



City and Borough of Juneau  
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DATE: January 31, 2022  
 TO: CBJ Assembly  
 FROM: Robert Barr, Incident Commander  
 RE: **Situational Update –Level 3 Modified High**

Overall Community Risk	Disease Situation	Hospital Capacity	Public Health Capacity	<b>The Complete CBJ COVID-19 Dashboard can be found <a href="#">here</a> or by going to <a href="https://Juneau.org/COVID-19">Juneau.org/ COVID-19</a></b>
<b>Level 3 - Modified High</b>	The community case load remains high. The Omicron variant is present and community spread is occurring. Vaccine is available.	Local hospital case loads are intermittently significant and staffing is constrained due to staff isolation/quarantine.	Contact tracing is significantly constrained due to the quantity of cases. Approximately half of recent case activity is secondary in nature.	

**Situation Assessment:**

The 14 and 7 day case rates are at the very high alert level. The Omicron variant is the dominant strain. The community is urged to take advantage of vaccination, masking, and testing - the three most effective tools we have at combating the pandemic. Masking is required when indoors in public places. Social distancing remains recommended to mitigate disease spread and allow for effective contact tracing. Individuals should test immediately if they have even mild symptoms. **The single most effective strategy to mitigate COVID is to get vaccinated.**

**Issues of Note:**

We are unfortunately reporting a COVID-19 local resident death over the weekend at BRH. The individual who died was a male in his 80s. We offer our condolences to his family and friends.

We are ending January with an average case rate of 84 per day, almost triple the peak that we saw in September during our Delta wave. Thankfully, despite this increase and due to decreased severity and high local vaccination rates, the impacts we saw at BRH have so far been relatively comparable to what we saw during Delta. There are currently 25 staff out with COVID at BRH.

[Today is the last day](#) of Capstone Clinic's contract with DHSS to provide testing services at the airport. Capstone has re-located and will continue to provide community based testing at their new location in the parking lot of Alaska Industrial Hardware (drive-thru).

Partially due to COVID-related public communication over the past two years, we currently have a survey out seeking to get public input on how we communicate and how the public would like to receive CBJ-

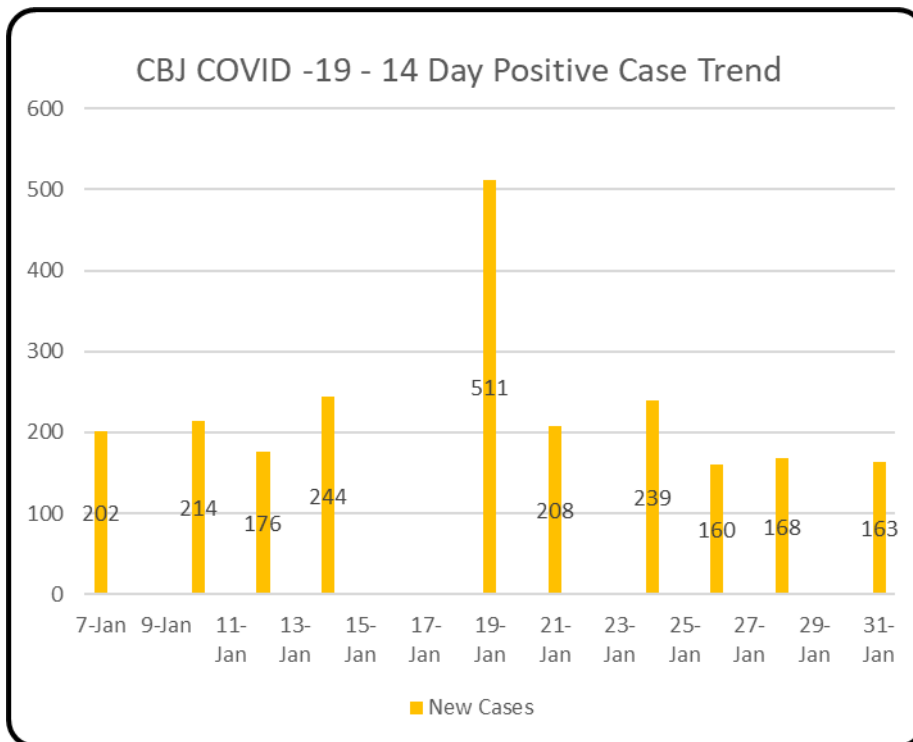
related information. It is live through February 6: <https://juneau.org/survey>. It is available in English, Spanish, and Tagalog. Paper versions are available at the libraries and city hall cash office.

