

Georgia Board of Public Health

Sept. 13, 2022

Agenda

- Call to order
- Roll Call
- Approval/Adoption of Minutes
- New Business
 - Commissioner's Report
 - Epidemiology Updates
 - COVID
 - Monkeypox
 - Monkeypox Vaccination
 - Strategic Plan
- Board Comments
- Adjournment

Commissioner's Report

Board of Public Health / Kathleen E. Toomey, M.D., M.P.H. / Sept. 13, 2022

Epidemiology Update

Board of Public Health / Cherie L. Drenzek, DVM, MS, State Epidemiologist / Sept. 13, 2022

Introduction

Infectious diseases are ever-changing and unpredictable!

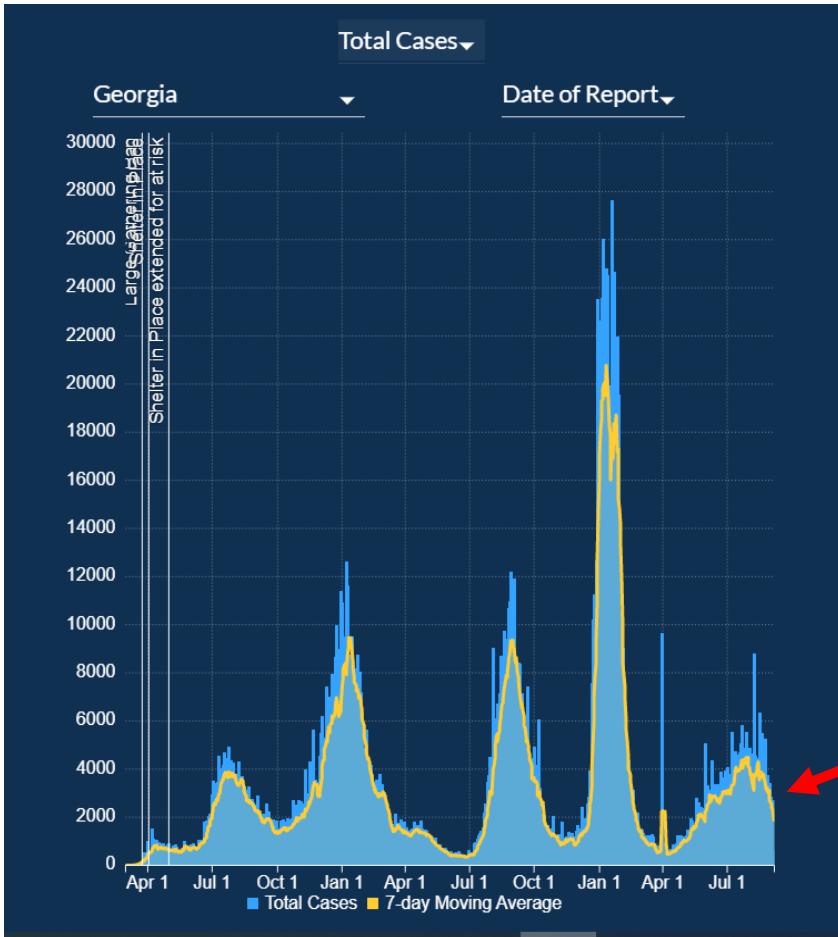
Surveillance and epidemiologic investigation are the cornerstones of prevention and control recommendations.

Illustrated by: COVID and Monkeypox global outbreaks

Snapshot of COVID-19 (9/13/22): “BA.5 Receding?”

