



Ask Dr. Arwady

March 14, 2023



Things that **should be green** on St. Patrick's Day – the River, your beer, your hair, **NOT YOU.**

- Stay home if you're sick
- Wash your hands frequently
- Carry a mask in case you find yourself in a crowd...or next to a coughing leprechaun
- Stay hydrated (with water, not beer!)





Our local risk based on CDC COVID-19 Community Levels is:

LOW

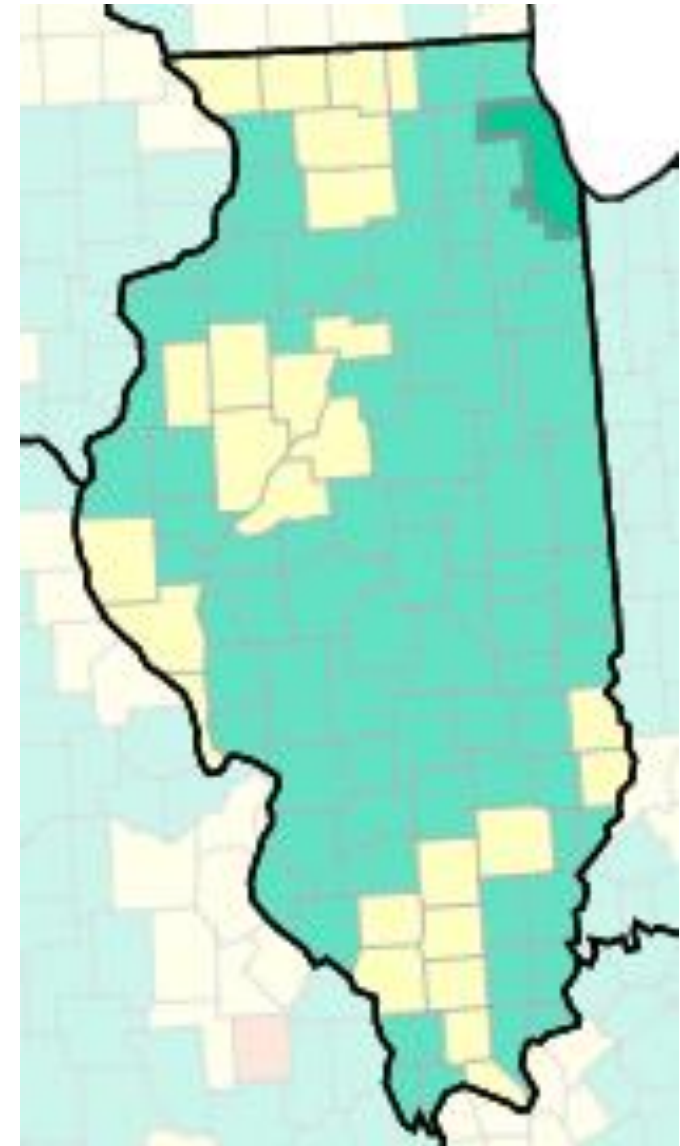
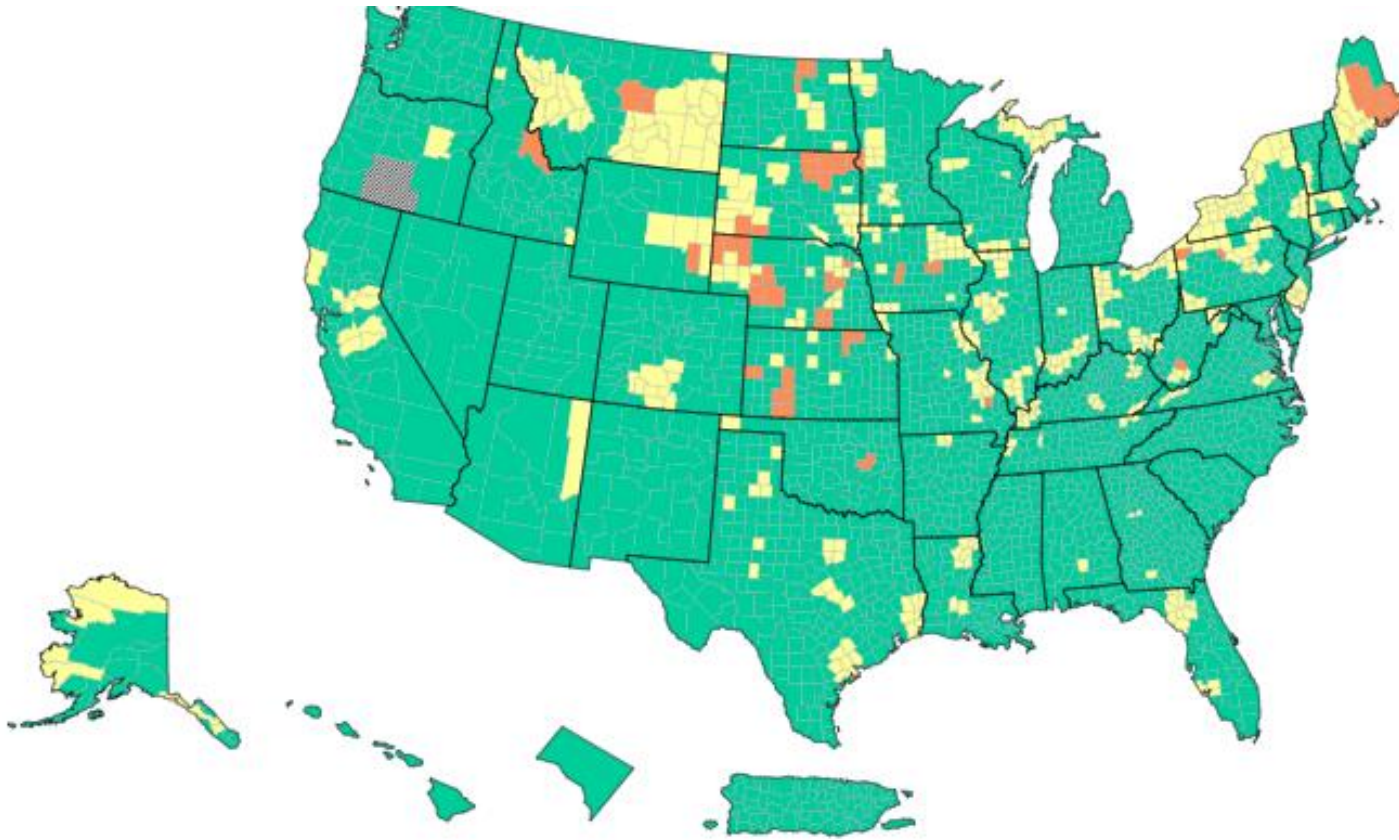
	New cases per 100,000 population (last 7 days) <i>[Goal is <200]</i>	New admissions per 100,000 population (last 7 days) <i>[Goal is <10]</i>	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (last 7 days) <i>[Goal is <10%]</i>
City of Chicago	83	6.4	2.9%
Cook County (including City of Chicago)	86	8.8	3.1%

