

# MPX (Monkeypox) Response City Council Hearing

*Dr. Letitia Dzirasa  
Commissioner of Health  
Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD)  
9/14/2022*

Disclaimer slide  
Information presented is  
accurate as of 9/9/2022

# Agenda

- MPX Timeline/Data Review
- Disease Characteristics
  - Symptoms
  - Transmission
  - High-risk populations
  - Prevention
  - Isolation/quarantine
- MPX Strategy/Approach
  - Communications/Messaging
  - Testing
  - Case investigation/contact tracing
  - Vaccination
  - Treatment
- Resources

# MPX Timeline and Data Review

- 5/17/22- 1st US Case in MA
- 6/16/22 - 1st Confirmed Maryland Case
- 6/28/22 - CDC activated EOC
- 7/23/22- WHO declared current MPX OB to be PH emergency of Intl Concern
- 8/4/22 - DHHS declared MPX OB a PH Emergency
- Cases in all 50 states now - Highest counts in CA, NY, FL, TX and GA

As of 9/9/22

- Baltimore City: **171** Cases (30% of Maryland cases)
- Maryland: **571** cases
- Demographics of Baltimore City cases
  - 90% of cases between ages of 20-49
  - 49% of cases between 30-39
  - 71% are Black
  - 17% are white
  - 8% are Latino
  - 92% are men

# Symptoms

- Member of orthopoxvirus family
- Related to smallpox, **NOT** related to chickenpox
- Rash, usually within 3 weeks of exposure, self limited, can be painful
- Flu like symptoms including:
  - Fever
  - Chills
  - Swollen lymph nodes
  - Malaise/exhaustion
  - Muscle Aches/Back Aches
  - Headache
  - Respiratory symptoms
- Can experience all or a few symptoms
- Can get rash 1st or flu like symptoms 1st with rash developing 1-4 days later
- Disease can be more severe in immunocompromised, children < 8, those with eczema/dermatitis and pregnant women



# Monkeypox

Nigeria Centre for Disease Control  
Credits —



*Brandon M. Scott*  
Mayor, Baltimore City  
*Letitia Dzirasa, M.D.*  
Commissioner of Health, Baltimore City

Source: <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/clinicians/clinical-recognition.html&sa=D&source=editors&ust=1662991036584099&usg=AOvVaw1F9CelaD1UVUIXpnZIZQIP>



# Transmission

- Rash may last 2-4 weeks
  - Able to spread disease from time symptoms start until rash healed/scabbed over
- Spread via
  - Direct contact with MPX rash, scabs, or bodily fluid from MPX+ case
  - Touching objects, fabrics used by someone with MPX
  - Close contact with respiratory secretions from MPX+ case
- Intimate contact includes:
  - All sex, genital contact with person with MPX
  - Hugging, kissing, massage, cuddling
  - Prolonged face to face contact
  - Contact with fabrics and objects during sex used by MPX case if not disinfected (towels, bedding)

Brandon M. Scott  
Mayor, Baltimore City

Dr. Letitia Dzirasa, M.D.  
Commissioner of Health, Baltimore City



# Isolation/Quarantine

- Isolation advised for all positive cases from time symptoms start/diagnosis made until rash heals and new layer of skin present - could be 2-4 weeks
- CDC has graduated recommendations on isolation based on living situation
- Infection prevention recommendations similar to COVID recs
  - Wear well fitting mask at home around others, use separate bathroom, use EPA cleaner to disinfect high touch surfaces, don't share eating utensils, wash and don't share items coming in close contact with skin with others
- No quarantine requirements however if exposed, recommendations to monitor for sx for 21 days and seek evaluation if sx develop



# Prevention

- Avoid **close, skin-to-skin contact** with people who have a rash that looks like MPX including sex, kissing, cuddling, rubbing, etc.
- Avoid **contact with objects and materials** that a person with MPX has used. Do not share food utensils, clothing, bed, etc.
- **Wash your hands** often.

# High Risk Populations

- Current data suggests that individuals who identify as gay, bisexual, or other MSM, as well as transgender or gender-diverse individuals make up the majority of current cases **however** anyone regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation is at risk if they have been in close personal contact with someone who has MPX is at risk.