Rapid antigen tests continue to be in high demand, we placed an order for additional 15,000 test kits (30,000 tests) today.

The most effective COVID-19 therapeutics continue to be limited due to short supply. The State Department of Health and Social Services maintains a good website on [COVID-19 therapeutic options](#).

**Daily Numbers update:** We are reporting 163 new cases since the last EOC report on January 28<sup>th</sup> (F-M).

Statewide, the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services reports [4,447](#) new people identified with COVID-19 for data reported 1/28-1/30. The state reports 0 new deaths (although we report 1 for Juneau, noted above). The total number of resident deaths is 1,052. Alaska has had 209,564 cumulative resident cases of COVID-19 and a total of 7,375 nonresidents.

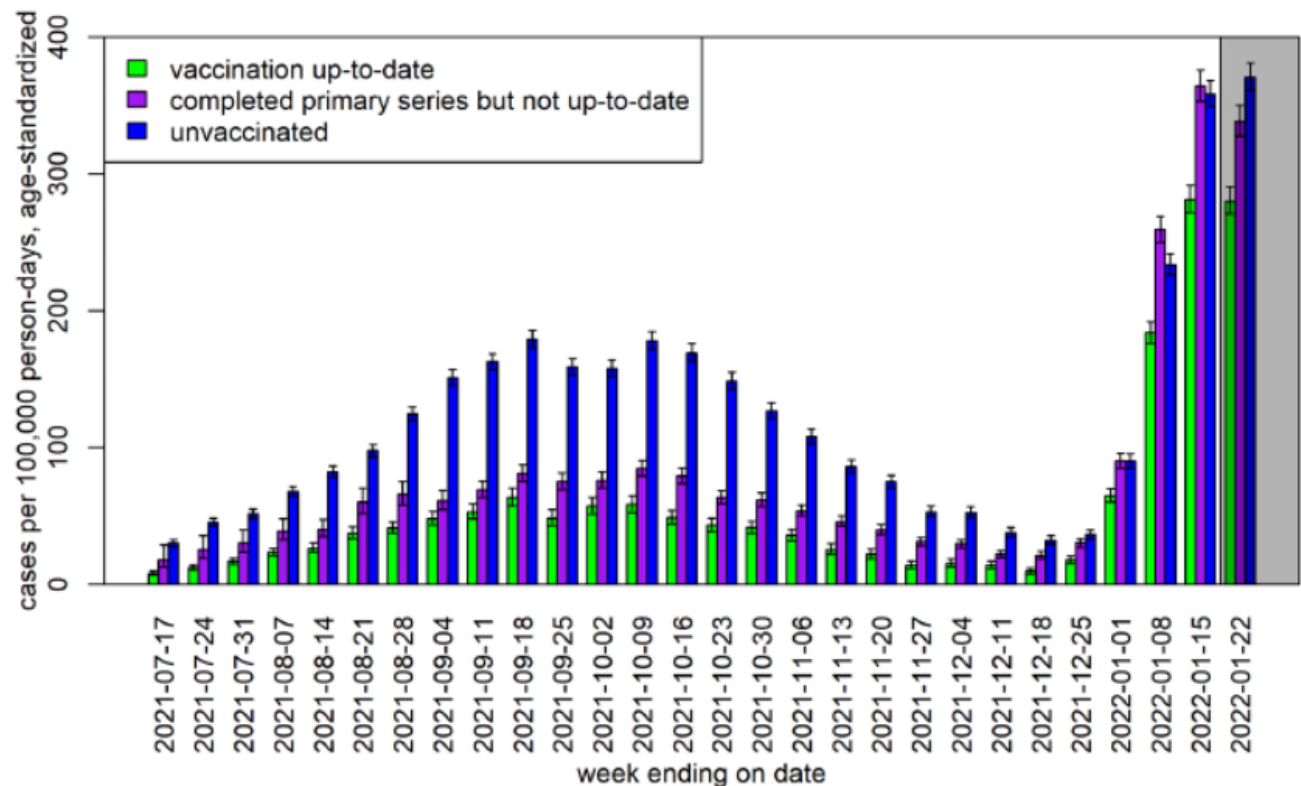


**Breakthrough Cases:** Vaccine breakthrough (VB) infections of COVID are those detected in a person who is at least 2 weeks beyond their second dose of a 2-dose series or the only dose of a 1-dose series. Data in this section from [DHSS Weekly Report](#).

