

Infection Control and Public Health Weekly Meeting

Thursday, March 31, 2022; 12:30 – 1:00 pm

COVID-19 Situational Awareness and Health Commissioner Updates

- Region Six ... 92 COVID-19 hospitalized (4%) / 14 ICU (17%) / 8 vents
- 1.6% positive test rate (1,727 tests)
- Daily COVID-19 cases are still on the rise across 18 European countries
- Hospitalization < 50% pandemic peak / ICU admits < 25% pandemic peak.
- Shanghai began its most restrictive lockdown in 2 years due to rapid increase in COVID-19 cases and mass testing begins. Cases in South Korea have peaked.

Omicron BA.2 Subvariant

- BA.2 is now the dominant variant in the US in aggregate, accounting for 54.9% of cases
- Cases dropped in the UK until BA.2 accounted for > 60% of cases
- Testing and genomic sequencing rates declining across the US, so case counts are likely and undercount of incidence and variant prevalence

Second COVID-19 Booster Dose Authorized for High-Risk Individuals

- People age 50 and older who received an initial mRNA booster dose (Pfizer or Moderna) at least four months ago MAY RECEIVE a second booster dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.
- Second booster dose may be most beneficial for people who are age 65 and older, or who are age 50-64 with certain underlying medical conditions.
- People age 12 and older who are moderately to severely immunocompromised who received an initial mRNA booster dose (Pfizer or Moderna) at least four months ago MAY RECEIVE a second booster dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer, age 12+; Moderna, age 18+).
- Individuals age 12 years and older who are moderately to severely immunocompromised may receive as many as five doses – the recommended three-dose primary series for people who are immunocompromised, plus two booster doses.
- Adults who received a primary vaccine and booster dose of the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) COVID-19 vaccine at least 4 months ago MAY RECEIVE a second booster dose using an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.

“Choose-Your-Own-Adventure Vaccine Approach”

- FDA: “50 and older now having the option to get a fourth dose” and CDD: “without explicitly being encouraged to do so” something of a
- Policy could create more confusion around the long-term vaccination strategy (50% of booster eligible have not received third dose)
- People who get boosted now could be eligible for another shot in the fall, especially if a variant-specific vaccine is deemed necessary.
- Gap between the under-vaccinated and those up to date on their shots keeps growing, although it's assumed that plenty of people in both groups have been infected at this point.
- FDA VRBAC meets April 6 - process for COVID-19 vaccine strain selection to address current and emerging variants
- Boosting large segments of the population every four months not sustainable.

SARS-CoV-2 Outpatient Treatment – Sotrovimab Lack of Efficacy Against BA.2 Subvariant

- FDA limiting use of sotrovimab to regions > 70% BA.2 Omicron Sub-variant (northeast)
- Monoclonal antibodies (within 7 day of symptom onset) ... doses of sotrovimab and bebtelovimab available at infusion centers but minimally used.
- Oral antivirals (within 5 days of symptom onset) ... courses of Paxlovid (nirmatrelvir / ritonavir) and molnupiravir available at hospital retail pharmacies and FQHC. Requires testing which creates difficulty to get within the window.

Health systems report minimal use of monoclonal antibody infusions. Plans to transition to bebtelovimab from sotrovimab.

Test to Treat Locations

- Website maintained at Covid.gov, 1-800-232-0233
- Local Kroger, CVS and Walgreens sites have received an order of Paxlovid or *Lagevrio* (molnupiravir) in the last two months and/or have reported availability of the oral antiviral medications within the last two weeks.

Pre-operative testing discontinued

- Mercy stopped last week. TriHealth discontinued. UC planning to discontinue in April.
- Christ stopped two weeks ago.
- Kettering stopped two weeks ago.

When to stop masking in clinical areas when community spread low (like the Weather) and moving toward endemic phase. Looking for CDC guidance for healthcare sectors.

