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Association Update



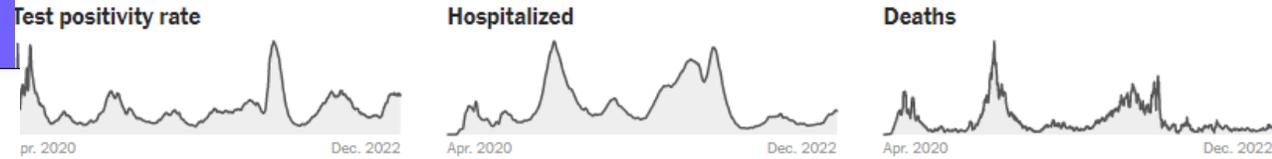
Colorado Health Care Association
& Center for Assisted Living

Still riding high, while flu rates are also abnormally high

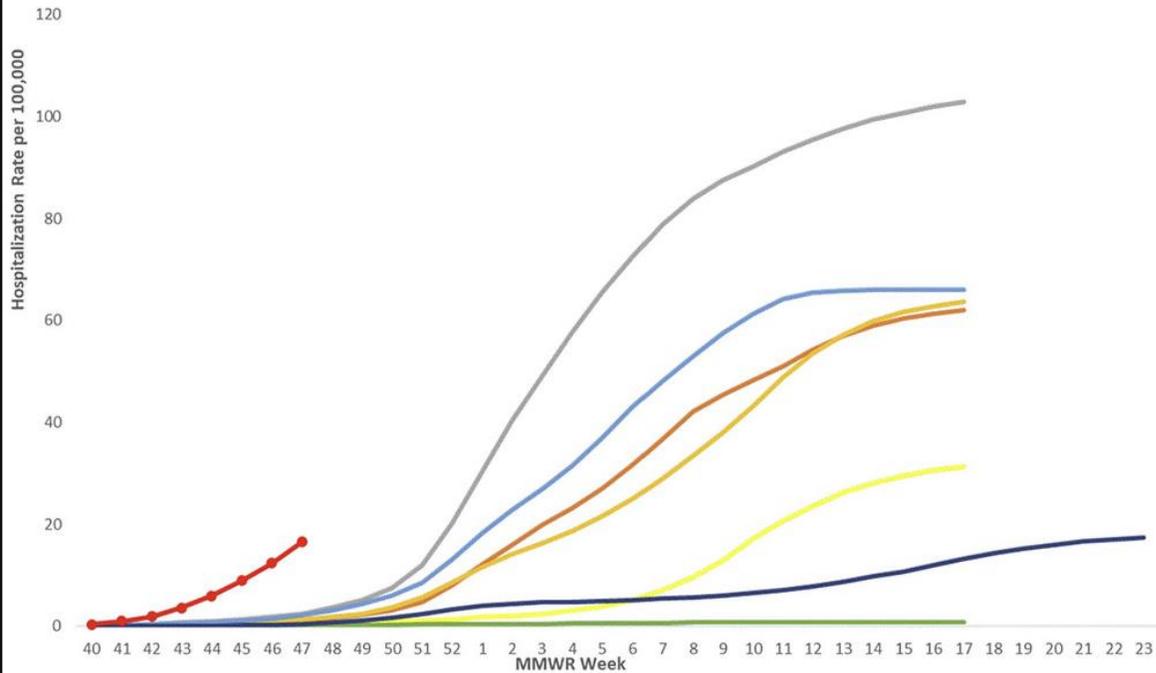
State Trends in COVID



These are days with a reporting anomaly. Read more [here](#).



Cumulative Rate of Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza Hospitalizations among cases of all ages, 2015-16 to 2022-23, MMWR Week 47

