

# Georgia Board of Public Health

February 8, 2022

# Agenda

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- Call to order
- Roll Call
- Approval/Adoption of Minutes
- New Business
  - Commissioner's Report
  - Legislative Update
  - Epidemiology Update
  - COVID Therapeutics Update
  - COVID Vaccination and Testing Update
  - Commissioner's Closing Remarks
- Board Comments
- Adjournment

Mitch Rodriguez, M.D., Secretary

Mitch Rodriguez, M.D., Secretary

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Mitch Rodriguez, M.D., Secretary

# 2022 Legislative Session

Board of Public Health / Megan Andrews, J.D., Office of Government Relations / Feb. 8, 2022

# Legislative Schedule

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- Today is Legislative Session Day 13 (of 40)
- Crossover Day is scheduled for March 15<sup>th</sup>
- Sine Die is scheduled for April 4<sup>th</sup>



# Bill Tracking

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## 2022 Legislative Session

- 162 Bills (and counting)
- 56 of these bills are considered direct impact bills

## 2020 Legislative Session

- 186 Bills
- 43 of these bills were considered direct impact bills

# Agency Bills

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- Childhood Lead Poisoning
- EMS Rapback (SB404)- pass out of Senate Committee, awaiting Senate Floor vote
- Smokefree Air Act and Vaping
- Filming Patients in Health Care Facilities

# Questions

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For more information, please contact:

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# Epidemiology Update: COVID-19

Board of Public Health / Cherie L. Drenzek, DVM, MS, State Epidemiologist / Feb. 8, 2022



# Snapshot of COVID-19 in Georgia

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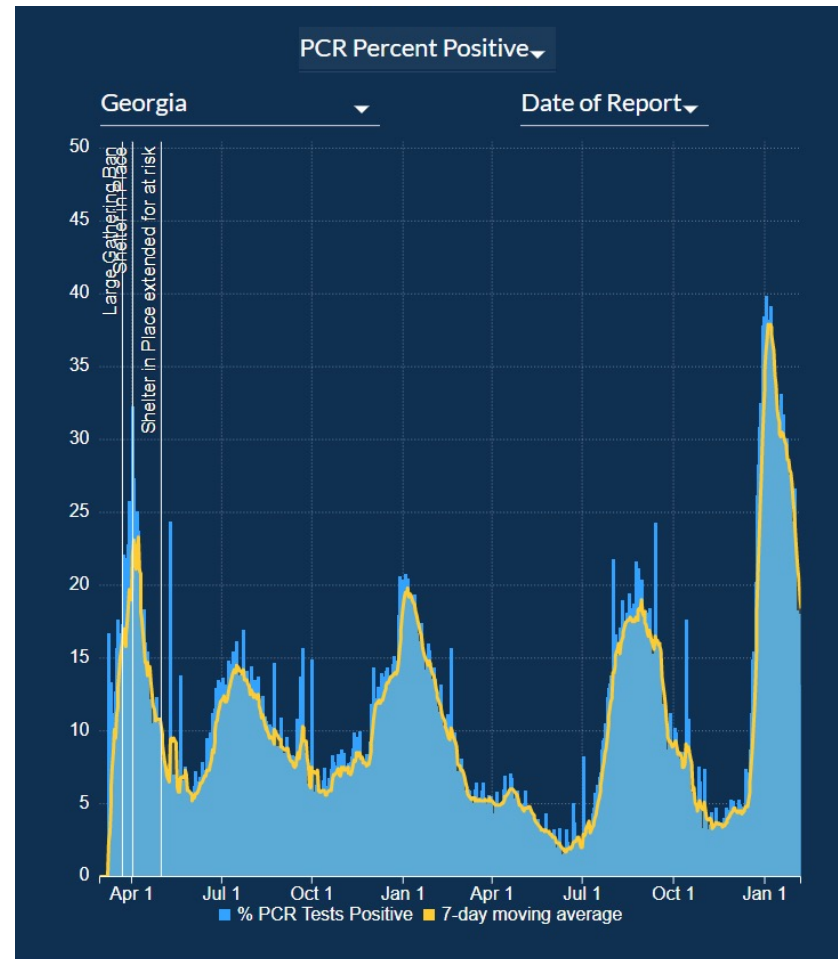
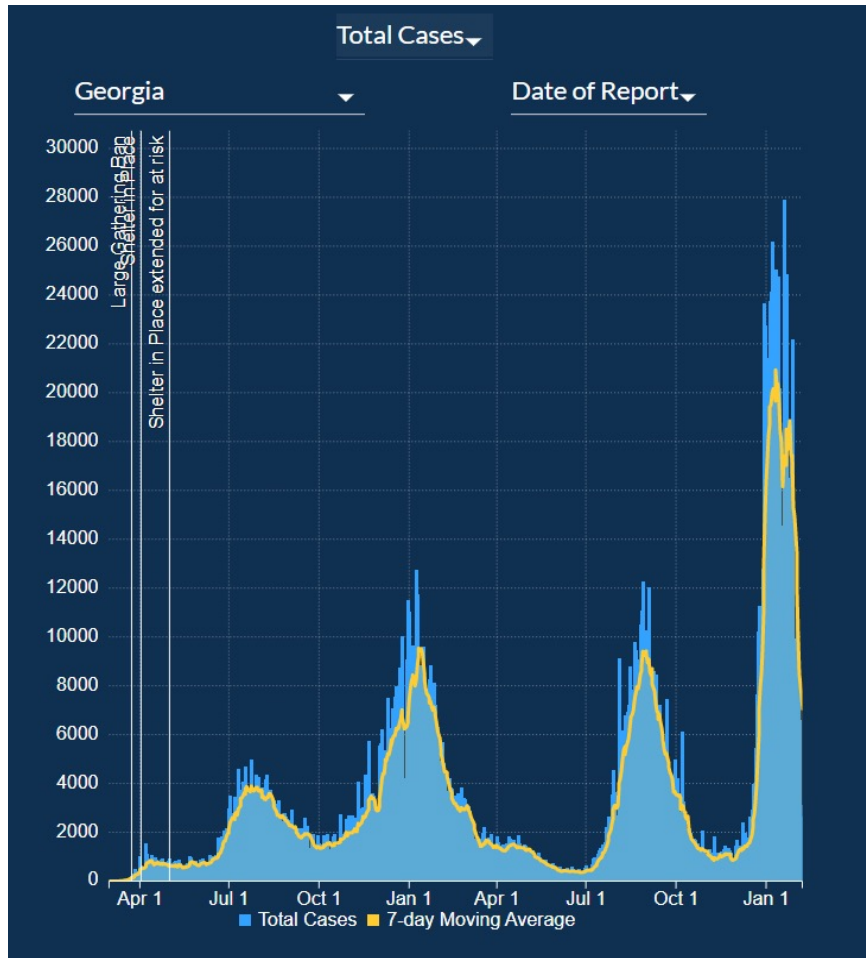
- Cumulative >2.4M cases, >104K hospitalizations, 33K deaths
- The Omicron variant surge began in early December with daily case counts increasing from 1,500 to 25,000 in a month and staying nearly this high throughout January.
- Over the last week, however, we are starting to see consistent sharp declines in case numbers (by more than half), down to about 4,000 daily.
- We had 116 COVID outbreaks reported this week, down from 156 last week (-26%). Half were in K-12 schools, a quarter in day care facilities, and about 10% in jails. Cases and outbreaks in LTCFs declined by 30%.