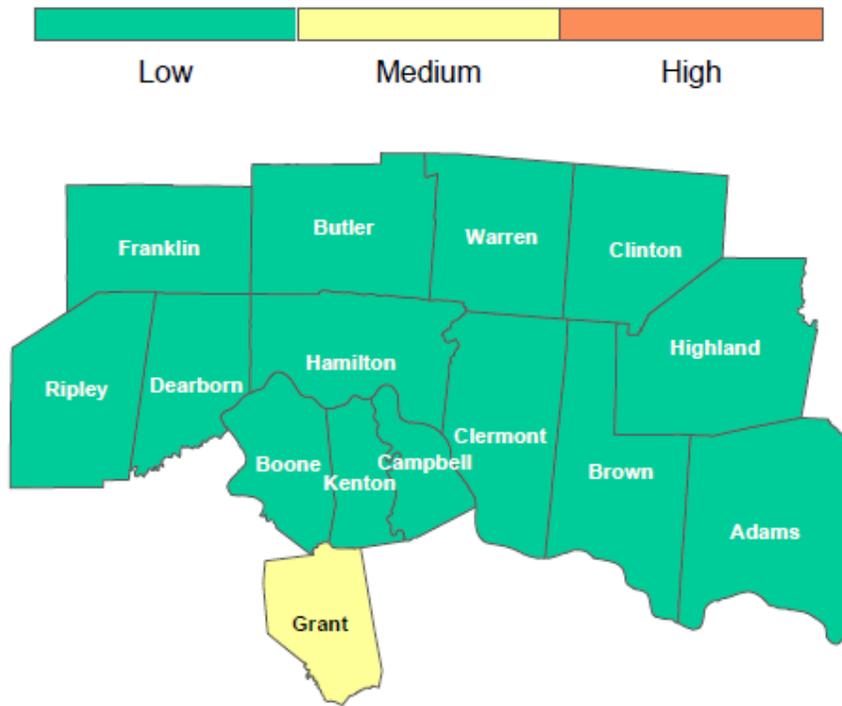
- Mercy not yet discussed.
- TriHealth beginning to have discussions.
- UC internal discussions. Possible seasonal masking.
- Christ not aware of discussions
- Kettering no formal discussions yet.
- Long term care must follow CDC / CMS / ODH requirements.

Recommendations for Hospital Associations (OHA / AHA) to address with regulators and legislators.

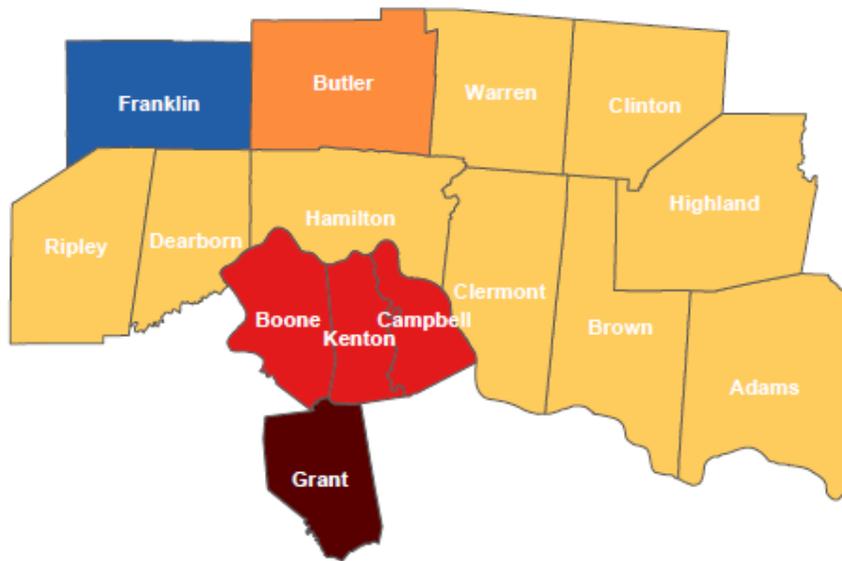
Next Zoom Call ... **Thursday, April 7** (12:30 – 1:00 pm)