*Chicago metrics are calculated based on Chicago-level data.
Cook County metrics are calculated by the CDC and posted on the [CDC Community Levels website](https://www.cdc.gov/communitylevels/).
Data current as of 3/8/2023.*

Last week, **2.5%** of U.S. Counties reported **High** COVID Community Level and **16%** reported **Medium** Level.



Low Medium High

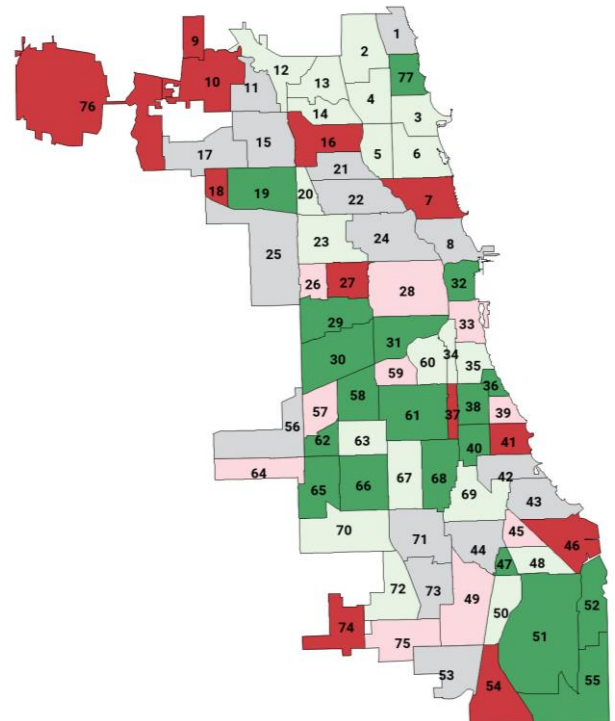
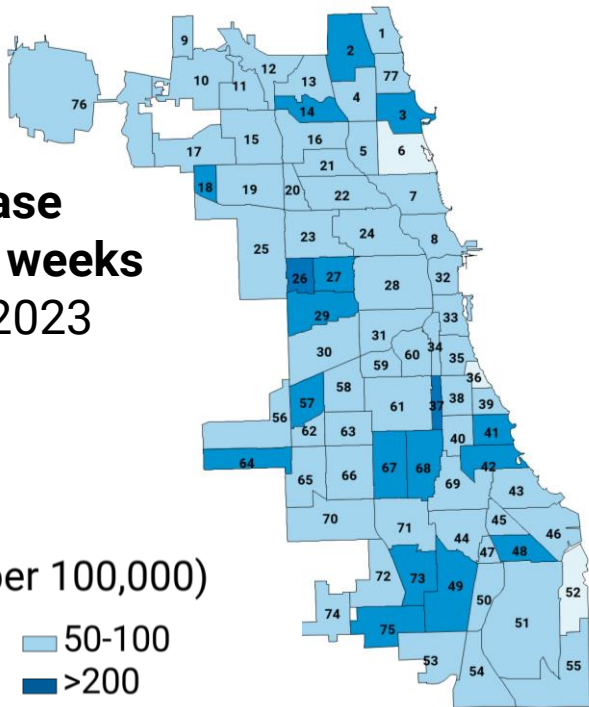


GU AS MP VI



No clear trend in geography of percent change in cases, though the highest case rates in the past 2 weeks were in the Southwest and West regions