# Disease Prevention: Communications/Messaging

- Multi-channel communications strategy to minimize stigma
  - “Here are signs and symptoms” broad messaging to the general public and media (multiple TV interviews on MPX)
- Prevention focused messaging to highest risk population
  - Video FAQs and website updates
  - Social Media featuring community influencers
  - Canvassing/grassroots approach (Balls, bars, etc.)
  - Partnership with CBOs/LGBTQ Liaison; stakeholder meeting with Mayor Scott
  - Presser with Chase 7/26; vax press release on 8/4 and 9/2
- Past two weeks: Council member briefings
- Direct messaging and engagement to healthcare providers
- Support/guidance for key stakeholders:
  - Schools/daycares
  - Colleges/Universities
  - Businesses

# Disease Identification: Testing

- Nationally, commercial labs are offering testing
- Swab of rash/lesion/crusting
- BCHD offers limited testing as a safety net provider
- Educating other local healthcare providers on how to test their patients
- Conducted survey of providers to assess for testing capacity; following up on responses and discussing challenges with those who haven't responded/not testing
  - So far received 11 responses (5 EDs, 3 outpatient clinics, 2 FQHC, 1 urgent care); 9 offering testing
- Participating in City and regional conversations about ways to expand testing

# Disease Prevention: Case Investigation/Contact Tracing

- Similar to COVID, BCHD leads all CI/CT for City residents
- When + MPX case identified, BCHD interviews and educates those cases
- BCHD notifies close contacts, educate on what symptoms to monitor for - offers vaccination to close contacts
- Offer support for ppl isolating (work with LGBTQ, MOHS)
- We have identified an isolation support location for MPX and are working through the contract/procurement process to finalize
- Intensive monitoring/follow up for positive cases

# U.S. MPX Vaccination Strategy

Post exposure prophylaxis	Individuals with a known or presumed exposure to someone with MPX (Prioritized)
Expanded post-exposure prophylaxis (ePEP)	People with certain risk factors and recent experiences that might make them more likely to have been recently exposed to MPX
Pre-exposure prophylaxis	Vaccination before exposure to MPX. People in certain occupational groups; lab workers

- CDC allocation models based on early case rates, jurisdiction size, and presumed at risk population
- BCHD eligibility criteria based on this strategy

# BCHD ePEP Eligibility Criteria

People who have had multiple/anonymous sex partners in the last 14 days and identify as one of the following:

- Gay, bisexual, or other man (cis or transgender) who has sex with men (cisgender or transgender) or transgender women
- Transgender, gender non-conforming, or gender non-binary
- Sex workers and anyone engaged in survival sex or other types of transactional sex (including in exchange for money, food, shelter, or other goods) of any sexual orientation or gender identity

BCHD is discussing expansion of eligibility, while continuing clear communication with the public about risk.

# Vaccine Information: JYNNEOS

- 2 Dose Vaccine
- Developed for Smallpox and MPX
- As PEP, given ideally within 4d of exposure but can be given up to 14d after exposure
- 8/9 - JYNNEOS received EUA for use in children
- Originally given subQ
- FDA EUA on 8/9 to be given intradermally (ID) to 18+
- Still given SubQ in children



# Disease Prevention: Vaccination Strategy

- Limited supply and limited capacity to administer through BCHD clinics
- Focus on equity
  - Canvassing and offering at high risk venues or through high risk STI clinics (BCHD, Chase have some of the highest STI rates in the City)
  - Working with CBOs serving highest risk to educate
- Set aside doses for identified close contacts and at risk HCWs/lab staff
- Allocation/Transfer to Ryan White providers, other HIV providers, FQHCs and other clinics- convened 17+ partners on 9/13

# BCHD MPX Vaccination Strategy

Phase	Vaccination Activities
<b>Phase 1</b>	Close contacts of cases
<b>Phase 2a</b>	Close contacts of cases 3 public ePEP clinics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Chase Brexton - BCHD outreach to high priority populations, vaccination at Chase Brexton - 59 individuals</li><li>● 2 BCHD STI clinic public clinics - 80 individuals total</li></ul> BCHD clinic patients-45 individuals Chase clinic patients -15 individuals
<b>Phase 2b (planning)</b>	Close contacts of cases Planning distribution to clinical partners Contracting with vendor for BCHD vaccination efforts BCHD patients (ongoing) Chase clinic patients (ongoing - HRSA supply)