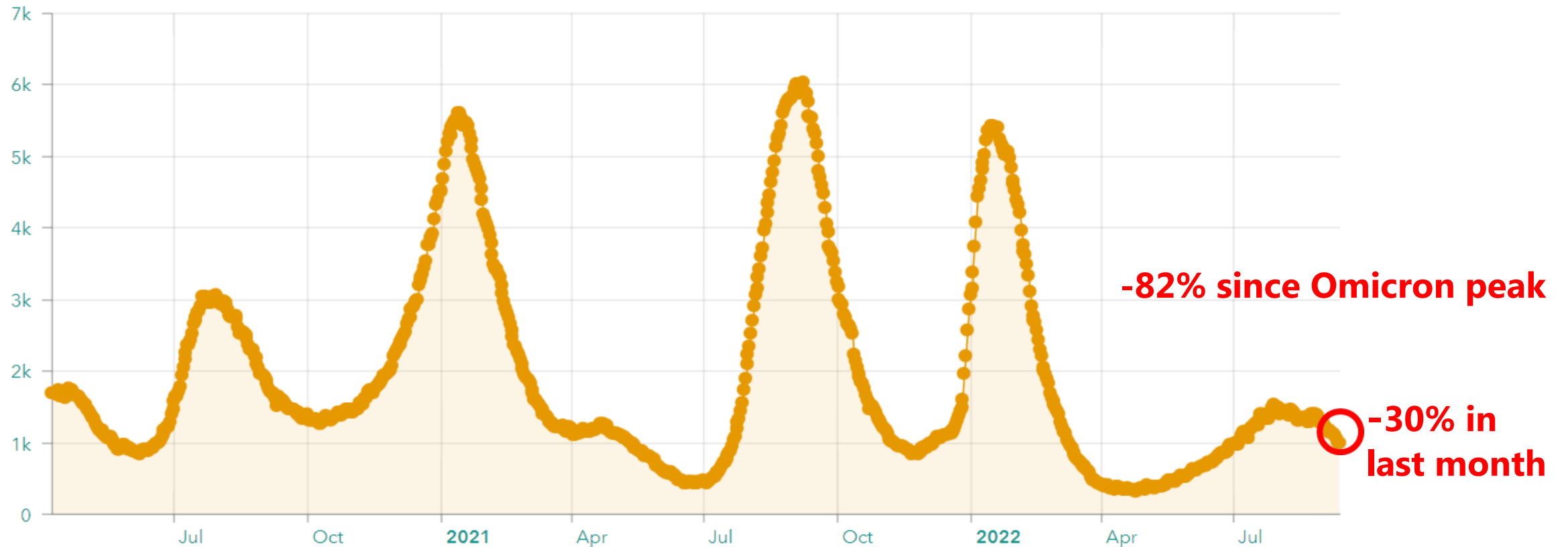
- The BA.5 subvariant is responsible for nearly all SARS-CoV-2 infections now (holding steady at ~89% of the total for weeks)
- In the US and Georgia, COVID case numbers have been **steadily decreasing** over the last several weeks. For example, last week we saw a 38% decline in cases in Georgia.
- Hospitalizations and deaths have also also have **declined** about 20% in the last two weeks (we are seeing about 120 deaths/week now)
- Note that the magnitude is likely greater than surveillance numbers show because of home test, **so caution and prevention always remain prudent (including vaccination/boosters).**

