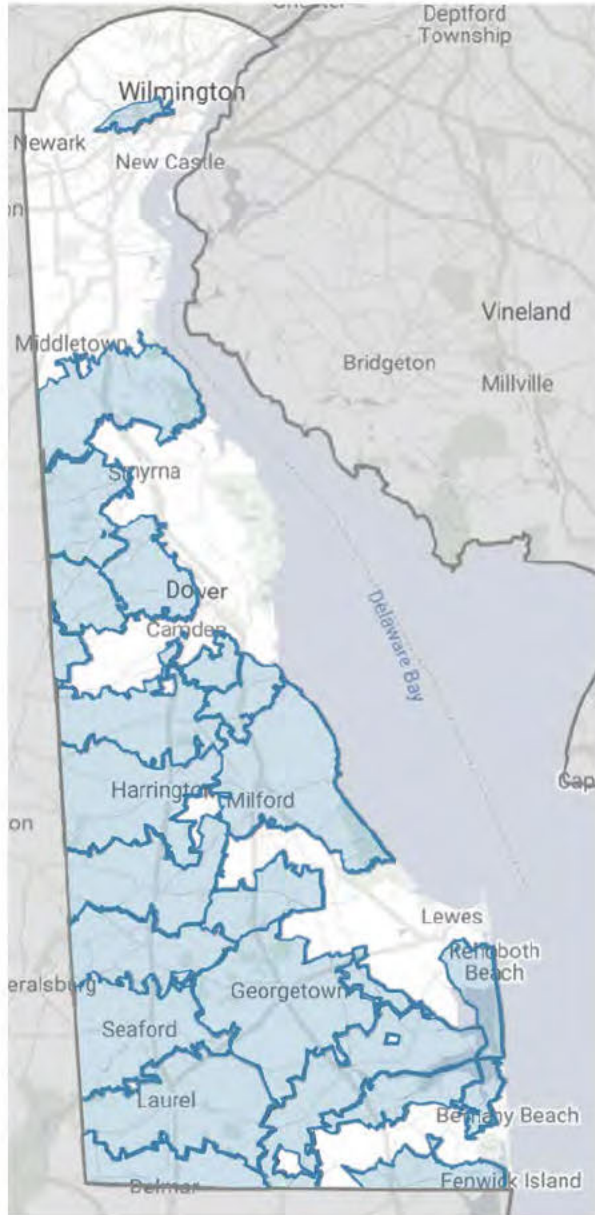
de.gov/getmyvaccine

**Dr. Karyl
Rattay**

Director

Division of Public
Health

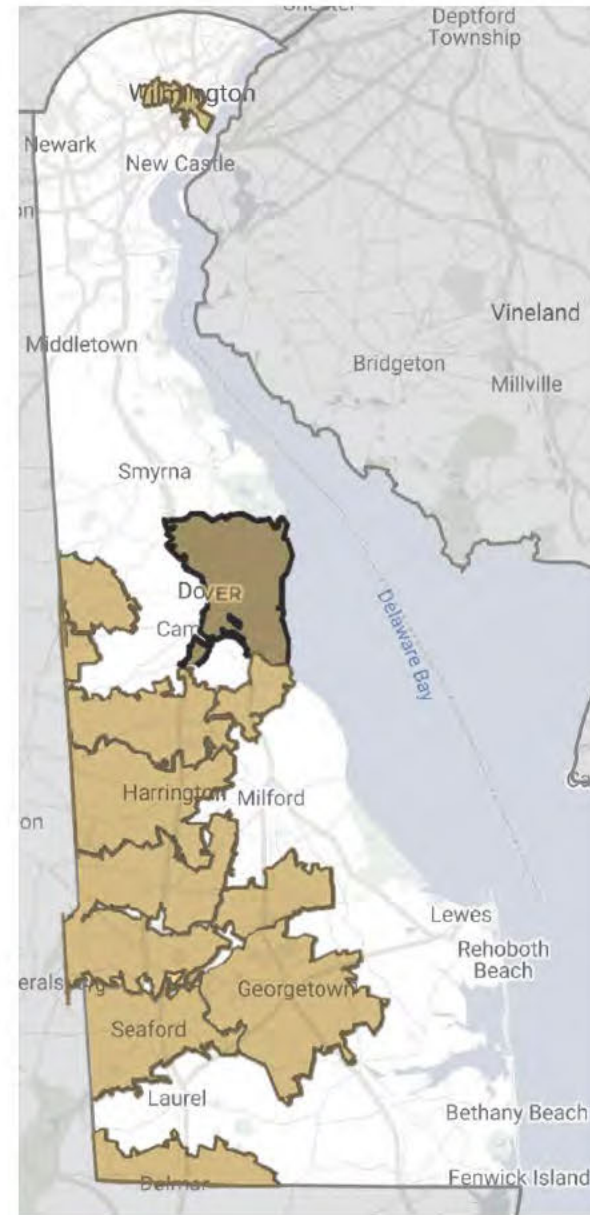
Areas with Highest Test Positivity



- Newport/Stanton**
- Townsend**
- Clayton**
- Dover**
- Magnolia**
- Hartly**
- Marydel**
- Felton**
- Harrington**
- Greenwood**
- Bridgeville**
- Georgetown**
- Seaford**
- Laurel**
- Delmar**
- Frederica**
- Milford**
- Ellendale**
- Millsboro**
- Rehoboth Beach**
- Harbeson**
- Dagsboro**
- Ocean View**
- Selbyville**

Data as of December 5, 2021

Low Vaccination Rate Areas



- Wilmington**
- Dover**
- Hartly**
- Marydel**
- Frederica**
- Felton**
- Harrington**
- Greenwood**
- Ellendale**
- Georgetown**
- Bridgeville**
- Seaford**
- Laurel**
- Delmar**

