



City and Borough of Juneau
 City & Borough Manager's Office
 155 South Seward Street
 Juneau, Alaska 99801
 Telephone: 586-5240 | Facsimile: 586-5385

DATE: February 11, 2022
 TO: CBJ Assembly
 FROM: Robert Barr, Incident Commander
 RE: **Situational Update –Level 2 Moderate**

Overall Community Risk	Disease Situation	Hospital Capacity	Public Health Capacity	The Complete CBJ COVID-19 Dashboard can be found here or by going to Juneau.org/ COVID-19
Level 2 - Moderate	The community case load remains high but is in sustained decline. The Omicron variant is present and community spread is occurring. Vaccine is available.	Local hospital case loads are intermittently significant but not regularly with COVID patients. COVID-related staffing shortages are improving.	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 for unvaccinated individuals when indoors in public places and recommended for all. 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:

On Wednesday the EOC reduced the community's overall risk level to level 2, Moderate. While case rates remain high by most metrics, they have been steadily declining and, importantly, our other risk indicators are also generally headed in positive directions. The hospital is intermittently busy, but not with sustained COVID activity. The number of hospital staff out with COVID has also declined over time. Medevacs have only been constrained by weather lately and while therapeutics remain limited, they are starting to become less so.

At its Monday evening meeting, the Assembly requested additional information on the relative risk reduction calculations made by BRH staff in consultation with an epidemiology professor. The math is fairly straightforward – data was gathered on the number of deaths and hospitalizations statewide as well as locally. The death and hospitalization incidence rates were calculated for both Juneau (per capita) and statewide (per capita). The relative risk of death in Juneau, compared to the relative risk of death statewide, over the timeframe analyzed (essentially start of pandemic to present), was 0.36 – or a 64% risk reduction.

Another way of looking at this – if Juneau's death rate was the same as the statewide death rate, an additional 30 Juneau residents would have died from COVID.

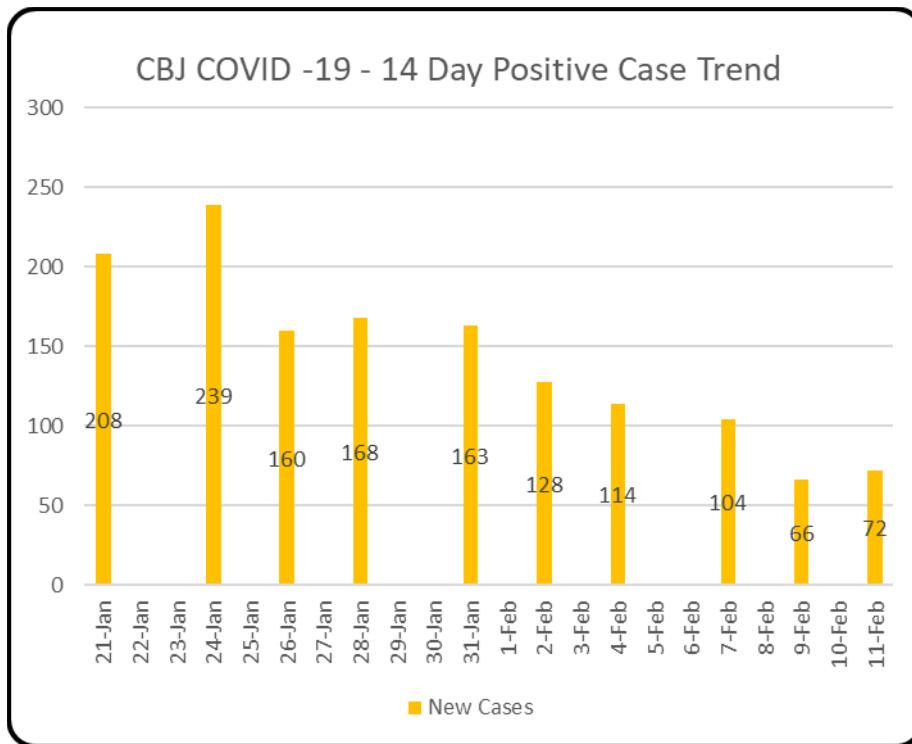
From the perspective of hospitalizations, if Juneau’s hospitalization rate was the same as the statewide hospitalization rate, an additional 40 Juneau residents would have required hospitalization.