# BCHD MPX Vaccination Status, Sept 2022

<b>BCHD MPX Number of People Vaccinated, June 27-September 10, 2022</b>			
		First Doses	Second Doses
Post exposure prophylaxis	Contacts	80	35
Expanded post exposure prophylaxis	BCHD clinic	122	96
	Chase Brexton	72	52
<b>Total vaccinated</b>		274	183

<b>BCHD MPX Vial Inventory</b>	
Total Vials Received from MDH	725
Total Vials Allocated	689*

\*BCHD is allocating additional vials made available based on switch to ID dosing

# Vaccine Pre-registration Process

- On 9/2, MDH opened pre-registration for MPX vaccine
- Access the state pre-registration page via the internet, and answer questions related to eligibility
- BCHD can pull city residents from the state pre-registration list
- Recently received access to evaluate eligibility
- Around 500 city residents currently on the list
- Pursuing contract to provide needed staffing and support to host clinics for individuals on the list
- This will remain a portion of, but not the complete, strategy for BCHD, acknowledging some of the limitations for access

# Treatment: TPOXX

- Tecovirimat (TPOXX) is primary treatment
- Developed to treat smallpox
- Special approval to use for MPX during an outbreak
- Focused on those with compromised immune systems or severe/painful disease- dz usually self limited in otherwise healthy ppl
- Requires additional paperwork and CDC approval for use
- Limited availability at BCHD and among other providers across the City serving high risk individuals

# Resources

- <https://health.baltimorecity.gov/monkeypox>
- <https://health.maryland.gov/phpa/OIDEOR/Pages/monkeypox.aspx>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/index.html>
- CDC guidance for schools/daycares, colleges, congregate settings:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/community/index.html>



# Baltimore City COVID-19 Vaccination City Council Hearing

*Dr. Letitia Dzirasa  
Commissioner of Health  
Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD)  
9/14/2022*



**It's Baltimore versus COVID. Let's win this together.**

To learn more, visit [coronavirus.baltimorecity.gov/covax](https://coronavirus.baltimorecity.gov/covax)



