



City and Borough of Juneau  
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DATE: February 14, 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="#">Juneau.org/ COVID-19</a></b>
<b>Level 2 - Moderate</b>	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:**

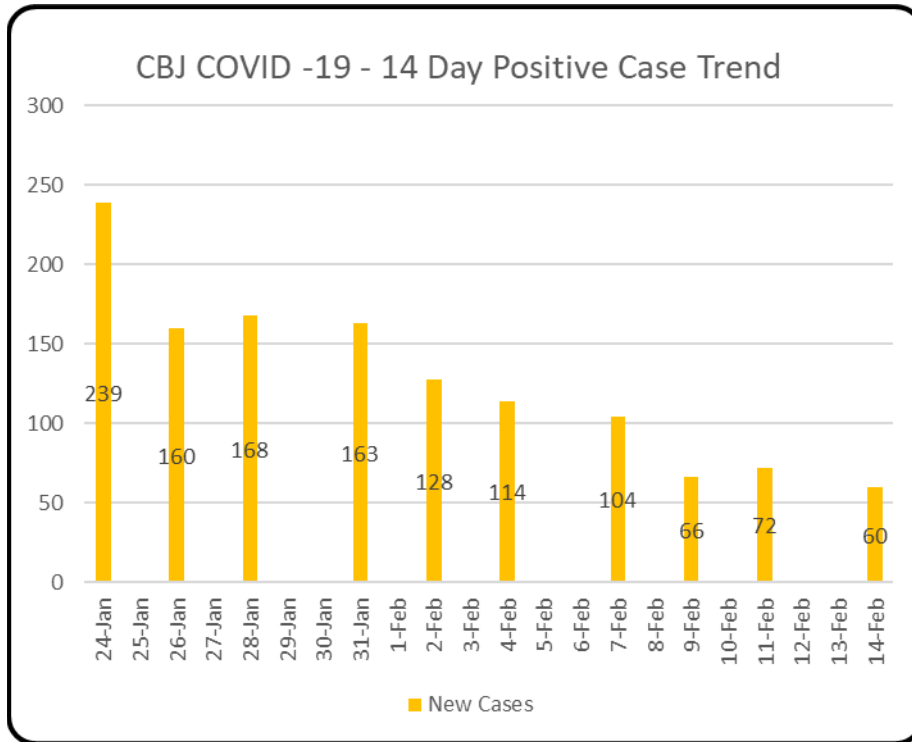
Risk indicators continue to trend in a positive direction. Case counts over the weekend declined to the 20s/day range, down from our peak of ~100/day. BRH reports 12 staff members out with COVID-19, down from highs two weeks ago the mid-20s. Other hospital risk metrics (current operational status, projected CCU capacity, medevac availability) are also improving.

The FDA decided late last week to postpone vaccination roll-out for the 6 months to 5 years old age group. This decision was based on a desire to wait until 3<sup>rd</sup> dose data was incorporated into the clinical trial data. Our expectation is that this will lead to about a 2 month delay for this age group.

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 60 new cases since the last EOC report on February 11<sup>th</sup> (F-M).

Statewide, the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services reports [1,864](#) new people identified with COVID-19 for data reported 2/11-2/13. State death reports now come out on Wednesdays and will be in the Friday EOC report. The total number of resident deaths is 1,081. Alaska has had 226,276 cumulative resident cases of COVID-19 and a total of 7,685 nonresidents.