# Snapshot of COVID-19 in Georgia

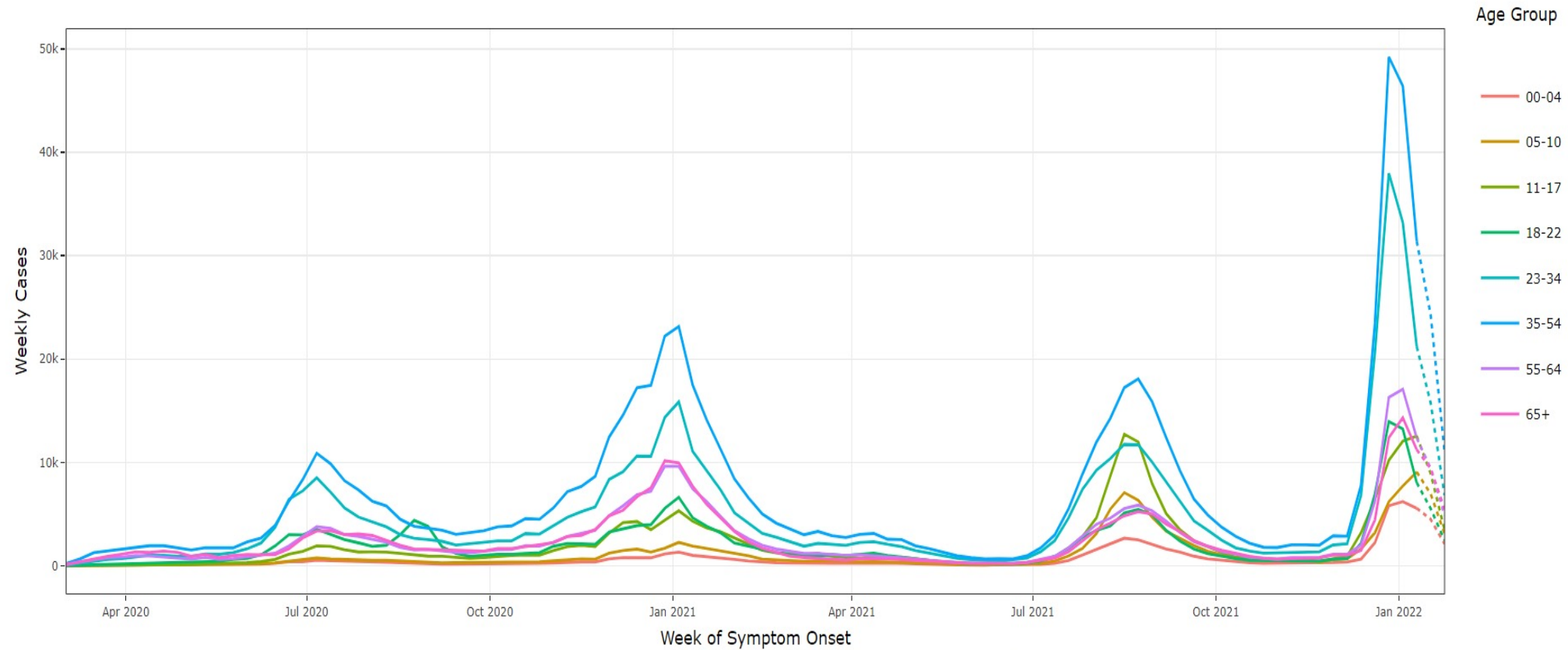
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- Hospitalizations increased by >5X during the Omicron surge but have declined by almost 50% in the last 7 days (and although “decoupled” from case numbers can still strain capacities).
- Death numbers are still increasing, though (by 86% over the last 14 days).
- 55% of the Georgia population is fully vaccinated and 21% boosted.
- **Despite increases in breakthrough infections due to Omicron, most all COVID deaths and hospitalizations have still occurred among unvaccinated individuals.**
- The national picture looks the same, with sharp declines in case numbers (-62%) and hospitalizations (-25%) but increasing deaths (+25%) over the last two weeks.