Data as of December 5, 2021

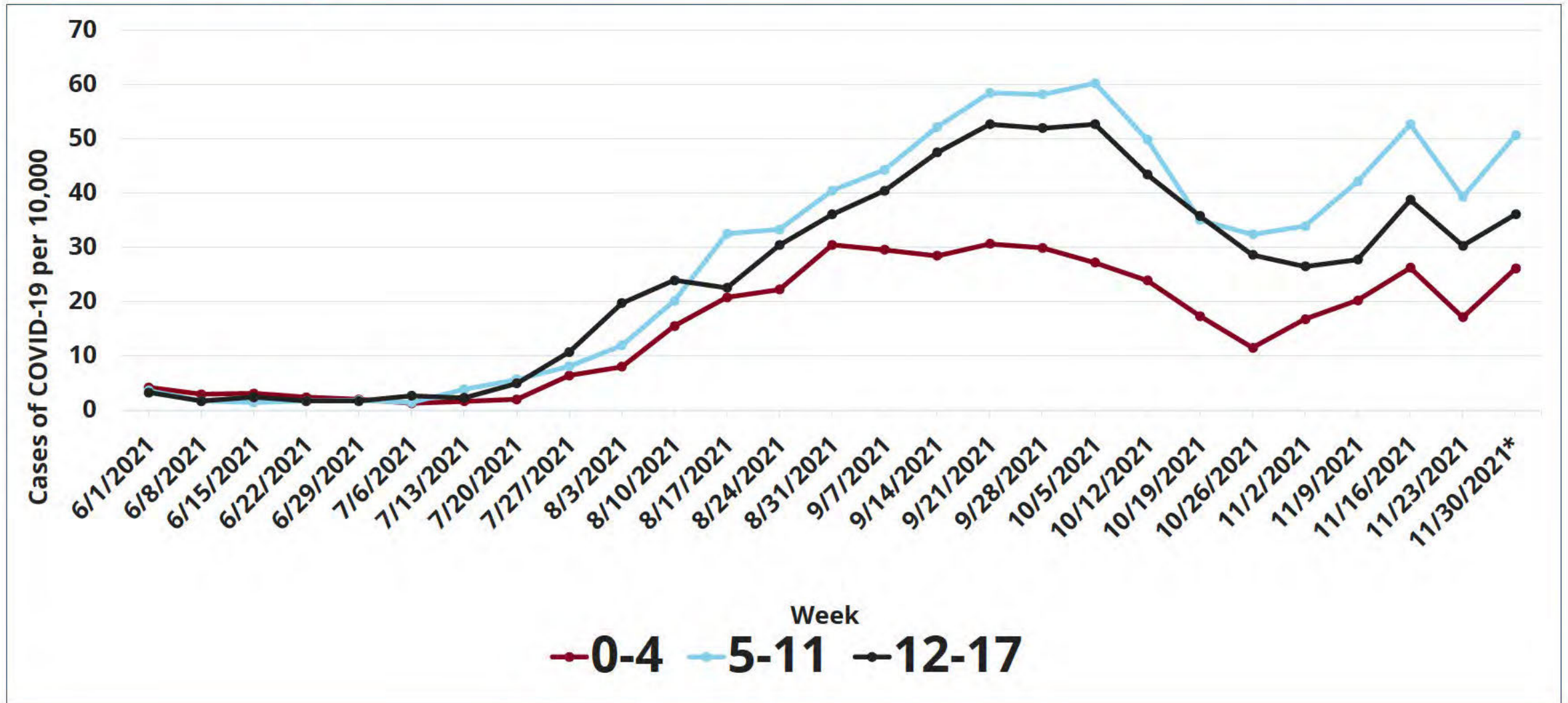
Cases By Vaccination Status

Week of 11/22/2021– 11/28/2021

Percent of Unvaccinated / Partially Vaccinated

Cases	Hospitalizations	Deaths
72%	80%	80%

COVID-19 Cases in Delaware Children



COVID-19 Cases in Delaware Children

- Children ages **5 to 11** are eligible to receive the Pfizer-BioNTech pediatric dose.
- Clinical trials nationwide that involved more than 3,000 children ages 5 to 11 found the pediatric dose to be more than **90 percent** protective against developing symptomatic COVID-19.
- Almost 5 million children ages 5 – 11 have gotten one dose of the vaccine
- Among these almost 5 million children – and those in clinical trials – **NO serious side effects** have been identified (**NO myocarditis or severe allergic reactions were identified**)



KNOW ALL THE FACTS ABOUT THE COVID-19 VACCINE AND MAKE THE HEALTHIEST CHOICE FOR YOUR CHILD.

If you're on the fence about getting your child vaccinated, it's important to know the facts about the COVID-19 vaccine.

 **No lasting side effects**  **Doesn't affect fertility**  **Myocarditis is more of a threat from COVID-19 than the vaccine**

The vaccine is proven safe and effective for children 5 and older. Vaccinated youth are protected against serious illness caused by COVID-19 and don't have to quarantine if exposed to someone with the virus. So, the best way to protect our kids and keep them in school is to get them vaccinated.

Learn all the facts at de.gov/youthvaccine



Omicron variant (B.1.1.529)

What we know

- **First reported in South Africa**
- **Cases now reported in U.S. (including PA, MD, NJ)**
- **No cases in Delaware as of 12/6/21**
- **DE Public Health Lab sequencing for variant**

What we don't know

- **How transmissible?**
- **Is it more infectious than Delta?**
- **Does it cause more severe disease?**
- **How well do vaccines work against it?**

Omicron variant (B.1.1.529)

What we can do

- **Get vaccinated – 1st dose, 2nd dose, booster dose**
- **Wear a mask indoors**
- **Socially distance from others**
- **Test as recommended**
- **Stay home if you have COVID symptoms or have been exposed to someone with COVID**



BOOST YOUR PROTECTION!

