Ready Schools Safe Learners Resiliency Framework for the 2021-22 School Year

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Senate Education Committee Update
September 22, 2021

Colt Gill, Director of the Oregon Department of Education

Today...

- Values and Priorities for the 2021-22 School Year
- State and Local Decision Making
- COVID-19 Update
- RSSL Resiliency Framework: Layered Mitigation Efforts are Key to In-Person Instruction
- Tools and Resources:
  - COVID-19 Testing in Schools
  - COVID-19 Scenario Planning + Exclusion Chart
  - The School Health Advisory + Family Tip Sheet
  - The data dashboard
  - The Data & Equity Decision Tools
  - The Planning Guide for Short-Term Distance Learning
  - Planning for Individualized COVID-19 Recovery Services
  - Care and Connection
- President Biden's Path Out of the Pandemic

Values & Priorities for the 2021-22 School Year

- Our priority is to implement the protocols needed to **safely and reliably hold school in-person, every school day, for all students, all year long**.

- School is compulsory in Oregon. Students are *required* to attend school, which is a congregate setting where **COVID-19 can spread easily if precautions are not taken**.

- **Oregon controlled the spread of COVID-19 in schools last year** when multiple protocols were in place and with more than 120 state requirements.

- Oregon has seen a **steep increase in COVID-19 rates and hospitalizations driven by the Delta variant** and schools are mostly **unvaccinated settings**.

Shared Local and State Decision Making

- As schools are practiced in implementing health and safety protocols, the 2021-22 school year shifts to primarily local decision making
- Under E.O. 21-15 Oregon is still under a state of emergency related to COVID-19
- Under ORS Chapter 431A, OHA has a responsibility/authority to protect public health
- In the RSSL Resiliency Framework it states,

"Changes in the amount of community transmission of COVID-19, the severity of illness associated with new variants of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19, or the availability of vaccination for children younger than 12 years old may warrant changes to the state's recovery efforts during the school year. The Resiliency Framework will be updated to reflect any changes."

"ODE and OHA will continue to monitor guidance updates from the CDC, and will continue to align this recommendation framework as needed."

Shared Local and State Decision Making

What is required and what is advisory?
- During the last school year over 120 state requirements were in place.
- This year, at this time, there are five:
  a. Locally published and submitted plan for operations (required last year),
  b. Recovery services process (new),
  c. Quarantine/isolation protocols (required last year),
  d. Face coverings (required last year), and
  e. Vaccination for school staff and volunteers (new).
- Prior to the pandemic these protocols/procedures were required and remain required:
  a. Communicable disease plan,
  b. Isolation space,
  c. Exclusion for exposed individuals, and
  d. Division 22 rules.
- All other decisions are local. ODE/OHA strongly recommend multiple, layered mitigation protocols to limit the spread, protect health, and maintain continuity of in-person instruction.

Update on COVID-19 in Oregon

Data Retrieved September 20, 2021

Community Transmission by County
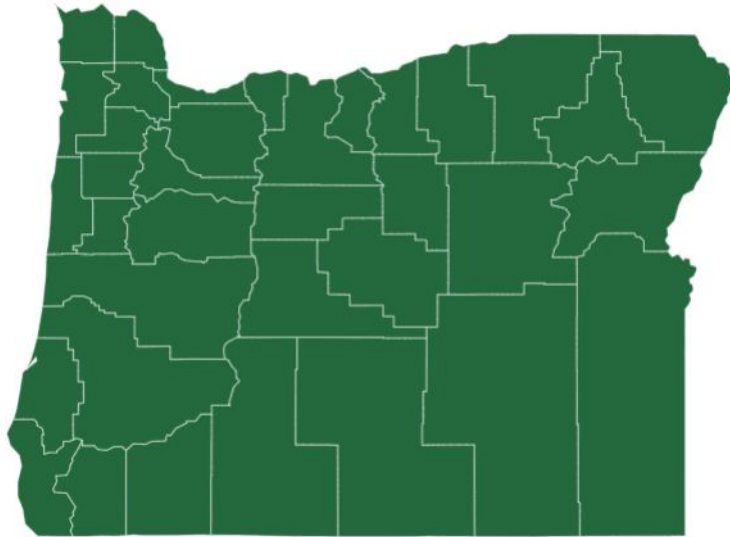
Community Transmission

- High
- Substantial
- Low

SARS-CoV-2 variant circulation

Lineage Prevalence Over Time

*Samples collected and sequenced in this time period may not yet be reported.
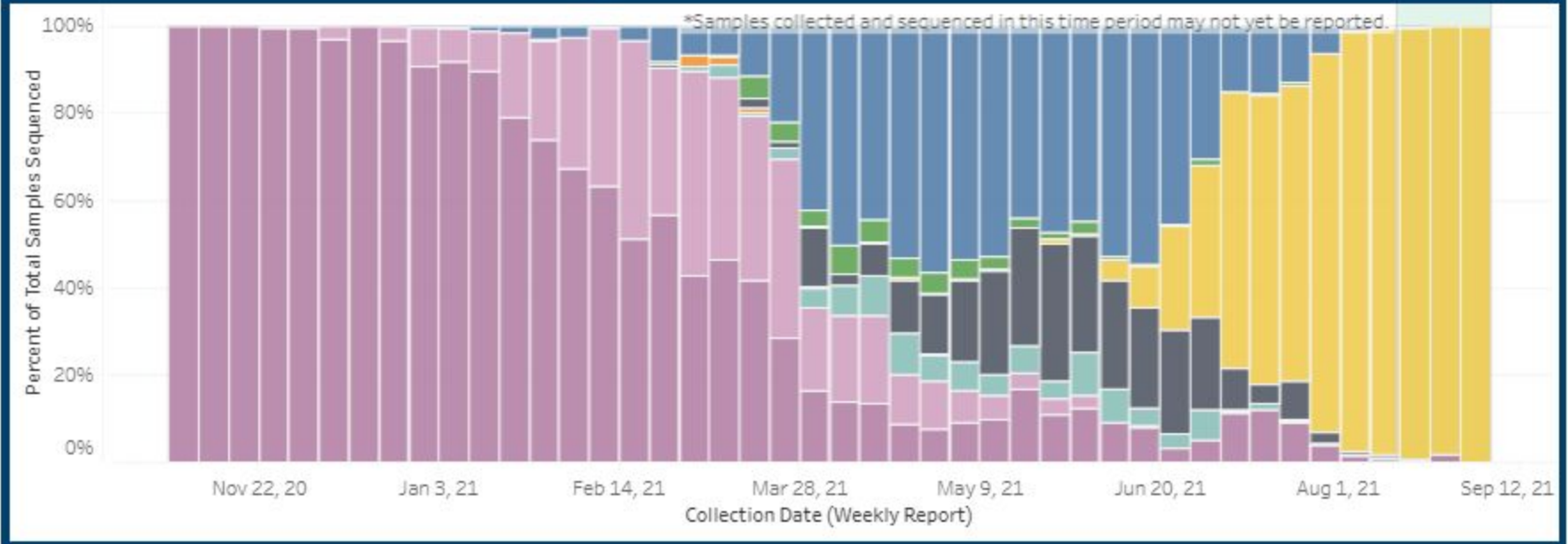
COVID-19 Cases in Oregon