Average weekly case rate for the past 2 weeks
2/18/2023 – 3/4/2023



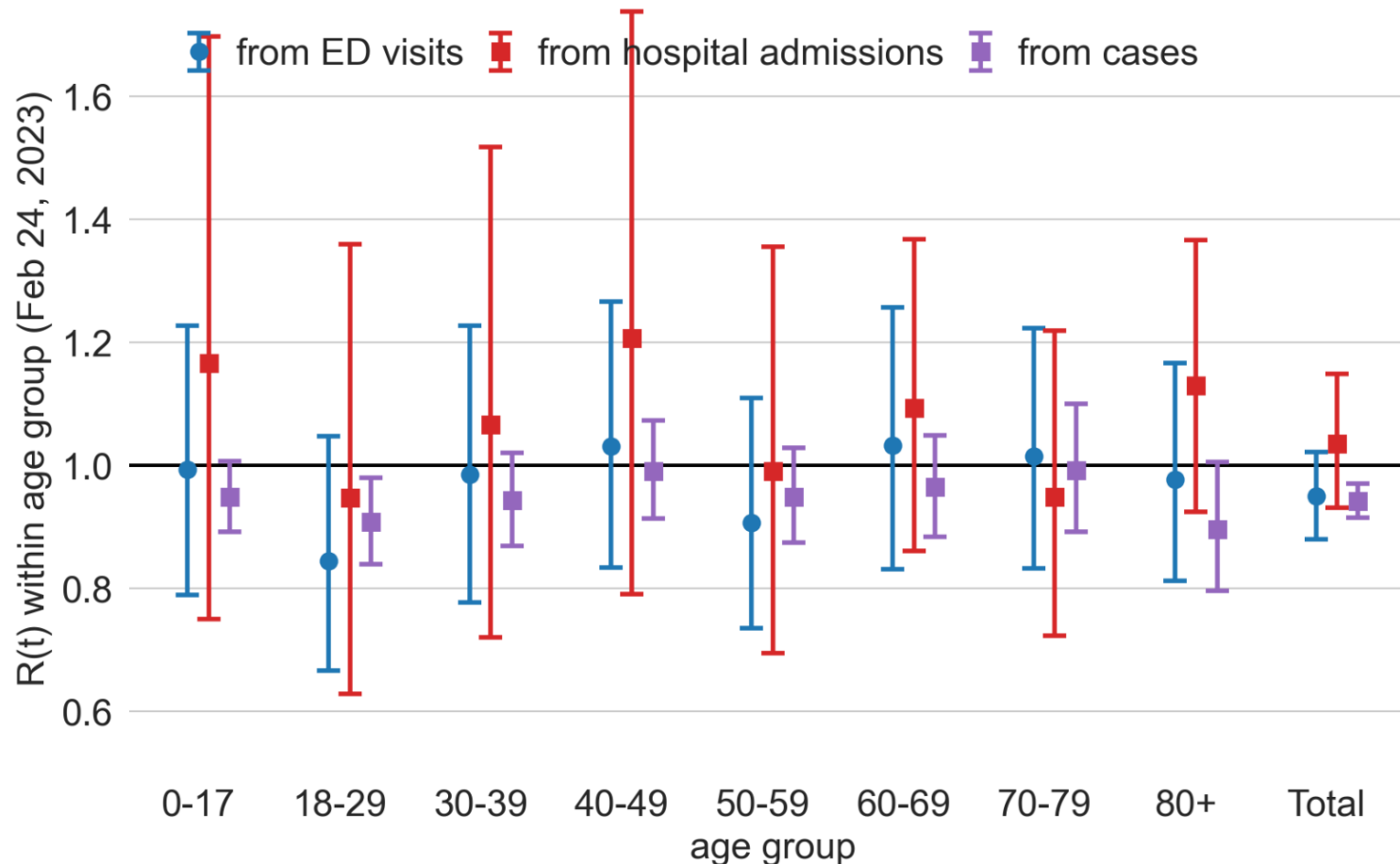
Community Area	Previous Case Rate	Current Case Rate	Percent Change
Riverdale (54)	13	64	385%
Fuller Park (37)	66	154	133%
Mount Greenwood (74)	33	64	94%
Hyde Park (41)	61	106	74%
Montclare (18)	80	127	59%
O'Hare (76)	38	58	53%
Edison Park (9)	52	78	50%
East Garfield Park (27)	78	110	41%
Irving Park (16)	68	94	38%
Lincoln Park (7)	65	84	29%
South Chicago (46)	66	81	23%
Norwood Park (10)	67	82	22%

Source:
Includes cases among Chicago residents reported into the Illinois Electronic Disease Surveillance System (I-NEDSS) with date of specimen collection up to 3/4/2023.