**Brandon M. Scott  
Mayor**

Disclaimer slide  
Information presented is  
accurate as of 9/12/2022

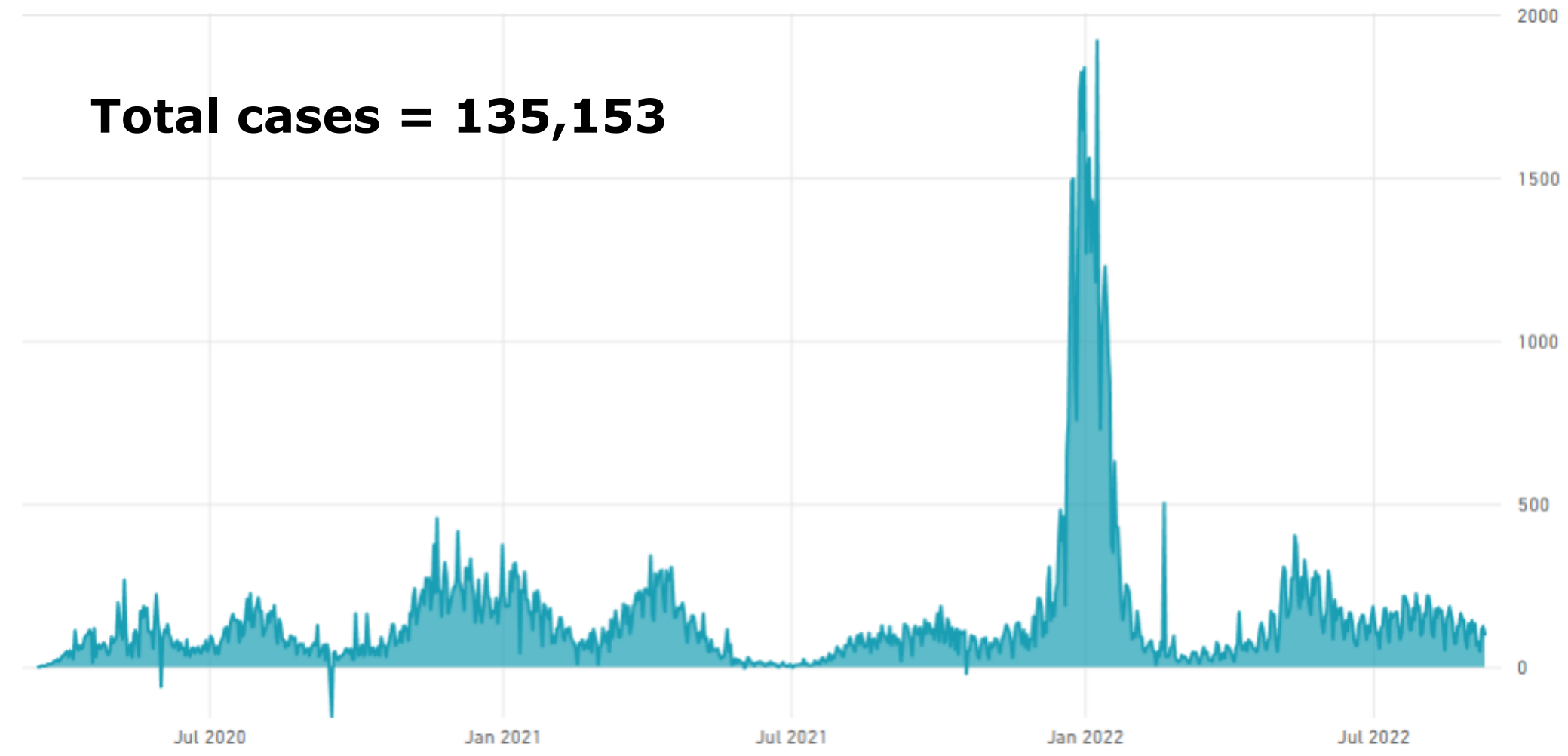


# Agenda

- COVID data updates
- COVID vaccination updates
- Testing updates
- Ongoing approach to Contact Investigation/Contact Tracing (CI/CT)