April is National Minority Health Month

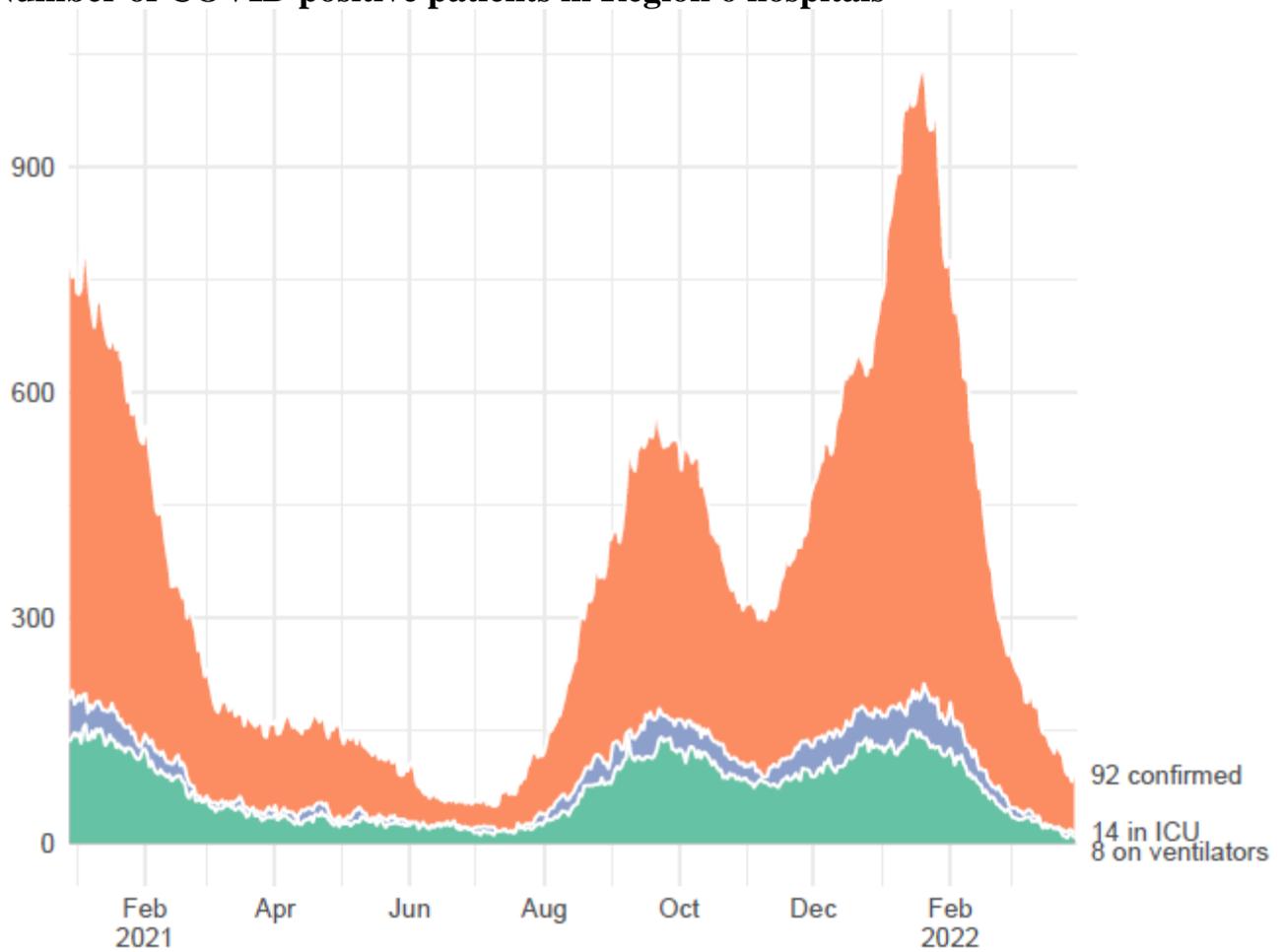
Community Levels