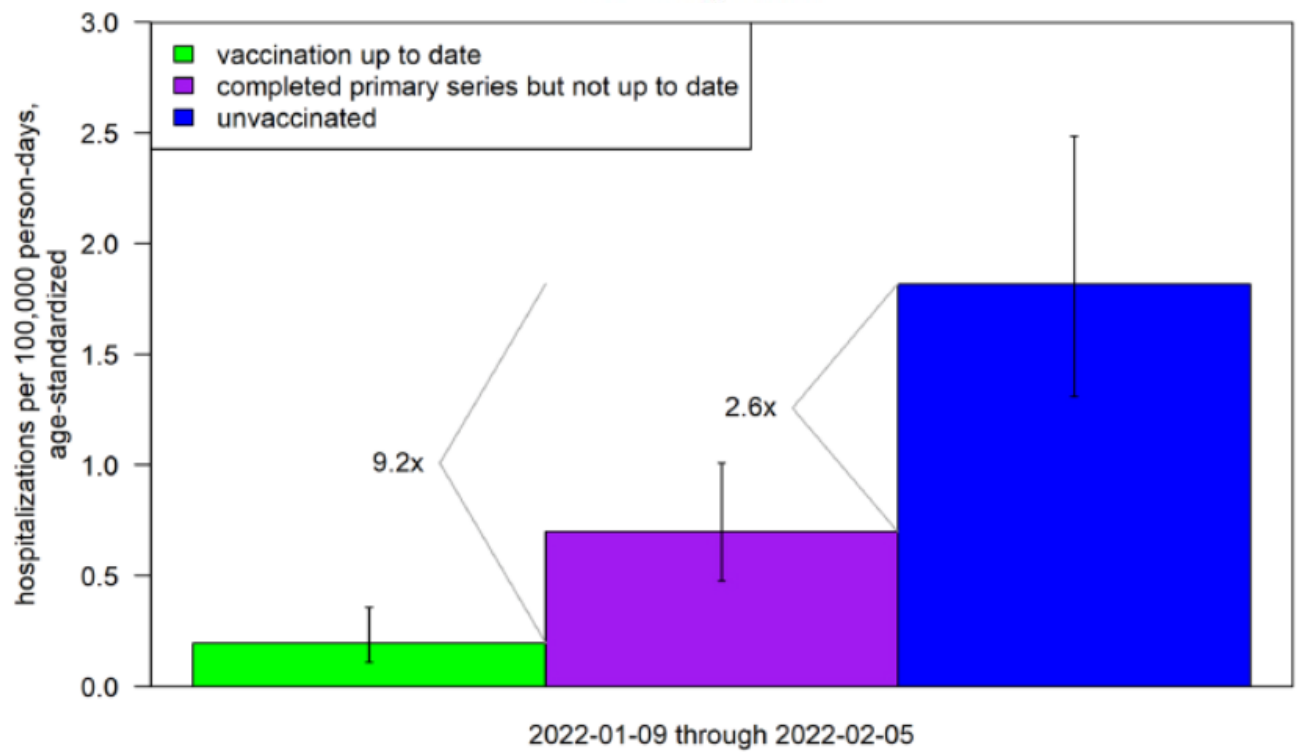
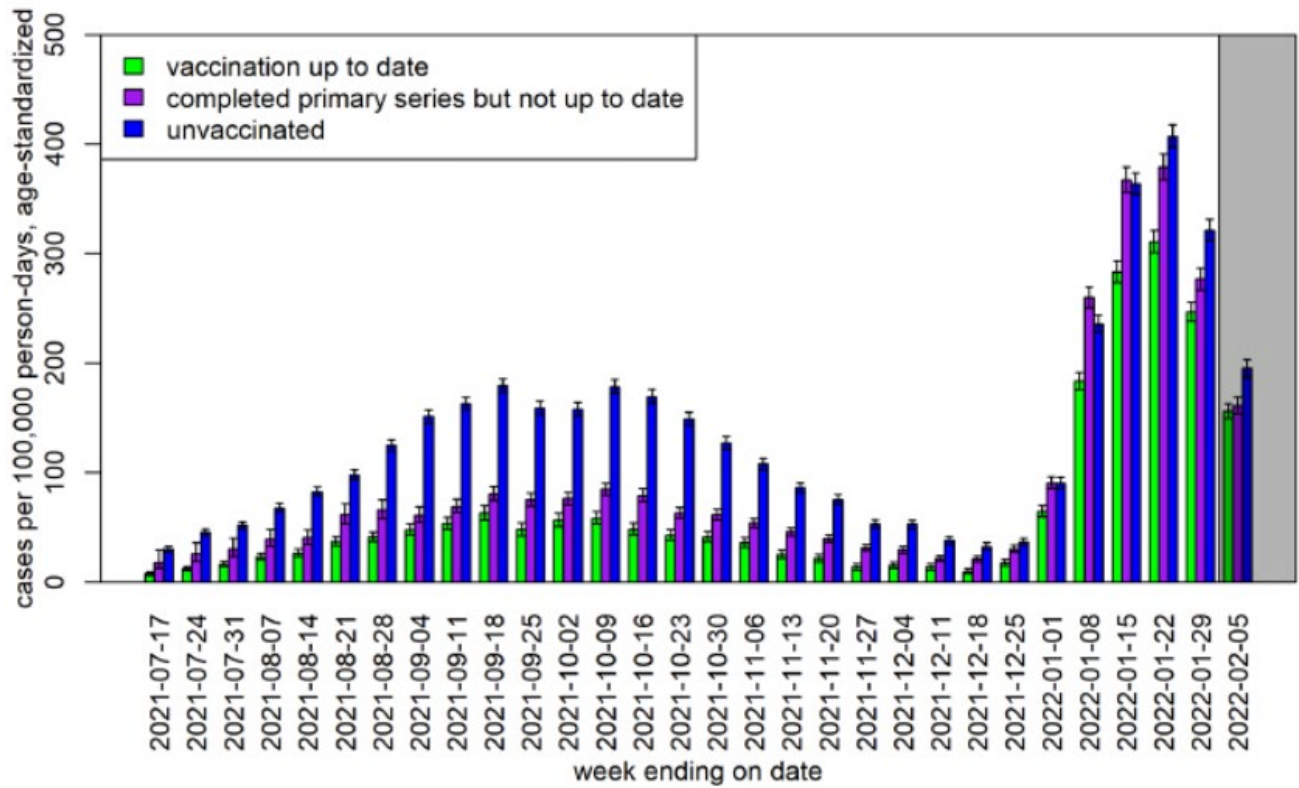


