



Health and Human Services Committee: Chicago COVID-19 Update

February 28, 2022

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Commissioner, Chicago Department of Public Health



“Is the pandemic over?”

The pandemic is *not* over but we are in a new phase.

- Although COVID-19 continues to circulate, we now have vaccines, tests, and treatments that work, and most Chicagoans have some immunity from vaccines (77%) and/or past infection.
- So-called “living with COVID” will require us to use all we have learned over the past 2 years.
- This means putting proven public health strategies in place *when they are needed* to
 - prevent serious illness and death
 - stop our hospitals from being overwhelmed, and
 - protect society

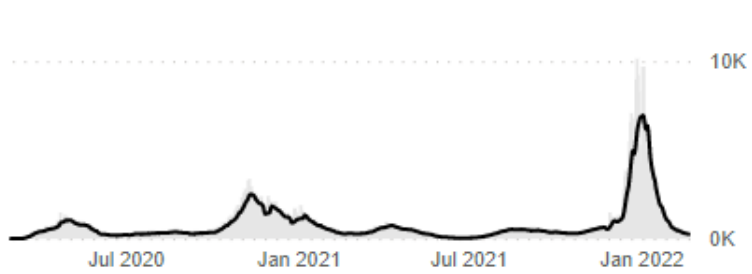
CASES

250 ▼
Current daily avg

357 (-30%)
Prior week

556,081
Cumulative

9.2
Daily rate per 100,000



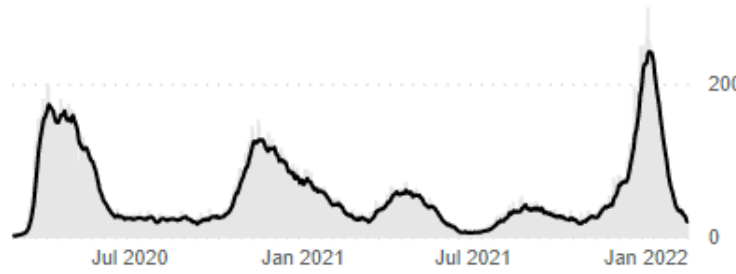
HOSPITALIZATIONS

20 ▼
Current daily avg

33 (-39%)
Prior week

41,114
Cumulative

0.7
Daily rate per 100,000



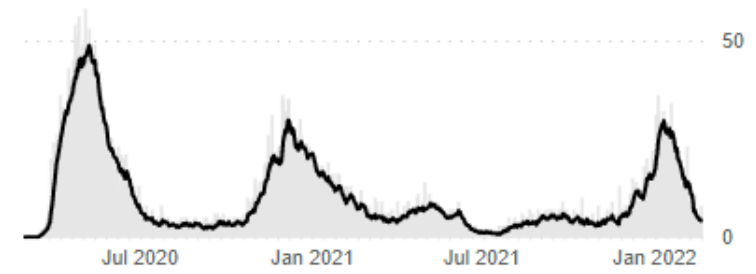
DEATHS

4.14 ▼
Current daily avg

6.86 (-40%)
Prior week

7,512
Cumulative

0.2
Daily rate per 100,000



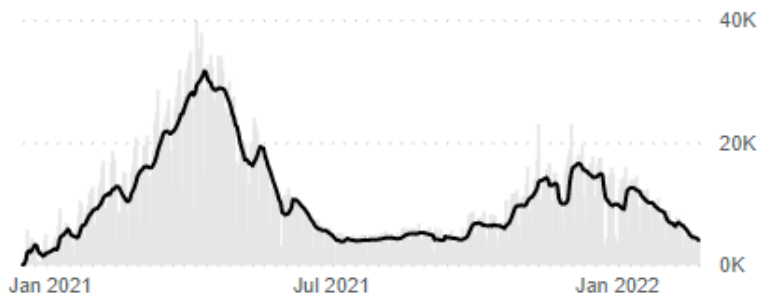
VACCINATIONS ADMINISTERED

4,021 ▼
Current daily avg

4,641,628
Cumulative

69.0%
Completed series

76.6%
At least one dose

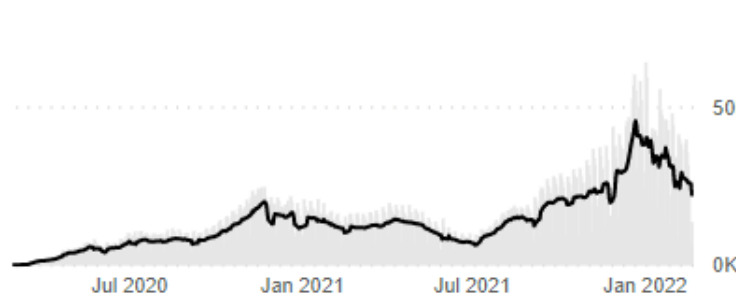


TESTS PERFORMED

22,166 ▼
Current daily avg

26,933 (-18%)
Prior week

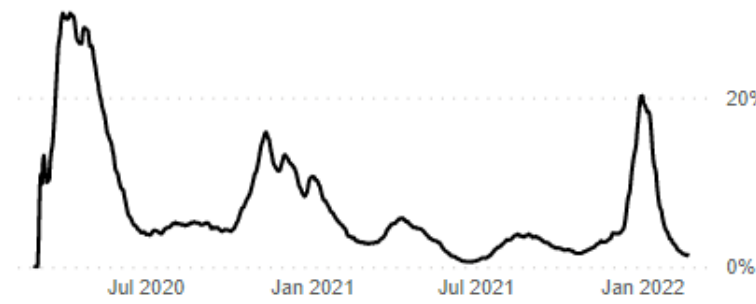
9,907,278
Cumulative



POSITIVITY RATE

1.4% ▼
Current daily avg

1.7%
Prior week





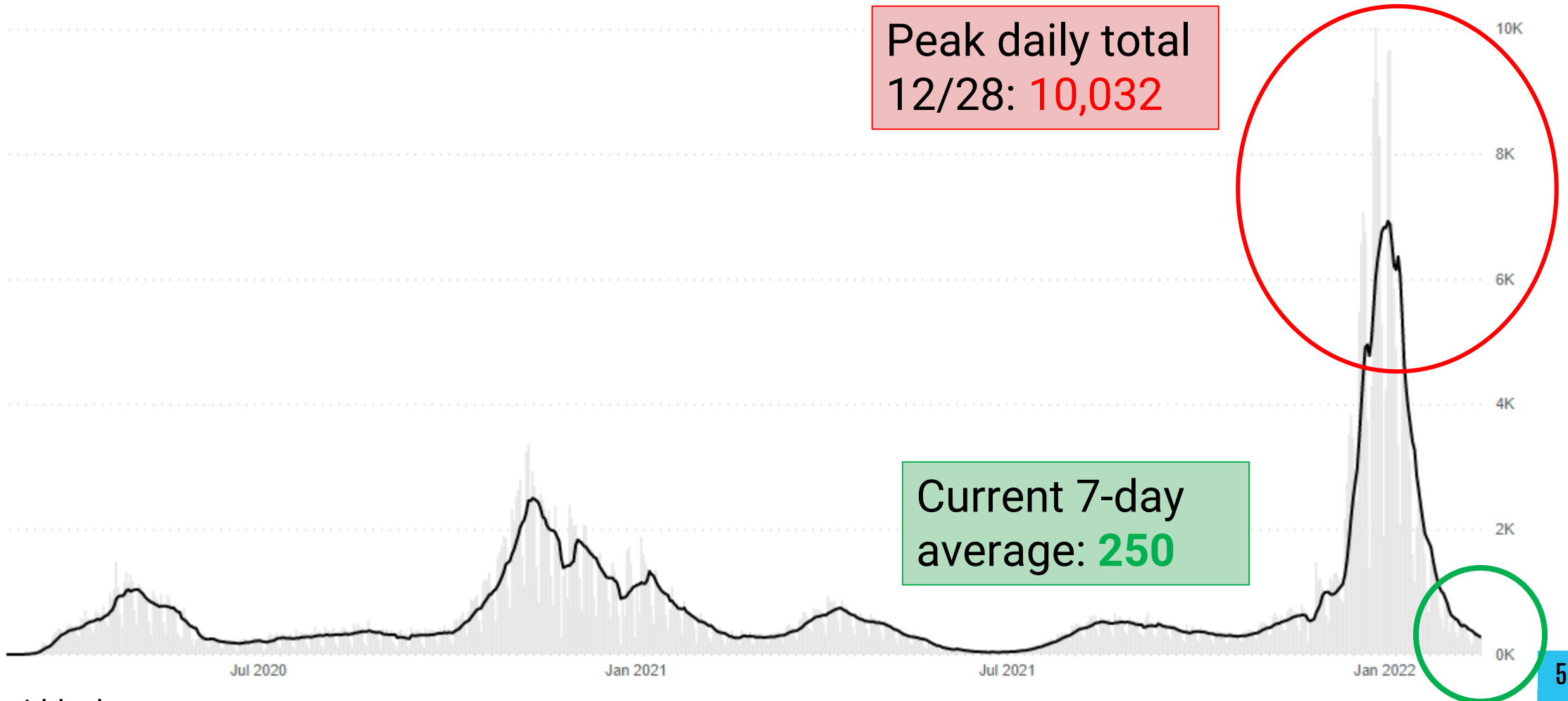
Chicago COVID-19 Community Transmission and Risk Matrix

	VERY HIGH TRANSMISSION	HIGH TRANSMISSION	SUBSTANTIAL TRANSMISSION	LOWER TRANSMISSION	LOW TRANSMISSION
COVID-19 CASES DIAGNOSED PER DAY Chicago residents - 7-day rolling daily average	800+	400 - 799	200 - 399 Current: 250 Decreasing	20 - 199	<20
COVID-19 TEST POSITIVITY Chicago residents - 7-day rolling daily average	10%+	6.6 - 9.9%	5.0 - 6.5%	2 - 4.9%	<2% Current: 1.4% Stable
HOSPITAL BEDS (NON-ICU) OCCUPIED BY COVID PATIENTS Chicago hospitals - 7-day rolling daily average	1250+	750 - 1249	250 - 749	100 - 249 Current: 211 Decreasing	<100
ICU BEDS OCCUPIED BY COVID PATIENTS Chicago hospitals - 7-day rolling daily average	400+	300 - 399	100 - 299	20 - 99 Current: 61 Decreasing	<20

Source: Chicago Department of Public Health, data current as of February 28, 2022. These metrics represent general community COVID transmission and should not be applied to individual settings that have mitigation practices in place.