Oregon's Epi Curve: COVID-19 cases

This chart shows the number of Oregonians who have been identified as COVID-19 cases and whether they were ever hospitalized for their illness.‡

Total Cases	Hospitalized	Not Hospitalized	Hospitalization Status Unknown
313,161	17,070	180,207	115,884
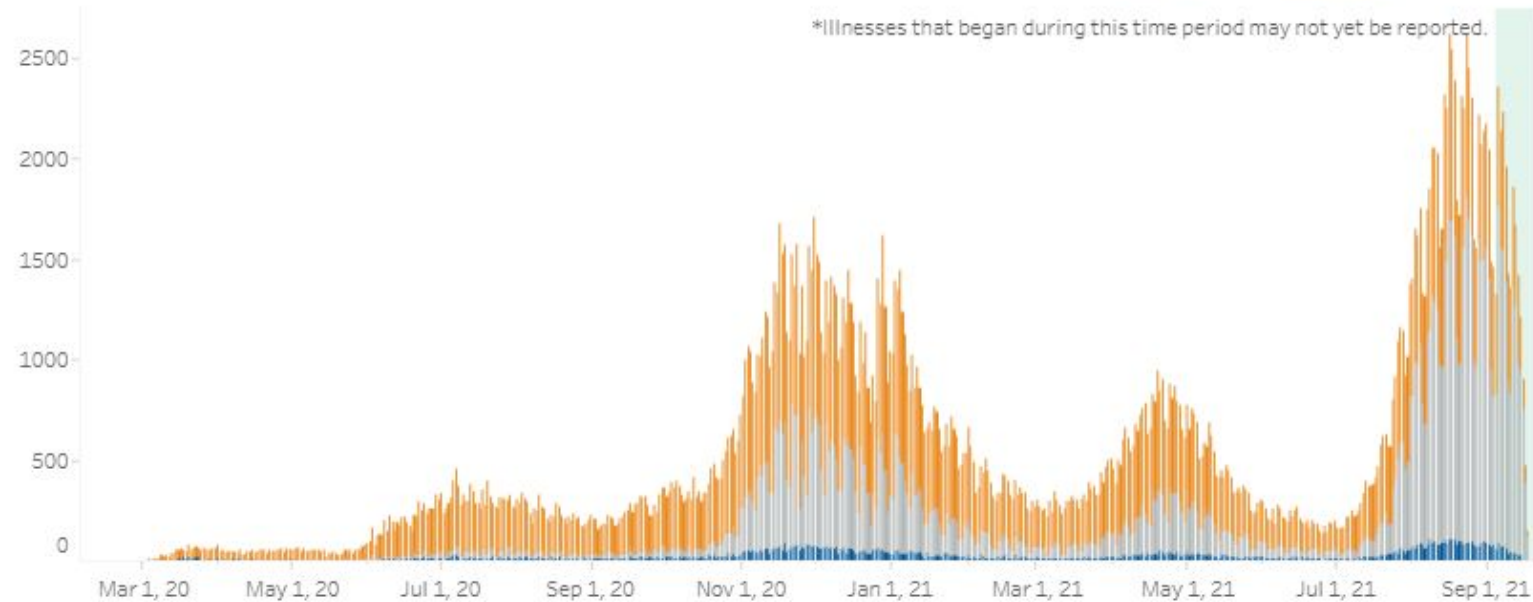
*Illnesses that began during this time period may not yet be reported.

Hospitalizations by Severity

COVID-19 positive patients
COVID-19 positive patients in ICU beds
COVID-19 positive patients on ventilators