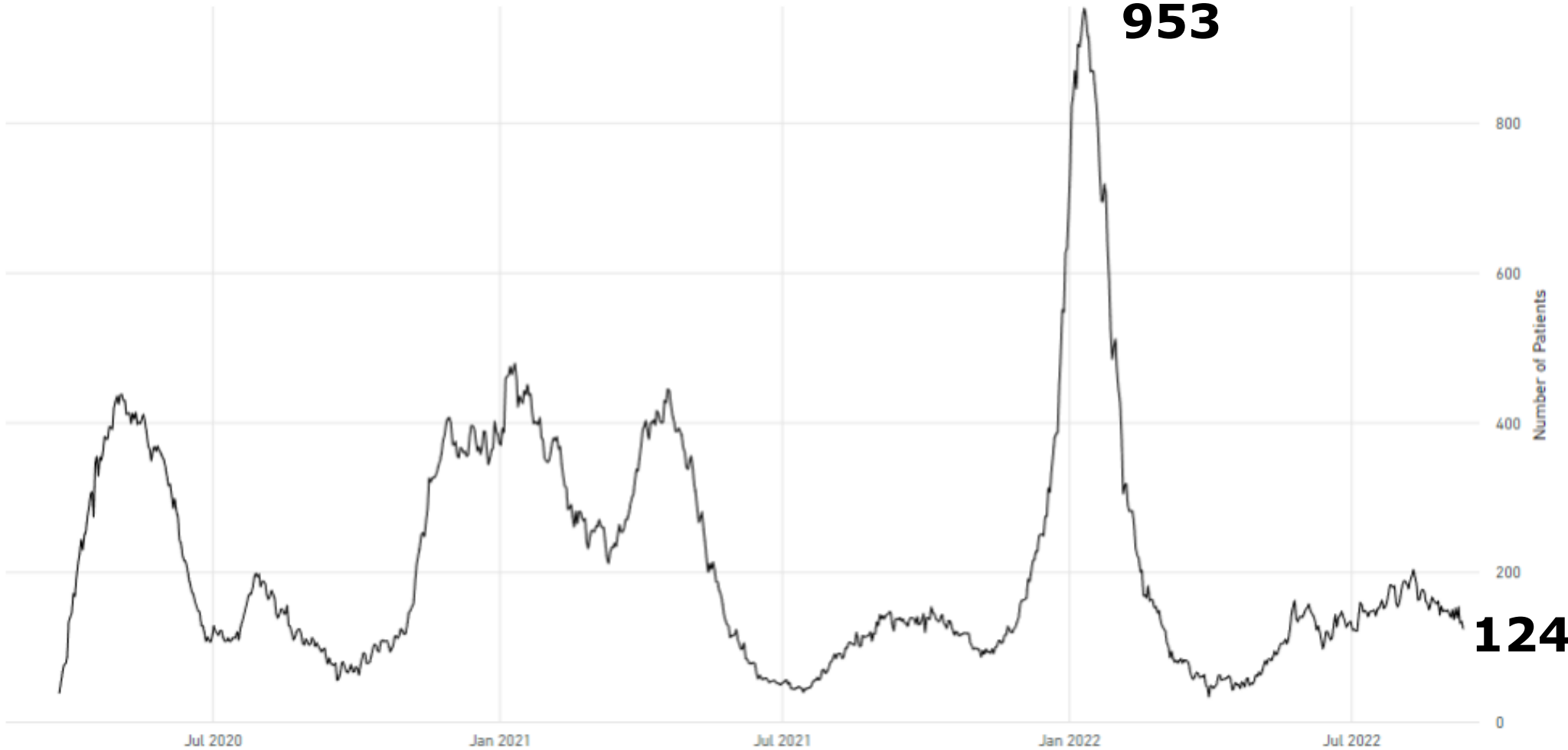
# COVID Data Updates

# COVID Cases Over Time



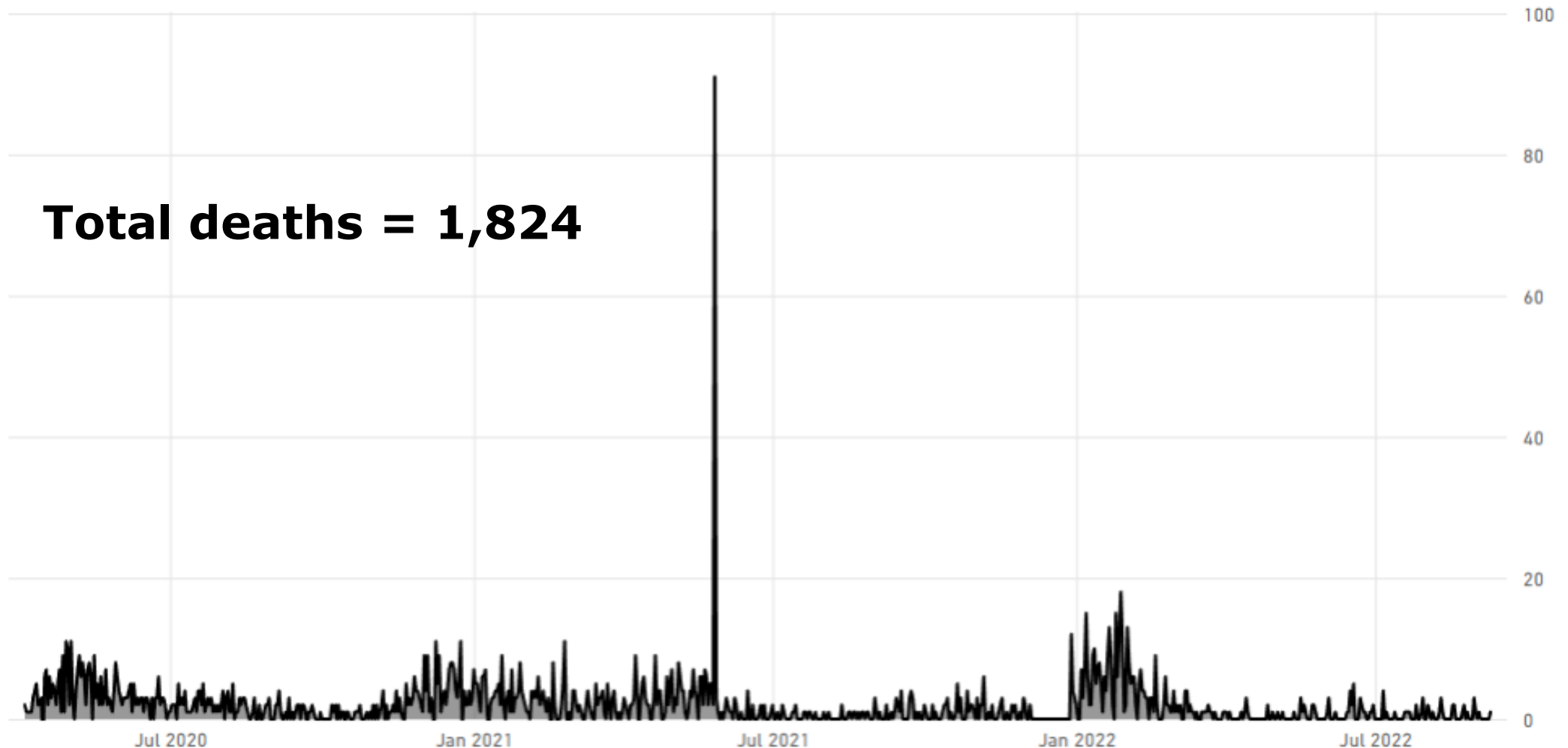
Data source: <https://coronavirus.baltimorecity.gov/>, accessed 9/12/2022