**Breakthrough Cases:** Vaccine breakthrough (VB) infections of COVID are those detected in a person who is at least 2 weeks beyond their second dose of a 2-dose series or the only dose of a 1-dose series. Data in this section from [DHSS Weekly Report](#).

Among Alaska residents aged  $\geq 5$  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  $\geq 5$  years, leading to 1,738 hospitalizations and 582 deaths. All data are preliminary and subject to change.

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.

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.)



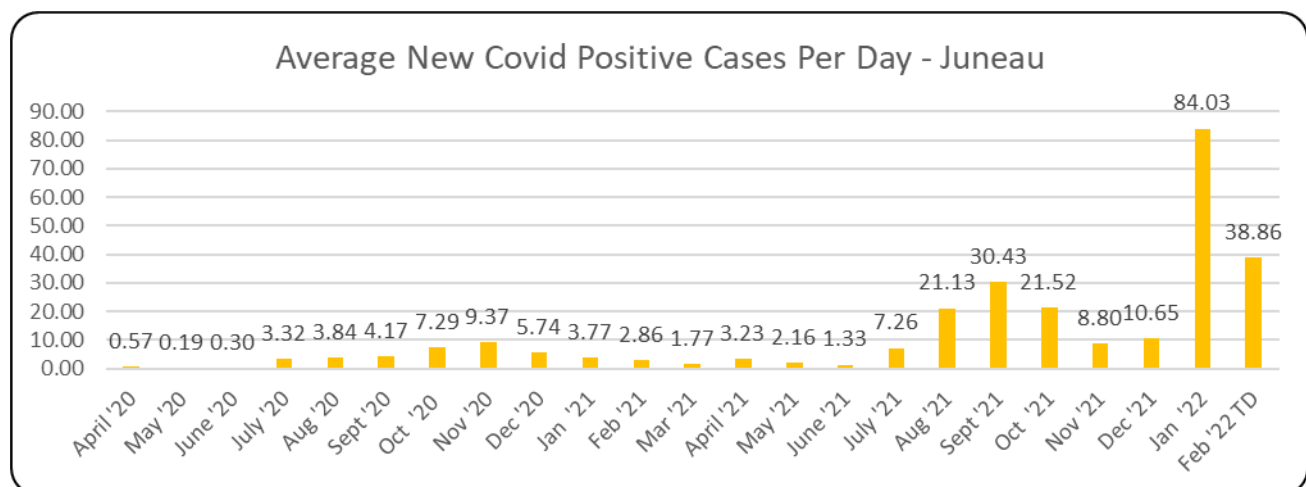
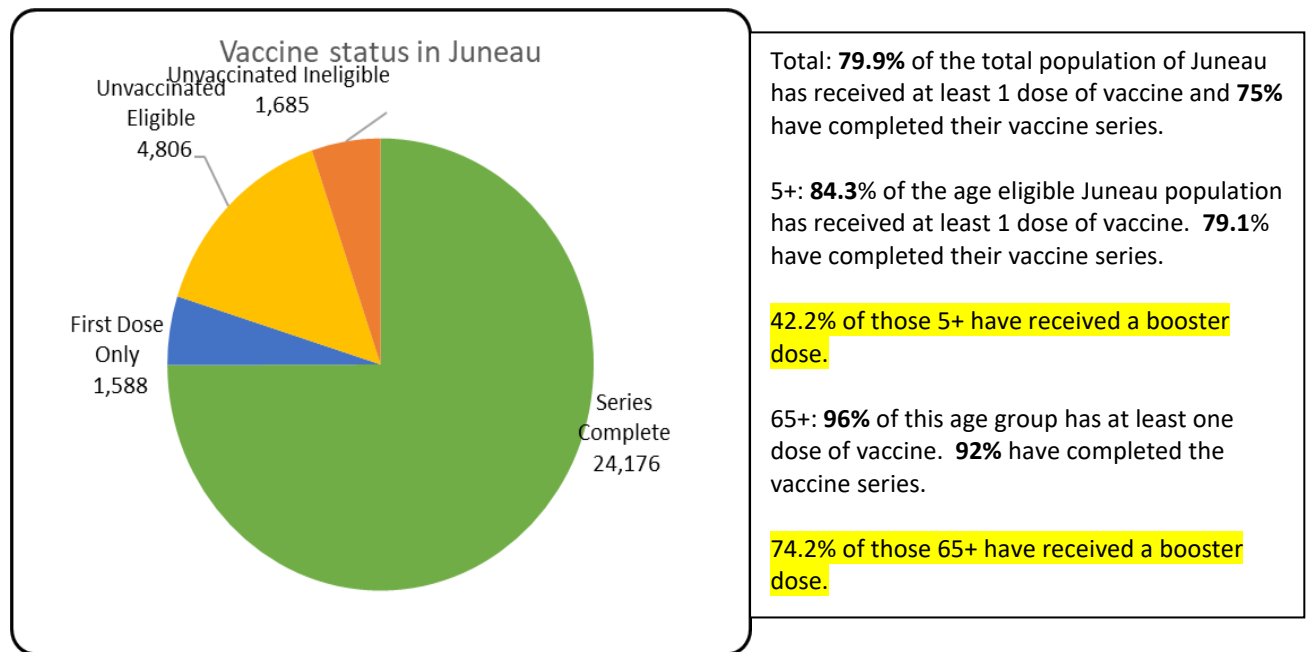
Variants of Concern:

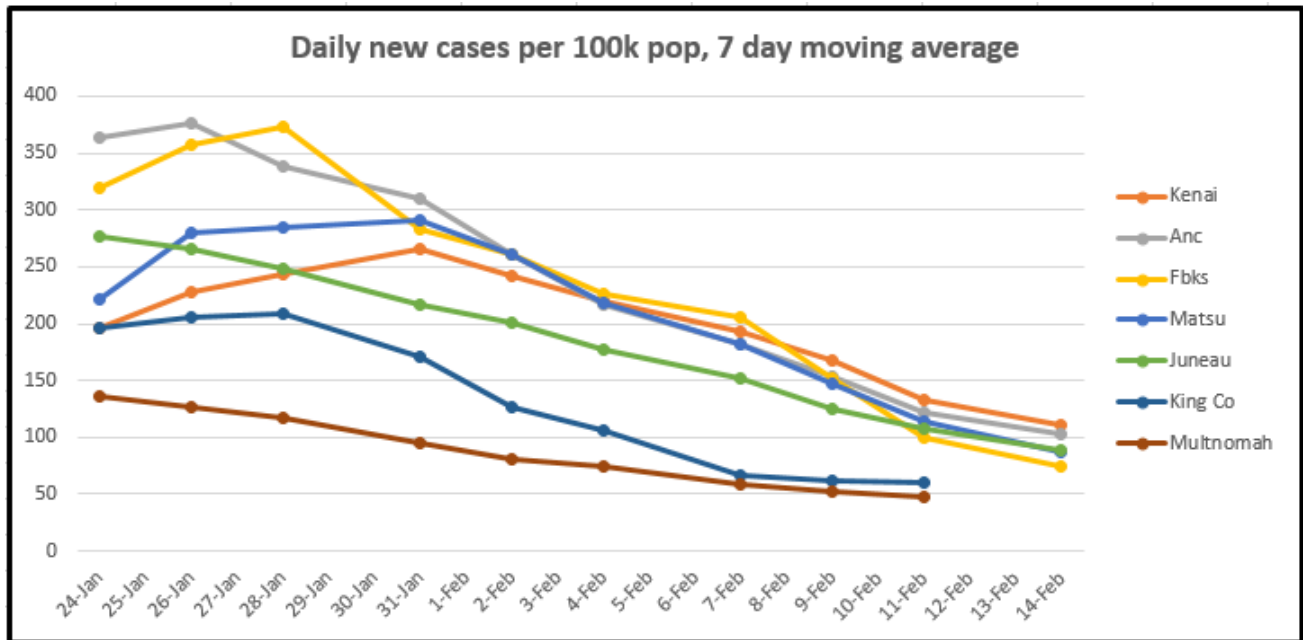
Omicron is the dominant variant in Alaska (98+%). The State of Alaska variants dashboard is available online: <https://akvariants.github.io/>. The new Omicron subvariant (BA.2) is also present in Alaska. Early characterizations of this subvariant are that it is more transmissible (perhaps 1.5x) than 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:**





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