At first staff thought an uncontrolled variable in this math might be that Juneau could be younger, on average, than the rest of the state. An economist looked into this for us and determined that Juneau is 3 years older than the statewide median (38.8).

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](#). BRH continues to actively work on improving access to therapeutics.

Daily Numbers update: We are reporting 138 new cases since the last EOC report on February 7th (F-M).

Statewide, the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services reports 1,857 new people identified with COVID-19 for data reported 2/9-2/10. On Wednesday, the state announced 21 new deaths. The total number of resident deaths is 1,081. Alaska has had 224,461 cumulative resident cases of COVID-19 and a total of 7,641 nonresidents.



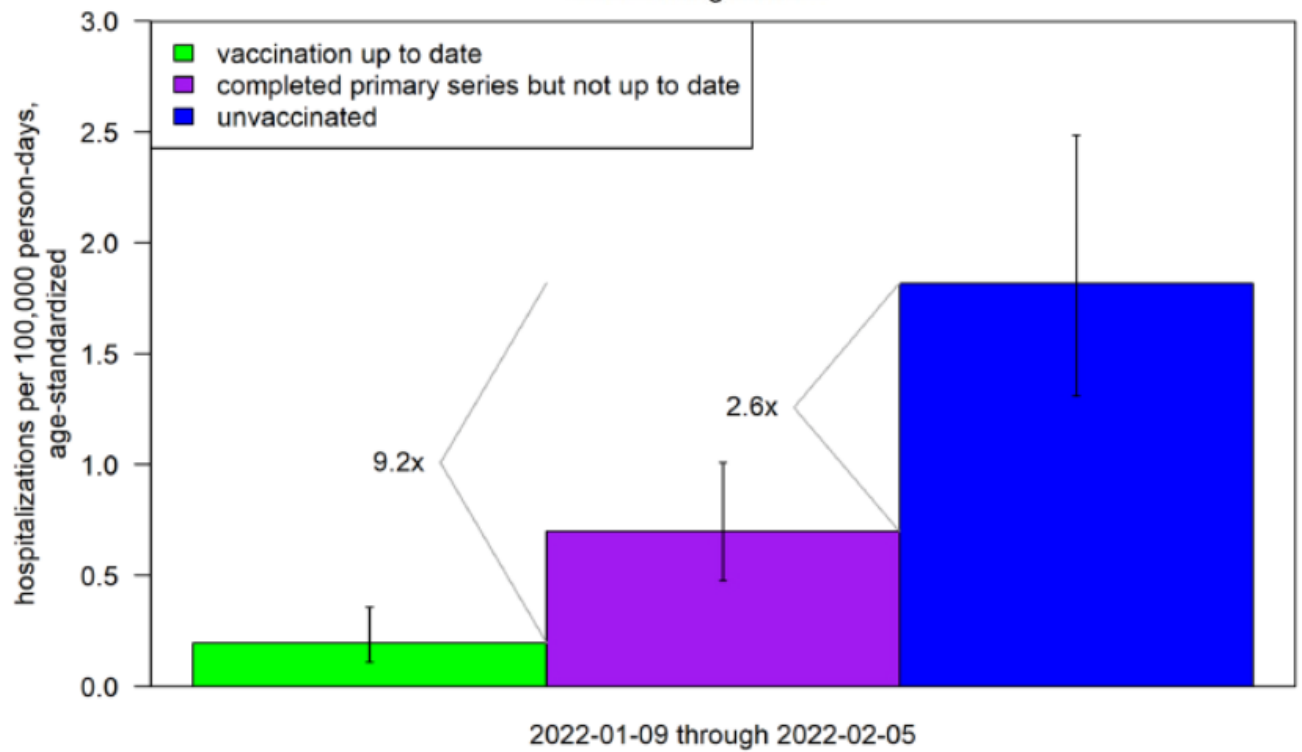
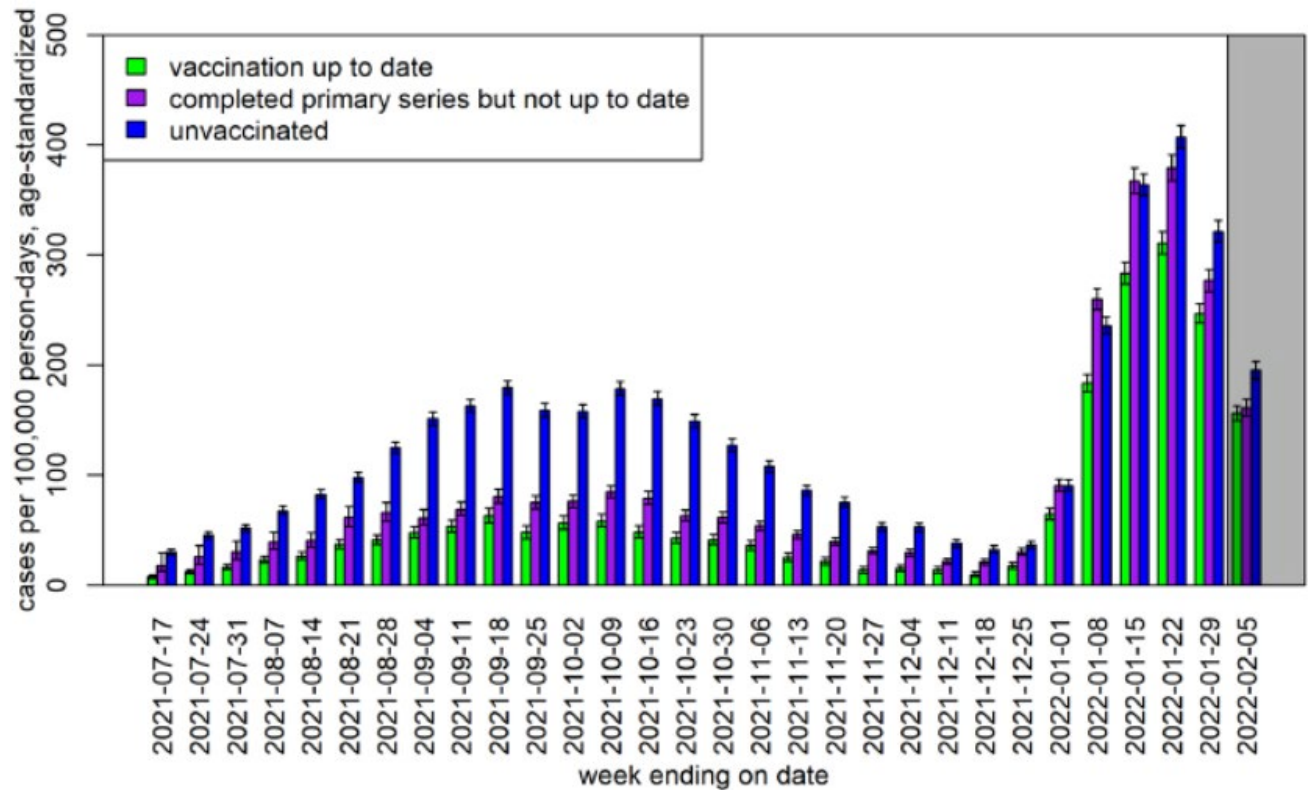
Breakthrough Cases: Vaccine breakthrough (VB) infections of COVID are those detected in a person who is at least 2 weeks beyond their second dose of a 2-dose series or the only dose of a 1-dose series. Data in this section from [DHSS Weekly Report](#).