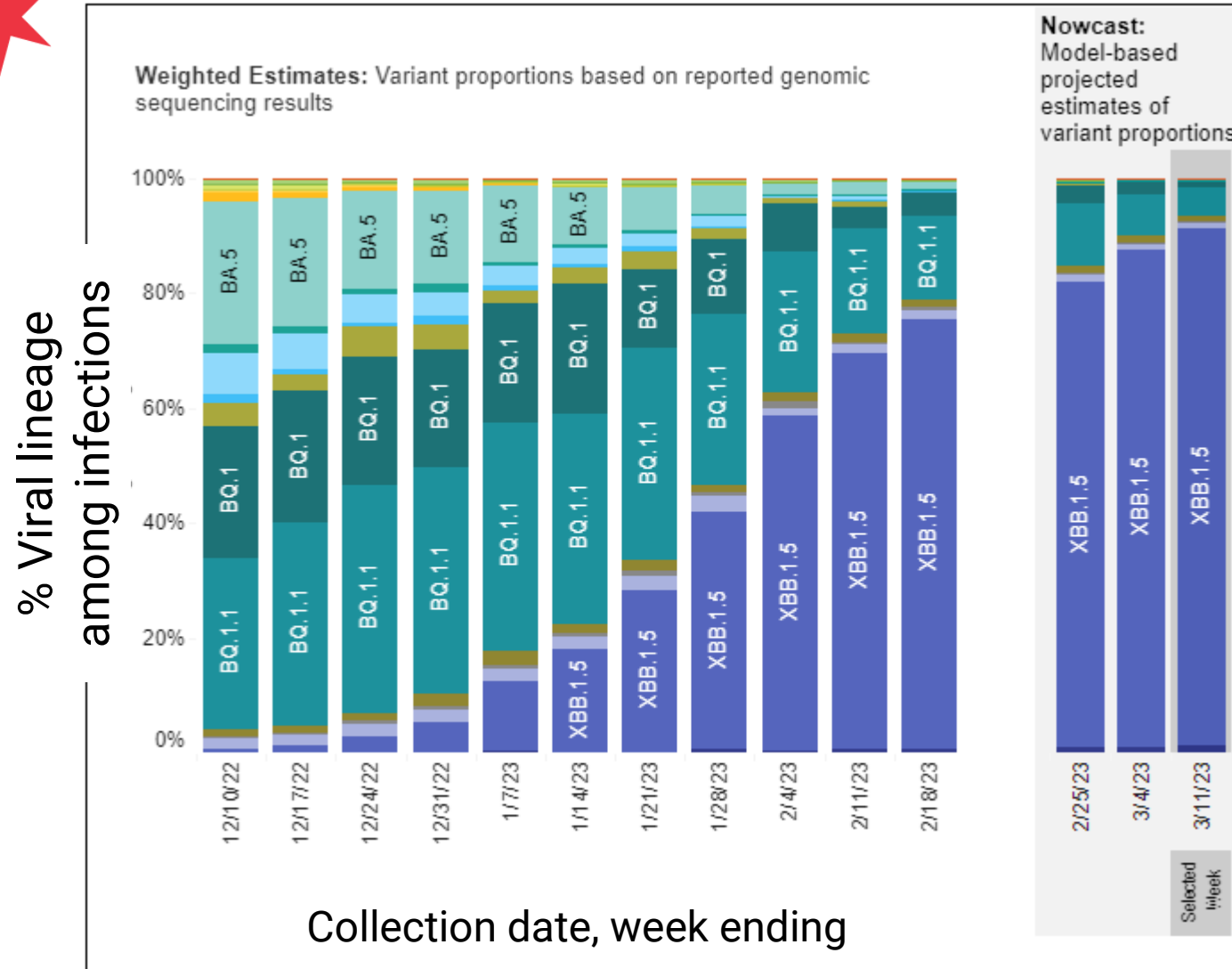
SARS-CoV-2 spread is largely stable across all age groups and possibly decreasing overall



*The effective reproductive number $R(t)$ is the average number of secondary infected persons resulting from an infected person. If $R(t) > 1$, the number of infected persons is expected to increase. If $R(t) < 1$, the number of infected persons is expected to decrease. At $R(t) = 1$, the number of infected persons will remain constant.