Oregon Health Authority

10
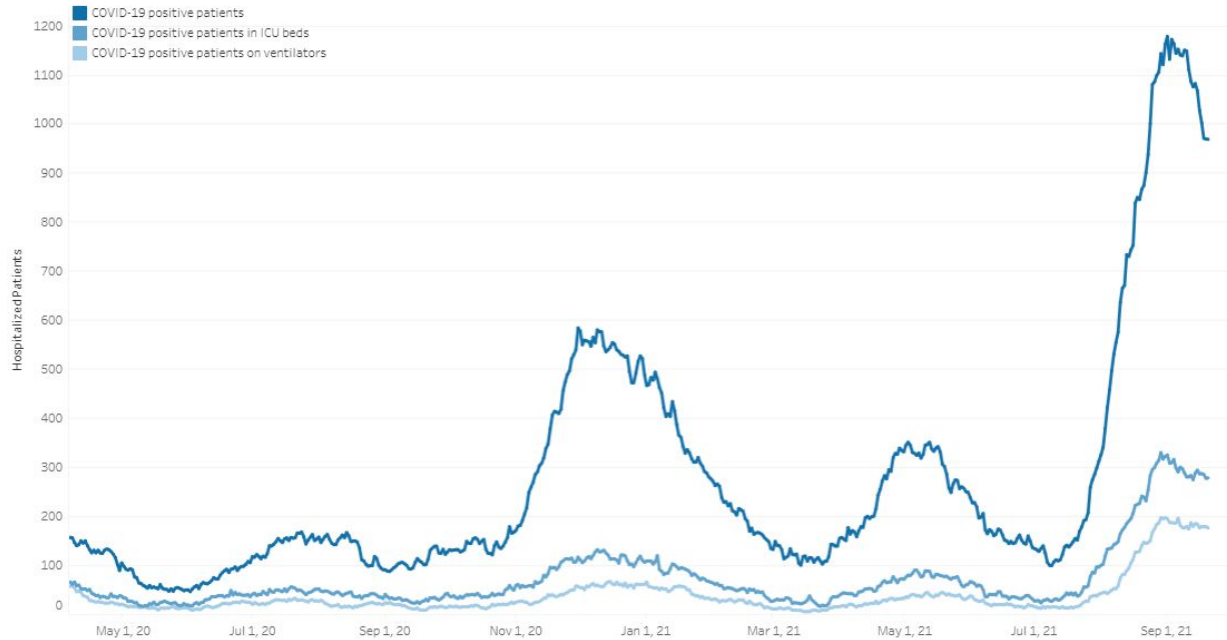
Recent Cases by Age and Week of Onset
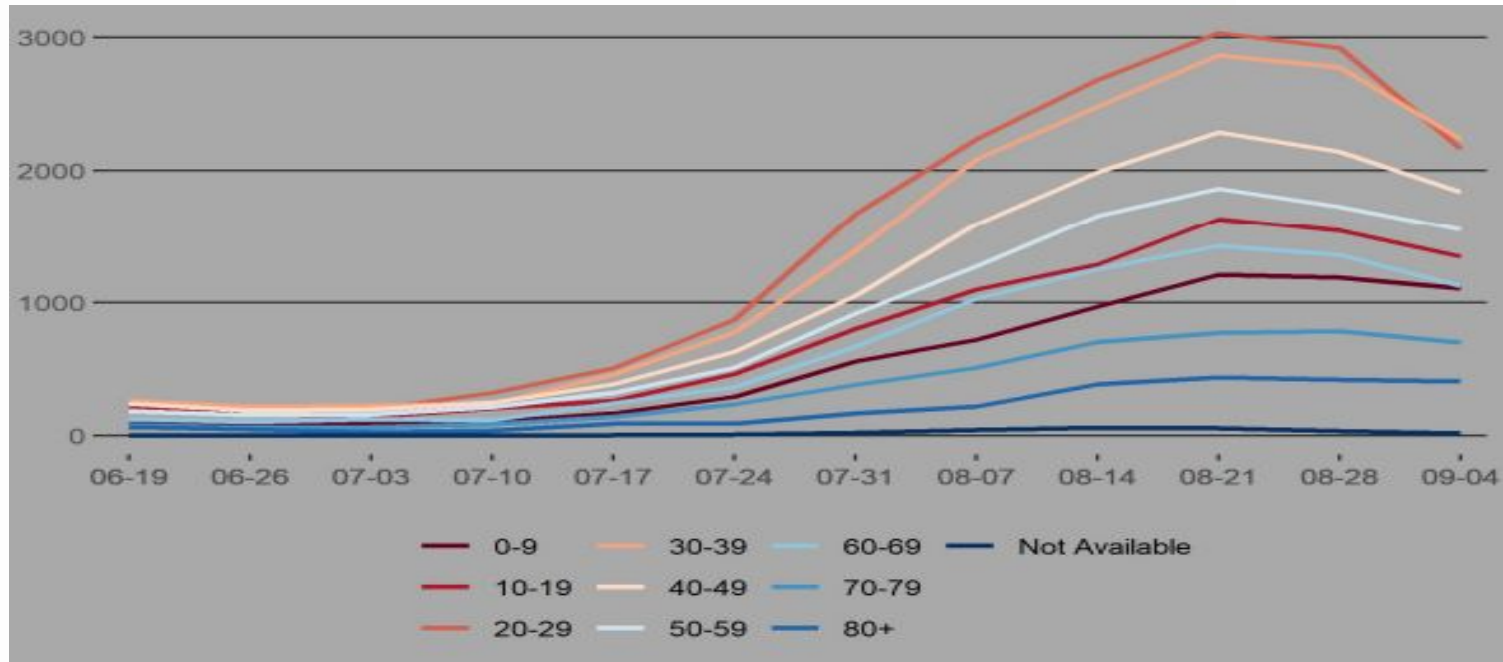
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Pediatric COVID-19 Case Rates by Age

Pediatric COVID-19 case rates are highest among people age 12-17

The chart below shows the rate of pediatric cases per 100,000 by week of onset and age group.

Pediatric Case Rates by Ethnicity/Race, per 100,000

Case rate per 100,000

Category	Case rate per 100,000
Hispanic	8,994.2
Non-Hispanic	2,395.8
Pacific Islander	9,218.1
AI/AN	8,950.6
Black	7,142.1
>1 race	2,748.8
White	2,496.0
Asian	2,205.0