Adults 18+ are eligible • de.gov/boosters



- Recommended for **all adults 18 and older.**
- **Increase strength of antibody response** to protect you from the virus, and many of its mutations.
- **Vaccines are effective against hospitalization and death.**
- State and national **booster campaigns coming.**

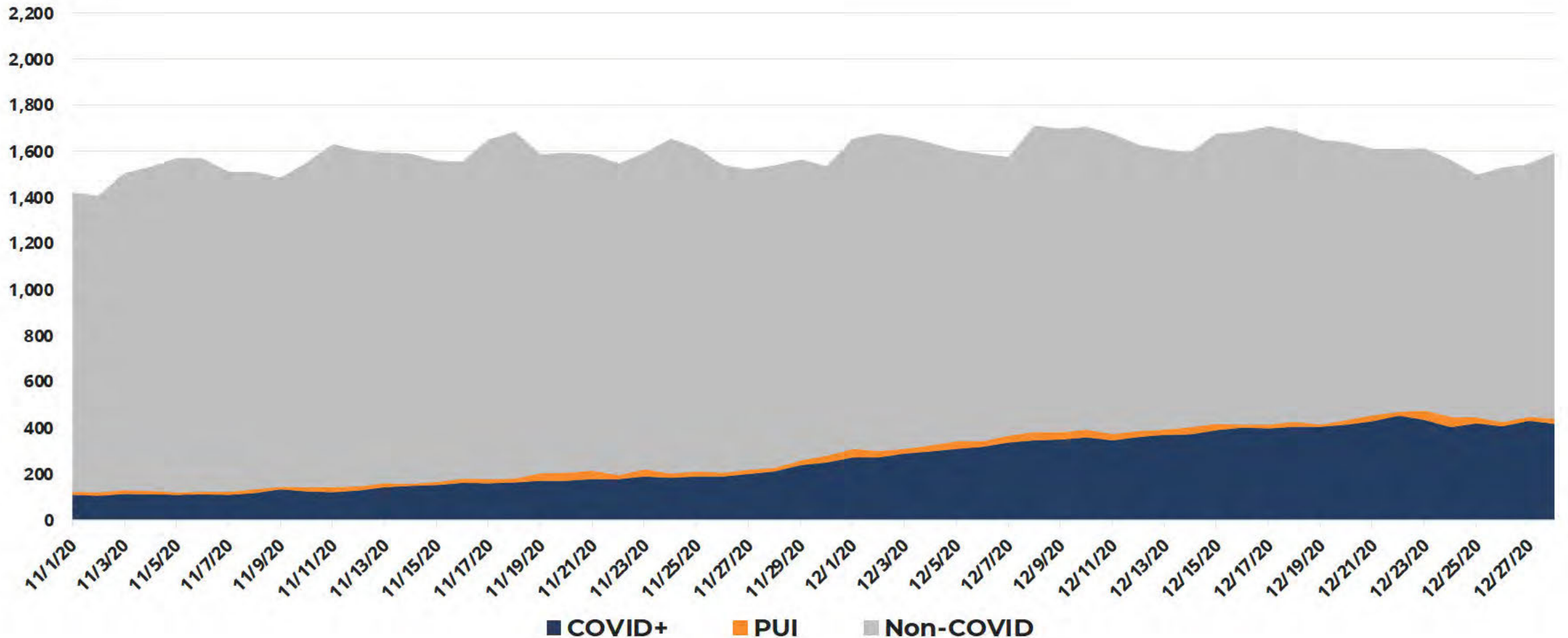
**Director
AJ Schall**

Director

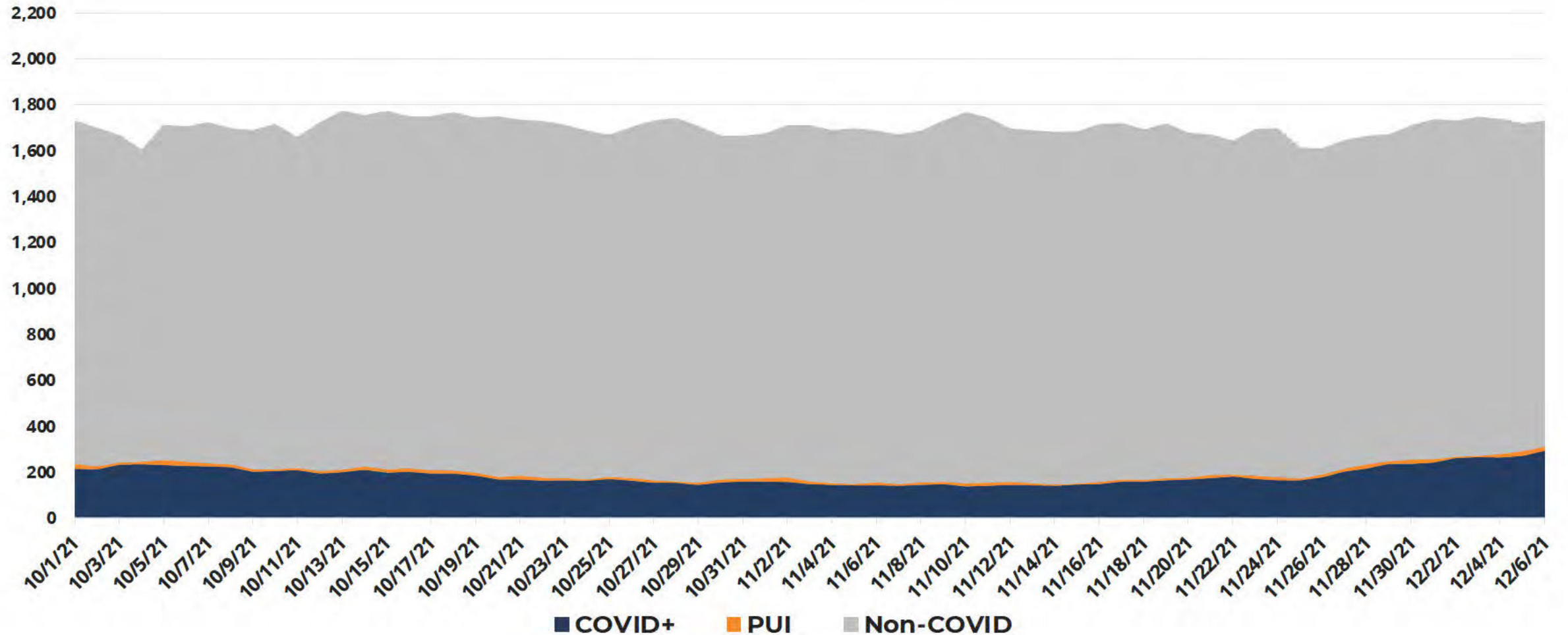
Delaware Emergency
Management Agency

Delaware Hospitalizations: COVID+, Patients Under Investigation (PUI), and Non-COVID