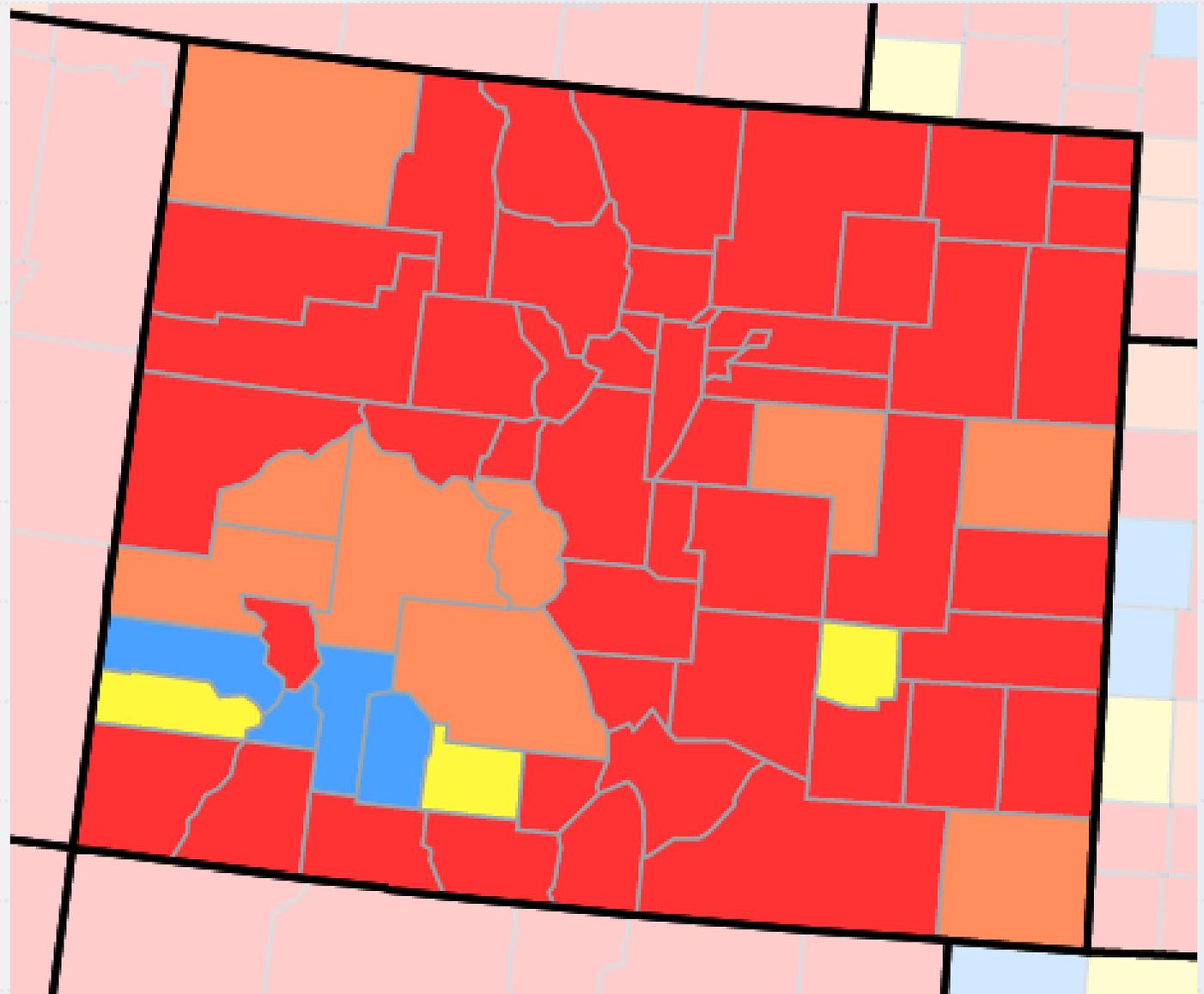


- 2015-16
- 2016-17
- 2017-18
- 2018-19
- 2019-20
- 2020-21
- 2021-22
- 2022-23

	DAILY AVG. ON DEC. 5	PER 100,000	14-DAY CHANGE
Cases	1,190	21	+3%
Test positivity	12%	—	Flat
Hospitalized	489	8	+16%
In I.C.U.s	60	1	-5%
Deaths	8	<1	+52%

Still in masks

As troubled as we were to see infection rates increasing on conjunction with the loosening of residential care mitigation requirements, we do still have a healthcare mask requirement in most places.