Variant Surveillance, Midwest Region

Weighted and Nowcast Estimates for Weeks of 12/4/22 – 3/11/23

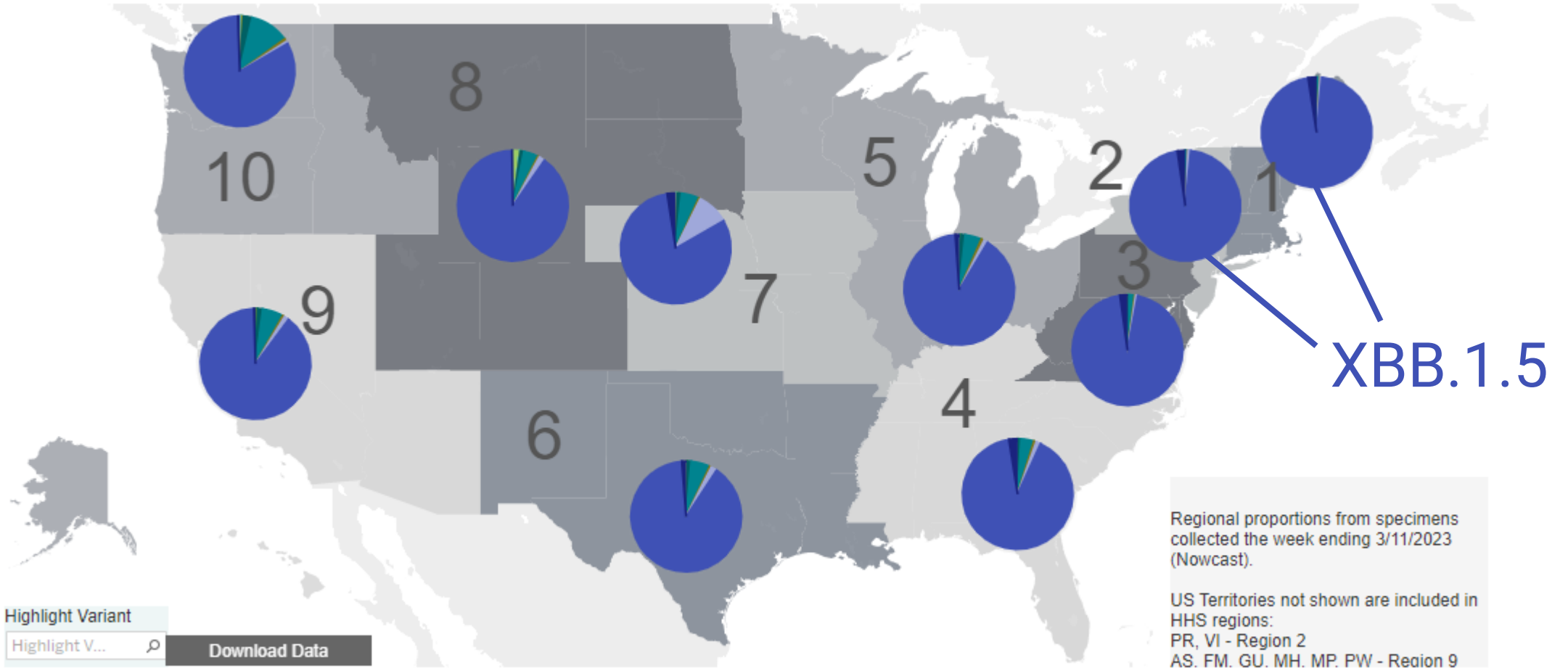


XBB.1.5	90.3%	
BQ.1.1	4.8%	
BQ.1	1.2%	
XBB	1.2%	
XBB.1.5.1	1.1%	
CH.1.1	0.9%	
BN.1	0.2%	
BA.5	0.1%	
BA.2	0.1%	

Variant Surveillance, United States



Nowcast Estimates in for 3/5/2023 – 3/11/2023 by HHS Region



source: CDC Data Tracker

Chicago Lab-Based Early Alert Signals have lowered from the previous week (data as of 3/6/2023)

Indicator	Thresholds			Chicago Current Values Week of 3/6
	Low Concern	Medium Concern	High Concern	
SARS-CoV-2 variant risk assessment, Chicago (combines log growth rate and VOC designation)	Stable lineage proportions, no VOC/VOHC	Variant or lineage increasing, no VOC/VOHC	Variant rapidly increasing, or VOC/VOHC	Medium (Last week: Medium)
Average wastewater risk score among sampled sites, Chicago (combines viral concentration and trend)	< 2	2-3	> 3	Low (Last week: Medium)

Variants/subvariants currently increasing in prevalence locally

BQ.1.1: Local doubling time 38 days (low);

Sublineage of BA.5; 3 additional spike mutations, significant immune escape advantage

XBB: Local doubling time 32 days (low)

Recombinant of two BA.2 lineages; 6 more spike mutations relative to BA.2, one of the most immune-resistant subvariants circulating

XBB.1.5: Doubling time 8.8 days (med)

Recombinant of two BA.2 lineages; rapidly emerged in US Northeast, expecting similar rapid growth in Midwest in coming weeks

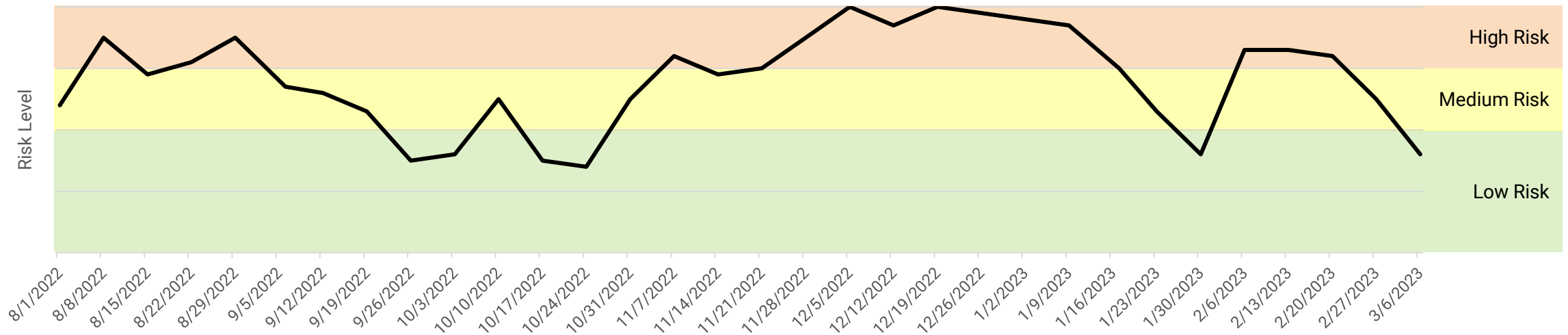
CH.1.1: Doubling time 31 days (low)

Sublineage of BA.2.75 with 4 additional spike mutations in regions important for immune evasion



SARS-CoV-2 wastewater metric shows the trend of wastewater SARS-CoV-2 risk levels, current level is **LOW**

Wastewater SARS-CoV-2 Risk Trend for All of Chicago

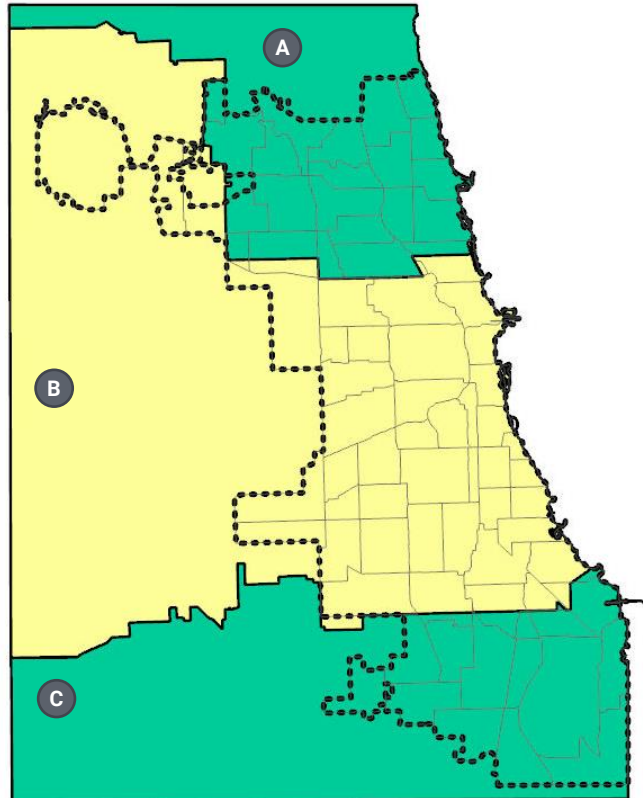




HIGHER SARS-CoV-2 risk levels were detected from the Lincoln Park – Near North Side sewer site. MEDIUM risk levels were seen across all other sewer sites and Stickney treatment plant.