Oregon Health Authority
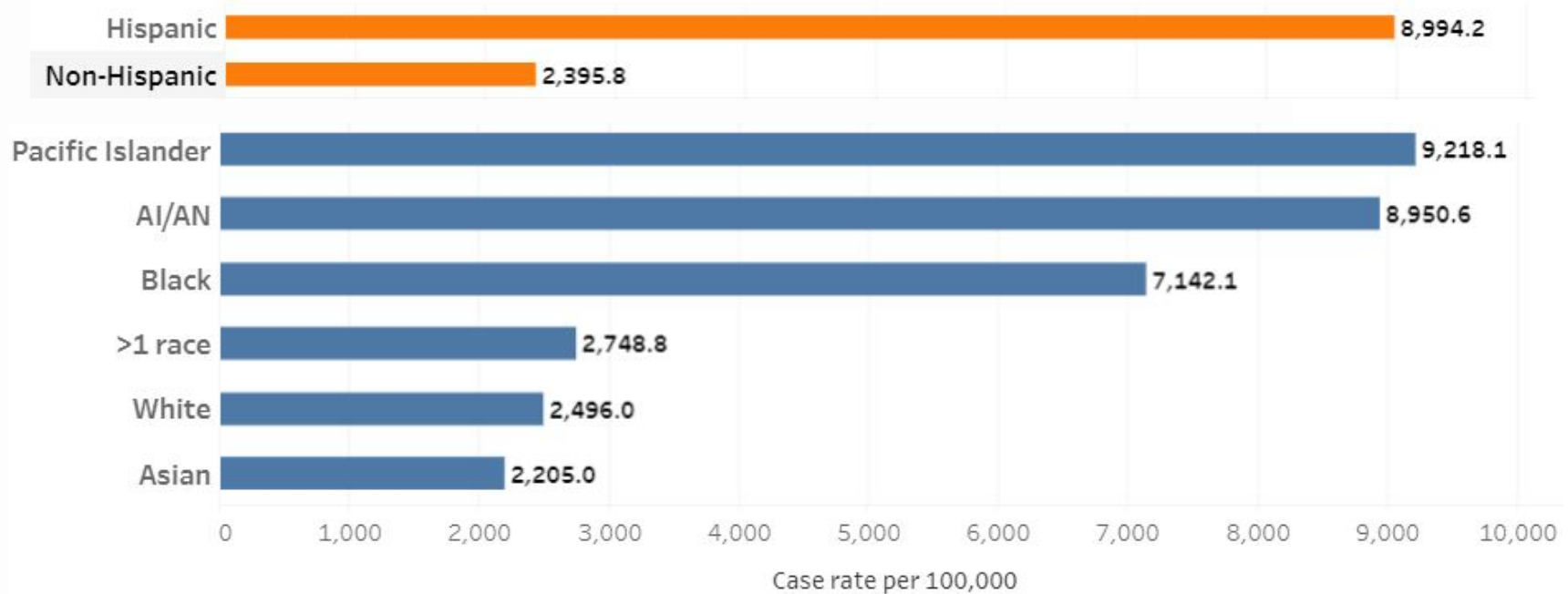
VACCINATION UPDATE

Vaccinations by Day
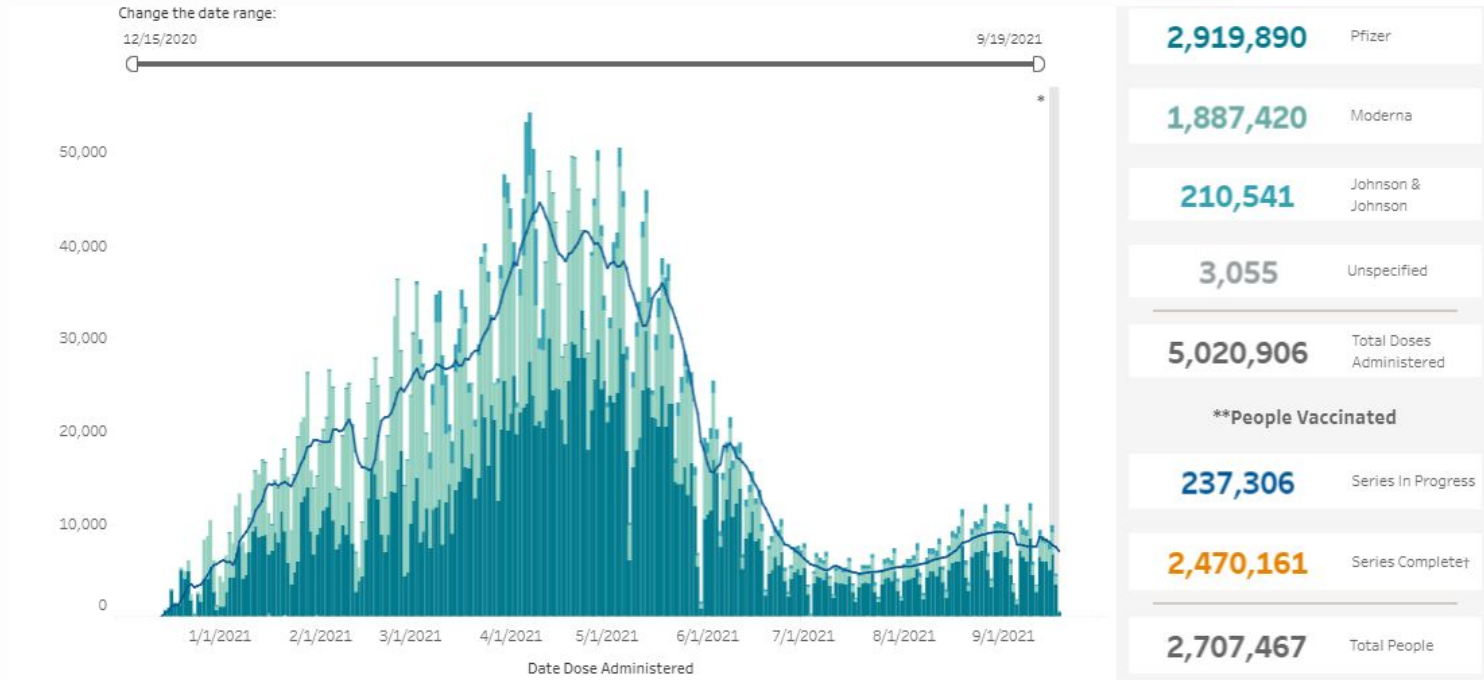
Vaccination Rates by County – 18+
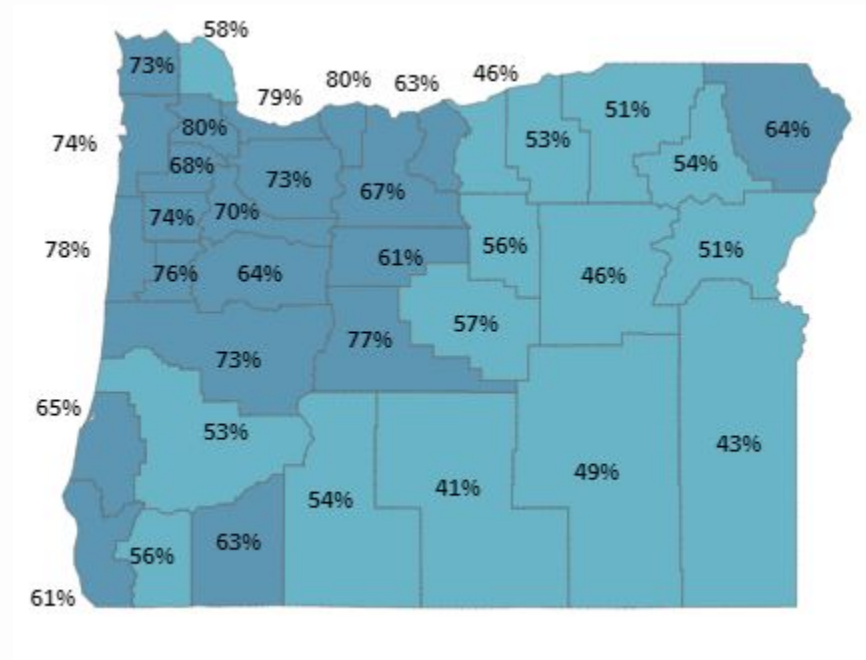
Vaccination Rates Over Time by Age