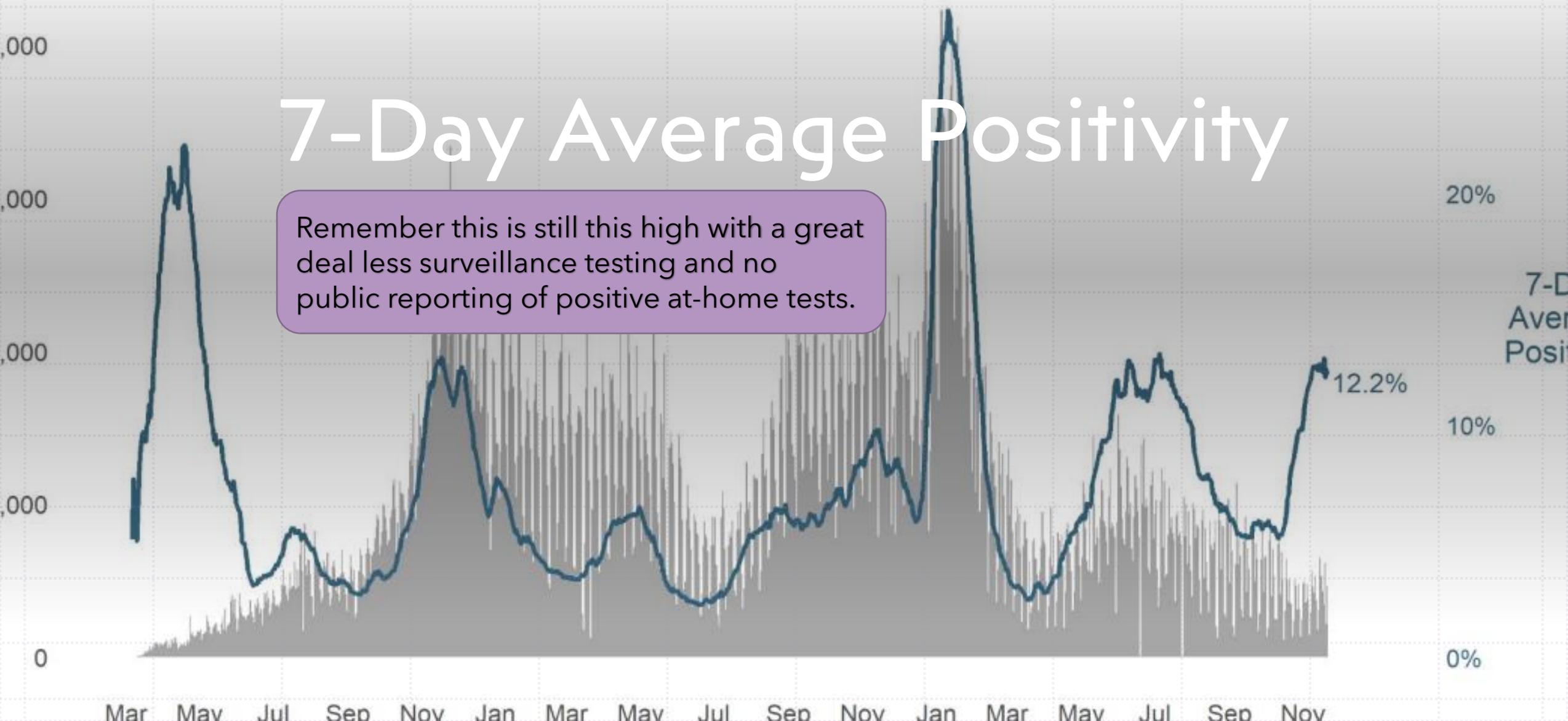


Anyone undergoing testing must mask

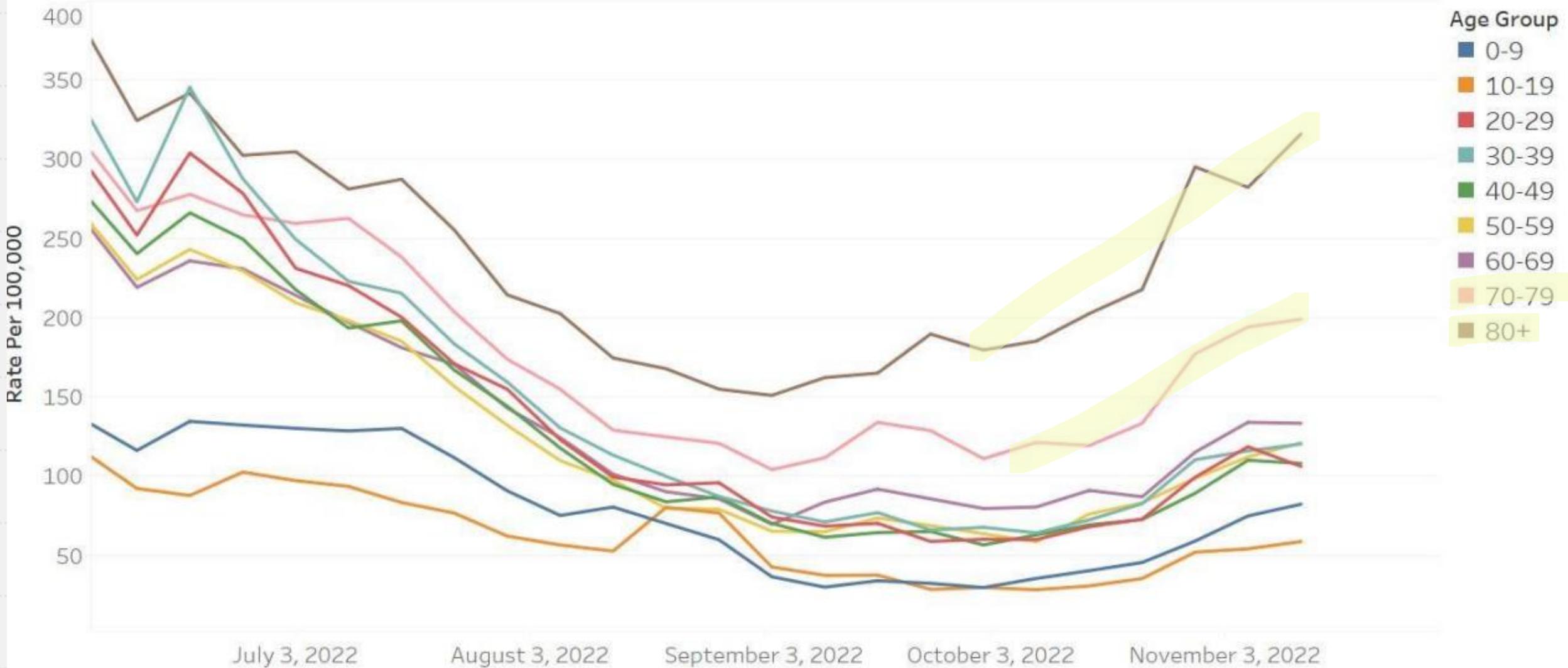
Circumstance for Masking	Staff	Residents	Visitors
<p>“high” Transmission (HC) and Community Level (Public) counties</p> <p><i>NON-CMS - If Public is not high, you can opt for no mask in non-resident areas</i></p>	<p>✓</p> <p>N95 and eye protection <u>should be considered</u> for aerosol-generating procedures and during “patient care encounters”</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>regardless of community level, visitors in resident rooms should wear masks if a roommate is present</p>
<p>communities in outbreak*</p> <p>*CMS defines outbreak as a 1+ positive case, CDPHE defines it as 2+</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>if testing is localized to a unit, this can apply to only those in that area</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>if testing is localized to a unit, this can apply to only those in that area</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>Visitors should be made aware of the potential risk of visiting during an outbreak investigation and adhere to the core principles of infection prevention. They may choose not to mask if 1:1 with the person they’re visiting, regardless of outbreak.</p>
<p>suspected/confirmed COVID infection or other respiratory illness symptoms</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>defer non-urgent in-person visitation until they meet CDC criteria for healthcare settings to end isolation</p>
<p>within 10 days of close contact exposure to a confirmed case</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>incoming admissions and res. out for 24 hours</p>	<p>defer non-urgent in-person visitation until 10 days after their close contact</p>

7-Day Average Positivity

Remember this is still this high with a great deal less surveillance testing and no public reporting of positive at-home tests.