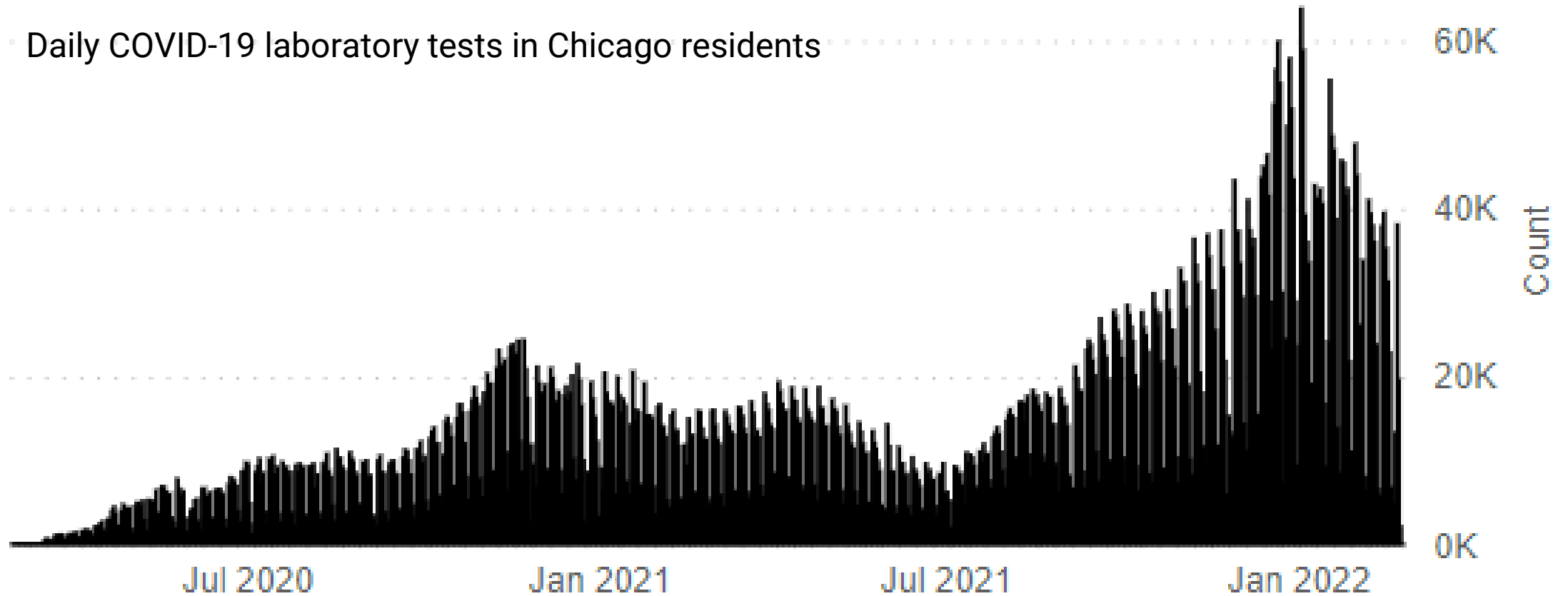
Chicago COVID-19 cases: Chicago saw the **highest** daily case count in the entire pandemic on 12/28/21. Cases now **lowest** they have been since July 2021.



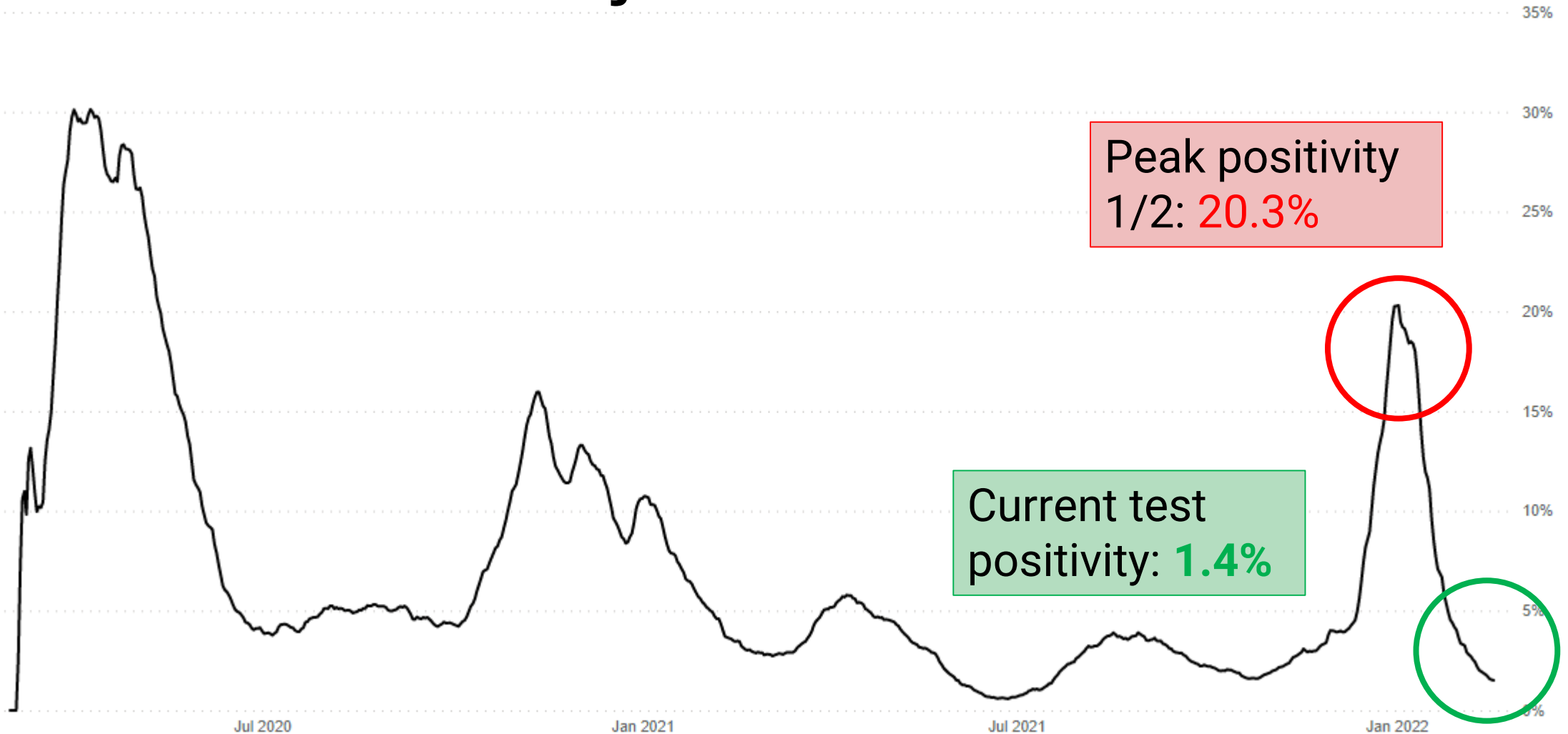


Case count is the lowest it has been since July 2021—even though now approximately **3-5 times** the number of laboratory **tests** are being performed across Chicago as in July 2021.

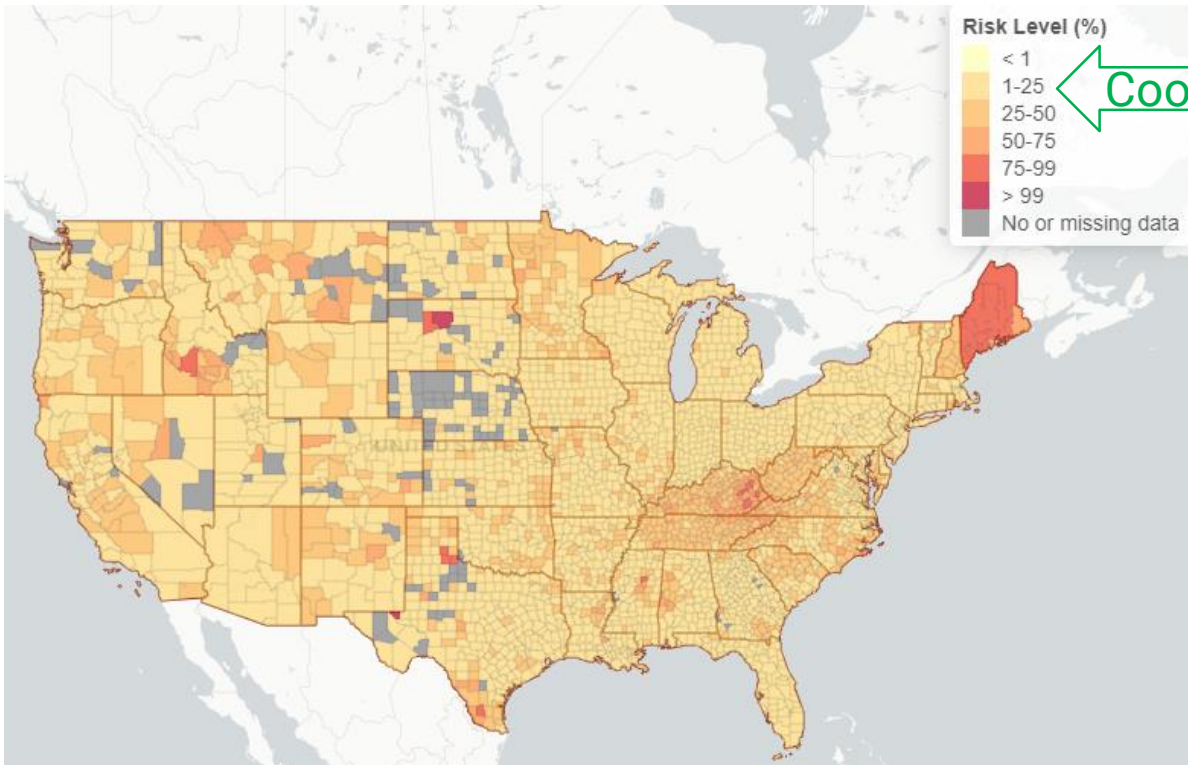
Daily COVID-19 laboratory tests in Chicago residents