# COVID Hospitalizations Over Time



Data source: <https://coronavirus.baltimorecity.gov/>, accessed 9/12/2022

# COVID Deaths Over Time



Data source: <https://coronavirus.baltimorecity.gov/>, accessed 9/12/2022

# County-Level Comparisons

- Report comparing Baltimore City to 325 US counties of similar sociodemographic characteristics

Indicator	Cumulative Estimate	County Rank (Percentile)
Incidence rate	89 per 1,000 population	266/326 (81st)
Mortality rate	210 per 100,000 population	238/326 (73rd)
Case fatality ratio	2.4 per 100 cases	184/326 (56th)
Population 12+ years with at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine	60%	318/326 (97th)

Source: Lee KH, Marx M. Baltimore City: County-level comparisons of COVID-19 cases and deaths. 8 September 2021.



# COVID Vaccination Updates



**It's Baltimore versus COVID. Let's win this together.**

To learn more, visit [coronavirus.baltimorecity.gov/covax](https://coronavirus.baltimorecity.gov/covax)



**Brandon M. Scott**  
Mayor

# GET VAXXED

WALK UP THIS WEEK: SEP 12-SEP 18

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

	<p><b>BCHD</b> *New Boosters available 1200 E Fayette St <b>10A-2P</b> Pfizer or Moderna 18+</p> <p><b>STATE CENTER</b> *New Boosters available 300 W Preston St <b>10A-2P</b> Pfizer 5+ Moderna 6mo-4yr</p>	<p><b>VILLAGE LEARNING PLACE</b> *New Boosters available 2521 Saint Paul St <b>9A-12P</b> Pfizer or Moderna 6mo+</p> <p><b>COPPIN STATE</b> *New Boosters available 2601 W North Ave <b>10A-12P</b> Pfizer or Moderna 12+</p> <p><b>SACRED HEART</b> 600 S Conkling St <b>4P-7P</b> Pfizer 5+</p>	<p><b>STATE CENTER</b> *New Boosters available 300 W Preston St <b>8-10A</b> Pfizer 5+ Moderna 6mo-4yr</p>	<p><b>BCHD</b> *New boosters available 1200 E Fayette St <b>10A-2P</b> Pfizer or Moderna 6mo+</p> <p><b>SACRED HEART</b> 600 S Conkling St <b>4P-7P</b> Pfizer 5+ Moderna 6mo-4yr</p>	<p><b>STATE CENTER</b> *New Boosters available 300 W Preston St <b>8-11A</b> Pfizer 5+ Moderna 6mo-4yr</p> <p><b>MEGA MART</b> *New boosters available 3400 Annapolis Rd <b>10A-2P</b> Pfizer 3-11; Pfizer, Moderna or Novavax 12+</p> <p><b>BREATH OF GOD</b> *New boosters available 141 S Clinton St <b>11:30A-1P</b> Pfizer 3+</p>
<p><b>SUN</b></p>					

**NEW bivalent booster now available at most locations - see clinic details for more information. This new booster dose is approved for ages 12+ (Pfizer) and 18+ (Moderna).**

 = VACCINES FOR CHILDREN <12 (EXACT AGES LISTED)