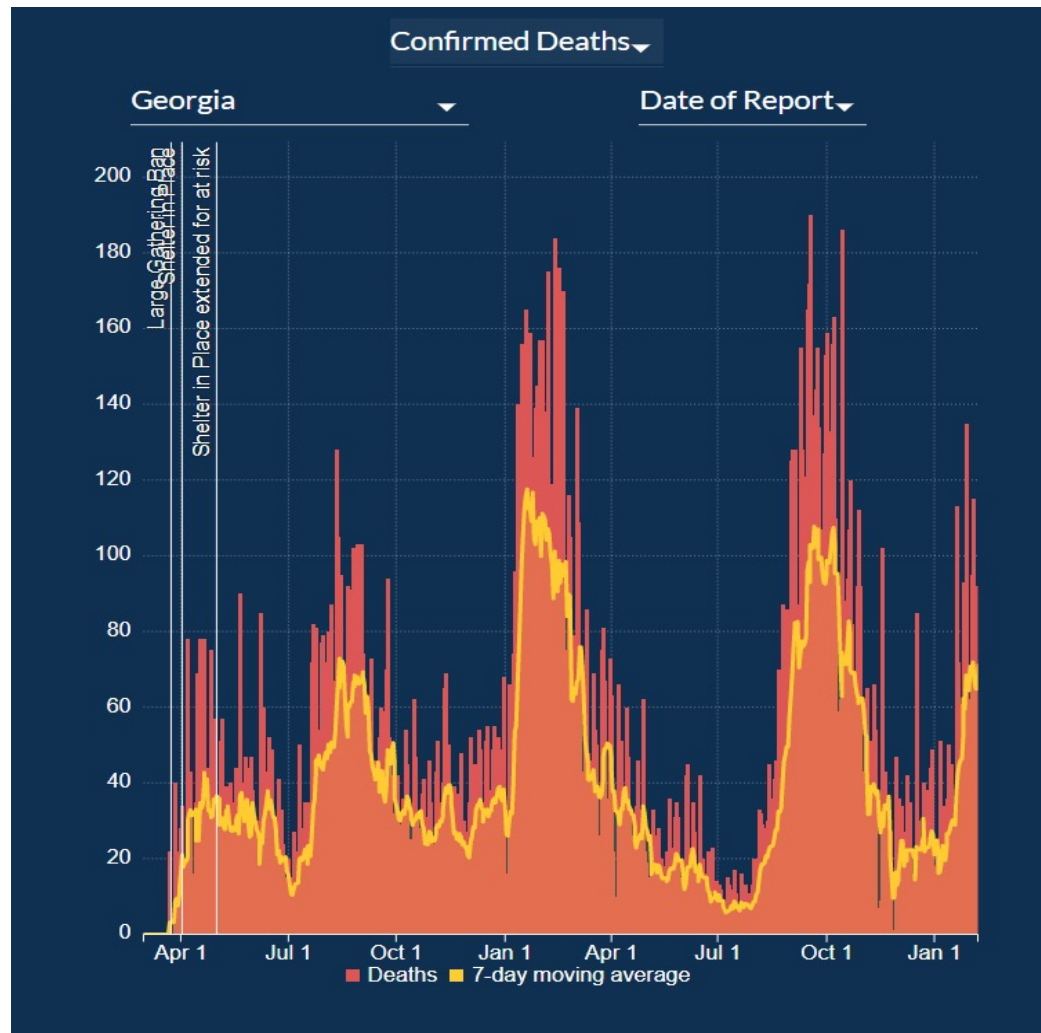
# Total COVID-19 Cases



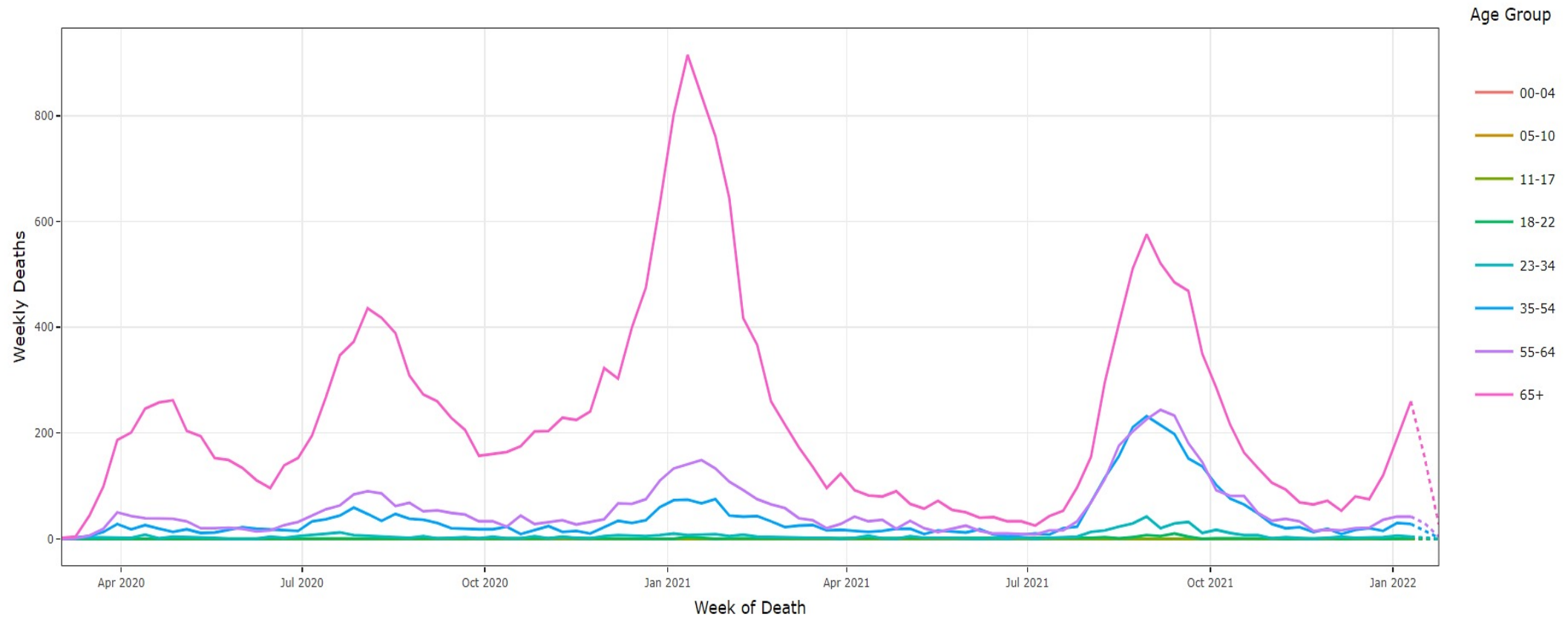
# COVID-19 Cases by Age Group



# COVID-19 Deaths



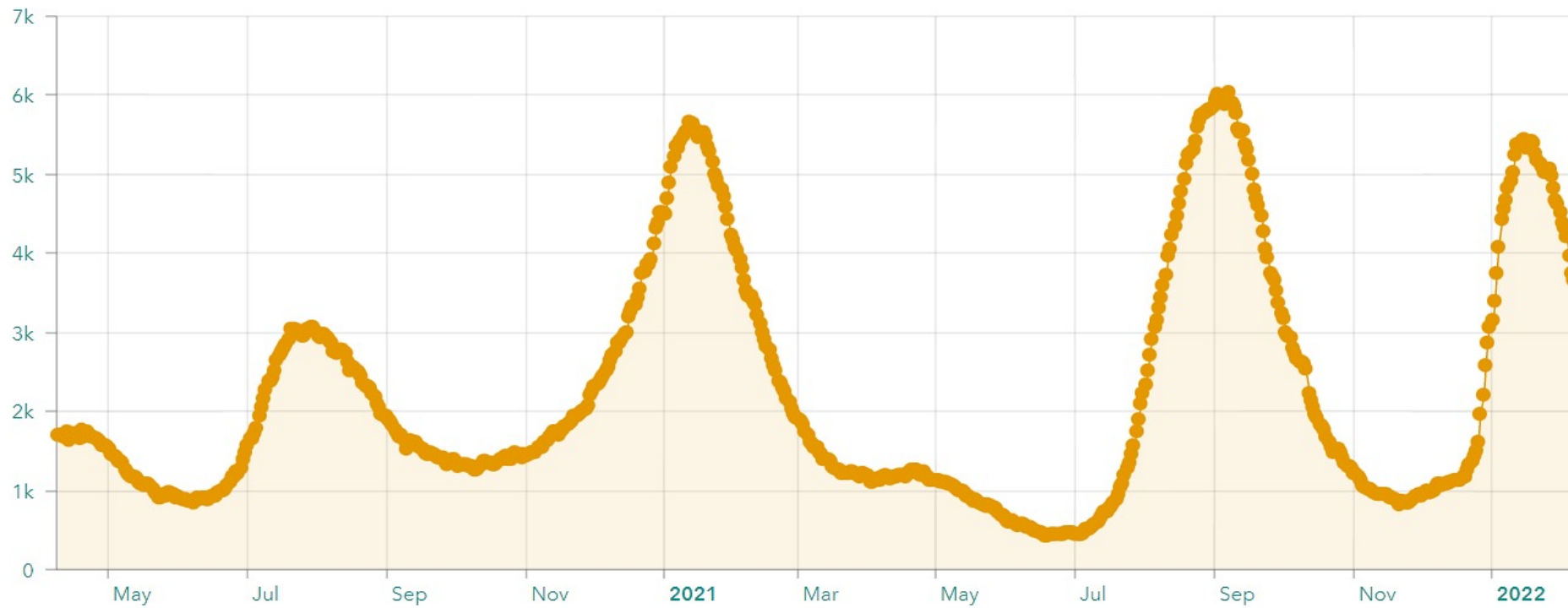