People vaccinated over time by age
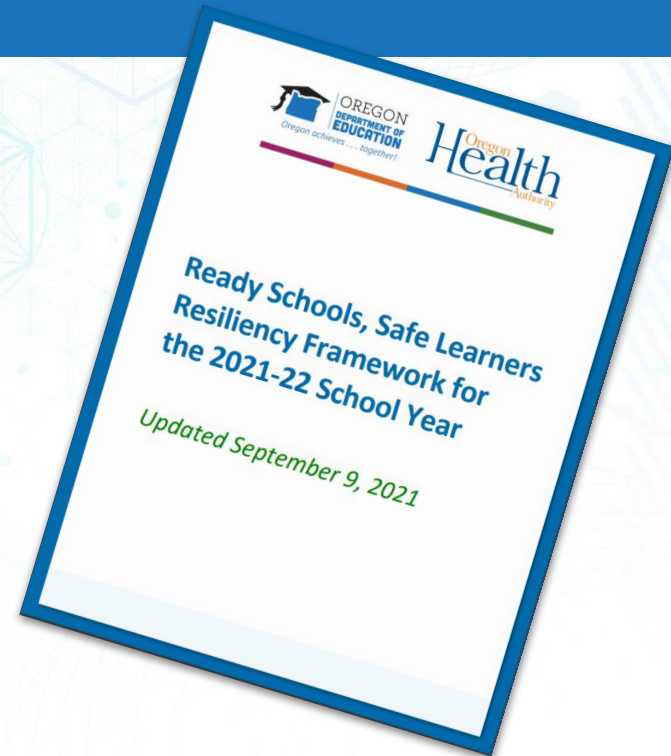Labeled with relative percent change between 09/09/2021 to 09/16/2021
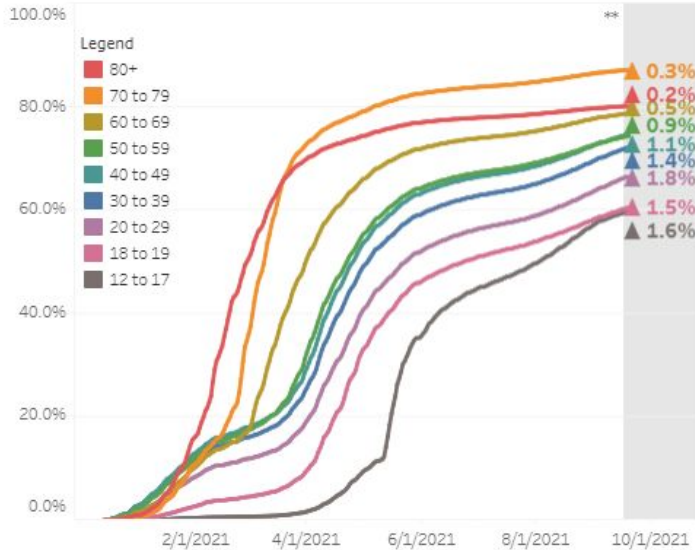
Current vaccination rates by age
Labeled with % people vaccinated with at least one dose
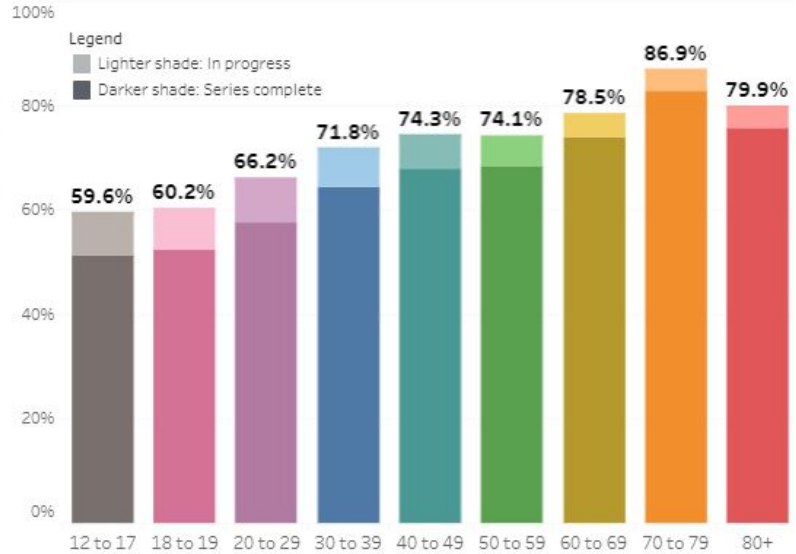
Vaccination Rates Over Time by Race/Ethnicity

People vaccinated over time by rarest race and ethnicity
Labeled with relative percent change between 09/09/2021 to 09/16/2021

Legend
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- Asian
- White
- Black
- Hispanic/Latina/o/x
- American Indian/Alaska Native