**OPTIONAL REGISTRATION:**

 BALTIMORE CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

    
@Bmore\_Healthy

CALL 443.984.8650 OR VISIT  
COVAX.BaltimoreCity.gov

 BALTIMORE CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT



Brandon M. Scott  
Mayor, Baltimore City

Dr. Letitia Dzirasa, M.D.  
Commissioner of Health, Baltimore City



# Progress towards goal: vaccinate 80% of Baltimore City residents against COVID-19

Population	Vaccination coverage (at least one dose) on September 5, 2022
Overall (all ages)	70.3%
Overall (12+ years)	75.5%
6 months - 4 years	8.5%
5-11 years	34.0%
12-17 years	66.9%
18+ years	78.9%
Booster Doses (all ages)	35.2%

Data for all vaccinations for Baltimore City residents through dates noted in table; data from MDH ImmuNet, these metrics and additional data are available on the updated BCHD COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard: <https://tinyurl.com/BaltimoreCityCOVID19VaxDash>

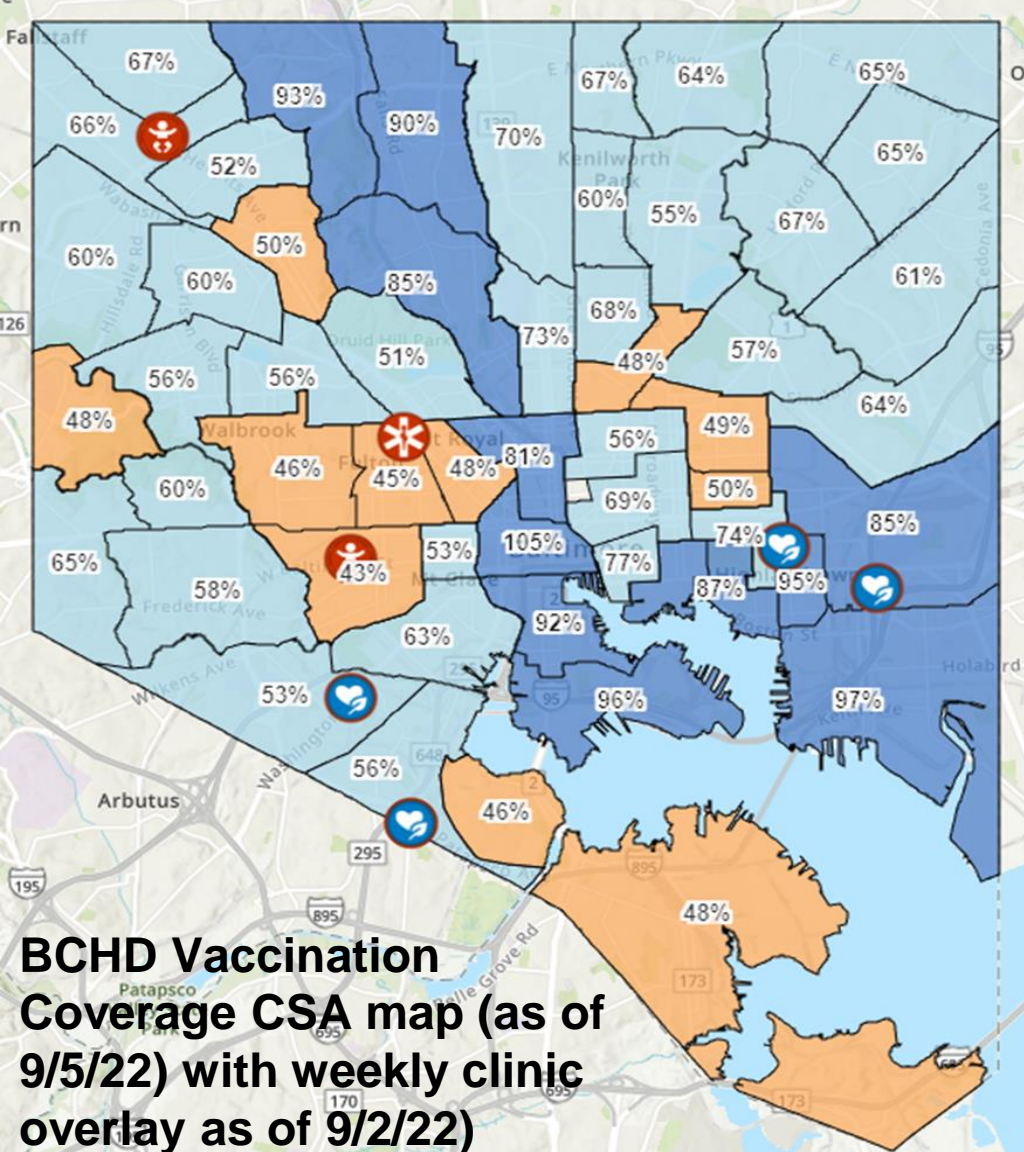


**It's Baltimore versus COVID. Let's win this together.**

To learn more, visit [coronavirus.baltimorecity.gov/covax](https://coronavirus.baltimorecity.gov/covax)