# Death Trends by Age Group



# COVID-19 Hospitalizations

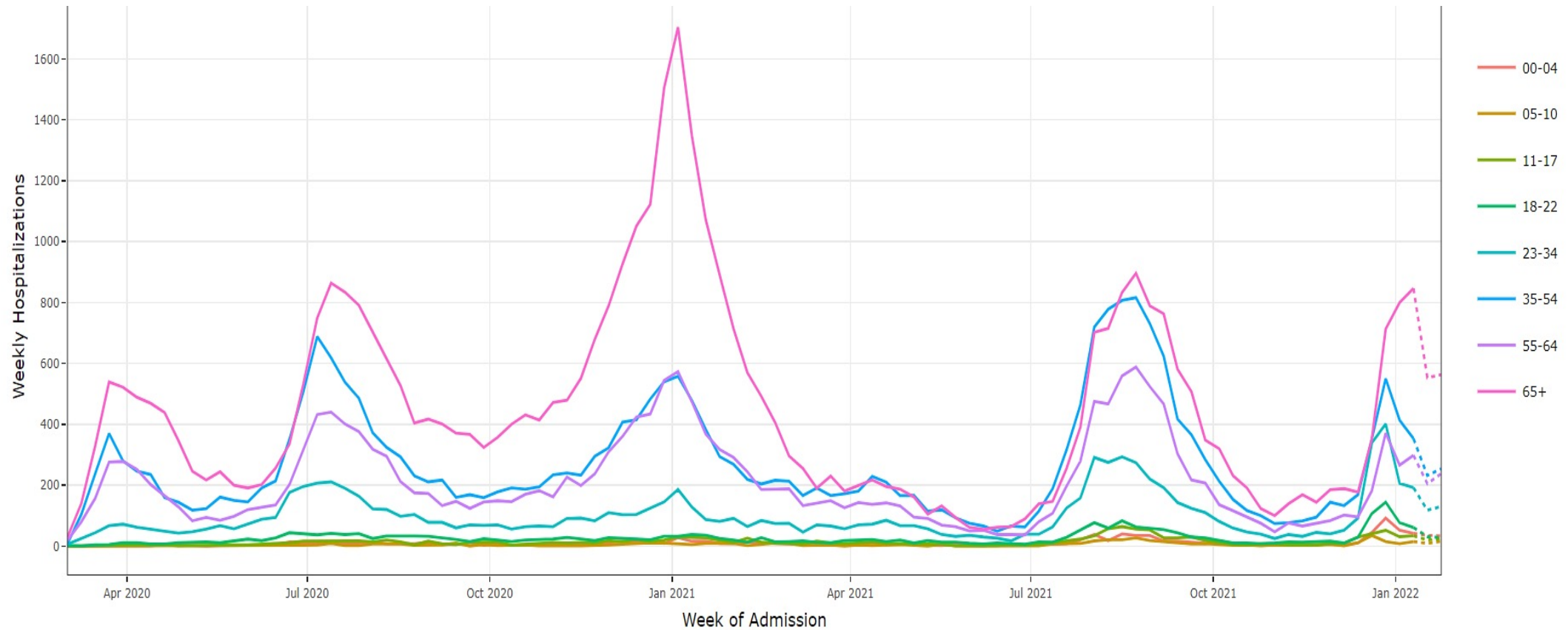
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Daily Counts of COVID-19 Patients