Total COVID-19 Cases

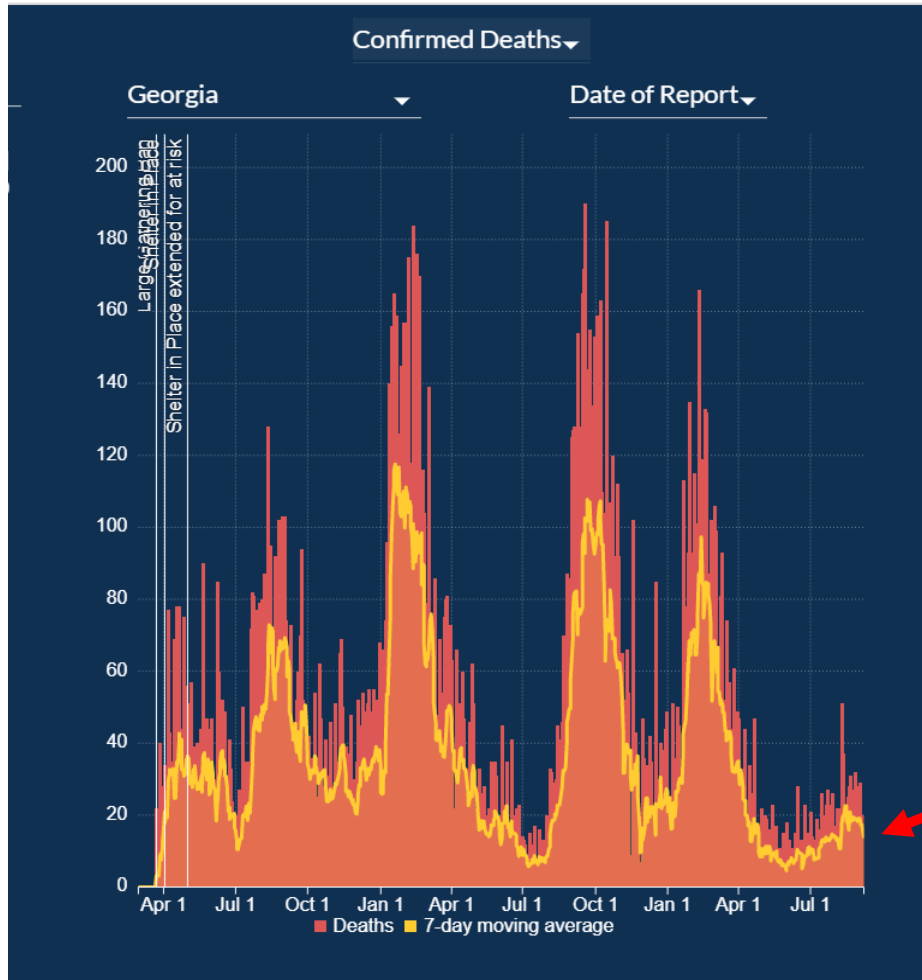


COVID-19 Hospitalizations

Daily Counts of COVID-19 Patients

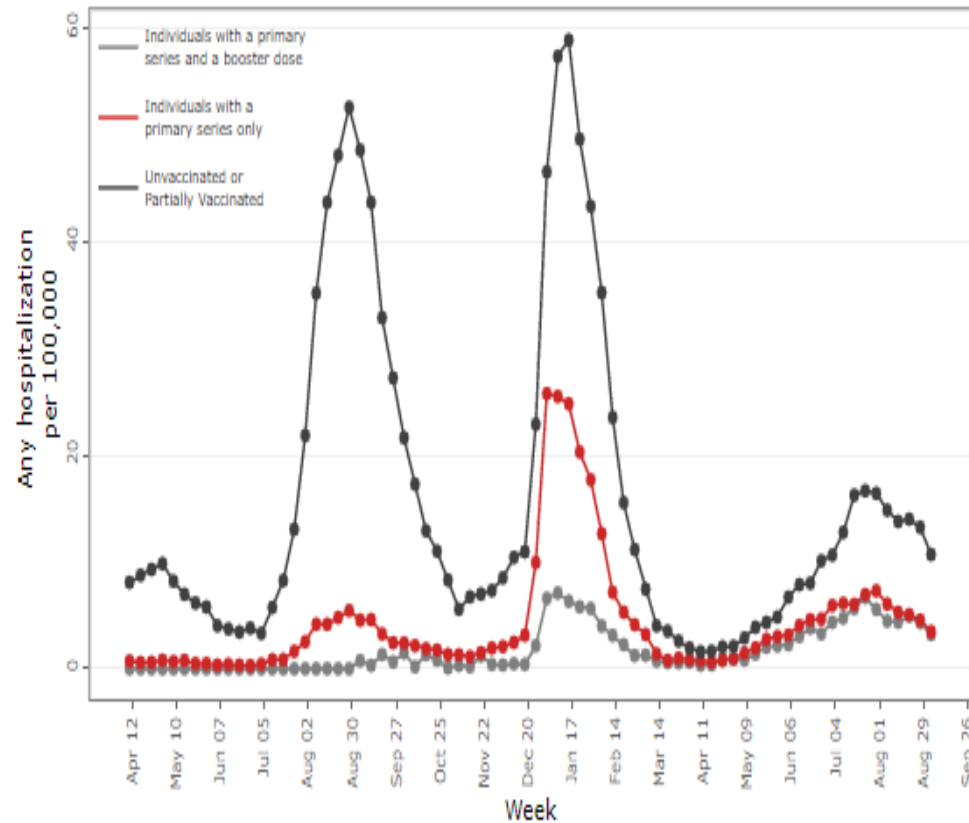


COVID-19 Deaths