▲ 1.2%
▲ 0.5%
▲ 0.9%
▲ 1.8%
▲ 1.3%
▲ 1.3%

Change the date axis: Date of first dose ▼
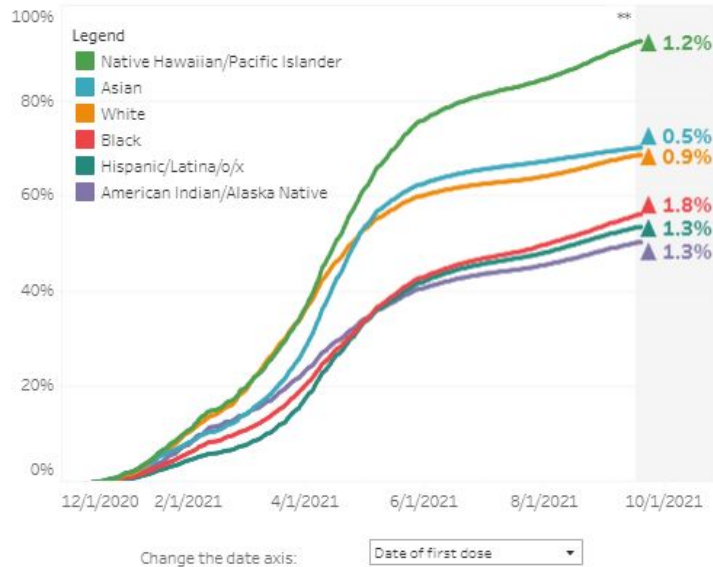
Current vaccination rates by rarest race and ethnicity
Labeled with % people vaccinated with at least one dose

Legend
- Lighter shade: In progress
- Darker shade: Series complete

92.3% — Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
70.0% — Asian
68.5% — White
56.0% — Black
53.4% — Hispanic/Latina/o/x
50.2% — American Indian/Alaska Native

Oregon Health Authority
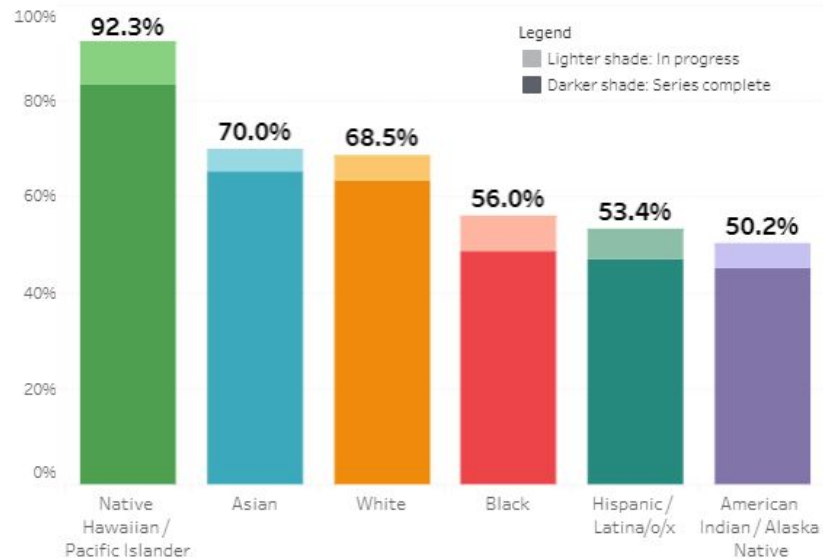
RSSL Resiliency Framework

- The RSSL Resilience Framework and aligned resources
    - The RSSL Resilience Framework is comprised of equity, instructional, and mental health & well-being recommendations as well as advisory health and safety recommendations that provide for flexibility to:
        - Return to full-time, in-person instruction every school day for all students,
        - Honor and recognize the uniqueness of communities across Oregon, and
        - Support schools in health and safety planning to meet community-specific needs and strengths.
- The Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan Template
    - Replaces the RSSL Operational Blueprint
    - Meets federal requirements for districts to have a publicly available COVID health and safety plan
- Communications Toolkit

Ready Schools, Safe Learners Resiliency Framework for the 2021-22 School Year

Updated September 9, 2021

Symptom Screening & Exclusion Chart

Face Coverings*

Physical Distancing

Cohorting

Hand Washing & Cleaning/Disinfecting

Airflow & Ventilation

Isolation & Quarantine Protocols*

Outdoor Learning Options

COVID-19 Testing

Vaccination*
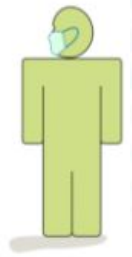
The RSSL Resiliency Framework & Companion Guidance Offer Layers of Protection

*Reflect Statewide Requirements

The Delta variant spreads easily in indoor spaces when people are unmasked and unvaccinated

Occasionally unmasked adult infected with Delta variant worked for 2 days

12 of 24 kids infected

Schools can help stop spread by ensuring everyone:

Wears masks correctly in indoor spaces

Gets vaccinated, if eligible

Stays home if having symptoms

Tests routinely

CDC.gov

bit.ly/MMWR82721b

MMWR

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NPR - Elementary School COVID Outbreak Shows Why Layers Of Safety Precautions Are Necessary

Update: Three Types of Testing/Diagnostic

- OHA's overall school testing website.
- **Diagnostic Testing (BinaxNOW)**
    - Symptomatic Staff & Students
    - Rapid Antigen test via Nasal Swab
    - Testing is at school
    - Must register again, even if you signed up last year
        - schooltesting.COVID@DHSOHA.state.or.us