Among Alaska residents aged ≥5 years from January 16, 2021–January 22, 2022, 49,158 cases were documented in persons who had completed the primary series and were considered fully vaccinated. Among those vaccine-breakthrough cases, 404 hospitalizations and 140 deaths due to COVID-19 have been recorded. During that time, 83,534 cases have been documented in unvaccinated Alaskans aged ≥5 years, leading to 1,697 hospitalizations and 565 deaths. All data are preliminary and subject to change.

Vaccines help protect against infection and against severe disease, especially when a person is up to date on vaccinations. Through November, unvaccinated Alaskans were more than 10 times more likely to be hospitalized due to COVID-19 than Alaskans who have completed the primary series of COVID-19 vaccination and were more than 12 times more likely to die from COVID-19. See the [monthly report](#) to learn more.

During the Omicron wave, cases in vaccinated persons have become more frequent, but Alaskans who are up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccines (i.e., completed the primary series and received a booster dose, if eligible) still have lower rates of becoming a case than those who are unvaccinated or are not up-to-date.



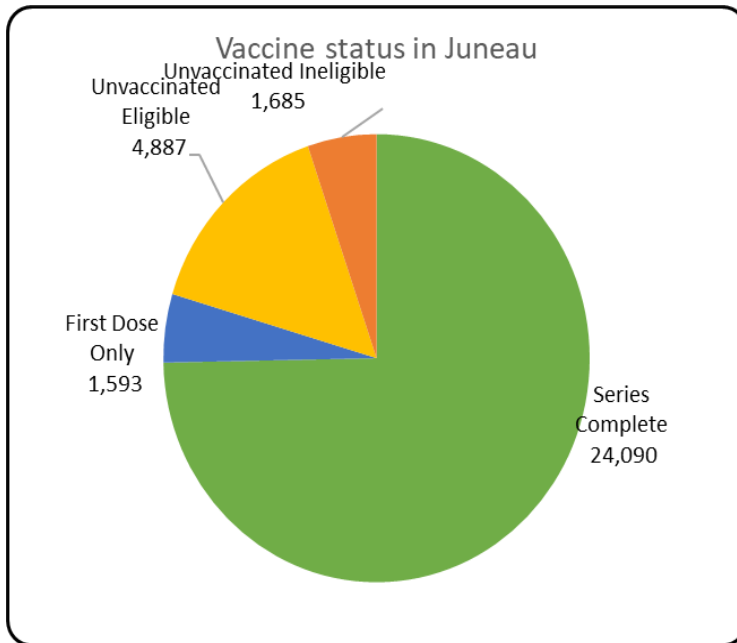
**Variants of Concern:**

Omicron is the dominant variant in Alaska (98+%). The State of Alaska variants dashboard is available online: <https://akvariants.github.io/>. We do not yet have an indication that the new Omicron subvariant (BA.2) is present in Alaska; however, it likely is and our working assumption is that it may slow the rate of our current case trend decline but not reverse it. Early characterizations of this subvariant are that it is more transmissible (perhaps 1.5x) than BA.1 and that it does not cause more hospitalizations than BA.1.

**Testing Summary:**

PCR testing at BRH continues to return results in under 24 hours, with very few exceptions.

**Vaccination Updates:**



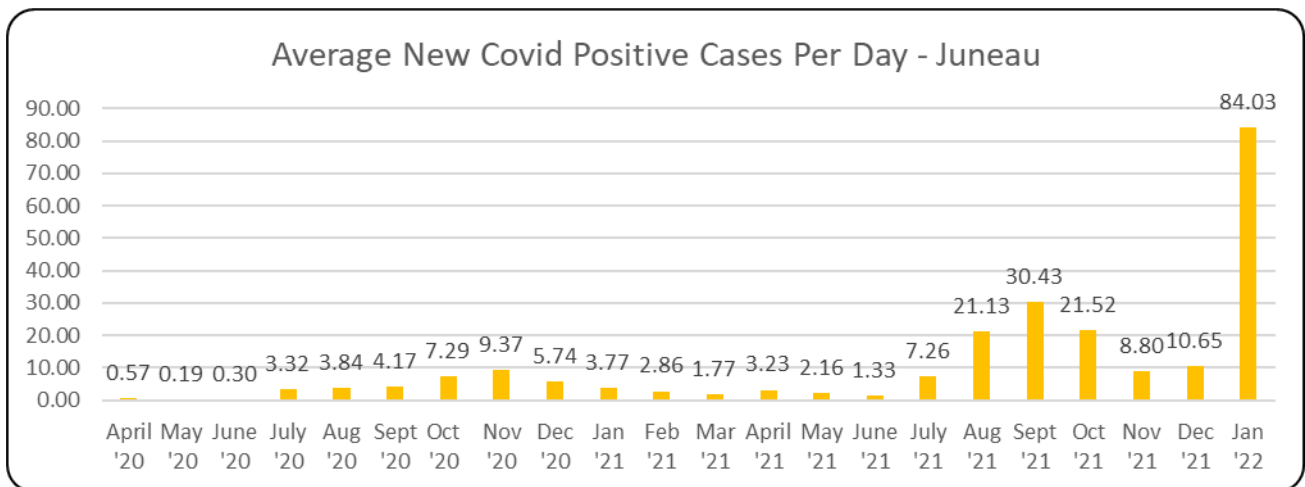
Total: **79.6%** of the total population of Juneau has received at least 1 dose of vaccine and **74.7%** have completed their vaccine series.