11/01/2020 - 12/28/2020



Delaware Hospitalizations: COVID+, Patients Under Investigation (PUI), and Non-COVID 10/01/2021 - 12/06/2021



KNOW YOUR
COVID-19 STATUS

TESTING

November 27- December 3

14,258

November 20- November 26

9,503

November 13- November 19

23,830

November 6- November 12

33,231

Rapid Testing

Rapid testing is available at some of DPH's clinics and COVID-19 vaccination sites, including:

Oxford/University Public Health Clinic

256 Chapman Road, Ste. 100
Newark, DE 19702

Blue Hen Corporate Center

655 S. Bay Road, Ste. 1A
Dover, DE 19901

Georgetown Plaza Shopping Center

19 Georgetown Plaza
Georgetown, DE 19947

Appointments are recommended. Walk-in availability is limited.

de.gov/getmyvaccine



Get your
COVID-19 VACCINE

de.gov/getmyvaccine

DELAWARE'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Press Briefing
December 21, 2021

de.gov/covidvaccine

STATE OF DELAWARE

DATA UPDATE

748.1

New Cases

7-day Average

10.8%

Positive Tests

7-day Average

390 with **49** critical

Hospitalizations

2,249

Lives Lost

View more COVID-19 data: de.gov/healthycommunity

STATE OF DELAWARE

HOSPITALIZATIONS

Latest: 390

December 20, 2021

Peak: 474 – January 14, 2021

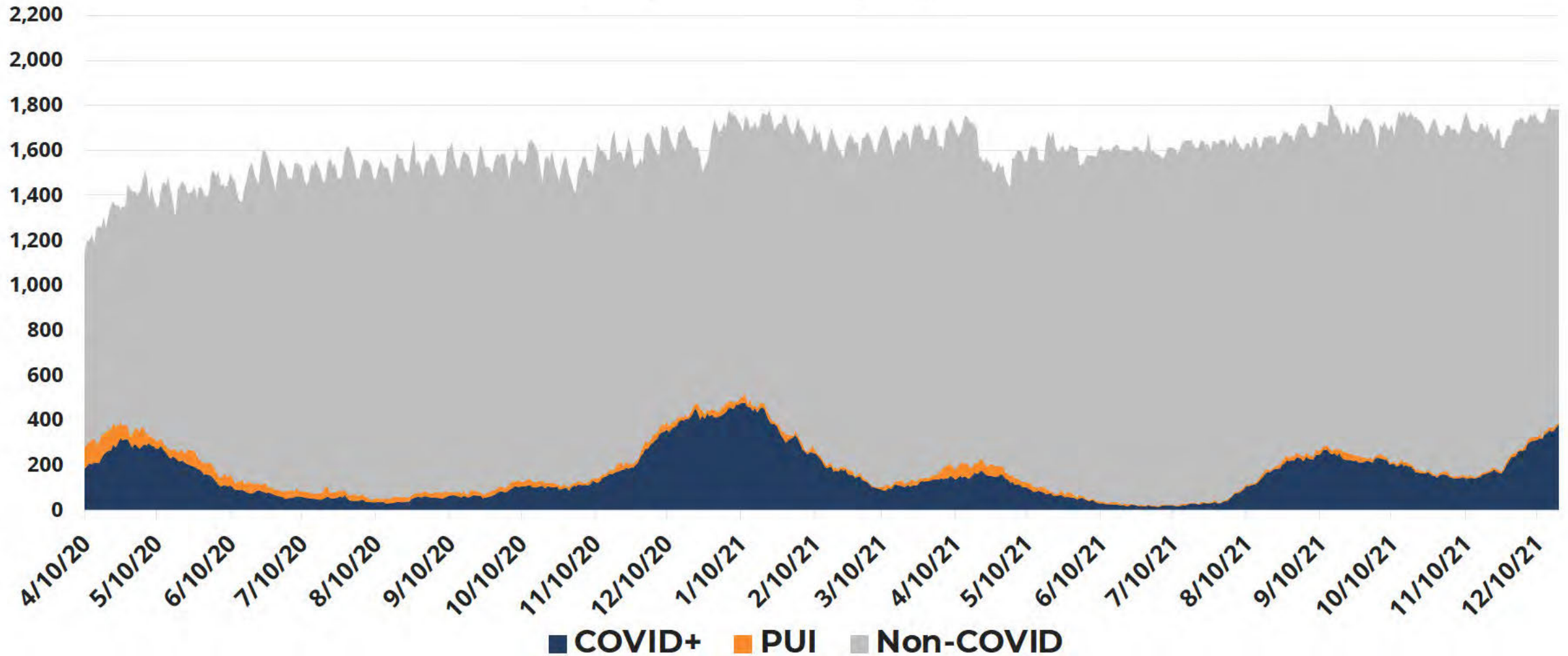
Lowest: 14
June 26, 2021



View more COVID-19 data: de.gov/healthycommunity

Delaware Hospitalizations: COVID+, Patients Under Investigation (PUI), and Non-COVID

4/10/2021 - 12/19/2021



Week of 12/06/2021– 12/12/2021

71%

**of COVID-19 hospitalizations
were unvaccinated or partially
vaccinated individuals**

STATE OF DELAWARE

VACCINE UPDATE

**Total Vaccines
Administered**

1,543,502

**Fully
Vaccinated**

618,343 (63.5%)

67.3%

Delawareans 5+
fully vaccinated

72.6%

Delawareans 12+
fully vaccinated

74.2%

Delawareans 18+
fully vaccinated

92.5%

Delawareans 65+
fully vaccinated

Data as of: December 20, 2021 - 6:00am

CDC Data: covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations

Fully Vaccinated - *Rates by Age Group*

Age	Statewide	New Castle County	Kent County	Sussex County
5-11	12.2%	15.4%	6.7%	8.3%
12-17	52.8%	60%	44.1%	40.8%
18-34	40.1%	54.6%	40.4%	45.4%
35-49	62.4%	65.9%	56%	57.8%
50-64	73.1%	74.5%	70.5%	71.9%
65+	91.9%	90.6%	88.1%	95.7%