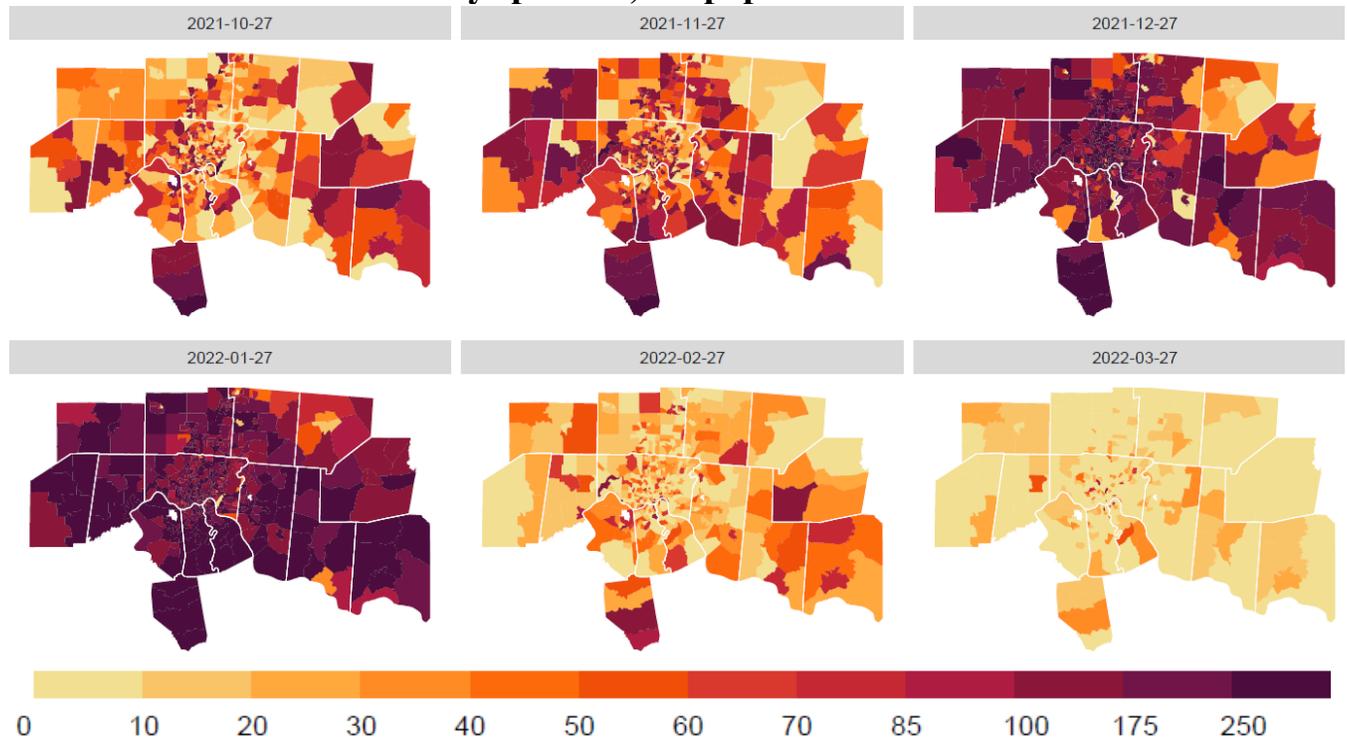
COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population