Update: Three Types of Testing/Screening
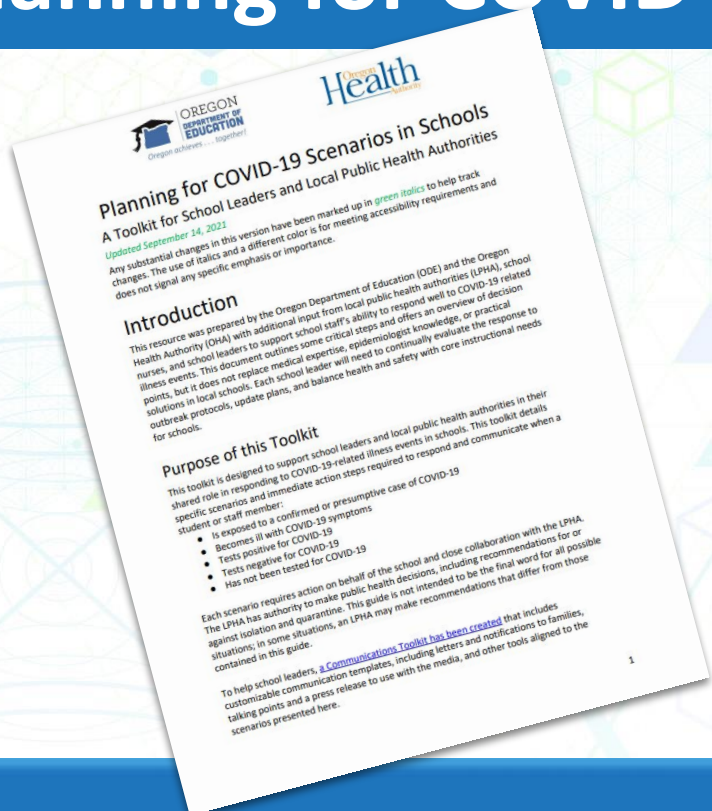
- **Student Screening Program**
  - Asymptomatic Students
  - PCR test via Nasal or Saliva
  - Can be done at home or at school
  - Frequency: 1 time per week
  - Register here: Oregon K-12 Student Screening Testing (smartsheet.com)

- **Staff Screening Program**
  - Unvaccinated staff sign up for this service
  - PCR Test via Nasal
  - Tests are sent to staff home
  - Frequency 1 time per week
  - COVID-19 Testing in Oregon's K-12 Schools: Staff Screening (office.com)

Planning for COVID-19 in Schools

School Health Advisories

Goal: Maintain continuity of instruction during the first month of the school year

1. Vaccinate if eligible

2. Limit gatherings and non-essential activities with people from other households

3. To extent possible, reduce extracurricular activities and consider holding activities such as meals, recess PE classes, music and choir outdoors to maximize physical distancing.

4. Hold beginning of the year "welcome to school" event virtually, outdoors, with full preventive mitigation layers if they must be held in person

5. Check school website for safety plan

Family Tip Sheet and Plan Template

Family Tip Sheet:
- A checklist to help everyone stay safe as kids head back to the classroom, and to make the most of our opportunity for in-person learning this school year.
- Aligns with messages in School Health Advisory

Family Plan: Resource for families to plan for how to support their children and family should someone in your family need to quarantine or isolate during the school year. Like last year, schools will see exposures.
- Family readiness is also key to successfully managing an exposure, school exclusion, and possible quarantine.
- Pre-planning for quarantine or isolation
- During quarantine and isolation
- Planning for a return to school

5 Health & Safety Tips for Students & Households

1

Make a plan to vaccinate all eligible household members

2

Mask up in public, including carpools

3

Limit gatherings with other households for now

4

Move social activities outdoors

5
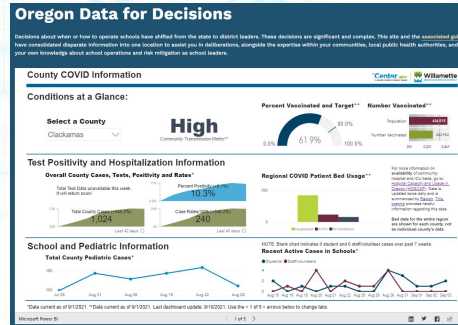
Make a plan in case your child needs to miss school

What's important in the dashboard

- Vision for thinking about health, learning, capacity, community, and resilience alongside each other
- Offers accurate and complex information

Example: A district sees a rise in cases and hospitalizations but low/no spread in the district or with students. The district shares a hospital with three counties and at this time there is sufficient bed and ICU capacity. Student data shows high (negative) impact from last year. Community data shows high poverty and mobility. The data might suggest working hard to keep protocols in place and keep school operating as a key community anchor.

Data Decision Guide

Oregon Data for Decisions

A guide for district considerations for the 2021-22 school year

Decisions about when or how to operate school are in the hands of district leaders. These decisions are significant and complex. This guide is intended to help ensure leaders consider the array of information available to them, including patterns or categories of information that may not be county or district specific but can help inform choices being made. Previously, many of these decisions were made at the state level with an equity review, public health and educator expertise, and a tremendous amount of statewide data. Using this guide is not required and won't replace the actual decision-making process. This guide can assist in providing assurance to districts that there has been a comprehensive review of the information available alongside the important expertise within your community, local public health authority, and your own knowledge as school leaders.

Equity Decision Tool

Three tools have been developed by ODE to support school leaders in making clear choices with a consistent check against key values and input.

1. Decision Tree
The first tool can also help leaders spot patterns or gaps in their thought process or point them to the use of the other two decision tools. The decision tree is accompanied by a set of starting conditions to review and reflect on before beginning the decision process.

2. Deepening Questions
The second tool offers leaders a raft of prompts they could select from to deepen their own reflections or bring to community or staff meetings to help get underneath core decision making challenges.