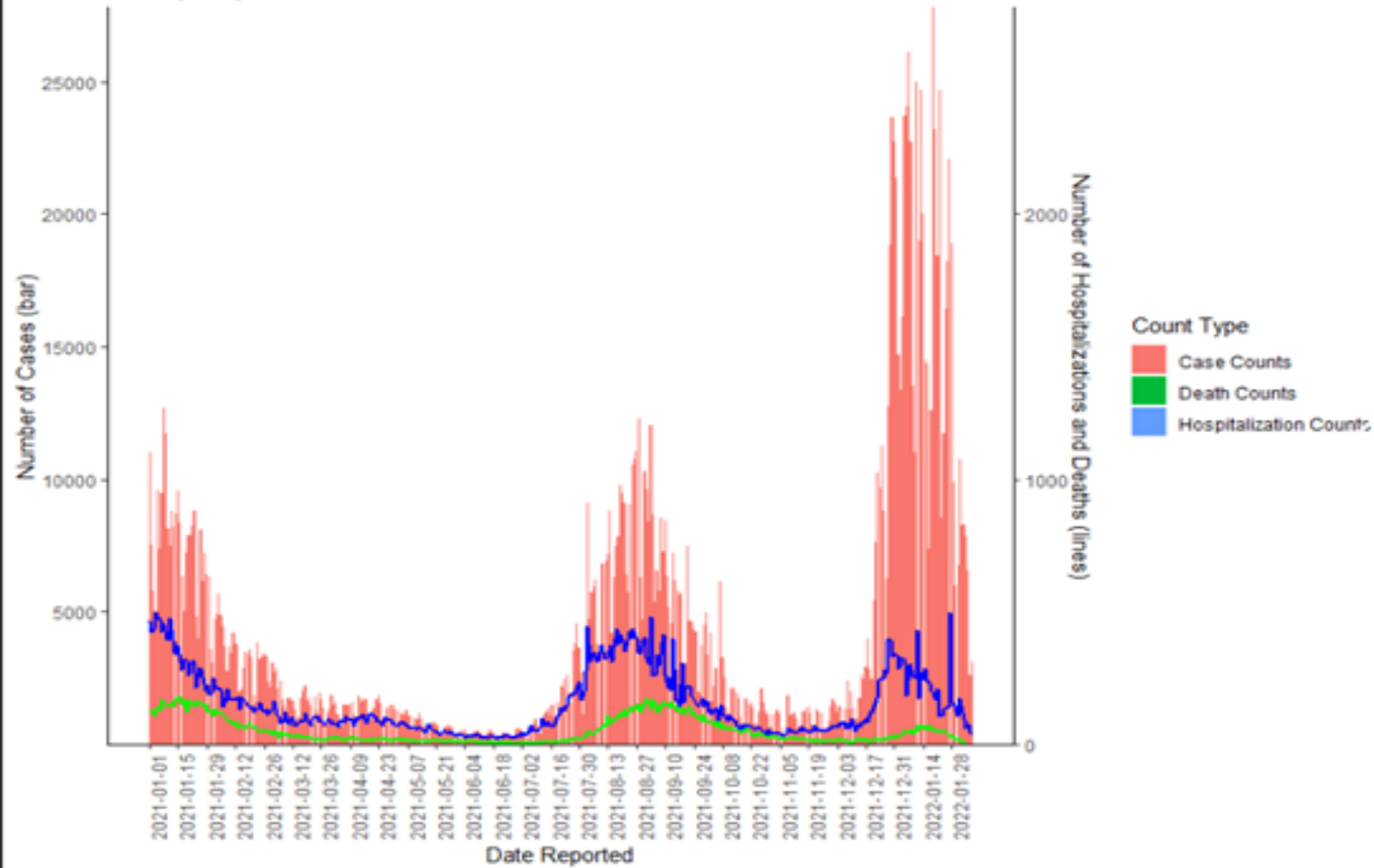


# Hospitalization Trends by Age Group



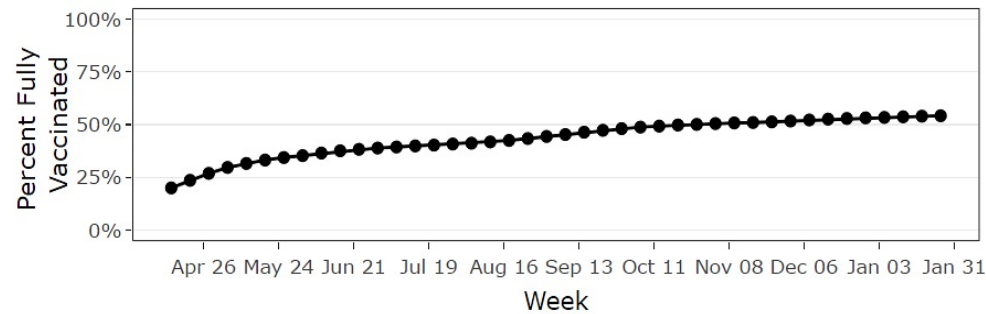


Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths for the State of Georgia  
by Day 01/01/2021-02/07/2022

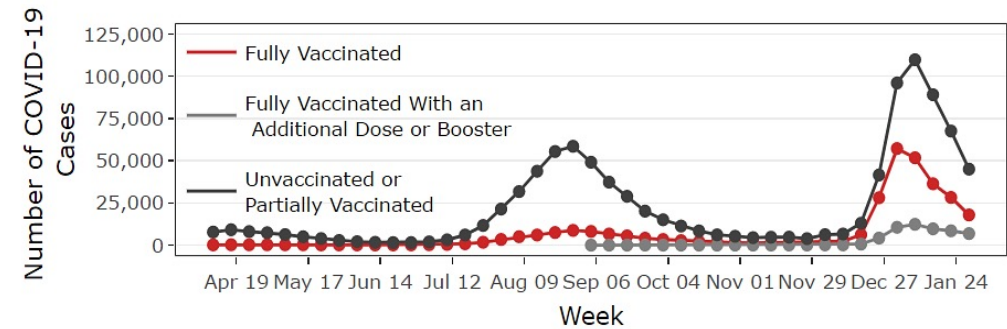


# Cases, Hospitalizations, Deaths by Vaccine Status

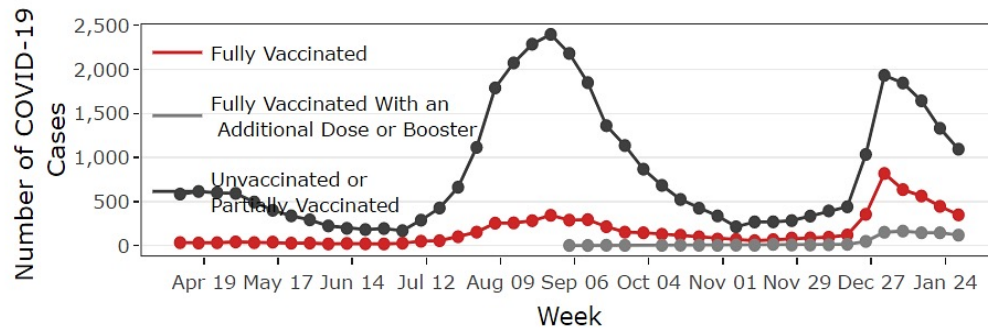
Vaccination Coverage 2021-04-10 to 2022-02-02



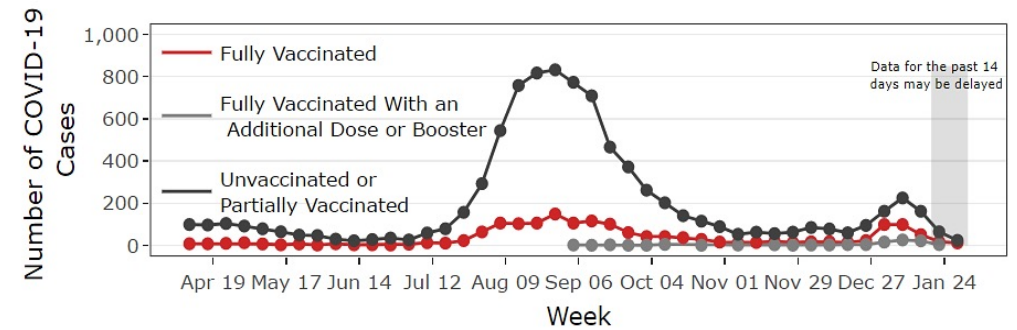
COVID-19 Cases by Date of Positive Test and Vaccination Status 2021-04-10 to 2022-02-02



Any Hospitalization by Date of Positive Test and Vaccination Status 2021-04-10 to 2022-02-02



COVID-19-Related Deaths by Date of Positive Test and Vaccination Status 2021-04-10 to 2022-02-02



# Summary

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- The SARS-CoV-2 Omicron variant arrived in early December, resulted in record-breaking case counts in a matter of weeks, and peaked in late January.
- Case counts are plummeting by at least half nationally and in Georgia, albeit still at high levels.
- Hospitalizations are declining but remain at levels that can strain capacities; ICU and ventilator usage much lower than during Delta.
- Deaths, unfortunately are still increasing (up to date vaccination is strongly protective against severe outcomes).
- The pandemic is not over. Vaccination, **Boosters**, masks, isolation are critical to continue these declines and if we face other variants.