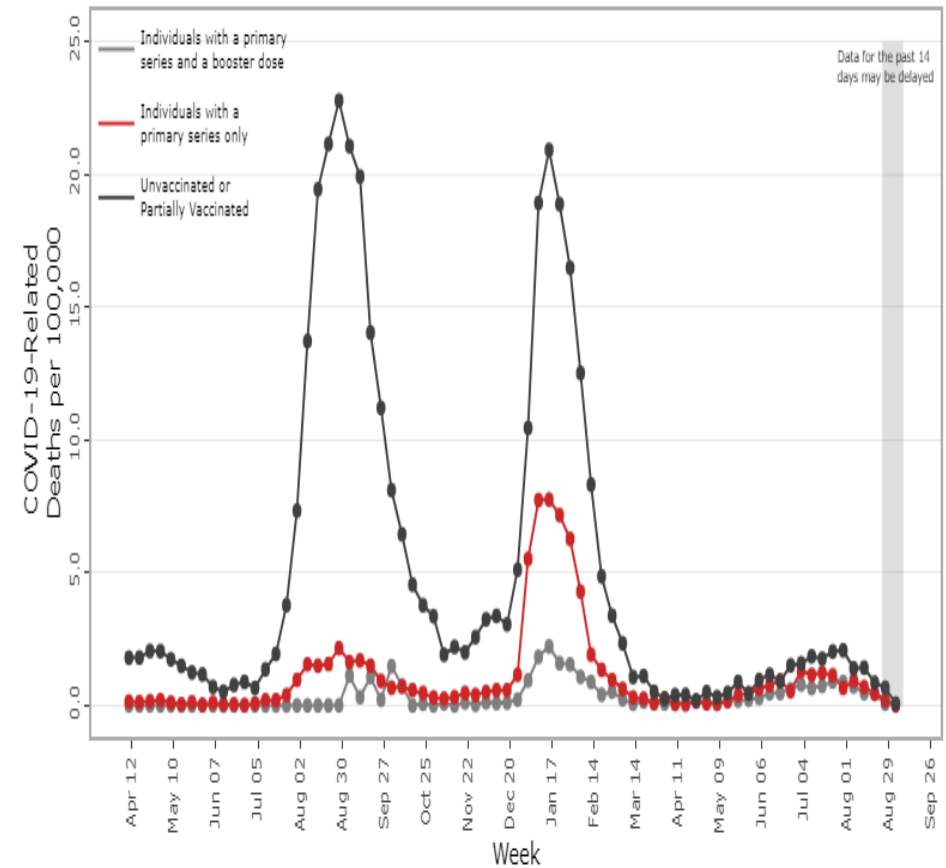


Hospitalizations and Deaths by Vaccine Status

Any Hospitalization per 100,000 by Date of Positive Test and Vaccination Status (Age-Adjusted) 2021-04-10 to 2022-09-08