3. Consultancy Protocol
Finally, we've adapted the "Consultancy Protocol," with credit to the School Reform Initiative, for use in bringing a small group together in consideration of the most difficult design and decision-making dilemmas in leading for the 2020-2021 school year.
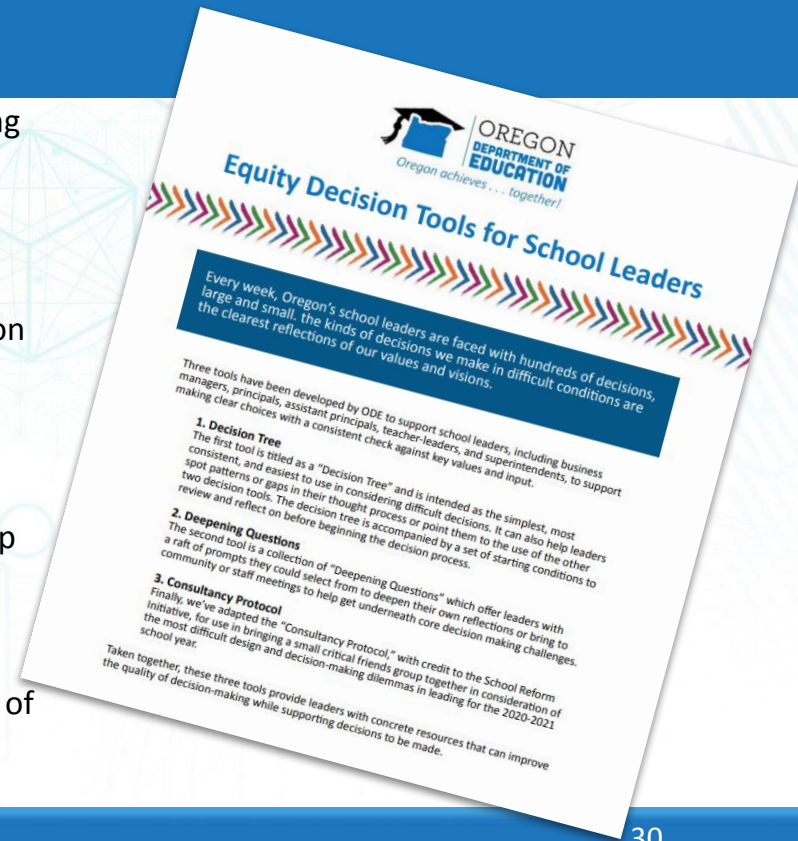
Planning Guide for Short-Term Distance Learning:

A Resource for Schools & Districts Operating In-Person

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Short-Term Distance Learning: A Local Decision

Short-Term Distance Learning Overview

Short-Term Distance Learning is intended to provide a temporary learning solution and is recommended not to extend for more than 4 weeks. Prioritizing in-person learning is the goal.

FULL TIME IN-PERSON   **SHORT-TERM DISTANCE LEARNING**   **FULL TIME IN-PERSON**
(Recommended ≤ 4 weeks)
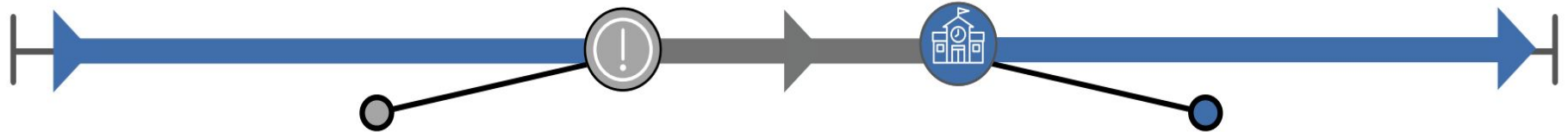
RESPONSE TO EMERGENCY

Due to the unpredictability of which schools might be impacted by emergency closures, all schools will need to plan for Short-Term Distance Learning.

RETURN FROM EMERGENCY

Due to the value of in-person learning, all schools should be prepared to return to in-person learning models as soon as conditions allow for maintenance of health and safety.

Serving Students Who Experience Disability

The worldwide pandemic caused major disruptions in nearly all aspects of life. Within education, responding to the risk of COVID-19 required rapid pivots to distance learning for schools across Oregon. Some students have achieved success through Comprehensive Distance Learning (CDL). Some students, though, have navigated CDL, but may need additional support as they return to the 2021-22 school year.

- School districts must notify parents that IEP teams can meet to discuss the need for Individualized COVID-19 Recovery Services.
- The IEP team for each eligible child with a disability shall consider the need for Individualized COVID-19 Recovery Services.
- The determination of need for Individualized COVID-19 Recovery Services is made by the IEP team after a review of student performance and data including pre-COVID-19 closures, student participation and performance during COVID-19 closures, and performance upon return to school. The IEP team should consider the student's progress compared to the progress of all students during this time period.

July 15, 2021

Planning for Individualized COVID-19 Recovery Services

CARE & connection

Toolkit	Graphic Resources	Social Media	Handle with Care Tools
Care and Connection Guidance	View Individual Graphics	Sample Social Media Posts	Handle with Care Resources
Care and Connection Activities	Care and Connection Posters (zip file)	Translations - Arabic, Traditional Chinese, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Vietnamese (zip file)	Handle with Care Guidance
Care and Connection Distance Learning Resources	Care and Connection Banners (zip		Translations -Arabic, Traditional Chinese, Russian, Somali, Spanish,

Care and Connection Week:
Guidance for Schools and School Districts

Oregon Department of Education

PATH OUT OF THE PANDEMIC

PRESIDENT BIDEN'S COVID-19 ACTION PLAN

P resident Biden is implementing a six-pronged, comprehensive national strategy that employs the same science-based approach that was used to successfully combat previous variants of COVID-19 earlier this year. This plan will ensure that we are using every available tool to combat COVID-19 and save even more lives in the months ahead, while also keeping schools open and safe, and protecting our economy from lockdowns and damage.

Vaccinating the Unvaccinated

Further Protecting the Vaccinated

Keeping Schools Safely Open

Increasing Testing & Requiring Masking

Protecting Our Economic Recovery

Improving Care for those with COVID-19

Path out of the Pandemic: Key Topics

- Requiring All Employers with 100+ Employees to Ensure their Workers are Vaccinated
- Calling on Large Entertainment Venues to Require Proof of Vaccination or Testing
- Requiring Employers to Provide Paid Time Off to Get Vaccinated
- Providing Easy Access to Booster Shots for All Eligible Americans
- Requiring Staff in Head Start Programs, Department of Defense Schools, and Bureau of Indian Education-Operated Schools to be Vaccinated
- Calling on All States to Adopt Vaccine Requirements for All School Employees
- Using the USDE's Legal Authority to Protect Students' Access to In-Person Instruction
- Getting Students and School Staff Tested Regularly
- Providing Every Resource to the FDA to Support Timely Review of Vaccines for Children
- Increasing Testing and Requiring Masking - multiple efforts

Questions?