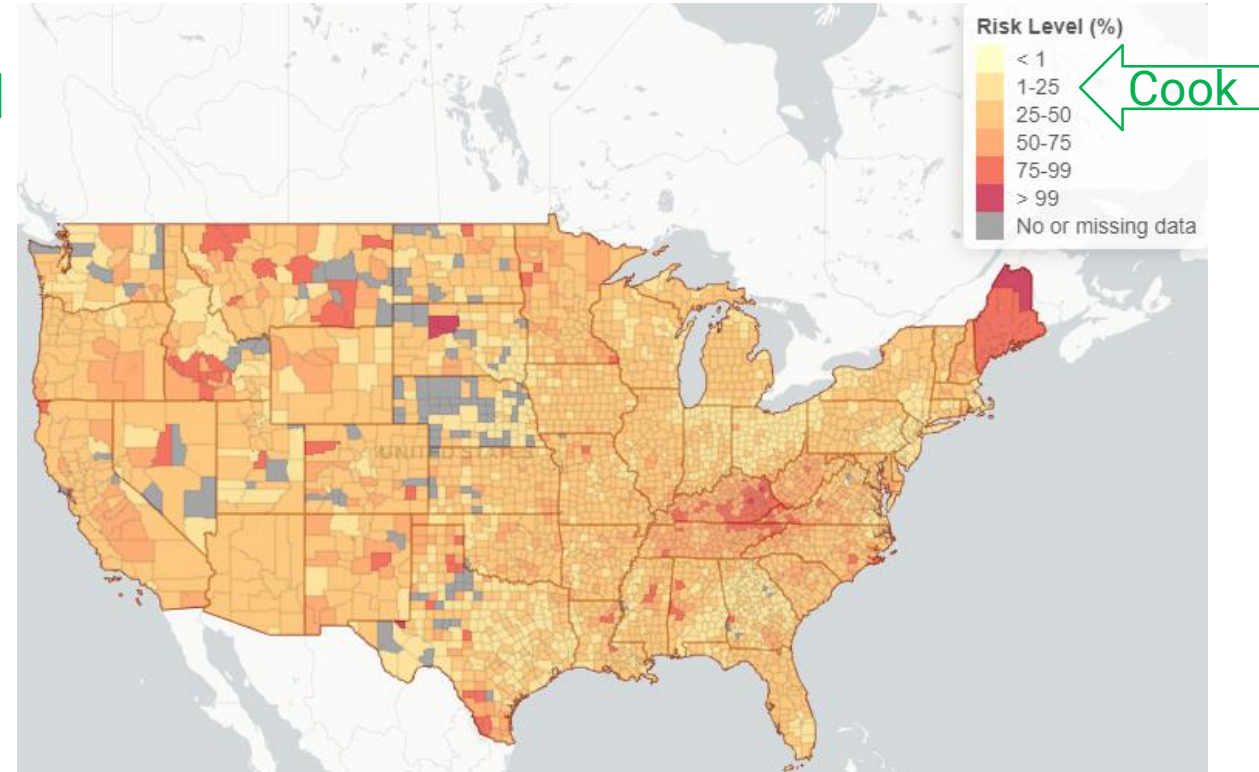
Chicago COVID-19 test positivity peaked **January 1** and has been declining since; now **lowest** it has been since July 2021 and at **low** community risk.



Statistical chance that even ONE person in a 25-or 50-person gathering would have COVID is now **very low** in Chicago/Cook County

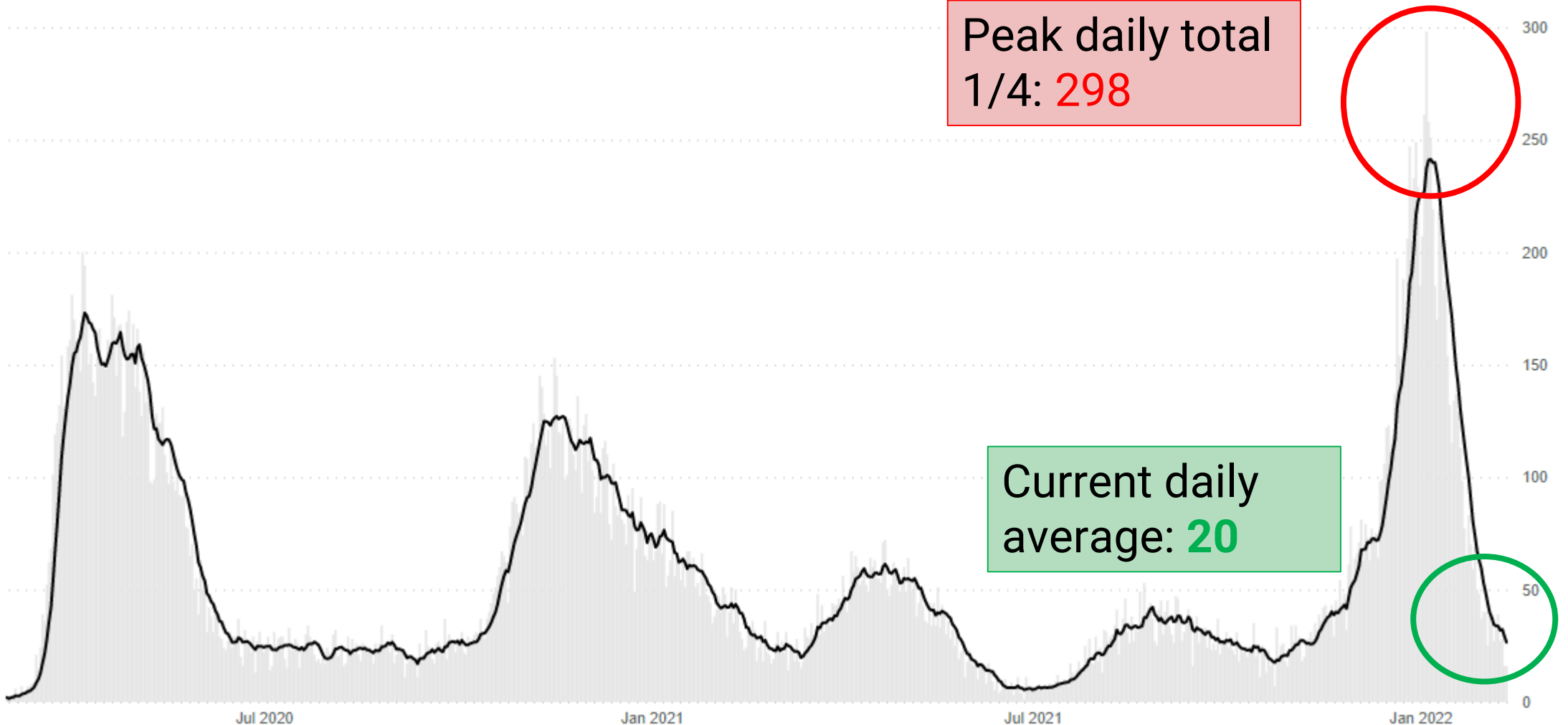


Risk of one person having COVID at
25-person gathering

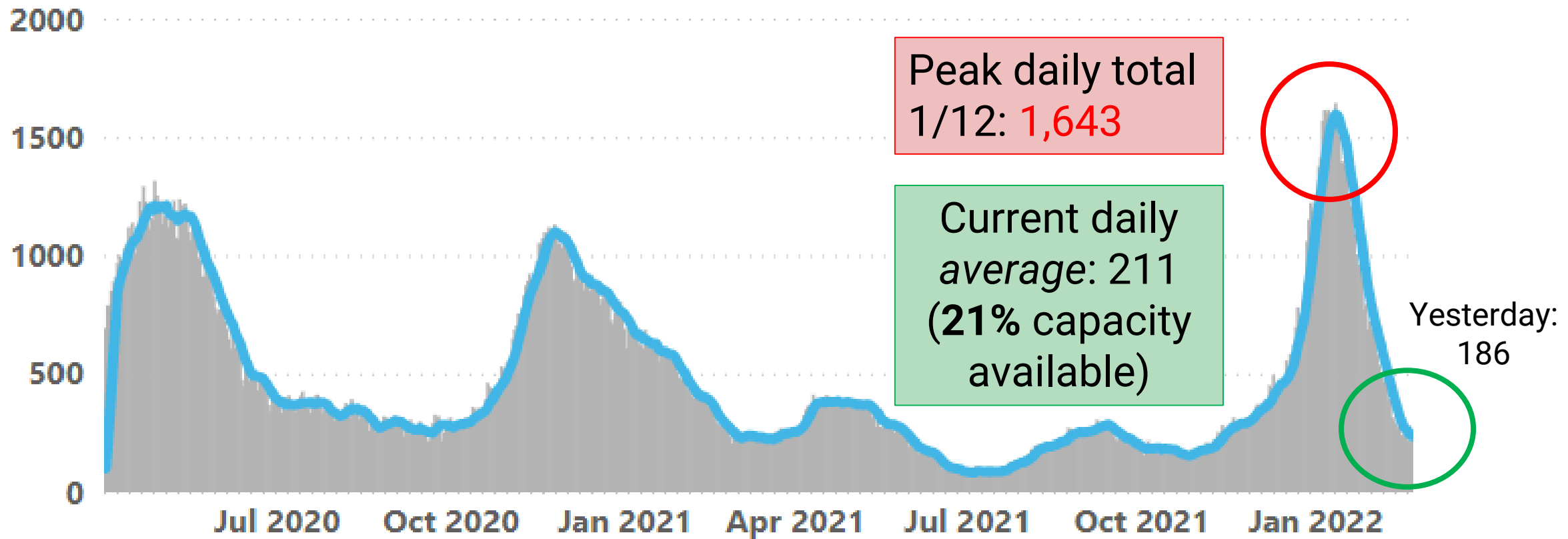


Risk of one person having COVID at
50-person gathering

Chicago **COVID-19 Hospitalizations** (new hospitalizations each day) have decreased significantly since peak in early January and are now at less than half of the CDC's **Low** risk level.



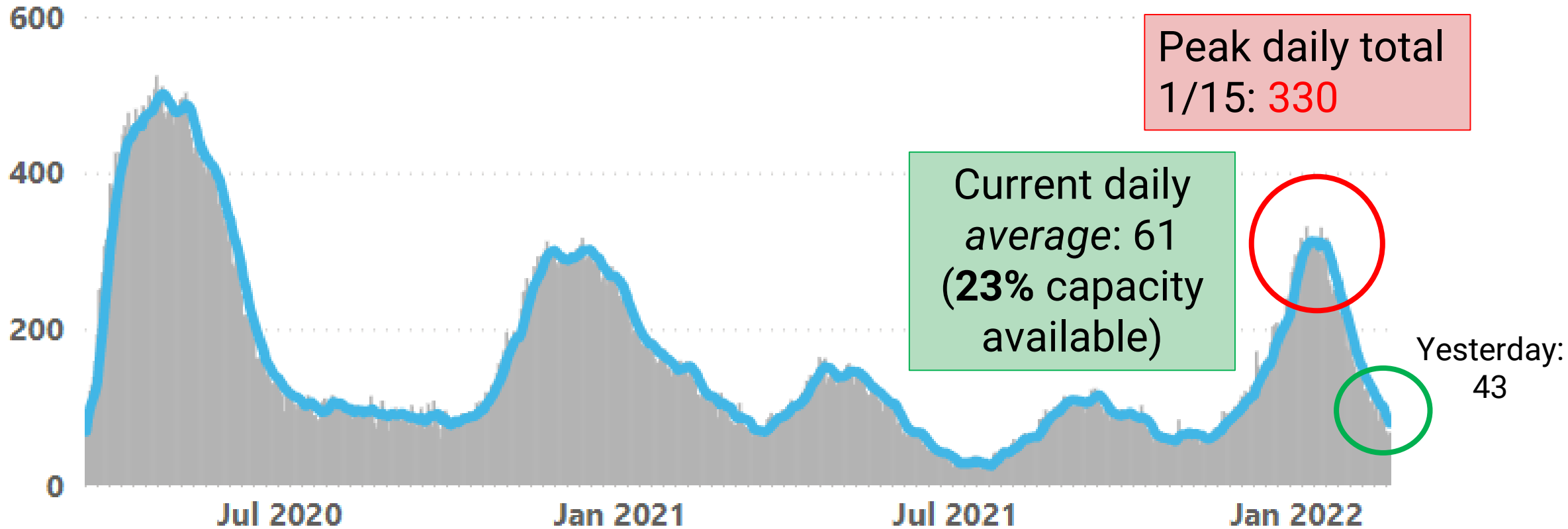
Chicago COVID Hospital Census (non-ICU Hospital Beds occupied by COVID-19 patients) is now in lower transmission/risk.