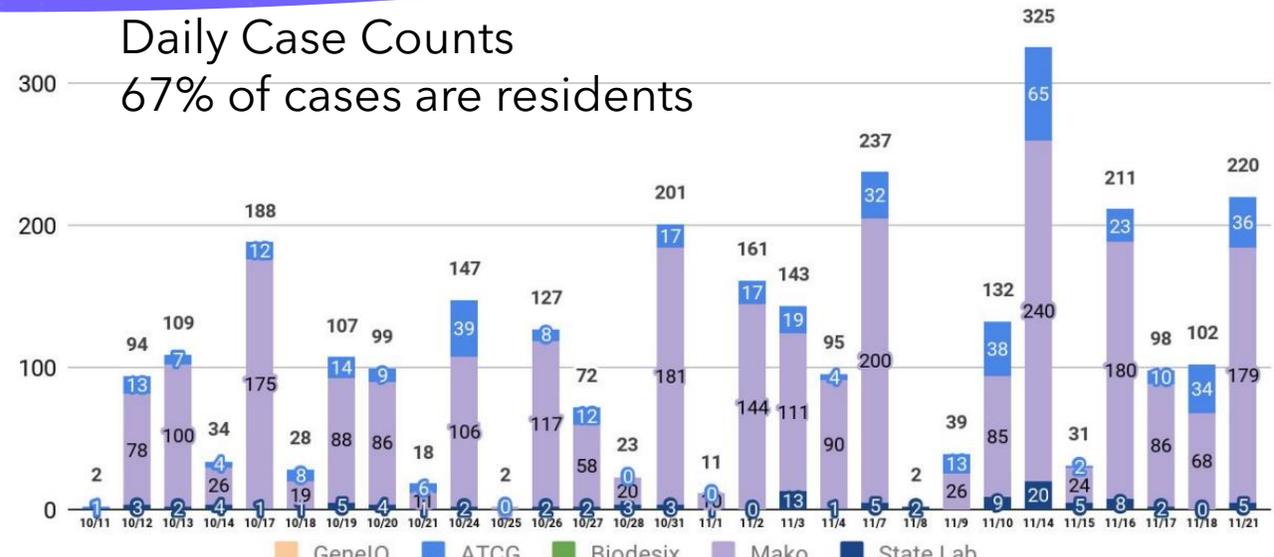


Rate per 100,000 of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases by Age Group and Report Date

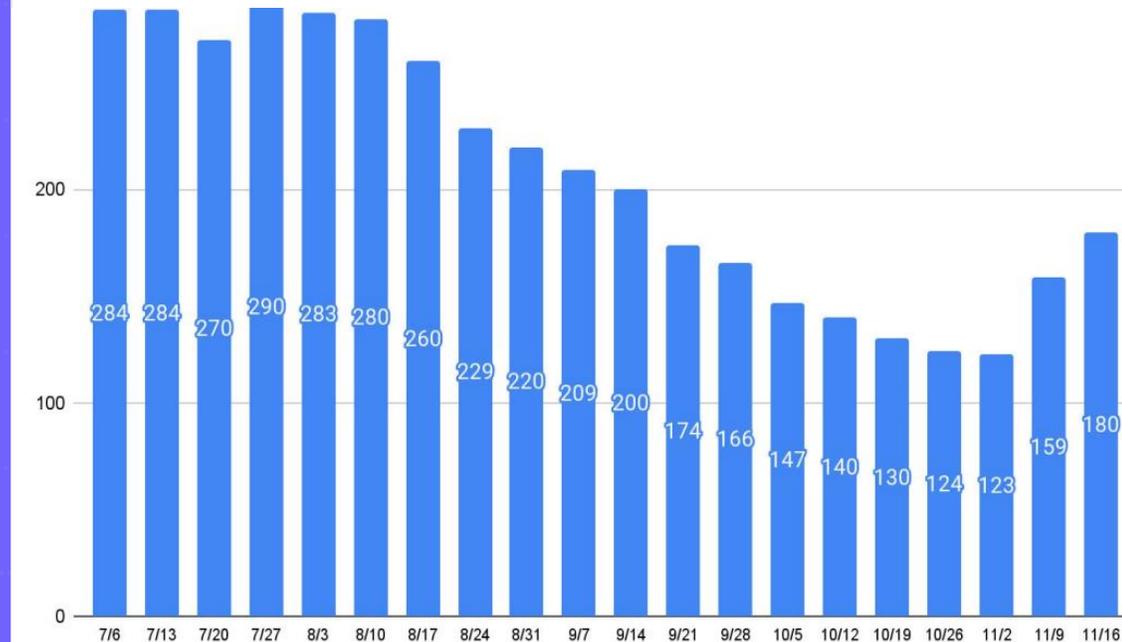
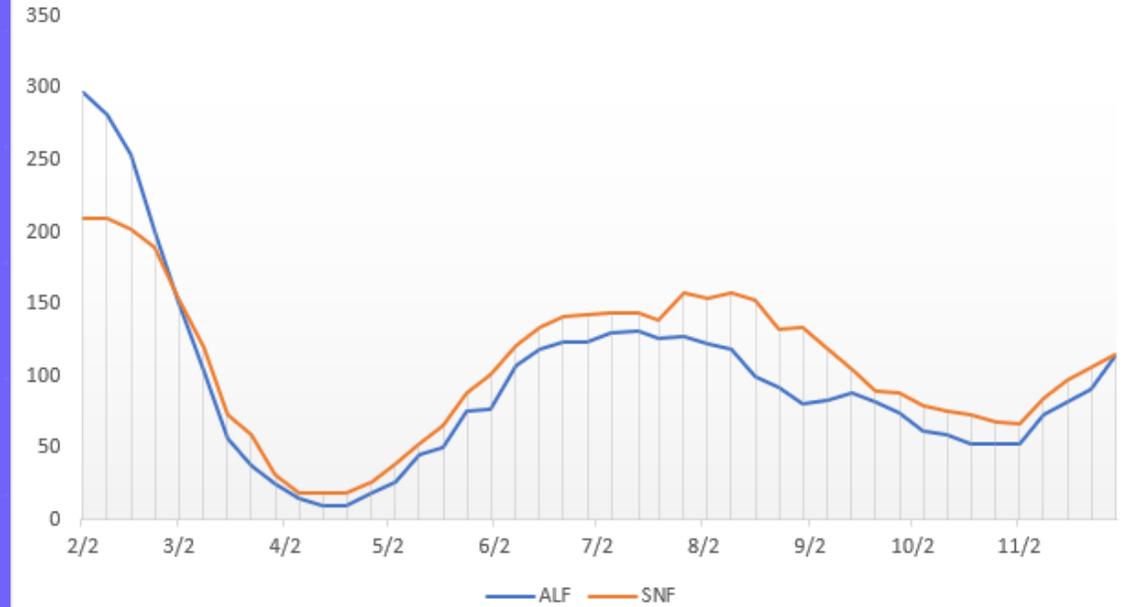