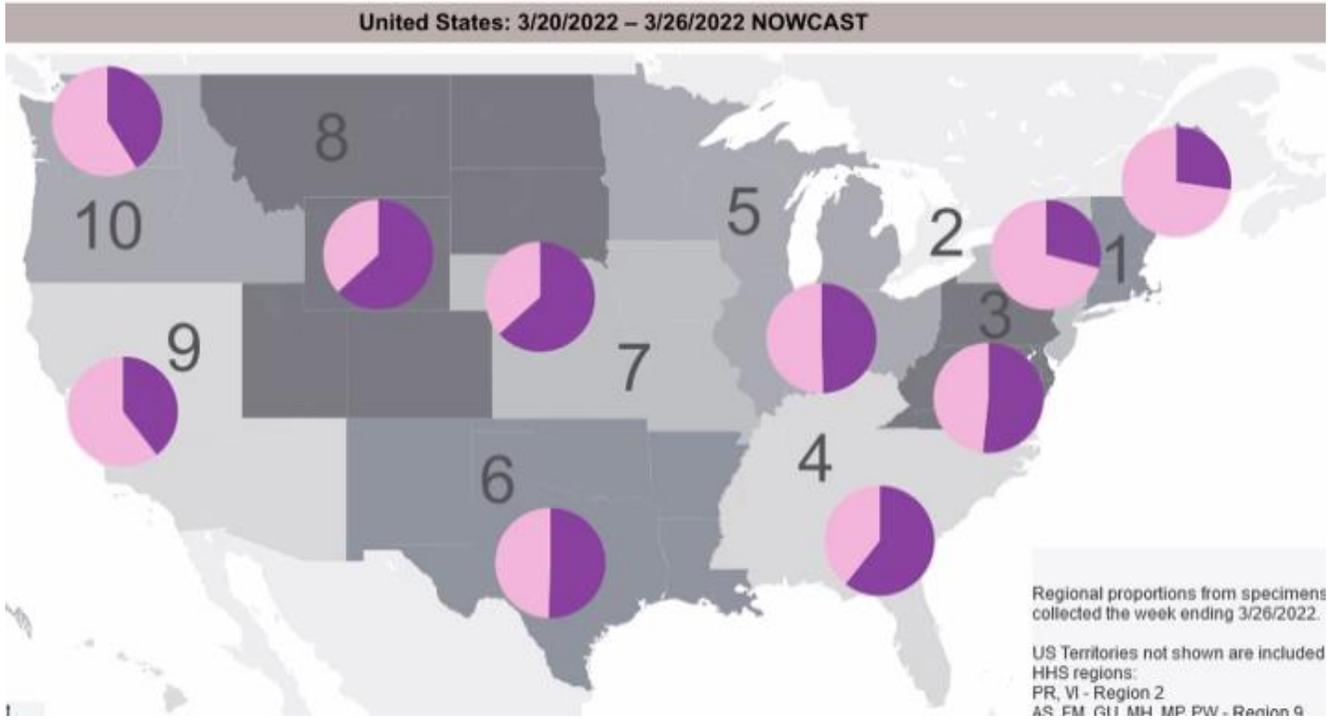
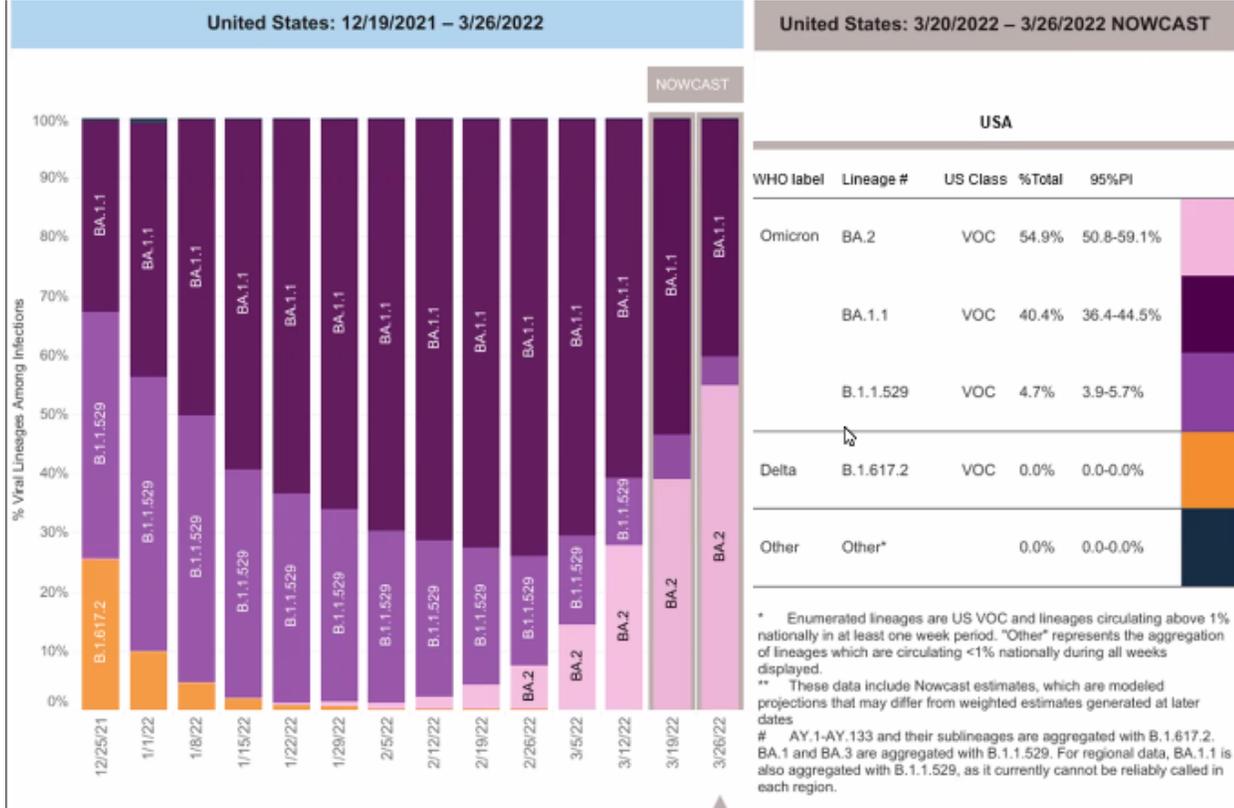
Number of COVID positive patients in Region 6 hospitals