Among Alaska residents aged ≥5 years from January 16, 2021–February 5, 2022, 60,915 cases were documented in persons who had completed the primary series and were considered fully vaccinated. Among those vaccine-breakthrough cases, 426 hospitalizations and 146 deaths due to COVID-19 have been

recorded. During that time, 93,111 cases have been documented in unvaccinated Alaskans aged ≥ 5 years, leading to 1,738 hospitalizations and 582 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. During the 4-week period from January 9, 2022–February 5, 2022, unvaccinated Alaskans were 9.2 times more likely to be hospitalized due to COVID-19 than Alaskans who are up to date on COVID-19 vaccination (i.e., completed the primary series and received a booster dose, if eligible) and 2.6 times more likely to be hospitalized due to COVID-19 than Alaskans who completed the primary vaccination series but are not up to date. (See the [monthly report](#) for more data and analysis through December.)

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.



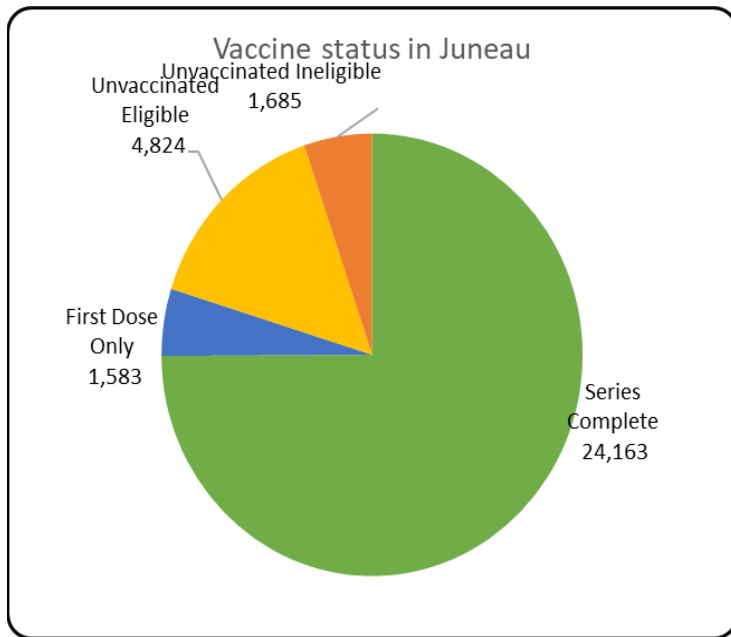
Variants of Concern:

Omicron is the dominant variant in Alaska (98+%). The State of Alaska variants dashboard is available online: <https://akvariants.github.io/>. The new Omicron subvariant (BA.2) is also present in Alaska. 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:



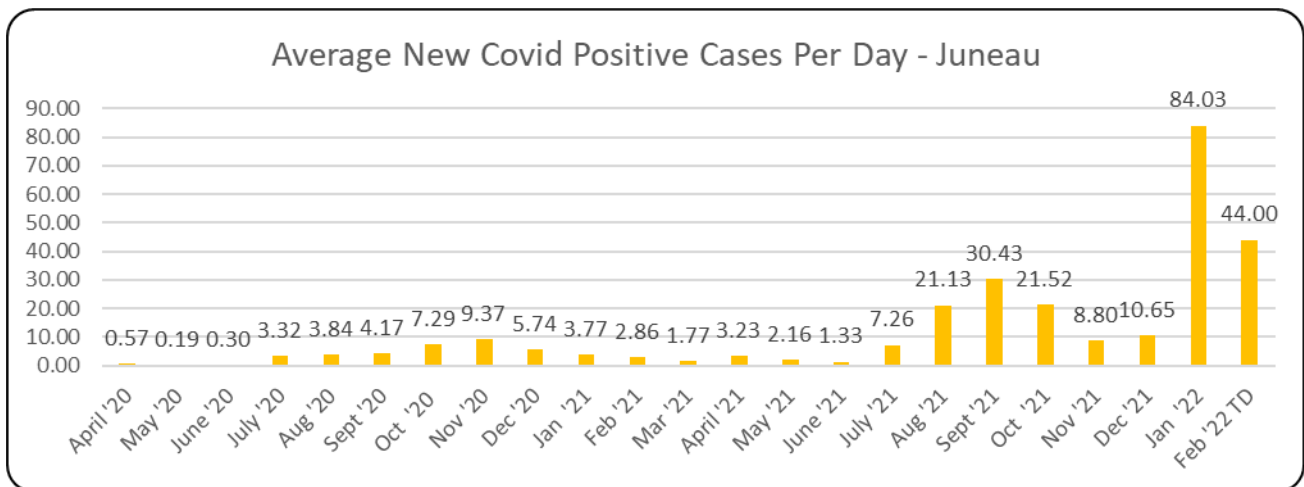
Total: **79.8%** of the total population of Juneau has received at least 1 dose of vaccine and **74.9%** have completed their vaccine series.