● Acute Non-ICU Beds Occupied by COVID-19 Patients ● 7-day Rolling Average



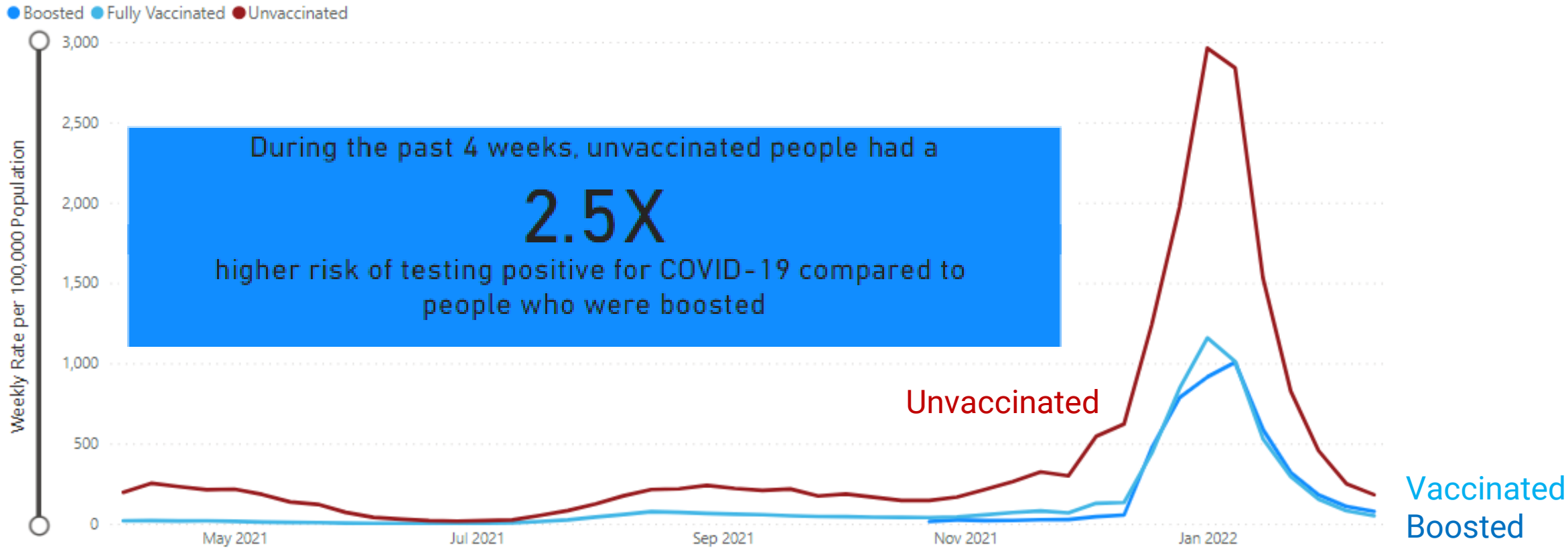
Chicago: **ICU** Hospital Beds occupied by COVID-19 patients also now in **lower** transmission/risk.



● ICU Beds Occupied by COVID-19 Patients ● 7-day Rolling Average

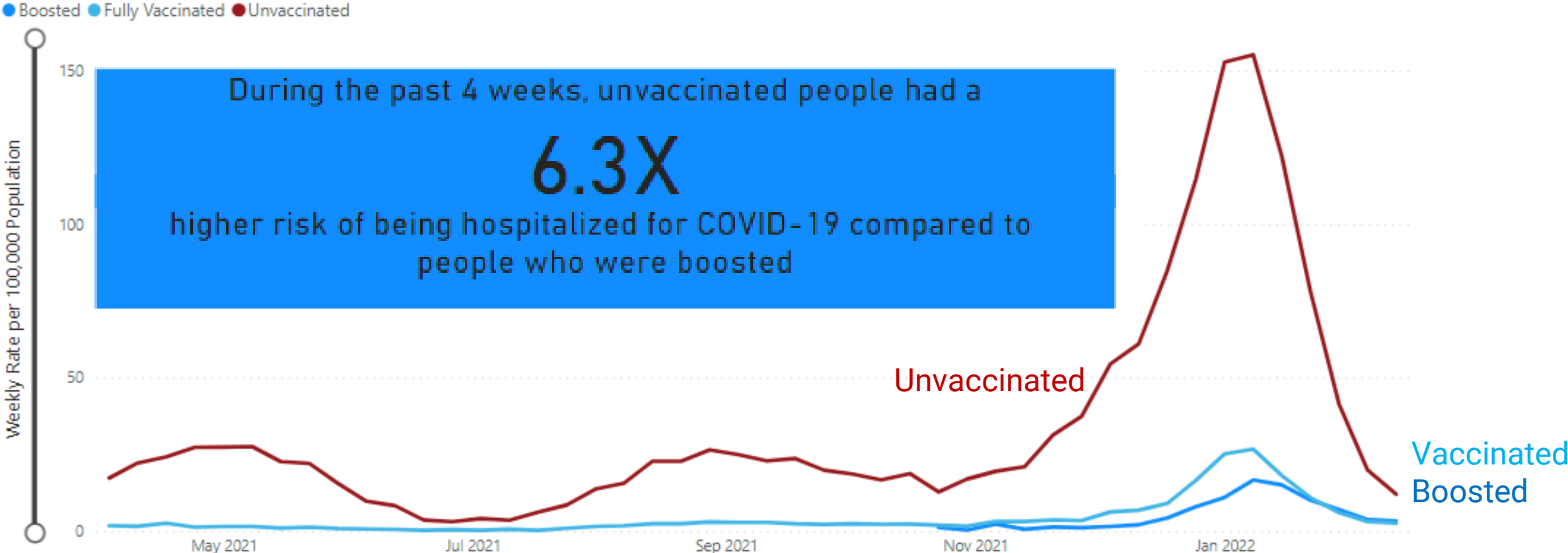


Vaccines Work: Chicago Weekly Rate of COVID-19 *Cases* by Vaccination Status



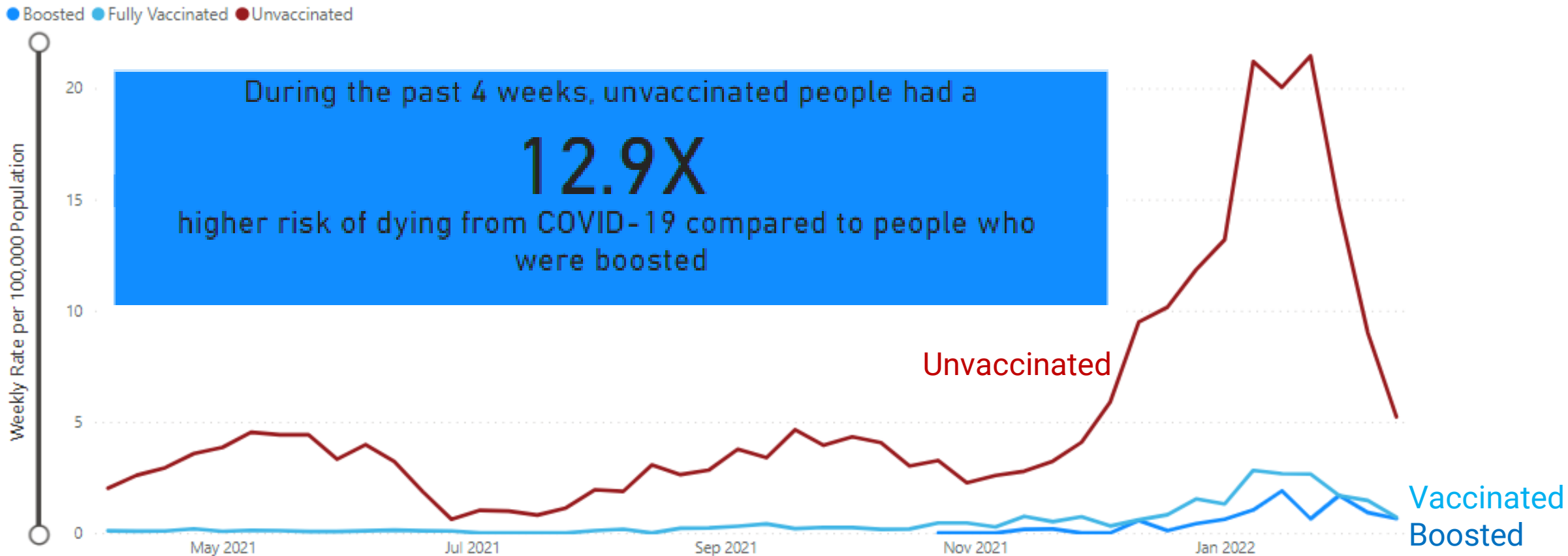


Vaccines Work: Chicago Weekly Rate of COVID-19 Hospitalizations by Vaccination Status





Vaccines Work: Chicago Weekly Rate of COVID-19 *Deaths* by Vaccination Status





Facts:

7,512 Chicago residents have died as a direct result of COVID-19 *infection*.

912 Chicago residents, the great majority unvaccinated, have died of COVID-19 since January 1, 2022.

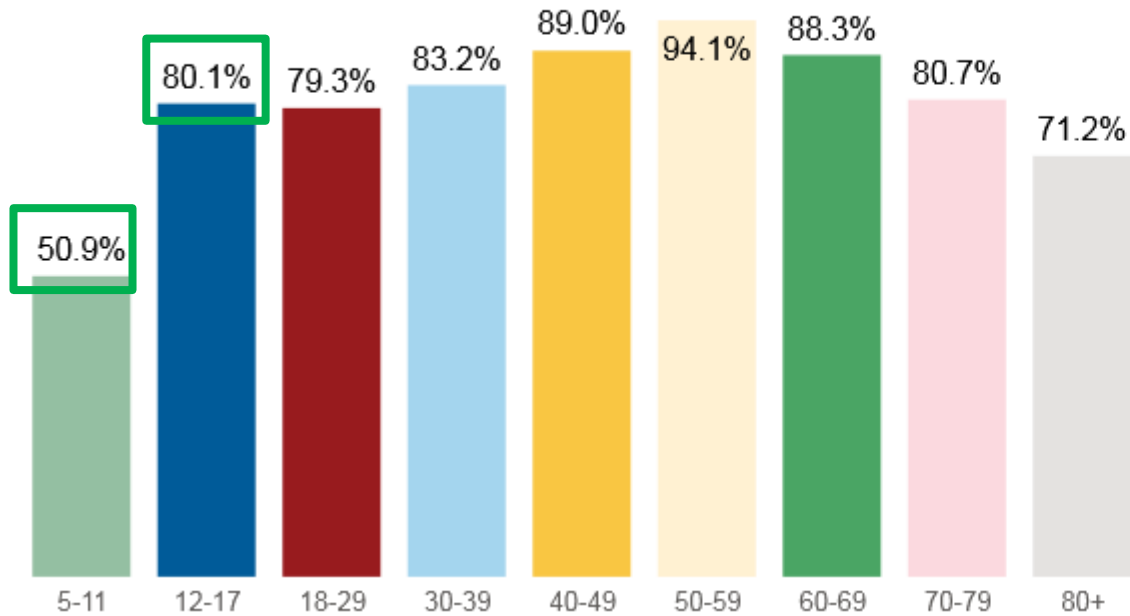
4,930 Chicago residents, the great majority unvaccinated, have been hospitalized with COVID-19 since January 1, 2022.