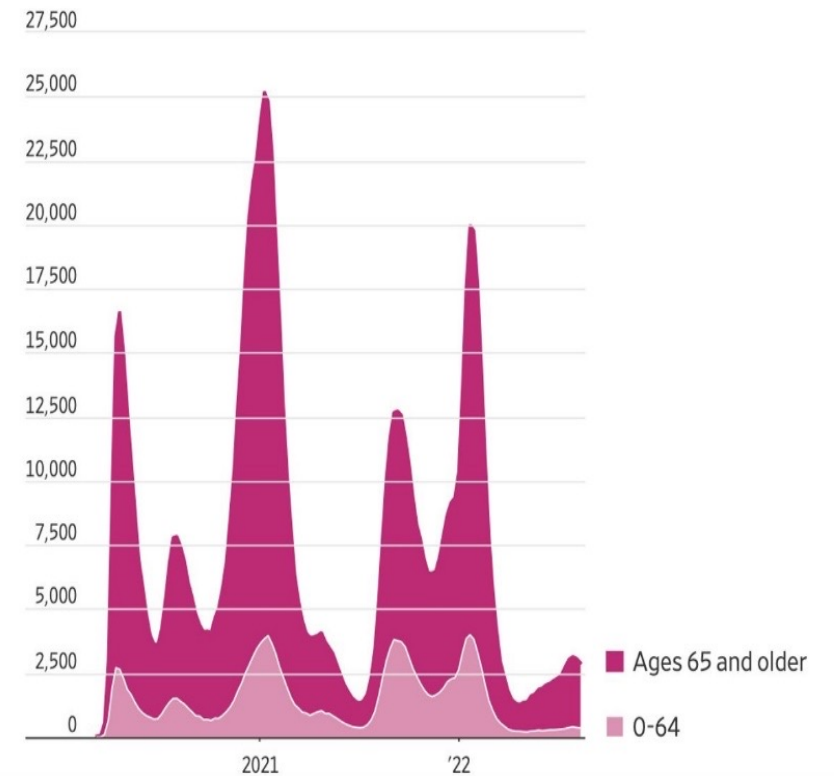
COVID-19-Related Deaths per 100,000 by Date of Positive Test and Vaccination Status (Age-Adjusted) 2021-04-10 to 2022-09-08



Summary

- Still no complacency: SARS-CoV-2 is still with us, has proven very adept at changing, and still kills about 375 Americans per day. We should expect additional waves.
- Vaccination, **boosters**, surveillance, testing, and traditional mitigation are critical WHEN we face other variants that emerge and result in surges over the next several years.
- Get your bivalent booster!