Residential Care

Daily Case Counts
67% of cases are residents

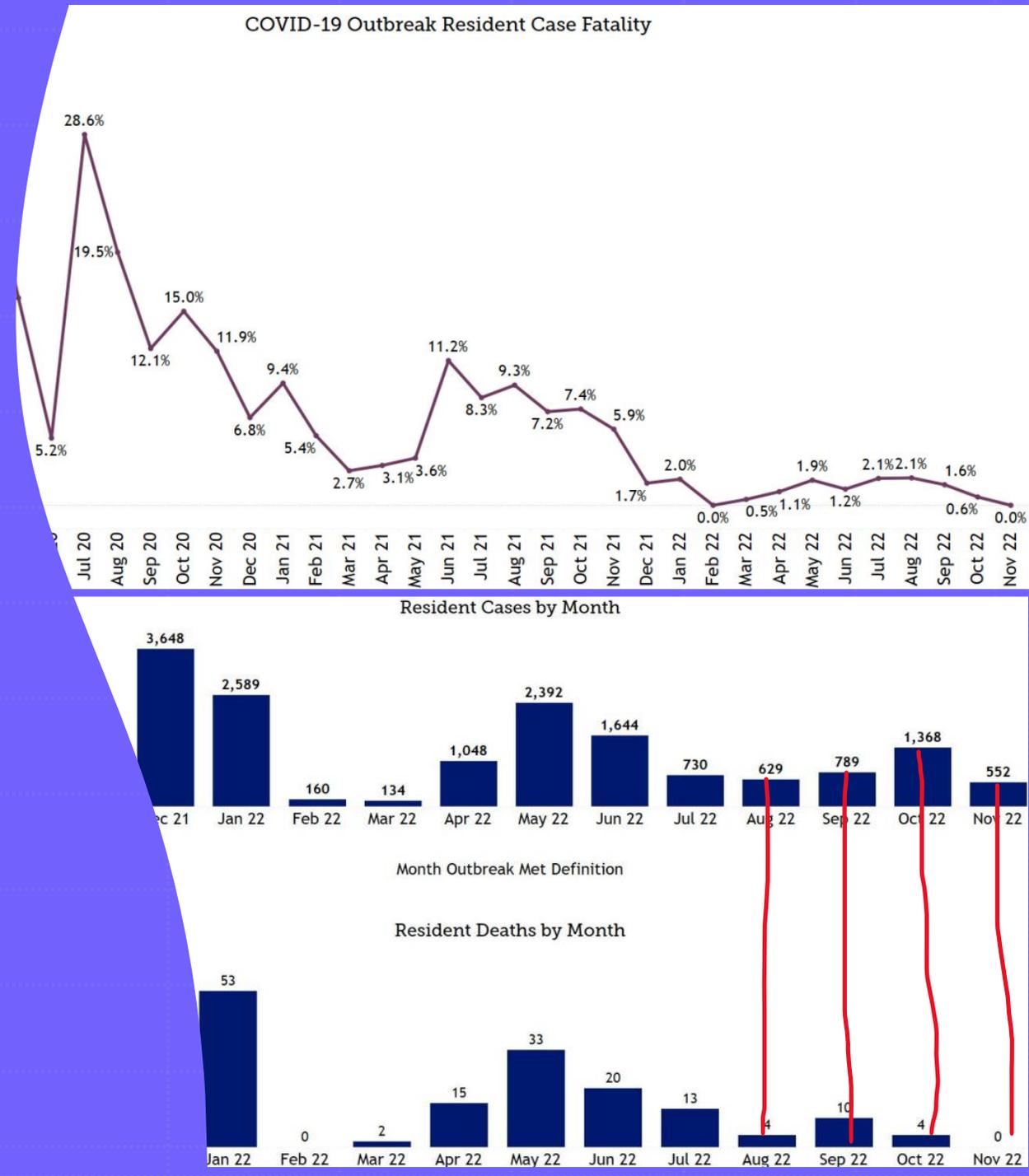


Outbreaks



Mortality in Residential Care

Case counts are no longer correlating to death rates in our setting.

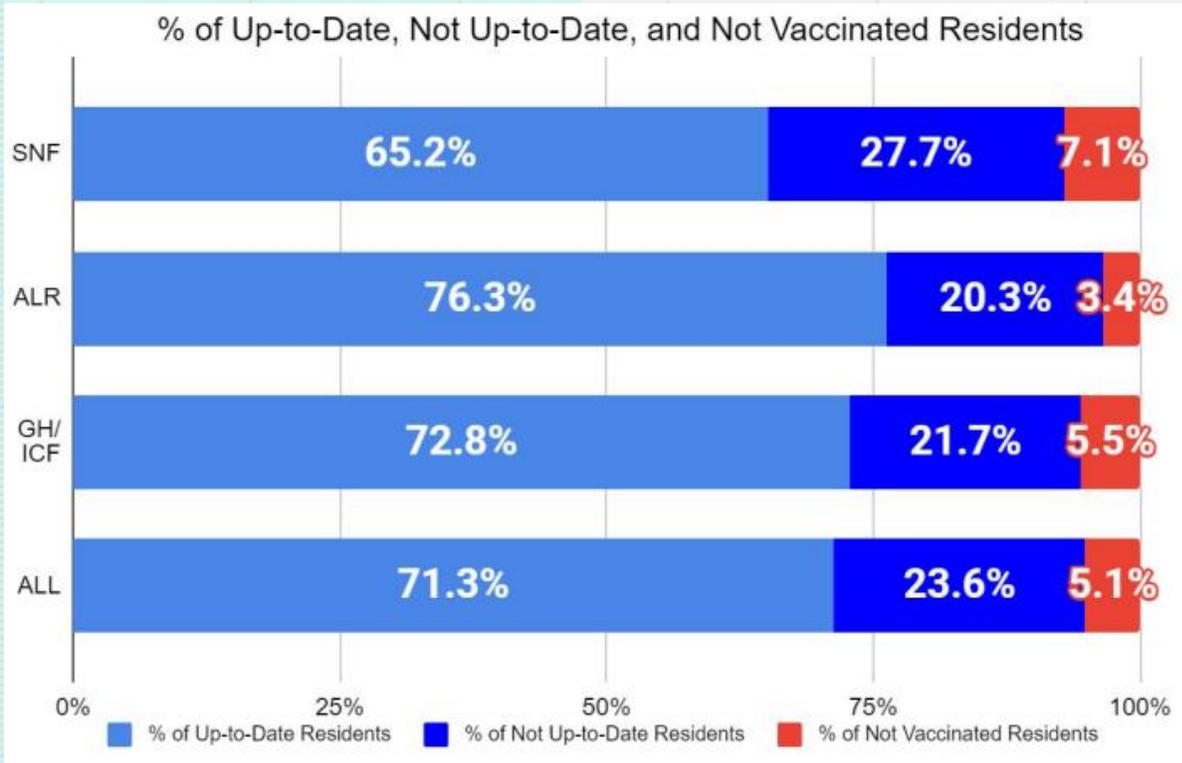


▶ And yet, there are
other consequences
of infection

Reinfected patients had a **more than doubled risk of death and a more than tripled risk of hospitalization** compared with those who were infected with COVID just once. They also had **elevated risks for problems with lungs, heart, blood, kidneys, diabetes, mental health, bones and muscles, and neurological disorders**, according to a report published in Nature Medicine.

1. <https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/repeat-covid-is-riskier-than-first-infection-study-finds-2022-11-10/>

Colorado Residential Care Vax Rates



The White House & CMS Push Resident Boosters

The Biden Administration just **announced** a 6-week campaign to improve COVID-19 booster uptake rates. The campaign will focus on reaching seniors, including a focus on nursing homes.