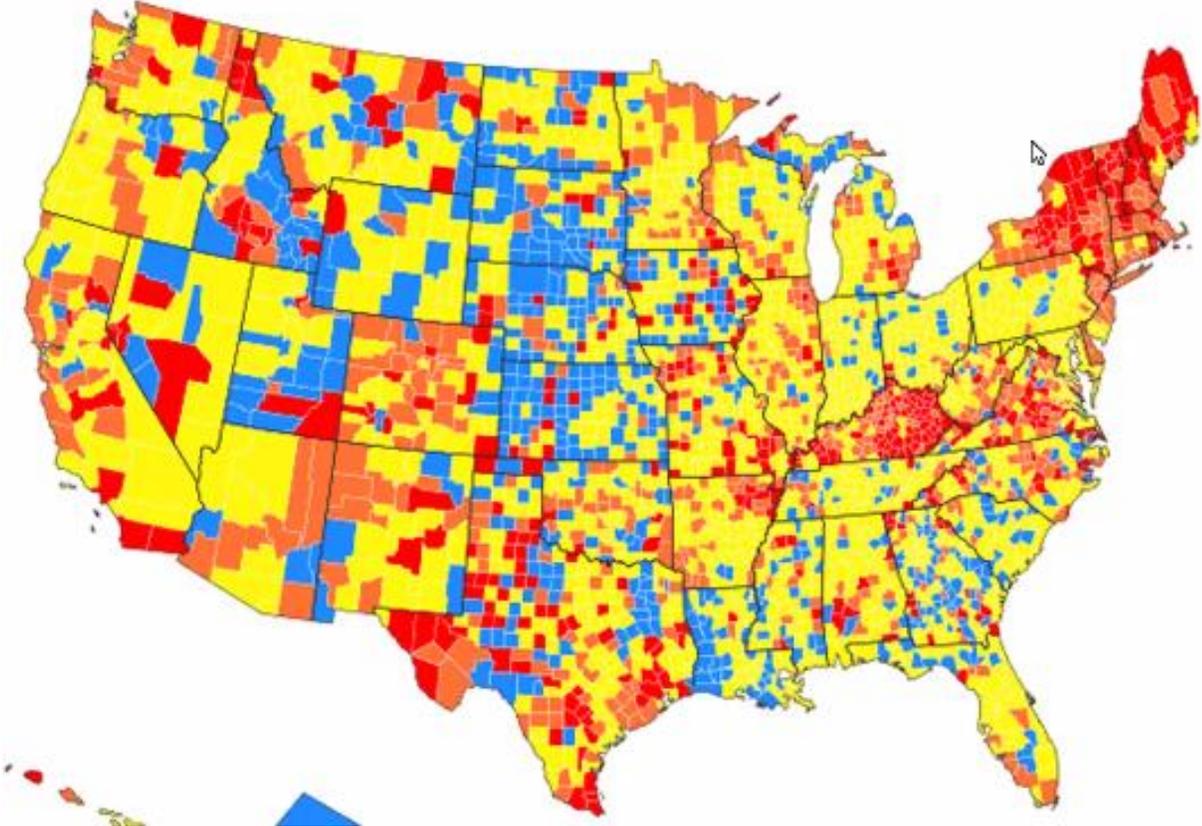
Positive Cases over Last 7 days per 100,000 population over time – 14 counties



CDC Nowcast SARS-Cov-2 Variant Estimates (3/20 – 3/26)



Community Transmission of All counties in US



Community Levels of All Counties in US