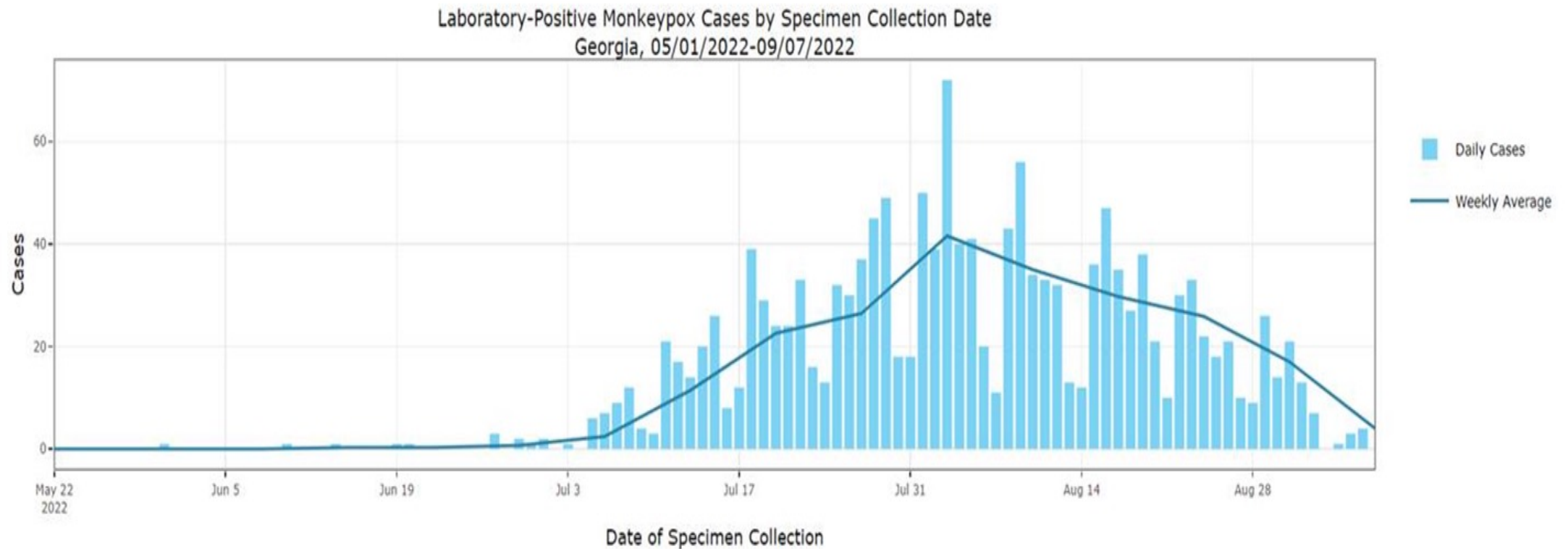
Covid-19 deaths, weekly, by age group



Monkeypox Outbreak: Epidemiology

- Globally, since May, there have been 58K monkeypox cases with 22K in the US alone
- Georgia has 1592 cases in 60 counties, but 86% of cases are in the metro Atlanta area.
- Case rates have been consistently slowing over the last few weeks nationally and in Georgia ("cautiously optimistic").