View more COVID-19 data: de.gov/healthycommunity

STATE OF DELAWARE

BOOSTERS

Population	Percentage of fully vaccinated population	Number of People
Total Population	31.2%	192,915
65+	56.8%	99,233
50+	45.6%	152,610
18+	33.7%	192,545

CDC Data: [covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations](https://www.covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations)

DPH COVID-19 Vaccination Sites

Williams Public Health Clinic

805 River Rd
Dover, DE 19901

Hours: M-F 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
AND 1:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Riverwalk Public Health Clinic

253 NE Front Street
Milford, DE 19963

Hours: M-F 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
AND 1:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Adams Public Health Clinic

546 S Bedford Street
Georgetown, DE 19947

Hours: M-F 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
AND 1:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Shipley Public Health Clinic

350 Virginia Avenue
Seaford, DE 19973

Hours: M-F 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
AND 1:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Porter Public Health Clinic

509 W. 8th St.
PH Clinic-2nd Floor
Wilmington, DE 19801

Hours: M-F 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
AND 1:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Hudson Public Health Clinic

501 Ogletown Road
Newark, DE 19711

Hours: M-F 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
AND 1:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Oxford/University Plaza Public Health Clinic

256 Chapman Road, Ste 100
Newark, DE 19702

Hours: M-F 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
AND 1:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Edward W. Pyle State Service Center

34314 Pyle Center Road
Frankford, DE 19945

Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Blue Hen Corporate Center

655 S. Bay Road, Suite 1A
Dover, DE 19901

Hours: M-F 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
AND 1:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Georgetown Plaza Shopping Center

19 Georgetown Plaza
Georgetown, DE 19947

Hours: MWF 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
AND 1:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Tues/Thurs 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Canby Park (Elizabeth Shopping Mall)

1946 Maryland Ave.
Wilmington, DE 19805

Hours: MWF 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
AND 1:15 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Tues/Thurs 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

**Appointments
recommended**

Check hours:
de.gov/getmyvaccine

Questions? Call: 1-833-643-1715 option 3

KNOW YOUR COVID-19 STATUS



At-Home Tests:

- **Vault Health** (free)
 - Request a kit: de.gov/hometest
- **Pixel - LabCorp** (free)
 - Learn more at de.gov/gettested

Fighting the Surge

- All DE hospitals have postponed elective surgeries
- Get vaccinated or get your booster
- Wear masks indoors in public

Fighting the Surge

Hospital and long-term care support:

- Training National Guard to work as CNAs to support long term care
- At least 50 members will be onboarded by mid-January

Contact tracing in schools:

- CDC resources to support contact tracing in schools
- Shifting community contact tracers to support school nurses

THANK YOU, SCHOOL NURSES!

Listen to your school nurse.

*They are working hard to keep their
school communities safe!*



Get your
COVID-19 VACCINE

de.gov/getmyvaccine

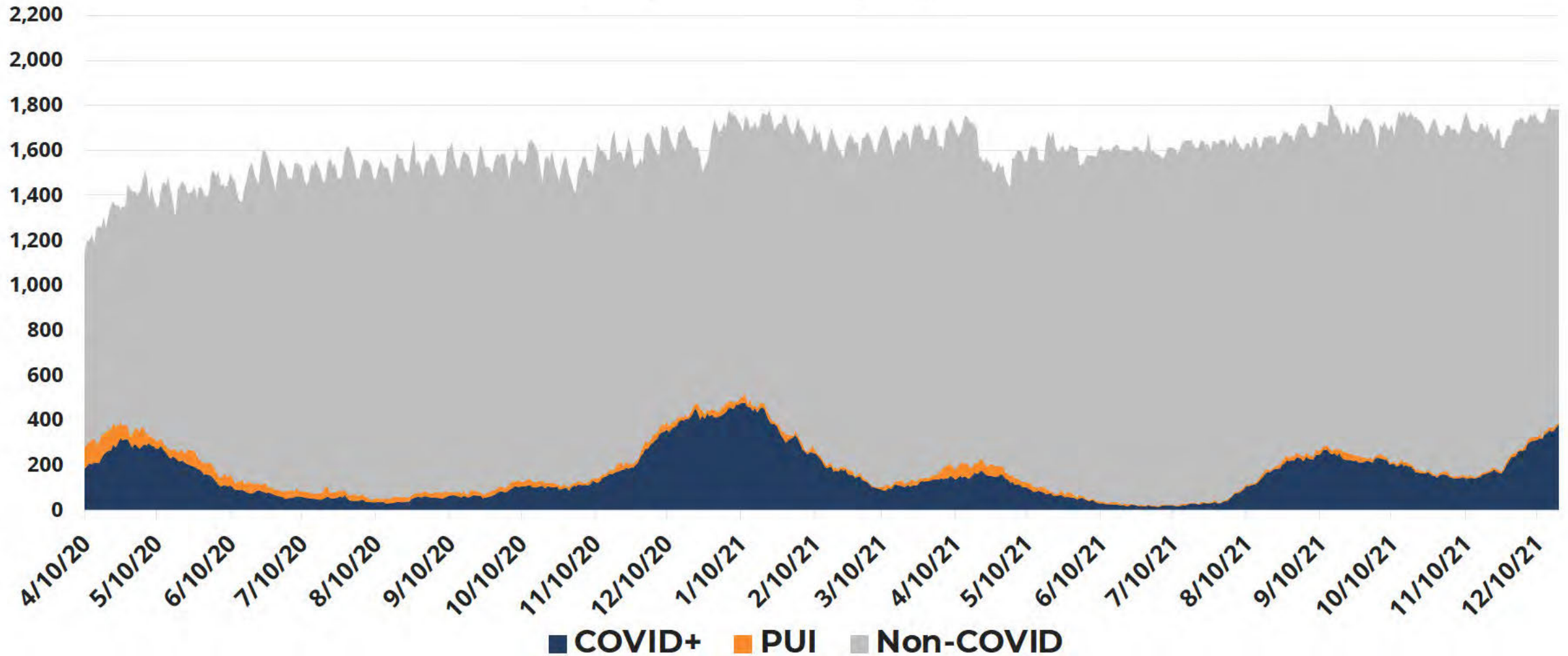
**Sharon
Kurfuerst**

**System Chief
Operating Officer;
President,
ChristianaCare Union
Hospital**

ChristianaCare

Delaware Hospitalizations: COVID+, Patients Under Investigation (PUI), and Non-COVID

4/10/2021 - 12/19/2021



We need your help.