Wastewater Treatment Plants

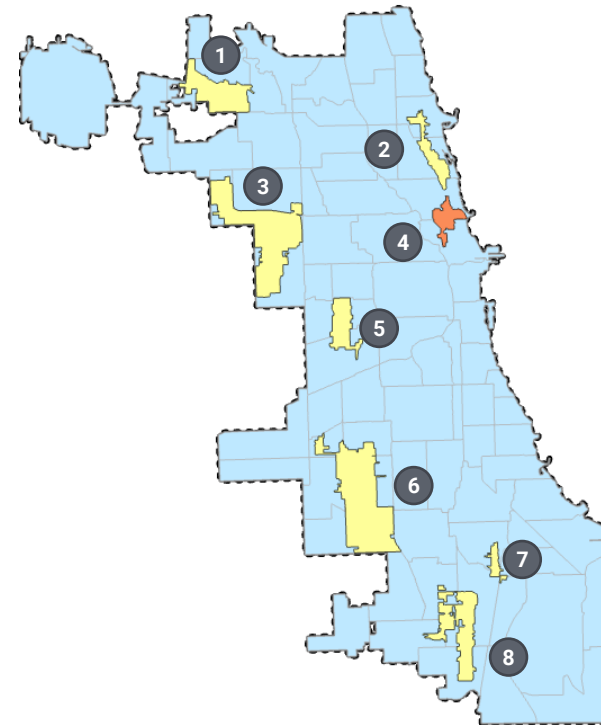
#	Catchment
A	Terrence J. O'Brien
B	Stickney
C	Calumet



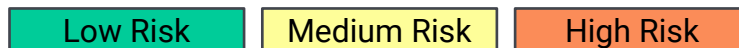
Wastewater treatment plant catchment areas exceed Chicago city borders (dashed boundaries) and cover also other Cook county municipalities.

The actual coverage areas are wider but trimmed in this figure.

Sewer sites



#	Catchment
1	Norwood Park - Jefferson Park
2	Lakeview - Uptown
3	Austin - Montecclare
4	Lincoln Park - Near North Side
5	Little Village
6	Chicago Lawn - Ashburn
7	Chatham
8	Roseland - West Pullman





SARS-CoV-2 wastewater risk metric (data as of 03/06/2023) is **LOW** and **LOWER** from the previous week

- The average wastewater risk score for this week was **1.6** (last week risk score: **2.5**)
- One site fell into the highest risk category
 - Lincoln Park/Near North Side
- The low-risk score indicates decreased community transmission in Chicago
- Increasing trends have not been observed in other metrics (cases, hospitalizations, deaths) at this time. CDPH will continue monitoring data to understand how high wastewater viral concentrations predict severe COVID outcomes

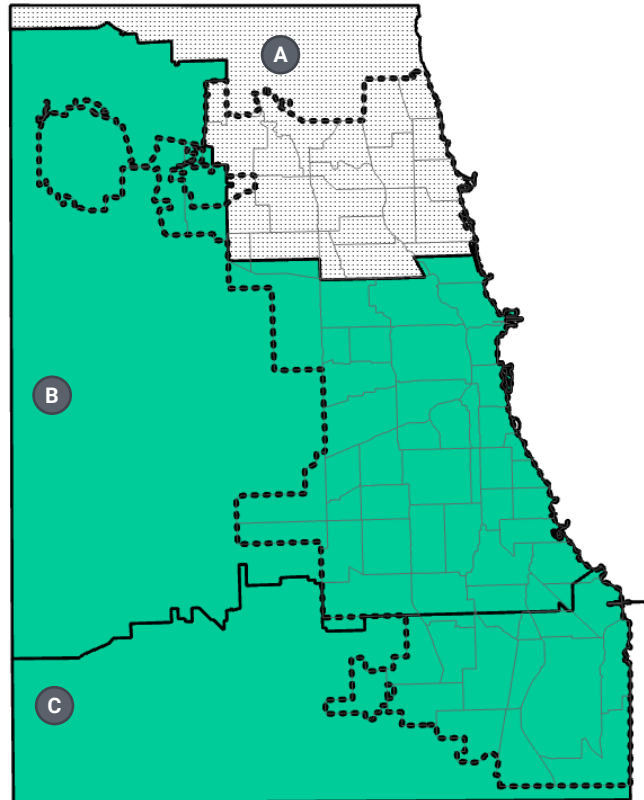




Most treatment plants and community sewer sites have **LOW** Influenza A&B risk. Several sites had no detection of influenza.