While the overall up-to-date (including bivalent booster) rate in nursing homes is 43% (substantially higher than the general population), there is **wide variation in booster rates**.

- Over a quarter of nursing homes have up-to-date rates over 72.4%
- But a quarter of nursing homes have rates less than 7.3%.

Survey Focus on Resident Vaccination

CMS will focus on the requirement for nursing homes to **educate and offer** the COVID-19 vaccine, including subsequent boosters, outlined in QSO-21-19-NH. State survey agencies will be verifying that this requirement is being complied with, particularly in facilities with low publicly reported vaccination rates, including booster rates.

Verify your vaccination rates, including booster rates, which can be found on the CMS COVID-19 data website.

If the posted rates are low, facilities should prepare for outreach from the state survey agencies to ensure compliance with QSO-21-19-NH .

If the posted rates are not accurate, facilities should verify the accuracy of their NHTS reporting and address where needed.

Antipsychotics Use

A report released by the Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) Office of the Inspector General (OIG)... found about **80% of nursing home residents between 2011 and 2019 were prescribed a psychotropic drug**, including antipsychotics, which the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has actively been trying to mitigate. There was a staggering 194% increase in the number of residents reported through the minimum data set (MDS) as having schizophrenia between 2015 and 2019, but these didn't have corresponding diagnoses in Medicare claims and encounter data, the OIG report noted.

Another notable finding was that **skilled nursing operators continued to administer anticonvulsants, mood stabilizers and central nervous system agents as less-monitored types of psychotropic drugs**. OIG also found that nursing homes with lower registered nurse (RN) staff to patient ratios were linked to higher use of psychotropic drugs. Facilities with higher percentages of residents with low-income subsidies were also found to utilize psychotropic drugs more.

<https://skillednursingnews.com/2022/11/remaining-high-and-unchanged-for-a-decade-orig-report-slams-nursing-home-psychotropic-use/>

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Free from Unnecessary Psychotropic Meds/PRN Use

In 2017, CMS expanded the category of antipsychotic medications to the new category of psychotropic medications

Psychotropic medication = any drug that affects brain activities associated with mental processes and behavior

Psychotropic medication examples: anti-psychotics, anti-depressants, anti-anxiety medications, and hypnotics



New guidance indicates that “other” medications are subject to same requirements if use appears to be a substitution for another psychotropic medication

Example: seizure medication for a resident with no history of seizures

Survey Trends

Number of Facilities with Overdue Recertification

Surveys: 57

Average number of days for recertification

surveys: 4 business days.

Outlier: 9 calendar days due to IJ that continued over the weekend.

Average number of surveyors per team: We tend to follow the LTCSP suggested surveyor chart-

1-48 residents = 2 surveyors; 49-95 residents=3 surveyors; 96-174 residents=4 surveyors and 175 residents and over=5 surveyors.

Top 10 tags for the 2022 calendar year:

NHSN Reporting (cited by CMS)

Accident Hazards

Infection Prevention and Control

Pressure Ulcers/Injury

ADL Care for Dependent Residents

Abuse/Neglect

Quality of Care

Sanitary Food Service

Respiratory Care

Dementia Care

Two correlated issues that increase the likelihood of deficient practice include **sufficient nurse staffing** and **psychosocial severity outcomes**.

Healthcare Workers Recruitment and Re- Engagement Fund

This new program is part of the Polis Administration's plan Colorado's Roadmap to Moving Forward and was passed into law during the 2022 legislative session. The program will incentivize and assist employers in the **recruitment of licensed health care professionals to employment in long-term care facilities (LTCF)**, qualifying facilities with critical shortages and pediatric-serving hospitals.

In this program, organizations that successfully recruit a licensed professional **who has left the health care industry and who will work 20 hours per week or more on average for a minimum of six months** are eligible to receive a one-time payment of **\$20,000 per professional re-engaged**. Organizations that may apply for funding must be licensed in Colorado.

DON Support Pods Launching in January

Interest form posted on our website

INTEREST FORM HEADING: Your Pod will be a small group of peers (3+ a Guide) who can give you an unbiased, safe space to vent, flourish in your profession and feel empowered. You'll meet virtually each week for 30 minutes. CHCA will try to match you with individuals geographically near you to make in-person meetings possible.

Looking for "Guides"

CHCA's Upcoming Education