In these trying times, we are working our hardest.

COVID-19 cases are rising, hospital beds are filling up and

WE NEED YOUR HELP.

Our doctors, nurses and people working in health care are doing everything we can to take care of you when you're sick. Yet every day we're seeing avoidable illness and death as a direct result of COVID-19.

The situation is critical.

Our emergency departments are crowded, and patients fill every hospital room – with some waiting in hallways for an opening. The pandemic has strained our operations and stressed our people. Care in our hospitals is safe but our ability to provide it is threatened.

At any time, you or a loved one might need our support. Heart attacks. Car accidents. Cancer. Stroke. Appendicitis. Flu Season is here and it is certain to increase the number of hospital patients. Now, an ominous question looms: will you be able to get care from your local community hospital without delay? Today, that's uncertain.

How does this happen in 2021 – almost two full years since this deadly pandemic began? How can we as a society stand by and watch people die when a simple shot could prevent a life-threatening illness? Your access to health care is being seriously threatened by COVID-19. We need to stop the spread!

Today, we ask you to:

- Get vaccinated and get your booster
- Wear a mask (even if you are vaccinated) and socially distance
- If you feel sick, get tested for COVID-19
- Get your flu vaccination
- Encourage your neighbors and loved ones to take these steps



Terry M. Murphy, FACHE,
President and CEO
Bayhealth

David A. Tam, MD, MBA, CPHE,
FACHE, President & CEO
Beebe Healthcare

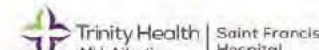
Janice E. Nevin, M.D., MPH,
President & CEO
ChristianaCare

Mark Mumford,
Executive Vice President,
Chief Executive, Delaware Valley
Nemours Children's Health

James L. Woodward,
President and CEO,
Trinity Health Mid-Atlantic, and
acting president of
Saint Francis Hospital

Penny Short, MSM, BSN, RN
President
TidalHealth Nanticoke

Vince Kane,
Director
Wilmington VA Medical Center





ChristianaCare™

**Health care workers have
been fighting COVID-19
since day 1.**



ChristianaCare™

What we are asking of you:

- **Get vaccinated and get your booster**
- **Wear a mask (even if you are vaccinated) and socially distance**
- **If you feel sick, get tested for COVID-19**
- **Get your flu vaccination**
- **Encourage your neighbors and loved ones to take these steps**



BOOST YOUR PROTECTION!

Adults 18+ are eligible • de.gov/boosters



**DR.
DAVID
TAM**

President & CEO

Beebe Healthcare



Beebe is here and able to care for you in our hospital and in our outpatient care centers.

- Found innovative way to make sure Sussex Countians received care
- COVID Vaccine and Testing centers (Lewes and Millsboro) to ensure a more streamlined appointment for COVID vaccine and testing



We are extremely busy in our emergency rooms and our hospital, as the number of COVID patients continue to rise.

- Doubled COVID-19 inpatients since Thanksgiving
- A majority are unvaccinated
- Other illnesses and urgent cases have not stopped during the pandemic



Increase in COVID cases has led to a delay in certain non-urgent, elective surgeries.

- **The situation is critical**
- Critically ill patients of many age groups
- Healthcare workers are exhausted after nearly two years of this once in a lifetime global pandemic, but are still caring for patients



**We need your help to
decrease this upward trend.**

Please get vaccinated.

Already vaccinated? **Get your booster.**



Get your
COVID-19 VACCINE

de.gov/getmyvaccine

DELAWARE'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Press Briefing
December 30, 2021

de.gov/covidvaccine

STATE OF DELAWARE

DATA UPDATE

1,072.3

New Cases

7-day Average

15.1%

Positive Tests

7-day Average

454 with **46** critical

Hospitalizations

2,283

Lives Lost

Data as of: December 29, 2021 - 6:00pm

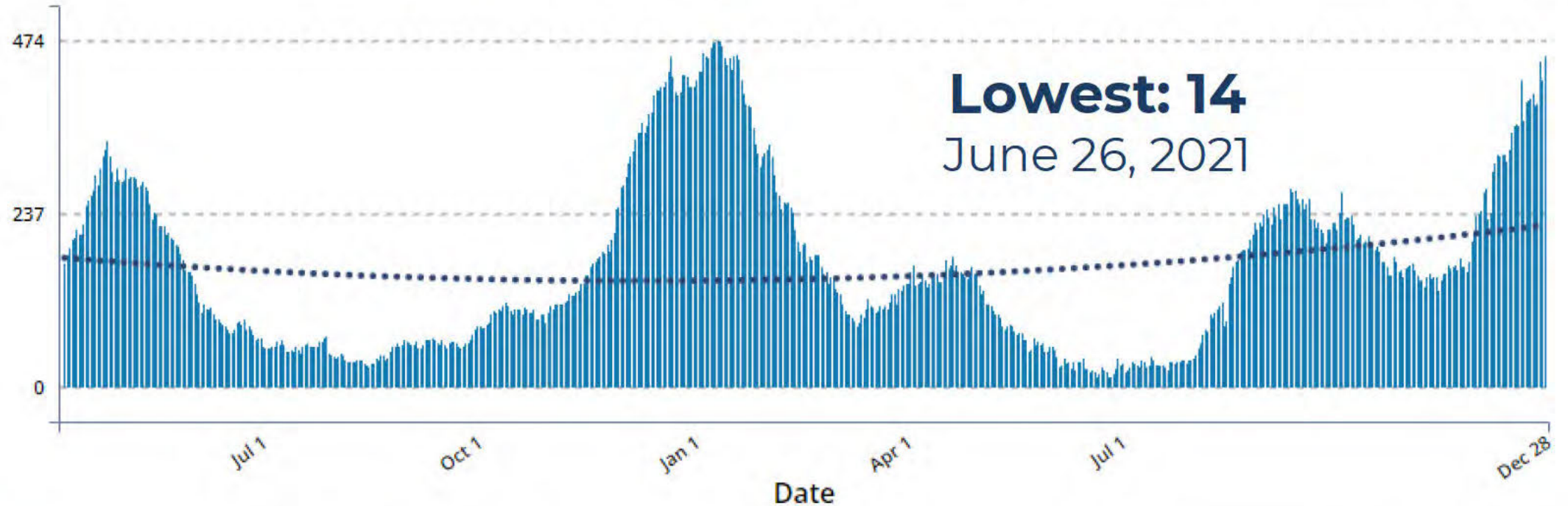
View more COVID-19 data: de.gov/healthycommunity