# Questions

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For more information, please contact:

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Georgia Department of Public Health

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# COVID-19 Therapeutics

Board of Public Health / Alexander Millman, M.D. / Feb. 8, 2022

# Outpatient COVID-19 Therapeutics

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## Monoclonal Antibodies

- Sotrovimab

## Intravenous Antiviral

- Remdesivir

## Oral Antivirals

- Molnupiravir
- Paxlovid

# Monoclonal Antibodies—Treatment

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- On 24 January 2022, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced that two monoclonal antibody (mAb) treatments for COVID-19—bam/ete and REGEN-COV—are currently not authorized for use due to their limited effectiveness against the Omicron variant.
- Sotrovimab has maintained activity against Omicron and is still available for use for treatment of non-hospitalized individuals with mild to moderate COVID-19 at high risk for severe outcomes.

# Intravenous Antiviral

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- Remdesivir can be administered to nonhospitalized patients with mild to moderate COVID-19 and should be initiated within 7 days of symptom onset.
- CMS has created HCPCS code J0248 for remdesivir when administered in an outpatient setting. This code is effective for dates of service on or after 23 December 2021.



# Oral Antivirals

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- Treatment with Paxlovid or molnupiravir is for non-hospitalized patients with mild to moderate COVID-19 who are at high risk of disease progression within 5 days of symptoms onset.

# Availability and Supply Challenges

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- Availability of monoclonal antibodies and oral antibodies are extremely limited nationally.
- Sotrovimab is on a weekly allocation cycle and oral antivirals are on 2-week allocation cycles.
- Due to limited supply of sotrovimab, hospitals and long-term care facilities (LTCFs) are prioritized for allocations.
- Remdesivir is not on federal allocation and is available for direct purchase.

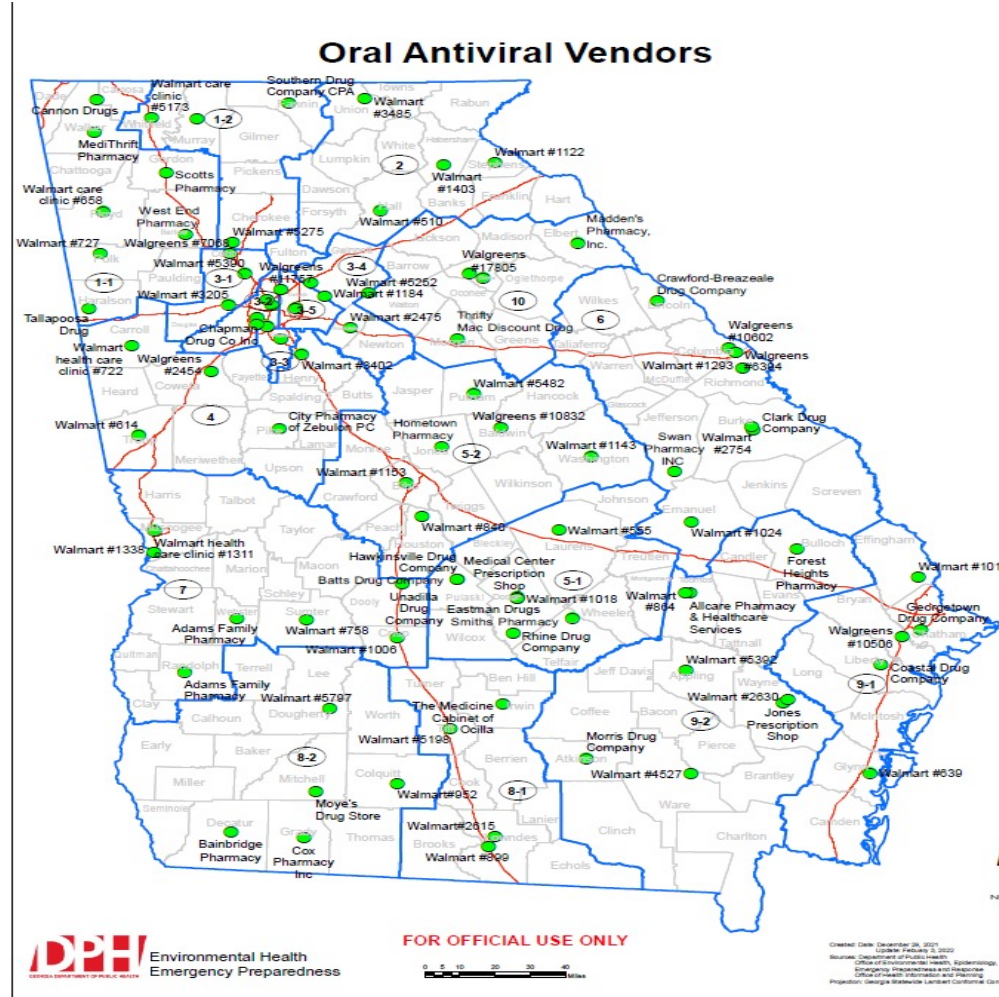
# Availability and Supply Challenges

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## Oral Antivirals

- DPH has partnered with Walmart, Walgreens, and Good Neighbor Pharmacy Group (a group of small independent pharmacies) to ensure state-wide coverage
- Since the initial roll out, we have increased the number of pharmacy locations in urban and rural areas throughout the state
- Working with the Department of Corrections and LTCF pharmacies to improve access for high-risk populations in those settings
- As allocations increase, an ordering process will be made available to other therapeutics partners interested in dispensing these products

# Availability and Supply Challenges



# Locating Treatment Providers

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Monoclonal Antibodies:

<https://combatcovid.hhs.gov/possible-treatment-options-covid-19/monoclonal-antibodies-high-risk-covid-19-positive-patients>

Evusheld and oral antivirals:

<https://covid-19-therapeutics-locator-dhhs.hub.arcgis.com/>

# Questions

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For more information, please contact:

**Alex Millman, M.D.**

Chief Medical Officer

Georgia Department of Public Health

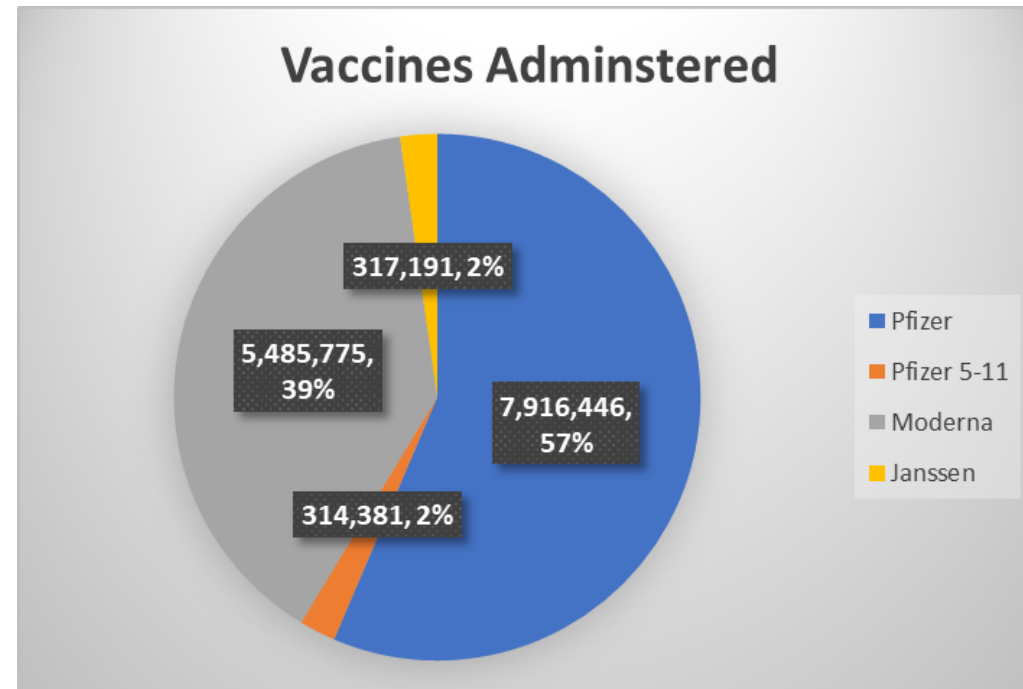
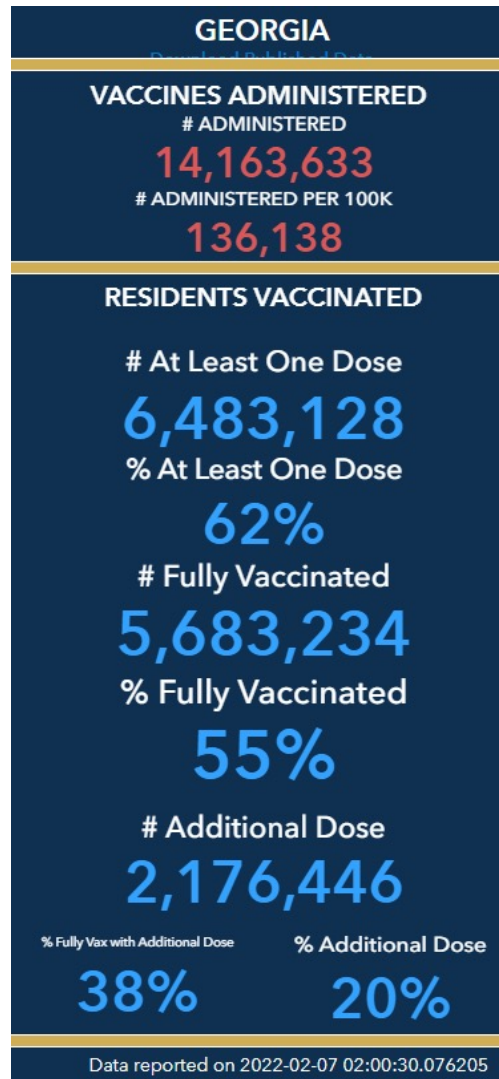
404-463-6303

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# COVID Vaccination & Testing

Board of Public Health / Chris Rustin, Dr.PH, M.S., R.E.H.S. / Feb. 8, 2022

# Covid Vaccination Statistics





# Covid Vaccine Providers

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Total number of Providers:  
**3,451**

Active in the last 90 days:  
**2,811 (81%)**



- Private Provider
- Public Health
- Pharmacy
- Hospital
- Nursing Home/ Long-term care facility
- HMO
- College
- Corrections
- State
- Military

# Vaccine Updates

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- Pfizer has initiated a rolling submission for EUA of COVID vaccine in children 6 months – 4 years of age:
  - 3ug doses as part of a 3-dose series
  - Data has been submitted for the first two doses and once additional data is available, Pfizer will submit 3<sup>rd</sup> dose information to FDA
  - FDA has scheduled a VRBPAC meeting for February 15 to discuss the Pfizer EUA application for children
- FDA granted full licensure to the Moderna COVID vaccine (18 years and older)
  - ***SpikeVax***
  - ACIP and CDC accepted recommendation and endorsed approval
- Novavax submits request to FDA for EUA for a new protein-based COVID vaccine
  - NVX-CoV2373 contains purified protein antigen derived from the spike protein

# Long-term Care Facility Boosters

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Of 1,044 (100%) facilities DPH contacted:

- 25 (2%) of the sites were referred to a DPH vendor for potential partnership
- 637 (61%) stated they have a partner, have already been partnered through DPH, or for some other reason do not need assistance
- 196 (18.8%) were non-responsive to several contact attempts, permanently/temporarily closed, or staff could not find valid contact information
- 186 (18%) – pending additional outreach

Booster administration in skilled nursing facilities (as of 2/3/2022):

- Residents-73%
- Staff-31.6%

# Jails and Correctional Facilities

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DPH contracted with a vendor to prioritize jails and correctional facilities for covid vaccination and testing

- 144 jails/correctional facilities
- 40,038 vaccines administered (Moderna, Pfizer, J&J)
  - 13,991 1<sup>st</sup> dose
  - 11,111 second dose
  - 4,623 additional dose
  - 10,313 boosters

# State Covid Call Center

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Since early 2021, turn-key vendor operates a virtual call center

- 97 (avg) call agents, open 7 days/week, including holidays
- Agents answer general questions related to vaccines and boosters or refer clients to the appropriate subject matter experts
- Agents assist with scheduling vaccine appointments at public health sites throughout the state
  - 366,498 contacts made
    - In last 5 months, averaging over 8,000 calls
    - 272,473 calls (96.8% answered within 8 seconds)
    - 72,711 outbound outreach calls
    - 11,464 chats
    - 9,850 articles viewed via chat