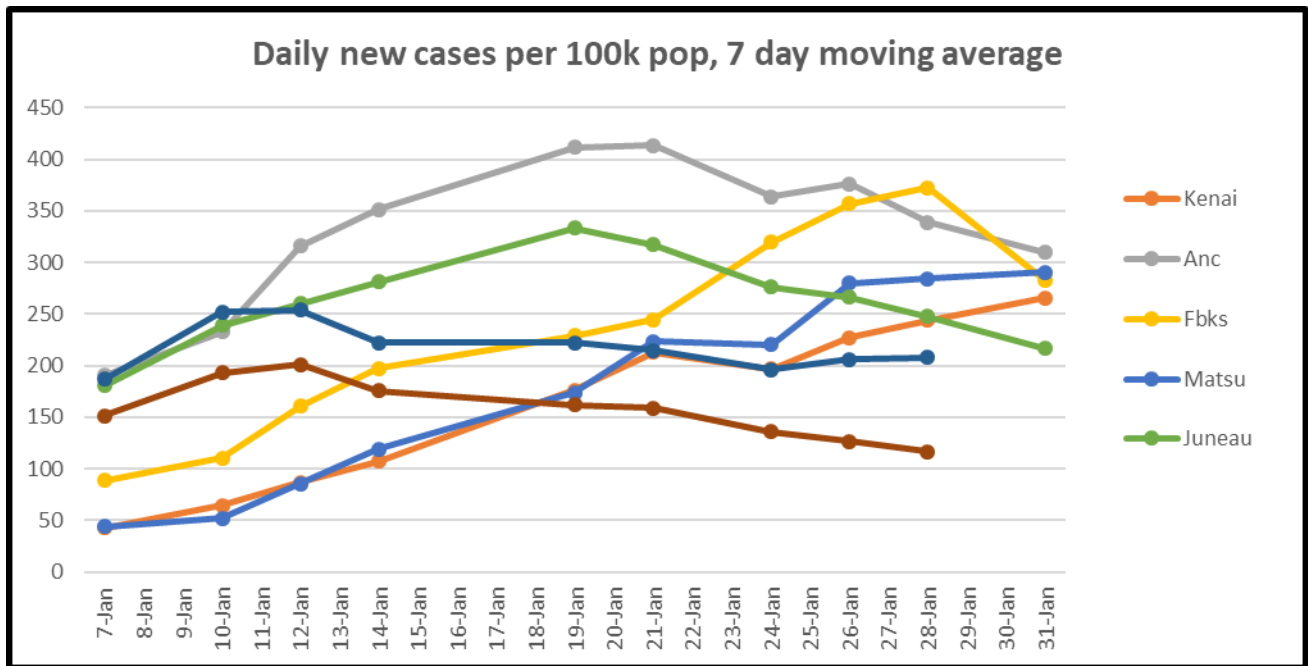
5+: **84%** of the age eligible Juneau population has received at least 1 dose of vaccine. **78.8%** have completed their vaccine series.

**41.1%** of those 5+ have received a booster dose.

65+: **96%** of this age group has at least one dose of vaccine. **92%** have completed the vaccine series.

**73%** of those 65+ have received a booster dose.





This chart tracks the number of new cases in the past 7 days, controlled for population. King County (Seattle) and Multnomah County (Portland) are included for context and due to travel frequency. The source data for Alaska is from the SOA dashboard. Out of state data is from the Harvard Global Health Institute (<https://globalepidemics.org/key-metrics-for-covid-suppression/>) and generally lags a day behind most of our other reporting. Policy recommendations at varying levels (<1, <10, <25, 25+) can be found on their website