STATE OF DELAWARE

HOSPITALIZATIONS

Peak: 474 – January 14, 2021

Latest: 454
December 28, 2021

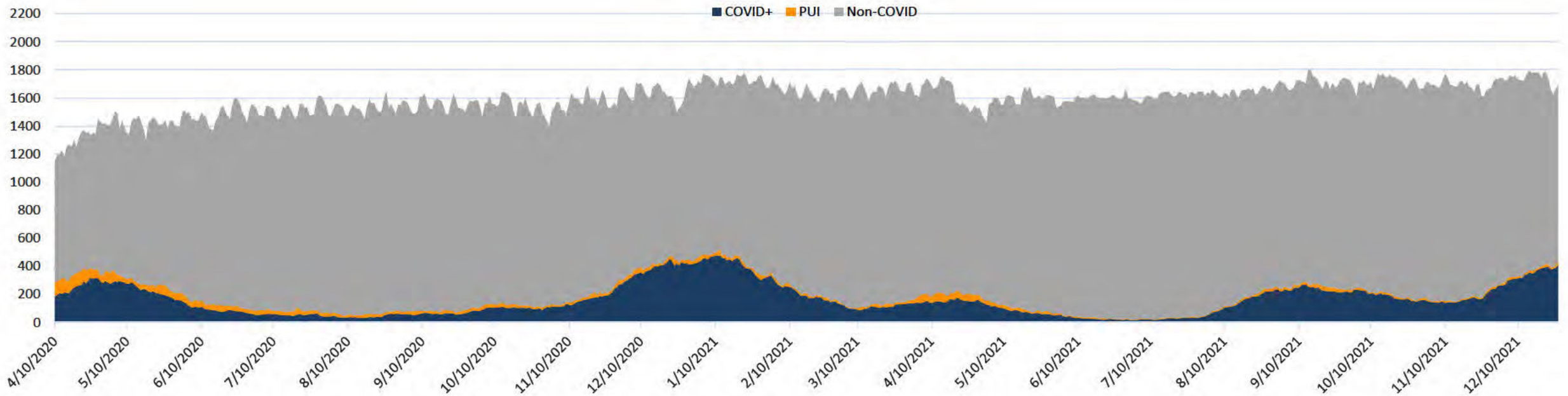


■ Current Hospitalizations (Statewide) ●●● Trend Line

View more COVID-19 data: de.gov/healthycommunity

Delaware Hospitalizations: COVID+, Patients Under Investigation (PUI), and Non-COVID

4/10/2021 - 12/27/2021



Week of 12/13/2021– 12/19/2021

78%

**of COVID-19 hospitalizations
were unvaccinated or partially
vaccinated individuals**

STATE OF DELAWARE

VACCINE UPDATE

**Total Vaccines
Administered**

1,578,095

**Fully
Vaccinated**

624,078 (64.1%)

67.9%

Delawareans 5+
fully vaccinated

73%

Delawareans 12+
fully vaccinated

74.7%

Delawareans 18+
fully vaccinated

92.8%

Delawareans 65+
fully vaccinated

Data as of: December 29, 2021 - 6:00am

CDC Data: covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations

Fully Vaccinated - Rates by Age Group

Age	Statewide	New Castle County	Kent County	Sussex County
5-11	14.2%	18%	7.6%	9.8%
12-17	53.2%	60.4%	44.3%	41.4%
18-34	50.5%	55%	40.8%	45.9%
35-49	62.8%	66.2%	56.4%	58.3%
50-64	73.4%	74.8%	70.7%	72.2%
65+	92.1%	90.8%	88.3%	95.8%

Data as of: December 29, 2021 - 6:00pm

View more COVID-19 data: de.gov/healthycommunity

STATE OF DELAWARE

BOOSTERS

Population	Percentage of fully vaccinated population	Number of People
Total Population	34%	211,953
65+	59.2%	103,738
50+	48.6%	163,529
18+	36.7%	210,962

Data as of: December 29, 2021 - 6:00am

CDC Data: covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations

Fighting the Surge

STATE OF EMERGENCY

Effective Monday, January 3, 2022

Additional flexibility to manage winter COVID-19 surge

Enable members of the Delaware National Guard to work as CNAs in skilled nursing facilities to care for patients currently in DE hospitals

Approximately 100 members of the Delaware National Guard are currently being trained to become CNAs

Fighting the Surge

Residents: Omicron is so contagious that you'll likely get it and pass it along if you don't mask up in public.

Businesses: Protect your workers and customers. Require masks if you don't want Omicron spreading through your business.

You likely will have an uninvited guest at your New Year's Eve party.

Chances are you're either bringing COVID-19 there or taking it home with you.



Get your
COVID-19 VACCINE

de.gov/getmyvaccine

**Secretary
Molly
Magarik**

*Delaware
Department of
Health and Social
Services (DHSS)*

RAMPING UP TESTING

Deploying COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Test
Kits to Underserved Populations

**DPH distributing
14,000 tests to community
health organizations**

Need a COVID-19 test?



It is best to book an appointment in advance.

Testing demand has increased significantly, and acceptance of walk-ins will be limited in some locations.

- ! Some testing locations may also be closed due to the New Year's holiday.

de.gov/gettested

ISOLATION & QUARANTINE

COVID-19 Positive?

Motivated by the science, CDC shortened the recommended time from **10 days to 5 days** based on certain conditions and vaccination status.

ISOLATION & QUARANTINE

COVID-19 Positive?

If you **do not have symptoms** five days after your positive test, you can leave isolation, but should continue to wear a well-fitting mask around others for an additional five days.

ISOLATION & QUARANTINE

COVID-19 Positive?

Notify close contacts.