ZERO Chicago residents have died as a direct result of COVID-19 *vaccination*

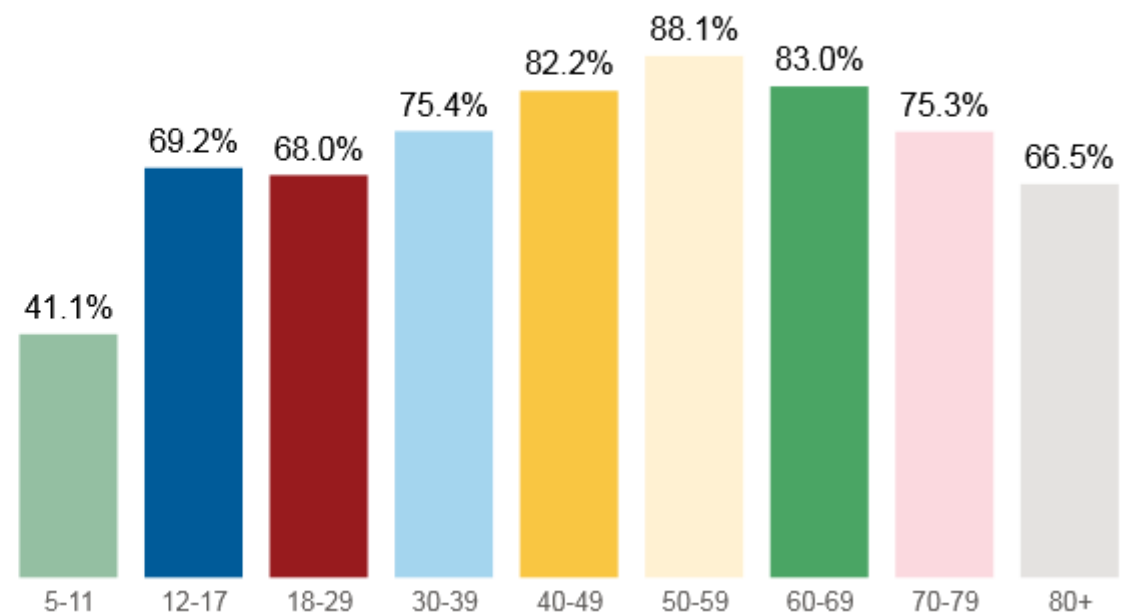
Citywide Vaccination Rate by Age

51% of 5-11 year-olds and 80% of 12-17 year-olds in Chicago have received their first dose of COVID vaccine

At least one dose (% vaccinated as of 2/23/2022)



Completed vaccine series (% vaccinated as of 2/23/2022)



U.S. 5-11 y/o: 32.1%

U.S. 12-17 y/o: 67.1%

Citywide Vaccination Rate by Race/Ethnicity

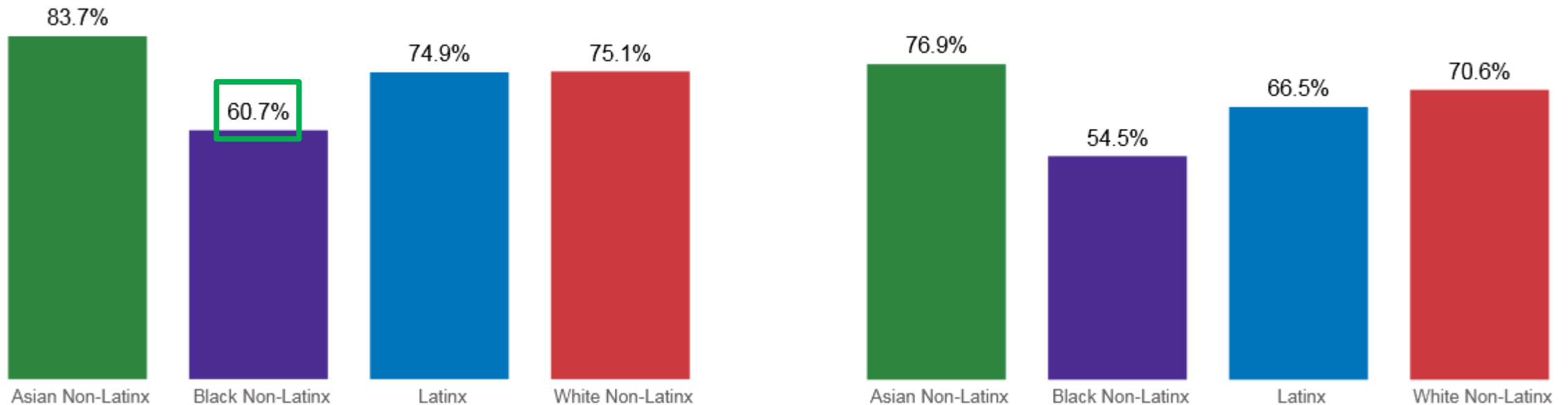


61% of Black non-Latinx Chicagoans have now had a first dose of COVID vaccine (54% fully vaxxed)

A Latinx Chicagoan is just as likely to have received at least one dose of COVID vaccine as a **White Non-Latinx Chicagoan**

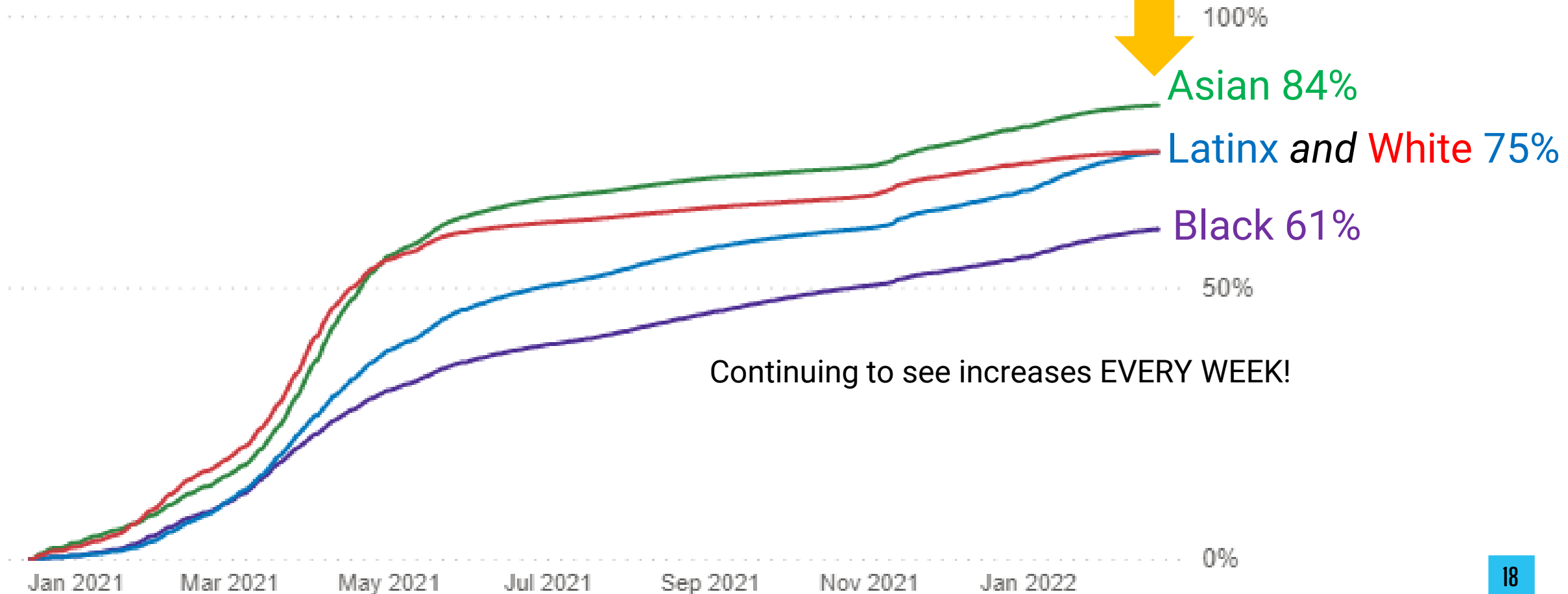
At least one dose (% vaccinated as of 2/23/2022)

Completed vaccine series (% vaccinated as of 2/23/2022)



★ **Three of four (75%) Latinx Chicagoans (all ages) have now had a first dose of COVID-19 vaccine. This is the *same* first dose vaccine coverage seen in **White non-Latinx Chicagoans.****

● Asian Non-Latinx ● Black Non-Latinx ● Latinx ● White Non-Latinx



★ NEW Guidance: CDC COVID-19 Community Levels

- **We are in a new phase of this pandemic**
 - Vaccines, boosters, and tests widely available; effective treatments developed; the very large majority of Chicagoans have some immunity because they have been vaccinated (77%) and/or previously infected
 - Our ability to prevent or reduce severe illness makes it less critical to focus on stopping every case of COVID-19 (plus we do not expect to be able to eradicate COVID)
- The virus will continue to circulate, so **we must prevent overwhelming our hospital and healthcare systems**
 - Overwhelmed hospitals cannot provide the best care for COVID-19 patients or people experiencing other health crises
 - We cannot allow emergency departments to be overwhelmed causing people to wait for lifesaving care
- Looking at severe cases that require hospital care and use healthcare resources (in addition to monitoring overall number of new cases) provides a better picture of COVID-19 impact on our communities

★ Original CDC Risk Table

Determining Transmission Risk

If the two indicators suggest different transmission levels, the higher level is selected

	Low	Moderate	Substantial	High
New cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days*	<10	10-49.99	50-99.99	≥100
Percentage of positive NAATs tests during the past 7 days**	<5%	5-7.99%	8-9.99%	≥10.0%

- Community transmission indicators were developed in fall 2020 (prior to availability of vaccines) and reflect goal of limiting transmission in anticipation of vaccines being available
- Neither of the community transmission indicators reflects medically significant disease or healthcare strain**
- Community transmission levels are largely driven by case incidence, which does not differentiate mild and severe disease

WHAT'S A COVID-19 COMMUNITY LEVEL?