Wastewater Treatment Plants

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A	Terrence J. O'Brien
B	Stickney
C	Calumet

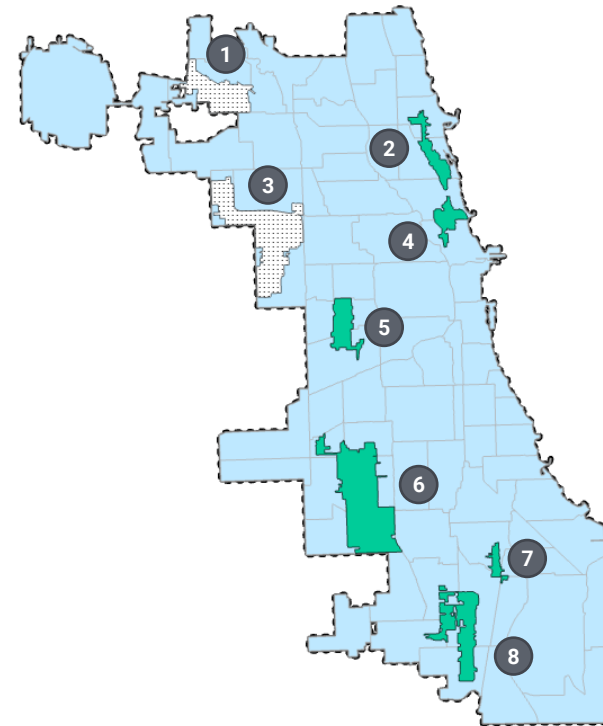


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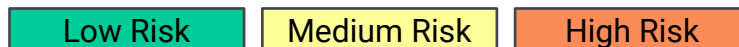
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No-color area means non-detect, which shows no detectable virus was found in the samples



TAKE ACTION IF YOU TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID-19



DAY 1-5

Stay home:

- Everyone - *regardless of vaccination status* - should stay home and away from others (isolate).

People at high risk for severe illness:
Talk to your doctor about treatment

DAY 6 OR LATER

End isolation:

- If you never had symptoms OR symptoms are improving and are fever-free for 24 hours.

DAY 6-10

Wear a mask:

- If you take 2 antigen tests 48 hours apart and both are negative, you may remove your mask sooner
- Avoid people at high risk of getting very sick



VAX & PAX lovid



If you're at high risk for severe illness, vaccines are your best protection against COVID-19. But if you do test positive, **TREATMENTS ARE AVAILABLE.**

PAXLOVID, for example, is an oral antiviral therapy for the treatment of mild to moderate COVID-19.



Individuals ages 12 and up who are at high risk of developing severe illness, are eligible.

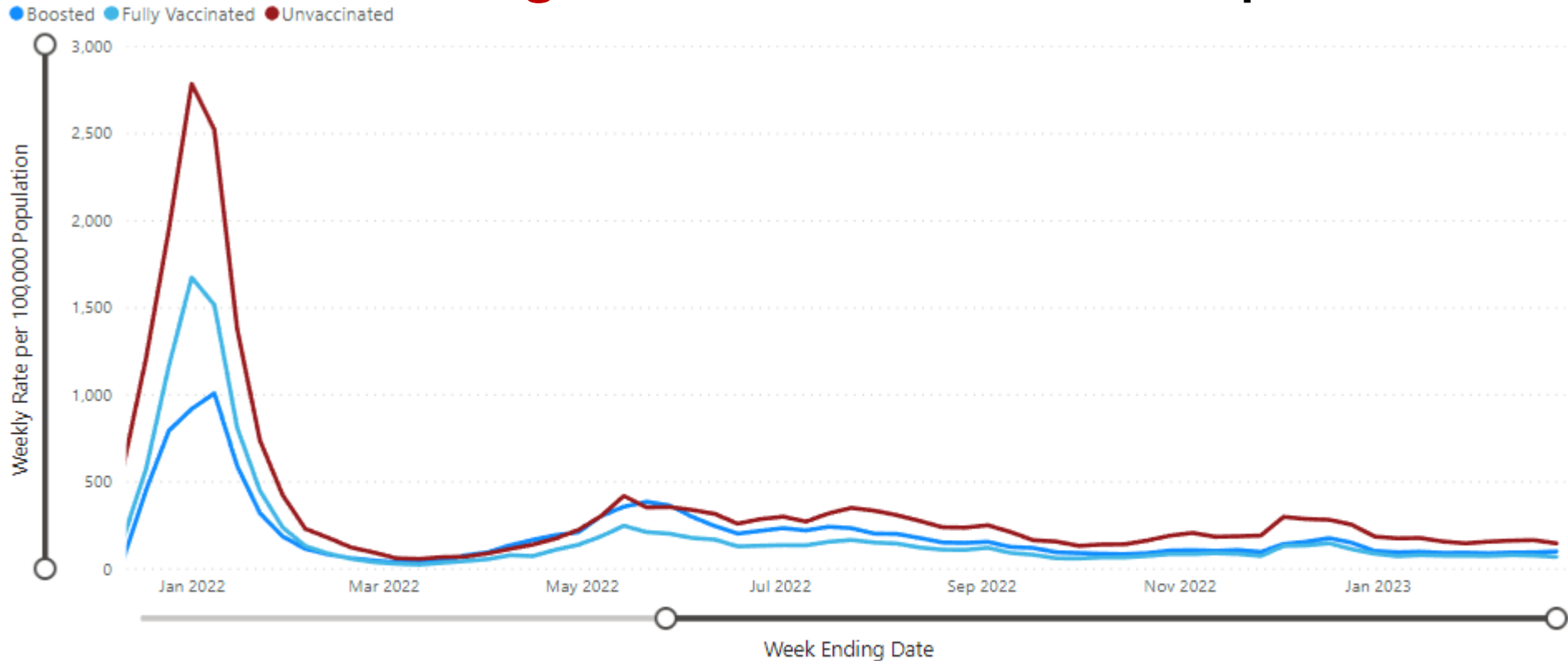
Ask a healthcare provider if medications to treat COVID-19 are right for you.