If symptomatic, **stay home until they improve or fever resolves.**

If you have difficulty breathing, chest pain or other **emergency warning symptoms, seek medical care.**

ISOLATION & QUARANTINE

Exposed to COVID-19?

Get **tested on day 5 after exposure**, regardless of vaccination status.

If symptoms occur, individuals should immediately quarantine until a negative test confirms symptoms are not related to COVID-19.

ISOLATION & QUARANTINE

Exposed to COVID-19?

Fully vaccinated and boosted?

No quarantine necessary. Wear masks around others for 10 days.

Fully vaccinated within the last 6 months with Pfizer/Moderna or 2 months for J&J?

No quarantine necessary. Wear masks around others for 10 days.

Fully vaccinated more than 6 months with Pfizer/Moderna or 2 months for J&J?

Quarantine for 5 days. Wear masks around others for 10 days.

Unvaccinated?

Quarantine for 5 days. Wear masks around others for 10 days.

ISOLATION & QUARANTINE

Clearance Letters

Due to demand, **DPH will be unable to provide clearance letters from this point forward.**

Clearance letters are not required to return to work or school.

Please consult your employer or school for further guidance.



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
Division of Public Health

SPREAD CHEER.

NOT COVID-19.

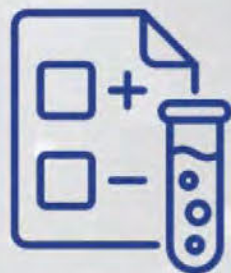
It's the season for gathering with friends and family. But as you do, remember that COVID-19 doesn't take a holiday. So, if you're gathering, make sure to celebrate safely. Keep yourself and your loved ones healthy this season.



Get vaccinated.



Wear a mask in public settings.



Get tested 1-2 days before getting together.



Stay home if you're sick.



Wash your hands regularly.



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Division of Public Health

For more information, visit de.gov/holidays.

**Dr. Gary
Siegelman**

Chief Medical Officer

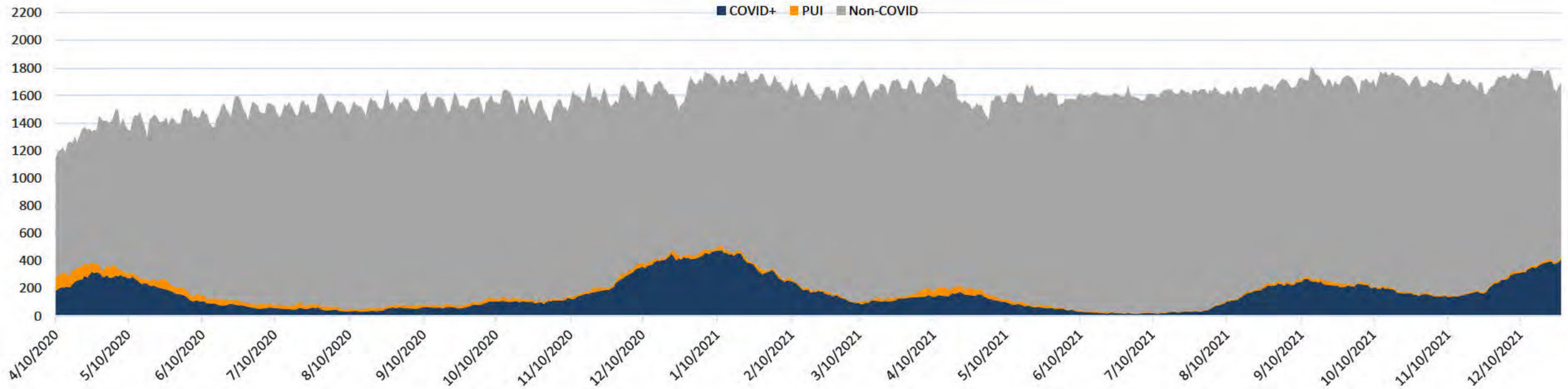
**Dr. Ellie
Salinski**

**Assistant Medical
Director of Emergency
Services**

Bayhealth

Delaware Hospitalizations: COVID+, Patients Under Investigation (PUI), and Non-COVID

4/10/2021 - 12/27/2021



DE Hospital Capacity

Total inpatient beds At or near capacity

ICU beds At or near capacity

Patient mix Approximately 40% COVID

Approximately 60%
due to delayed care

Everyone has a role.

In these trying times, we are working our hardest.

COVID-19 cases are rising, hospital beds are filling up and

WE NEED YOUR HELP.

Our doctors, nurses and people working in health care are doing everything we can to take care of you when you're sick. Yet every day we're seeing avoidable illness and death as a direct result of COVID-19.

The situation is critical.

Our emergency departments are crowded, and patients fill every hospital room -- with some waiting in hallways for an opening. The pandemic has strained our operations and stressed our people. Care in our hospitals is safe but our ability to provide it is threatened.

At any time, you or a loved one might need our support. Heart attacks. Car accidents. Cancer. Stroke. Appendicitis. Flu Season is here and it is certain to increase the number of hospital patients. Now, an ominous question looms: will you be able to get care from your local community hospital without delay? Today, that's uncertain.

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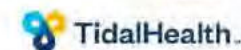
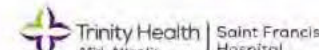
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President and CEO,
Trinity Health Mid-Atlantic, and
acting president of
Saint Francis Hospital

Penny Short, MSM, BSN, RN
President
TidalHealth Nanticoke

Vince Kane,
Director
Wilmington VA Medical Center



What You Can Do:

Get vaccinated and stay up on boosters

Wear a mask regardless of vaccination status

Socially distance regardless of vaccination status

Practice good hand hygiene

Need a COVID-19 test? Don't go to the ER.



Our hospitals are strained by increasing numbers of patients with serious COVID illness, and flu.

Save the ER, Emergency Room, for emergencies!

Visit de.gov/gettested for a list of testing options near you.

de.gov/gettested

THANK YOU, HEALTH CARE WORKERS!

**Say thank you by doing the
things we know that work.**

*Wearing a mask. Staying distant. Getting
vaccinated and boosted if you are eligible.*



Get your

COVID-19 VACCINE

de.gov/getmyvaccine