- It's a new tool to help communities decide what prevention measures to take based on the latest data
- Every community in the United States is classified as:

Low

Limited impact on healthcare system, low levels of severe illness

Medium

Some impact on healthcare system, more people with severe illness

High

High potential for healthcare system strain; high level of severe illness



cdc.gov/coronavirus

CS329821-B 02/25/2022

LOW COVID-19 COMMUNITY LEVEL

You should:

- Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines
- Get tested if you have symptoms



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

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State and Local Authorities should:

- Distribute and administer vaccines to achieve high community vaccination coverage
- Maintain improved ventilation
- Ensure access and equity in vaccination, testing, treatment, community outreach

MEDIUM COVID-19 COMMUNITY LEVEL

You should:

- Talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions if you're at **high risk for severe illness**
- Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines
- Get tested if you have symptoms



cdc.gov/coronavirus

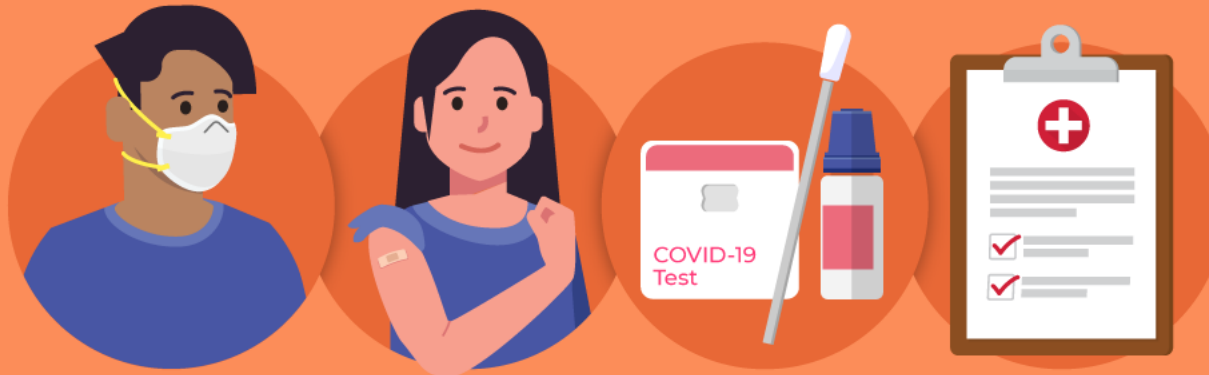
State and Local Authorities should: GREEN+

- Protect people at high risk for severe illness or death
- Consider implementing screening testing for people who are in high-risk settings (schools, workplaces, etc.)
- Implement prevention measures in high-risk congregate settings

HIGH COVID-19 COMMUNITY LEVEL

You should:

- Wear a mask indoors in public
- Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines
- Get tested if you have symptoms
- Take additional precautions as needed, if you're at **high risk for severe illness**



cdc.gov/coronavirus

State and Local Authorities should: GREEN/YELLOW +

- Consider setting-specific recommendations for prevention strategies based on local factors
- Implement healthcare surge support

REGARDLESS OF YOUR COVID-19 COMMUNITY LEVEL, YOU SHOULD MASK IF YOU HAVE



Symptoms
of COVID-19



Positive
COVID-19 Test



Exposure
to someone
with COVID-19



cdc.gov/coronavirus

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NEW CDC Guidance on Community COVID-19 Risk

COVID-19 Community Levels | Use the Highest Level that Applies to Your Community

New COVID-19 Cases per 100,000 people in the last 7 days	Indicators	Level		
		LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
FEWER THAN 200	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	<10.0	10.0-19.9	≥20.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	<10.0%	10.0-14.9%	≥15.0%
200 OR MORE	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	NA	<10.0	≥10.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	NA	<10.0%	≥10.0%

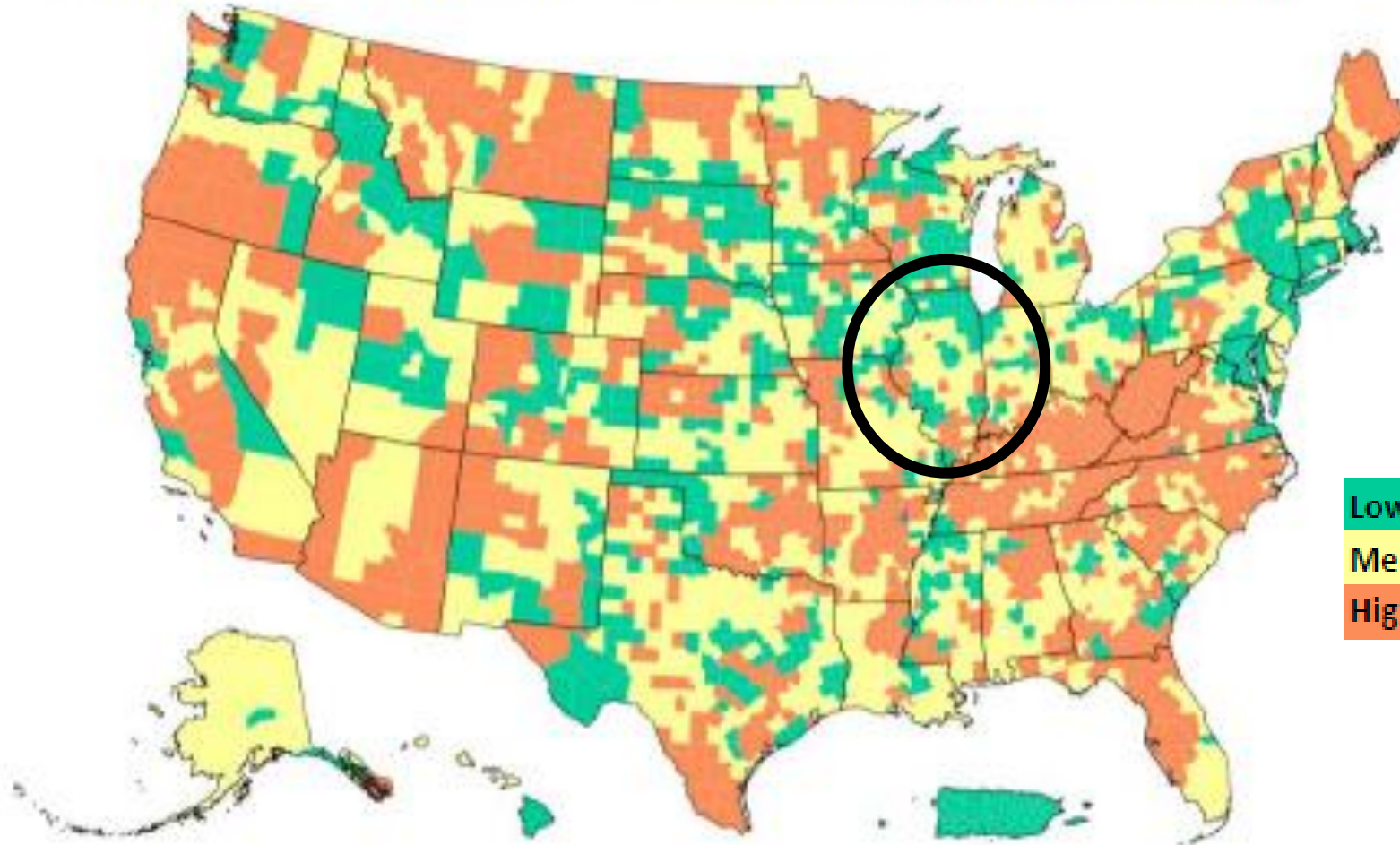
The COVID-19 Community Level is determined by the higher of the new admissions and inpatient beds metrics, based on the current level of new cases.

These changes DO NOT APPLY IN HEALTHCARE SETTINGS

Where does the United States stand with these newly defined metrics?



COVID-19 Community Level in the US by County, February 25, 2022



As of Friday, all of Puerto Rico, New York City, D.C., Hawaii and the counties that include Seattle, Chicago, Denver and Atlanta were all at a “low” community level.

	% of Counties	% of Population
Low	23.0%	29.5%
Medium	39.6%	42.2%
High	37.3%	28.2%



NEW CDC Guidance on Community COVID-19 Risk

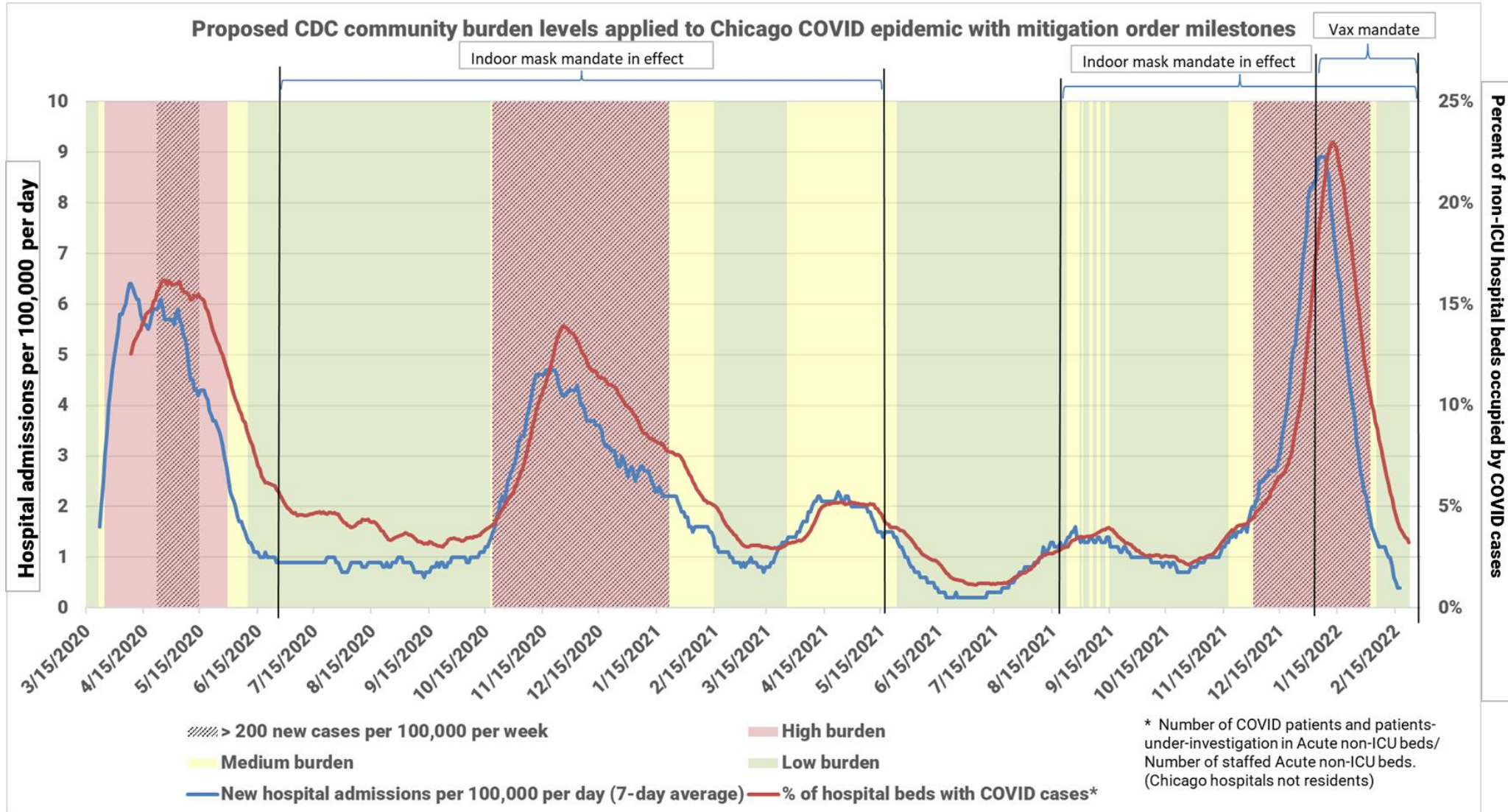
COVID-19 Community Levels | Use the Highest Level that Applies to Your Community