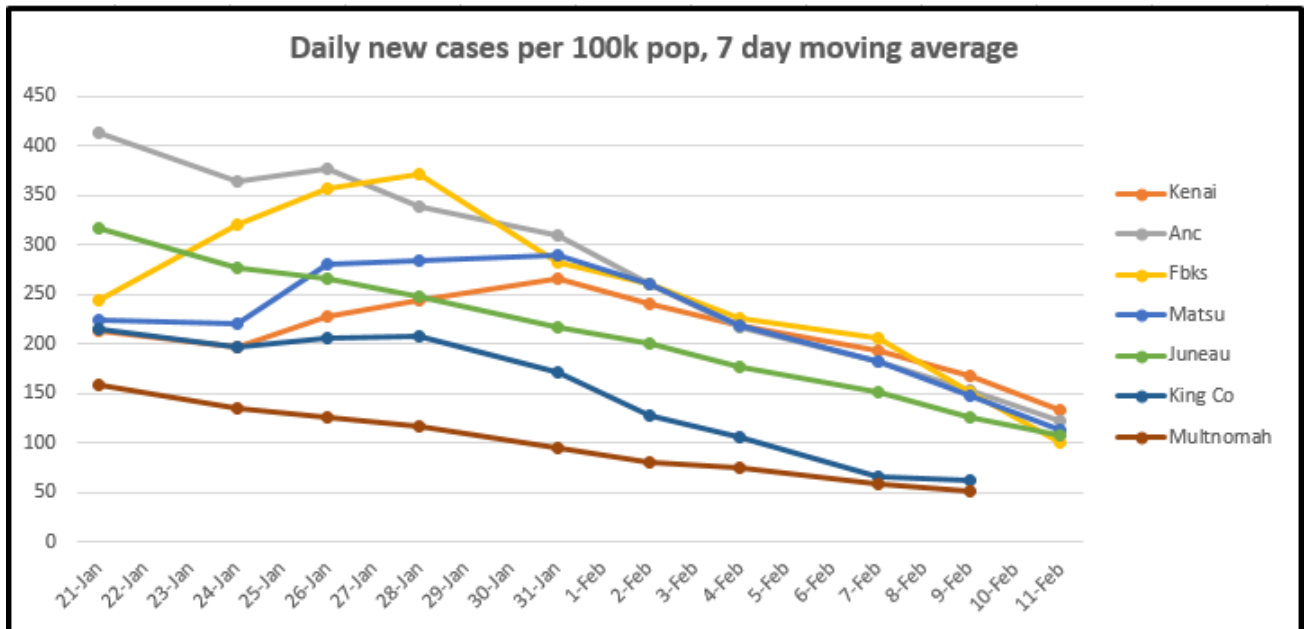
5+: **84.2%** of the age eligible Juneau population has received at least 1 dose of vaccine. **79%** have completed their vaccine series.

42% 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.

74% 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