# Specimen Point of Collection (SPOCs)

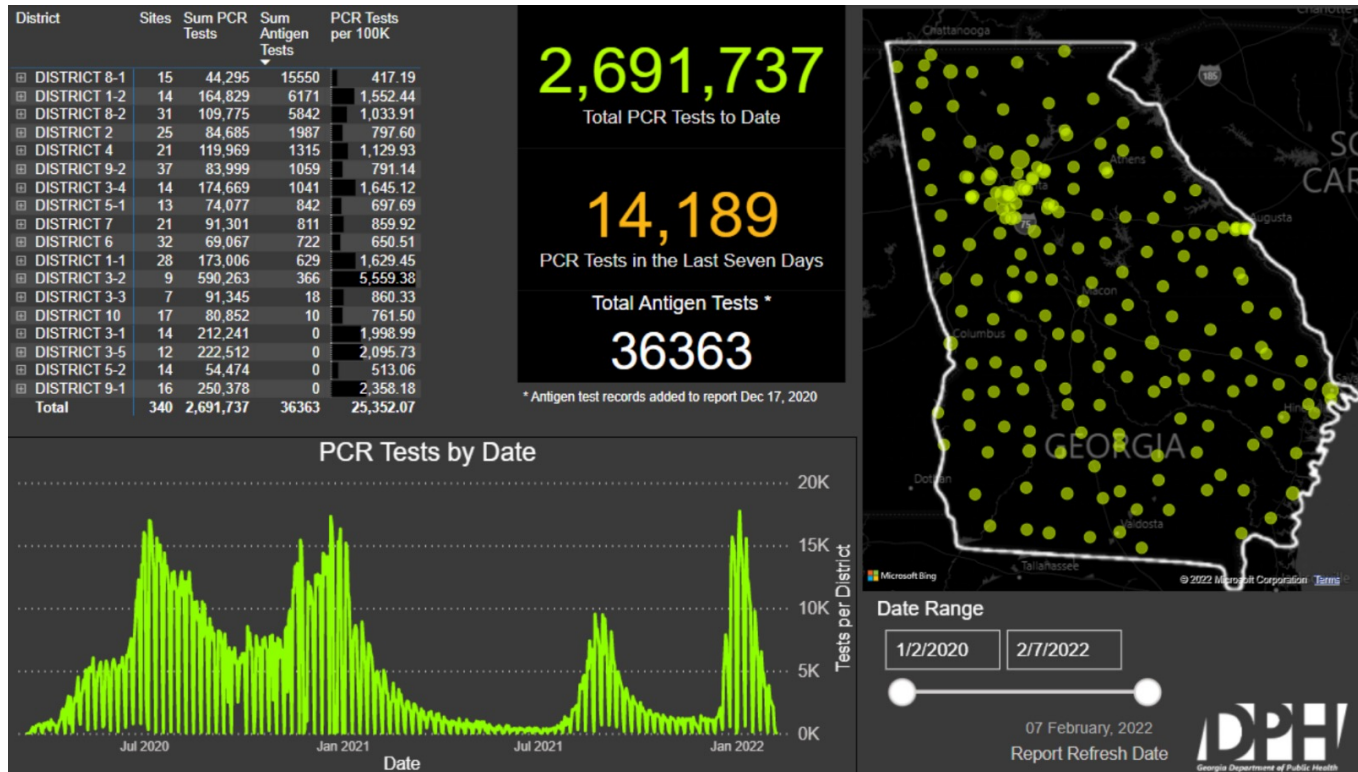
Since January 1, 2022, DPH has operated **175** SPOC sites statewide; managed by health departments or contracted vendors

- Surge testing sites added since Omicron wave
  - 18 surge sites
  - 3 mega testing sites

SPOC SITE COUNT – THOSE SUBMITTING DATA IN 2022

ST. LOUIS COUNTY - HOUSE ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT							Grand	
HEALTH DISTRICT	CORE	HD	LTS	MAKO	Other	VS	Total	
DISTRICT 1-1			3	2			5	
DISTRICT 1-2				12			12	
DISTRICT 2		5	4	9			18	
DISTRICT 3-1			3	2		1	6	
DISTRICT 3-2				3		1	4	
DISTRICT 3-3				1			1	
DISTRICT 3-4			1	2	1	1	5	
DISTRICT 3-5	1			2		1	4	
DISTRICT 4		7	5	3			15	
DISTRICT 5-1				2			2	
DISTRICT 5-2		1		5			6	
DISTRICT 6		1	3	2			6	
DISTRICT 7		14	2	2			18	
DISTRICT 8-1		10		2			12	
DISTRICT 8-2		9	7	4			20	
DISTRICT 9-1		1		6			7	
DISTRICT 9-2		13	13	2			28	
DISTRICT 10			4	2			6	
Grand Total		1	61	45	63	1	4	175

# SPOC Statistics



## Specimens Collected Last 7 Days

District	Sum PCR Tests	Sum Antigen Tests	Total All Tests
DISTRICT 10	699	0	699
DISTRICT 1-1	625	0	625
DISTRICT 1-2	604	97	701
DISTRICT 2	1,040	6	1,046
DISTRICT 3-1	1,099		1,099
DISTRICT 3-2	1,776		1,776
DISTRICT 3-3	179		179
DISTRICT 3-4	795	0	795
DISTRICT 3-5	668	0	668
DISTRICT 4	779	10	789
DISTRICT 5-1	526		526
DISTRICT 5-2	221	0	221
DISTRICT 6	523	0	523
DISTRICT 7	822	7	829
DISTRICT 8-1	47	118	165
DISTRICT 8-2	866	283	1,149
DISTRICT 9-1	2,271		2,271
DISTRICT 9-2	649	49	698
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,189</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>14,759</b>

# Rapid Test Kits

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- Due to high demand, there is a shortage of rapid testing supplies across the country.
- The federal government is distributing rapid test supplies directly to LTCF and Community Health Centers
- DPH has distributed **over 1.8 million** rapid tests to:
  - Local health departments (53%)
  - LTCFs
  - Shelters/Confinement facilities
  - FQHCs
  - EMS/Fire agencies
  - Hospitals
  - Mental health facilities
  - Colleges/Universities



# School Testing Program

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The DPH school testing program allows K-12 schools to enroll with a DPH testing vendor to provide covid testing free of charge for students, faculty, staff, and family members.

- Testing programs help keep students in the classroom and allow them to take part in the other activities they love
  - **189** Schools currently participating/enrolled
  - **26** new schools have enrolled in the month of January



# Questions

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For more information, please contact:

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Senior Advisor to the Commissioner

Incident Commander-Vaccine Planning/Logistics

Chatham County-Public Health Administrator

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# Next Meeting

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The next Board of Public Health meeting will be held  
March 8, 2022.