Monkeypox Epi Curve, Georgia

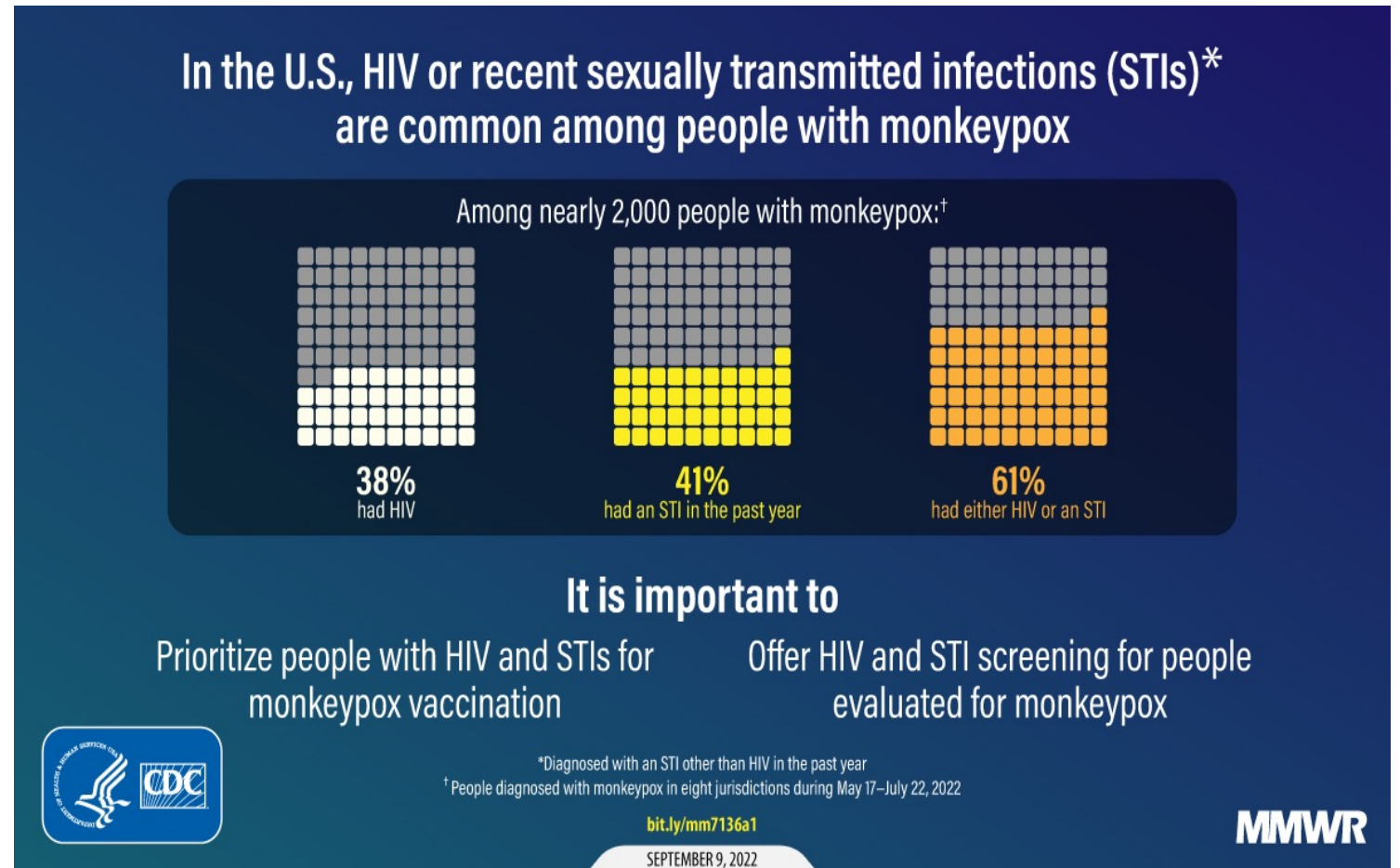


Monkeypox in Georgia: Epidemiology (cont'd)

- Gender of cases: 98% are male; 2% are female
- Vast majority of cases identify as MSM
- Age range of cases: 4-68 years, median: 34 years; 3 pediatric cases
- Race/Ethnicity (known for 95% cases): Vast majority **Black (80%) and Non-Hispanic (92%)**
- Main risk factor reported was close, sustained physical or sexual contact with someone who had monkeypox
- 5% of cases were hospitalized
- **60% of cases are HIV-positive and 50% had an STI in the past year**
- Important data to inform interventions, vaccinations, and equity decisions

HIV and STIs among Monkeypox Cases

- New CDC MMWR shows that people with monkeypox have higher than expected rates of HIV and STIs.
- Recommends that people with HIV infection and STIs be prioritized for monkeypox vaccination
- Offer HIV and STI testing for patients evaluated for monkeypox.
- <https://bit.ly/mm7136a1>



What is Monkeypox?

Monkeypox is a virus that can cause a rash, bumps, or sores on or near the genitals, or anal area, but also on other areas like the hands, feet, chest, face, or mouth. These sores can be very painful.

The monkeypox virus can also cause flu-like symptoms like fever, headache, muscle aches and backache, swollen lymph nodes, chills, exhaustion, sore throat, nasal congestion, and cough.

2022 U.S. Monkeypox Outbreak

[Learn more at CDC](#)



GA Monkeypox Outbreak Cases and Vaccinations

WEEKLY REPORTS

Follow the Latest Healthcare Guidance

LEARN MORE



How does Monkeypox spread?

- person-to-person through direct contact with the infectious rash, scabs, or body fluids.
- respiratory secretions during prolonged, face-to-face contact, or during intimate physical contact, such as kissing, cuddling, or sex.
- Touching items (such as clothing or linens) that previously touched the infectious rash or body fluids is another way monkeypox spreads but **has not been identified to be a common mode of transmission in this outbreak or for monkeypox in general.**

<https://dph.georgia.gov/monkeypox>

Closing Comments

1. Infectious diseases are ever-changing and unpredictable!
2. **Surveillance and epidemiologic investigation are** the cornerstones of prevention and control recommendations, including medical countermeasures for pre-and/or post-exposure prophylaxis.

Questions

For more information, please contact:

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Monkeypox Vaccination

Board of Public Health / Alexander Millman, M.D., Chief Medical Officer / Sept. 13, 2022

FDA Dose Sparing Strategy

- On August 9, FDA issued an emergency use authorization (EUA) allowing an alternative dosing regimen for individuals ≥ 18 years.
- The alternative dosing regimen is 0.1mL administered intradermally given in two doses four weeks (28 days) apart.
- Results from a clinical study showed that the lower intradermal dose was immunologically non-inferior to the standard subcutaneous dose.
- Administration by the intradermal route resulted in more redness, firmness, itchiness and swelling at the injection site compared to subcutaneous administration.