New COVID-19 Cases per 100,000 people in the last 7 days	Indicators	Level		
		LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
FEWER THAN 200 Fewer than 775 cases/day	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	<10.0	10.0-19.9	≥20.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	<10.0%	10.0-14.9%	≥15.0%
200 OR MORE More than 775 cases/day	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	NA	<10.0	≥10.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	NA	<10.0%	≥10.0%

For Chicago
(rounded)

The COVID-19 Community Level is determined by the higher of the new admissions and inpatient beds metrics, based on the current level of new cases.

How would the new CDC metrics have performed in Chicago in the past?





While not required, be prepared to see updated signage in various settings

MASKS OPTIONAL

While this establishment no longer requires masks to enter, please be kind to those who choose to wear a mask.



THIS ESTABLISHMENT NO LONGER REQUIRES MASKS OR PROOF OF VACCINATION TO ENTER

Please wear a mask if you are experiencing potential COVID-19 symptoms and be kind to those who choose to wear a mask.



Some businesses may choose to maintain the mask and/or vaccine requirement. Options for signage will be available on our website.



VACCINATION CARD REQUIRED

While the City of Chicago has lifted the vaccine requirement for certain indoor public settings, **THIS ESTABLISHMENT CONTINUES TO REQUIRE PROOF OF VACCINATION TO ENTER.**



WHILE THE CITY OF CHICAGO HAS LIFTED THE MASK MANDATE, THIS ESTABLISHMENT CONTINUES TO REQUIRE MASKS TO ENTER.



MASKS AND VACCINATION CARDS REQUIRED

While the City of Chicago has lifted the mask mandate and vaccine requirement, this establishment continues to require masks and proof of vaccination to enter.



LOOKING AHEAD

★ Example: Promote **Protect Chicago At Home** Vaccine Appts

Example for Faith Leaders: I'll Hold Your Hand

- **Step One:** Call or email Minister Sandra Robinson Cunningham to register your place of worship for the program. (312-446-0500 or srobinson@goldstarc.com)
- **Step Two:** Attend one of the upcoming webinars March 15 or March 29.
- **Step Three:** Encourage members to **make a Protect Chicago At Home vaccine appointment** where the clinic comes to their home. Members can call your place of worship once their appointment is scheduled through to send someone from your team to support them while being vaccinated.

PROTECT CHICAGO

I'll Hold Your Hand
VACCINE AMBASSADORS
COVID-19 PROTECT CHICAGO 77

Every day, faith communities across the city provide support and comfort to those who are fearful, anxious, and in need of guidance.

Building upon this premise, the I'll Hold Your Hand Vaccine Ambassador Program gives faith communities the opportunity to organize members to provide hands-on support – literally – and hold the hand of a person struggling to get vaccinated because of fear.

Anyone can take part in the I'll Hold Your Hand initiative.

THE PROCESS IS EASY, AND THE BENEFITS ARE REWARDING:

STEP 01 Complete the City's online Vaccine Ambassadors Course at ccc.edu/vaccineambassador.

STEP 02 Print your certificate and take it to a participating place of worship.

STEP 03 Join their vaccination team and start providing moral support at various vaccination events.

To see the full list of participating places of worship and learn more about the initiative, visit Chicago.gov/COVIDvax.



GET VAXXED AT HOME GET \$50* PER DOSE



- Anyone age 5+ can get a vaccine at home
- Pfizer pediatric, adult and boosters doses available
- Up to 10 people can get vaccinated at the same time
- **Appointments:**
Monday-Sunday,
8:00 am to 6:30 pm

*One \$50 gift card for each primary Pfizer dose. Booster doses do not qualify.

To schedule your appointment:

CALL **312.746.4835**

OR VISIT chicago.gov/athome



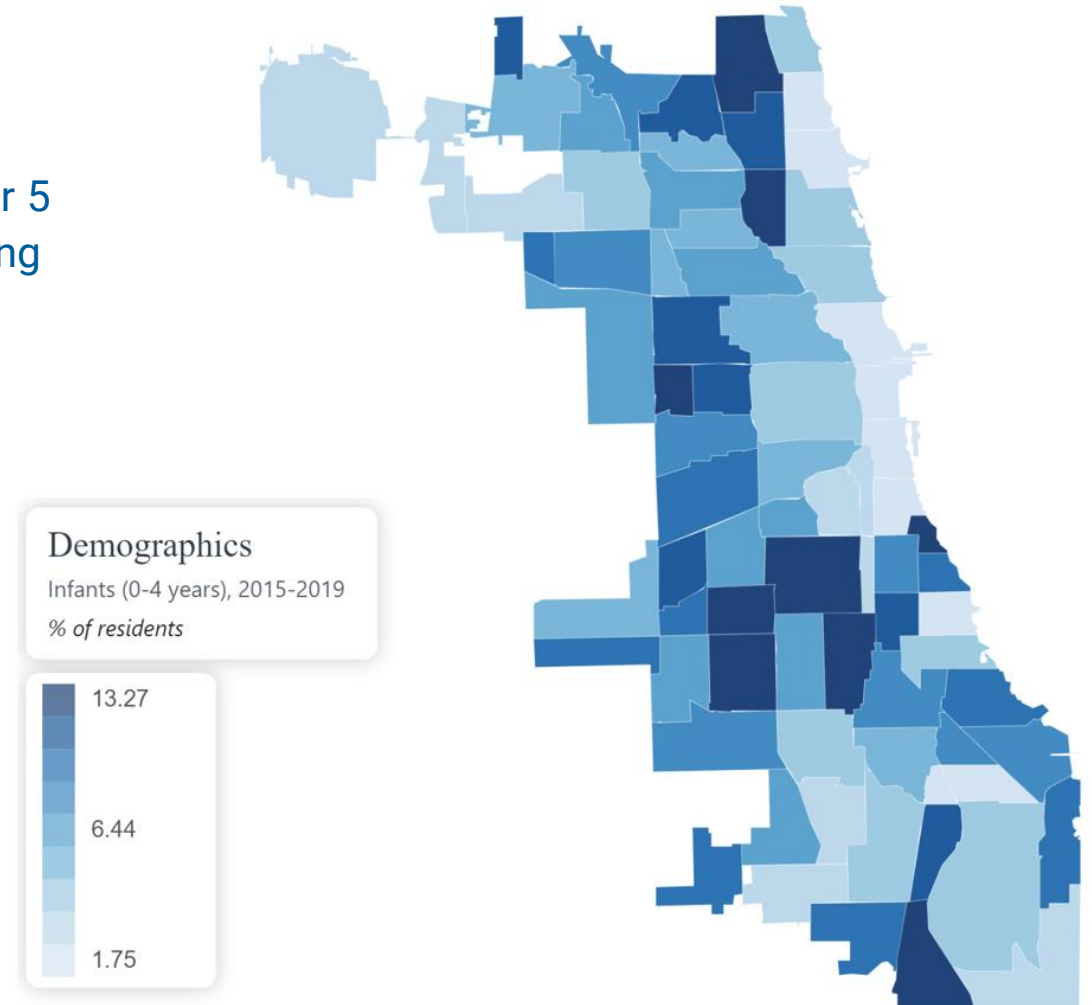


LOOKING AHEAD

Example: Approval of Vaccine for Children Under 5

- **WHAT?** FDA has not yet authorized COVID vaccine for kids under 5
 - FDA will review data on all three doses of the vaccine for young kids, instead of starting with just two
- **WHY?** Young-child sized trial dose is just 1/10th of the adult vaccine dose
 - No safety concerns but lower efficacy after two doses in 2-4 year olds than desired; expected improved efficacy after third dose
- **WHEN?** Data should be available by April; if trial data supports, vaccination may begin ?early summer
- **WHERE?** Map shows where many children under age 5 live in Chicago

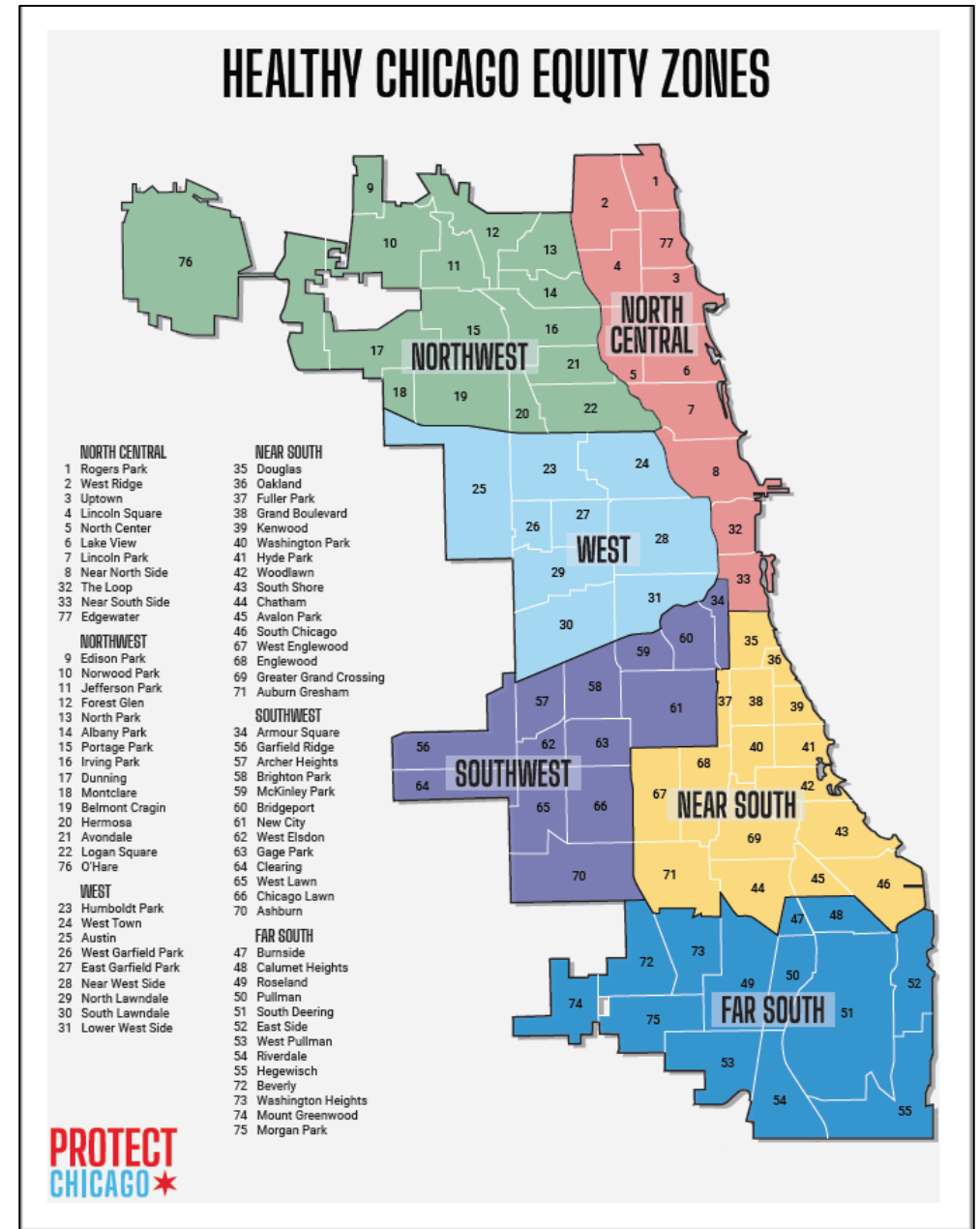
Percent of Population Under 5 Years by Chicago Community Area