Higher Updated Booster Coverage among Chicagoans than Nationwide Estimates. Over 584,000 doses have been administered to Chicagoans since authorization.

People with an Updated (Bivalent) Booster Dose	Percent of US Population	Percent of Chicago Population
Population ≥ 5 years	17.3%	22.8%
Population ≥ 12 years	18.6%	24.1%
Population ≥ 18 years	19.7%	25.0%
Population ≥ 65 years	41.6%	40.9%

Since the Omicron variant became dominant in Chicago: Infection rates were **1.8X higher** in those **unvaccinated** compared to **boosted**



*Rates are adjusted for age

Since the Omicron variant became dominant in Chicago, unvaccinated people had a **1.5X** higher risk of testing positive for COVID-19 compared to fully vaccinated people

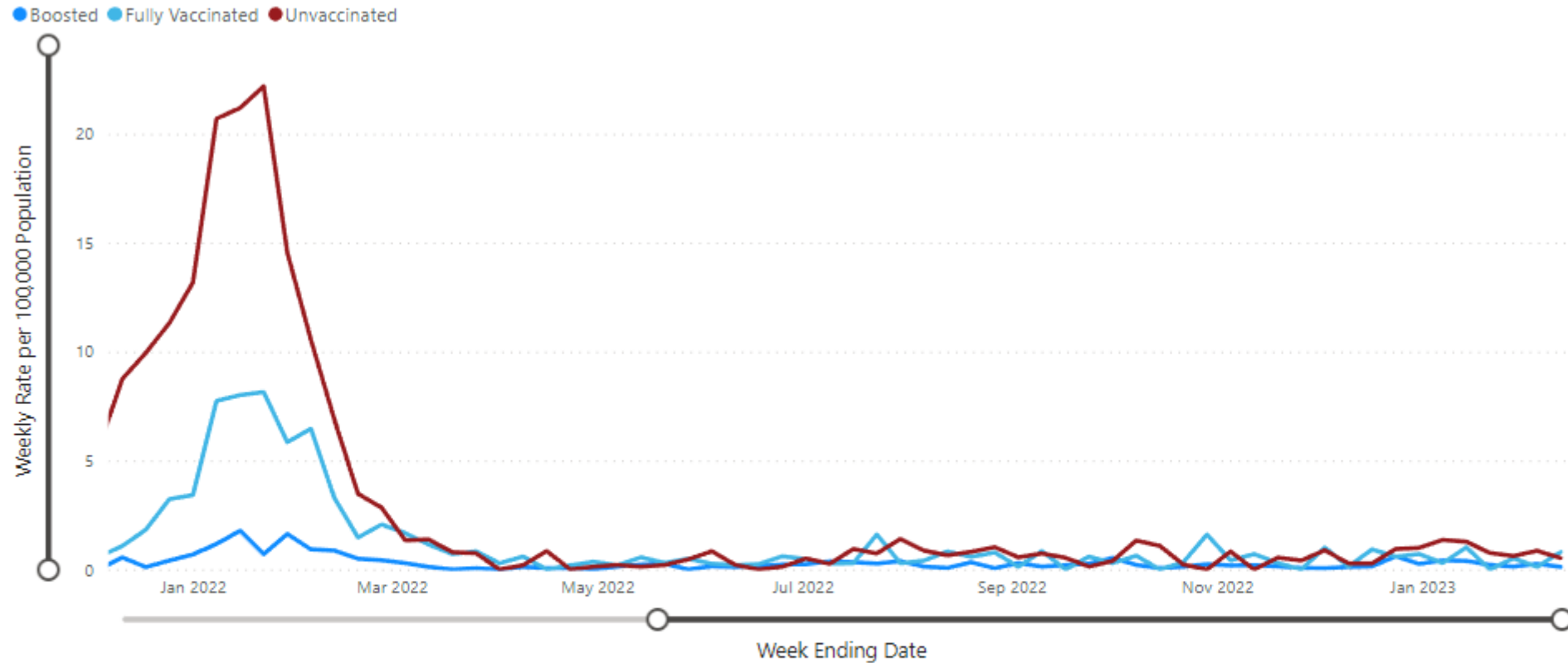
Since the Omicron variant became dominant in Chicago, unvaccinated people had a **1.8X** higher risk of testing positive for COVID-19 compared to people who were boosted

Sources:

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Since the Omicron variant became dominant in Chicago: Mortality rates were **5.1X higher** in those **unvaccinated** compared to **boosted**



*Rates are adjusted for age

Since the Omicron variant became dominant in Chicago, unvaccinated people had a **2.6X** higher risk of dying from COVID-19 compared to fully vaccinated people

Since the Omicron variant became dominant in Chicago, unvaccinated people had a **5.1X** higher risk of dying from COVID-19 compared to people who were boosted

Sources:

Includes cases among Chicago residents reported into the Illinois Electronic Disease Surveillance System (I-NEDSS) with date of specimen collection 12/12/2021-2/11/2023, pulled 3/7/2023. Vaccination status obtained from the Illinois Comprehensive Automated Immunization Registry (I-CARE) registry.



Continues to operate
**Saturday, Sunday and
Monday, 8am-6:30pm**

GET YOUR UPDATED

COVID BOOSTER & FLU SHOT AT HOME



In-home vaccination is available to all Chicago households at no cost. Up to 10 people can be vaccinated, so invite your family, friends, or neighbors to get vaccinated together.



Need help and don't know where to turn?



211MetroChicago.org





Need a vaccine or a booster?
Have questions?

visit

CHI.GOV/COVIDVAX

or call

312-746-4835