<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/interim-considerations/jynneos-vaccine.html#interim>

Vaccine Supply and Availability

- As part of an effort to control MPX in the United States, the federal government has allocated the limited supply of Jynneos vaccine to jurisdictions
- Vaccines are being offered by appointments in all health districts
 - <https://gta-vras.powerappsportals.us/en-US/>
 - Vaccine Scheduling Resource Line at (888) 457-0186
- Given the currently limited available supply, vaccine is being prioritized for specific indications

Current Vaccine Priorities

- Postexposure Prophylaxis (PEP)
 - For high-risk exposure to a confirmed MPX case
 - Most beneficial when within 4 days of exposure but some may benefit up to 14 days following exposure
 - If given between 4–14 days after the date of exposure, vaccination may reduce the symptoms of disease, but may not prevent the disease.
- Expanded Postexposure Prophylaxis (PEP++)
 - For people with certain risk factors that might make them likely to have had high-risk exposure to someone with MPX
 - Used for response to outbreaks in areas where spread is occurring

Georgia MPX Vaccine Administration Data

As of September 7, 2022, there were 22,320 first dose recipients and 4,523 second dose recipients

Characteristic	First Dose Recipient	Second Dose Recipient
25-45 year age group	59.3%	67%
Male	93.9%	97.5%
Black or African American	45.5%	43.1%
Non-Hispanic	90.4%	91.4%

Data are updated weekly on Wednesdays:
<https://dph.georgia.gov/monkeypox>

Vaccine Outreach Activities

- DPH has partnered with local health departments and the community-based organizations to conduct outreach activities to increase MPX vaccination in highly affected populations
- Ongoing vaccination efforts include routine vaccination clinics at health departments, mass vaccination events, and pop up vaccination events
- Social media advertisements about prevention and vaccination have been purchased on social media apps frequently used by MSM
- DPH participated in federal government initiative, which provided additional vaccine for use prior and during Atlanta Black Pride

Atlanta Black Pride MPX Vaccine – Aug. 27-Sept. 5, n=4212

Ethnicity	Total Doses Administered	Percent
Hispanic or Latino	324	7.7
Not Hispanic or Latino	3795	90.1
Unknown	93	2.2
Race	Total Doses Administered	Percent
American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	20	0.5
Asian	131	3.1
Black or African American	2044	48.5
White	1598	37.9
Other	354	8.4
Unknown	65	1.5

Ongoing DPH Vaccine Efforts

- Broadened vaccine eligibility criteria to increase access to populations that may have higher likelihood of exposure to MPX
- Working with local health departments and community-based organizations to arrange second dose vaccine activities for those who were vaccinated through outreach activities
- Continuing to work with community-based organizations that work with heavily affected populations
- Preparing to offer first and second dose vaccinations during Atlanta Pride in October
- Being ready to respond to changes in outbreak epidemiology that may require re-evaluating vaccination priorities in the context of the currently limited supply of vaccine

Questions

For more information, please contact:

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2022-2025 Strategic Plan

Board of Public Health / Megan Andrews, J.D. / Sept. 13, 2022

Governor's Goals

1. Make Georgia #1 for Small Business
2. Reform State Government
3. Put Georgians First

Make Georgia #1 for Small Business

- Develop a skilled workforce to meet current and future needs of public health.
- Reduce bureaucratic hurdles for small business by reforming licensure for mobile food service establishments.

Reform State Government

Exercise conservative budgeting by investing in initiatives that will provide long-term cost savings to the state.

- HIV Prevention
- HIV Treatment
- Return to Work & Facility Relocation

Expand public-private partnerships and leverage technology to best utilize limited state resources.

- IT Systems
- Chief Technology Office
- Georgia Public Health Laboratory Renovation
- Public Health Warehouse Transition

Put Georgians First

Lower costs, improve quality, and increase access to quality healthcare in every region.

- Maternal & Infant Mortality/Morbidity
- Lead Poisoning
- Immunization
- Opioids and Substance Misuse
- Tobacco Use & Vaping
- Congenital Infectious Disease

Questions

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Next Meeting

The next Board of Public Health Meeting
will be held Oct. 11, 2022