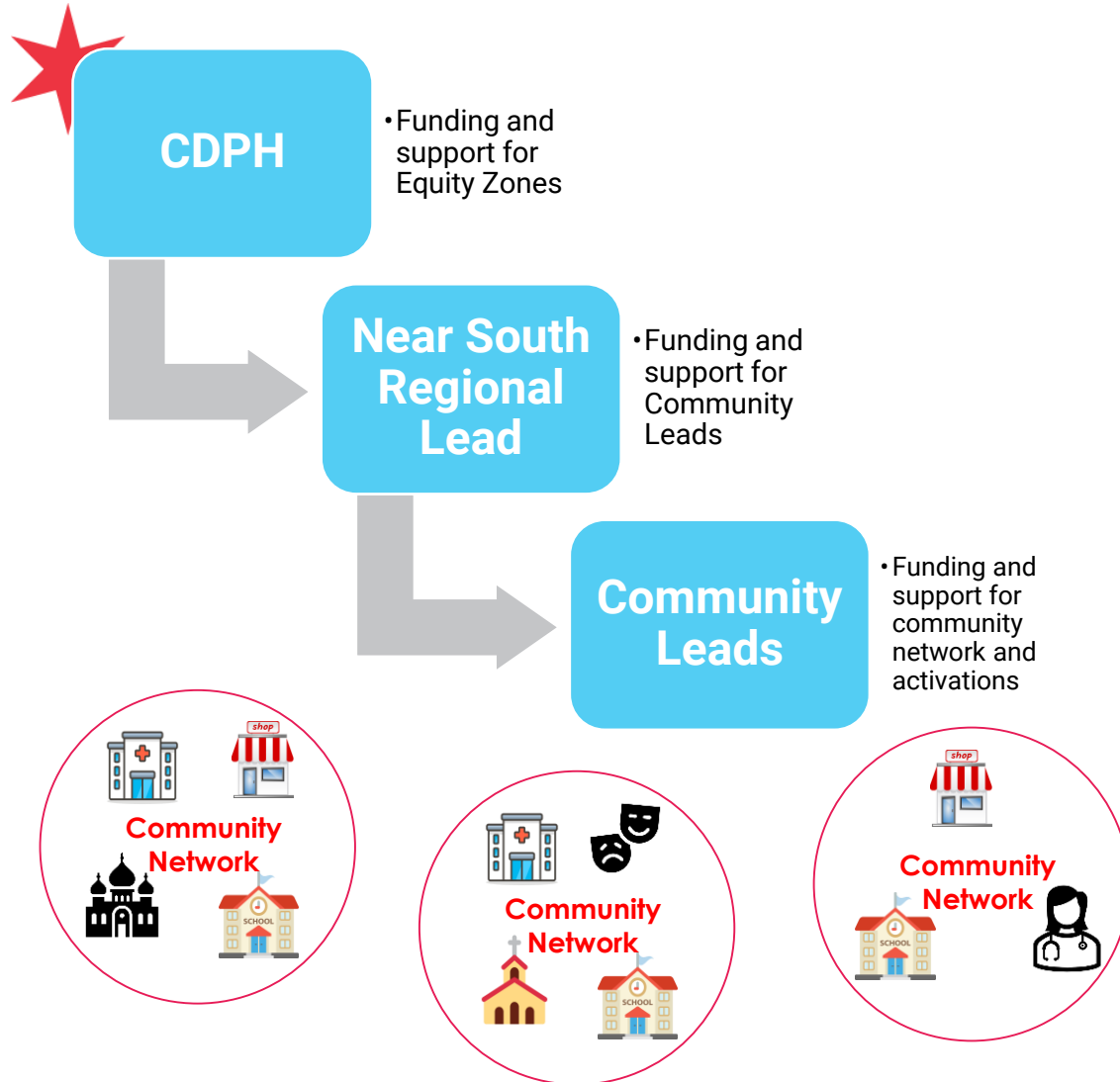
LOOKING AHEAD

Example: Healthy Chicago Equity Zones (HCEZ)

- Six Equity Zones, covering the entire geography of Chicago.
- Leads:
 - North Central: **Swedish Convent Hospital**
 - Northwest: **Northwest Side Housing Center**
 - West: **Rush Medical/West Side United**
 - Southwest: **Southwest Organizing Project**
 - Near South: **Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation**
 - Far South: **Phalanx Family Services**



HCEZ STRUCTURE

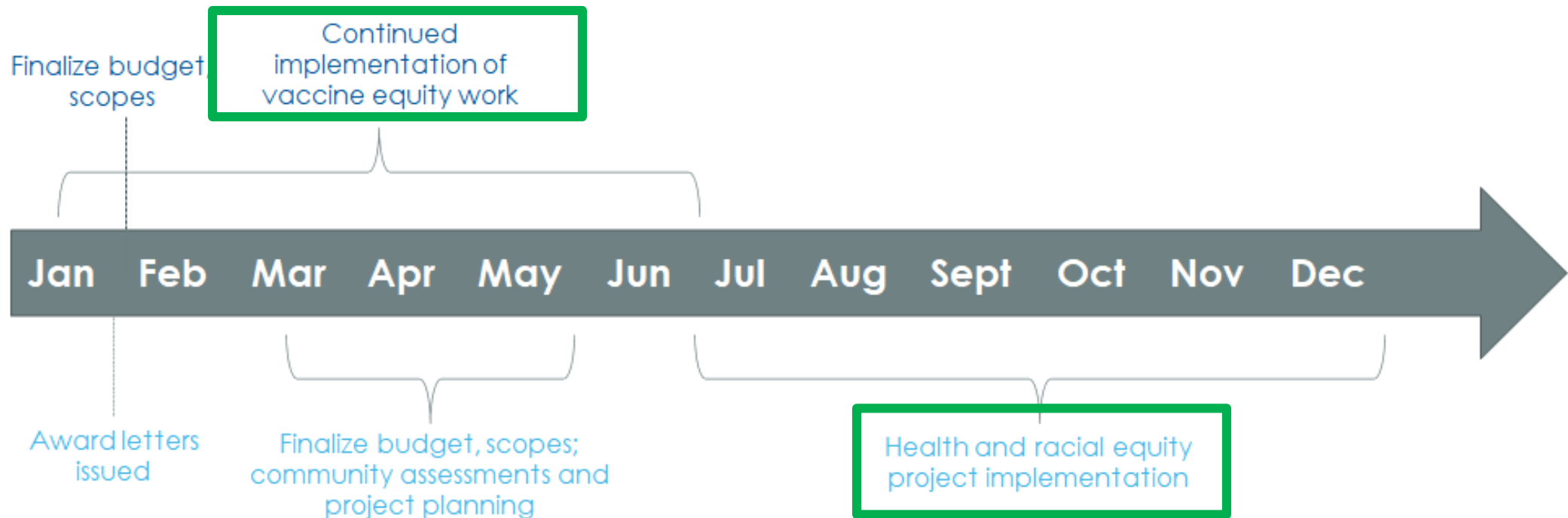


EXAMPLE: Near South Equity Zone

- 1 Regional Lead
- **Up to 16** Community Leads, each covering one or more neighborhoods in the region
- Each Community Lead coordinates a **hyper-local neighborhood network** of partners, including:
 - Other community groups
 - Health providers
 - Schools
 - Faith-based organizations
 - Businesses

★ HCEZ NEXT STEPS: 2022 **Growth** Timeline...Beyond Vaccine

VACCINE EQUITY ACTIVATIONS



HEALTH & RACIAL EQUITY ACTIVATIONS

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT EARLY TREATMENTS FOR COVID-19



If you test positive for COVID-19, there are IV and oral medications that can help keep you out of the hospital, but they need to be taken in the first few days of infection.



If you test positive and have underlying conditions that put you at higher risk for hospitalization, ***talk with your healthcare provider immediately to see if they recommend newer treatments now available.***



Treatments used for COVID-19 can interact with other medications you take ***and must be prescribed*** by your healthcare provider.

- ***Please do not go to a pharmacy or infusion center without a prescription.***



Supply is growing but remains limited for these treatments and will be prioritized for those at highest risk of developing severe illness.

Looking for a vaccine?

visit [CHI.GOV/COVIDVAX](https://chi.gov/covidvax)

or call **312-746-4835**



Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot

- ALL individuals 65+ are eligible for these treatments
- These treatments are provided by the federal government at no-cost
- These treatments are available regardless of an individual's vaccination status
- These treatments are available now in Chicago
- If you test positive for COVID-19, talk with your healthcare provider immediately



“Is the pandemic over?”

The pandemic is *not* over but we are in a new phase.

- Although COVID-19 continues to circulate, we now have vaccines, tests, and treatments that work, and most Chicagoans have some immunity from vaccines (77%) and/or past infection.
- So-called “living with COVID” will require us to use all we have learned over the past 2 years.
- This means putting proven public health strategies in place *when they are needed* to
 - prevent serious illness and death
 - stop our hospitals from being overwhelmed, and
 - protect society

Need a vaccine or a booster? Have questions?

visit **CHI.GOV/COVIDVAX**

or call **312-746-4835**