Brandon M. Scott  
Mayor



**BCHD Vaccination Coverage CSA map (as of 9/5/22) with weekly clinic overlay as of 9/2/22)**

# BCHD vaccination efforts

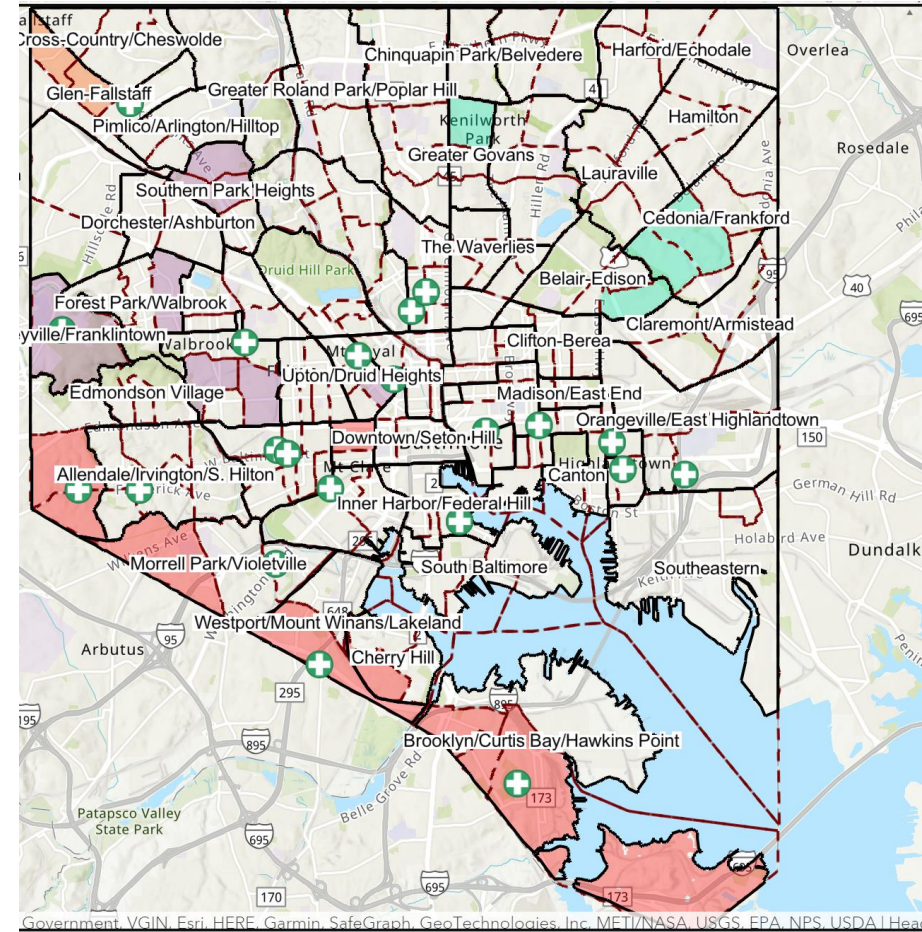
**2,392** BCHD and BCHD-involved COVID-19 vaccination clinics as of 9/7/22

**61,935** COVID-19 vaccination doses administered at BCHD and BCHD-involved clinics as of 9/7/22



# Updated Fall Vaccination Outreach

- 80% Vaccination for Eligible Residents
- Keep Children in School
- Prevent hospitalizations
- Goal of reaching 50k residents with this campaign
- Focused on 1st Vaccines in lowest coverage areas
- Significant Public/Private Provider Outreach



# Bivalent Booster Planning

- Offering at all BCHD's Mobile Response Team Sites
- Providing vaccine to providers through vaccine transfer program (inclusive of significant provider outreach campaign)
- Providing at Public Senior Housing Sites
- Offering through BCHD's clinics
- Marketing vaccine information through media and through canvassers and healthcare providers



# Testing Updates

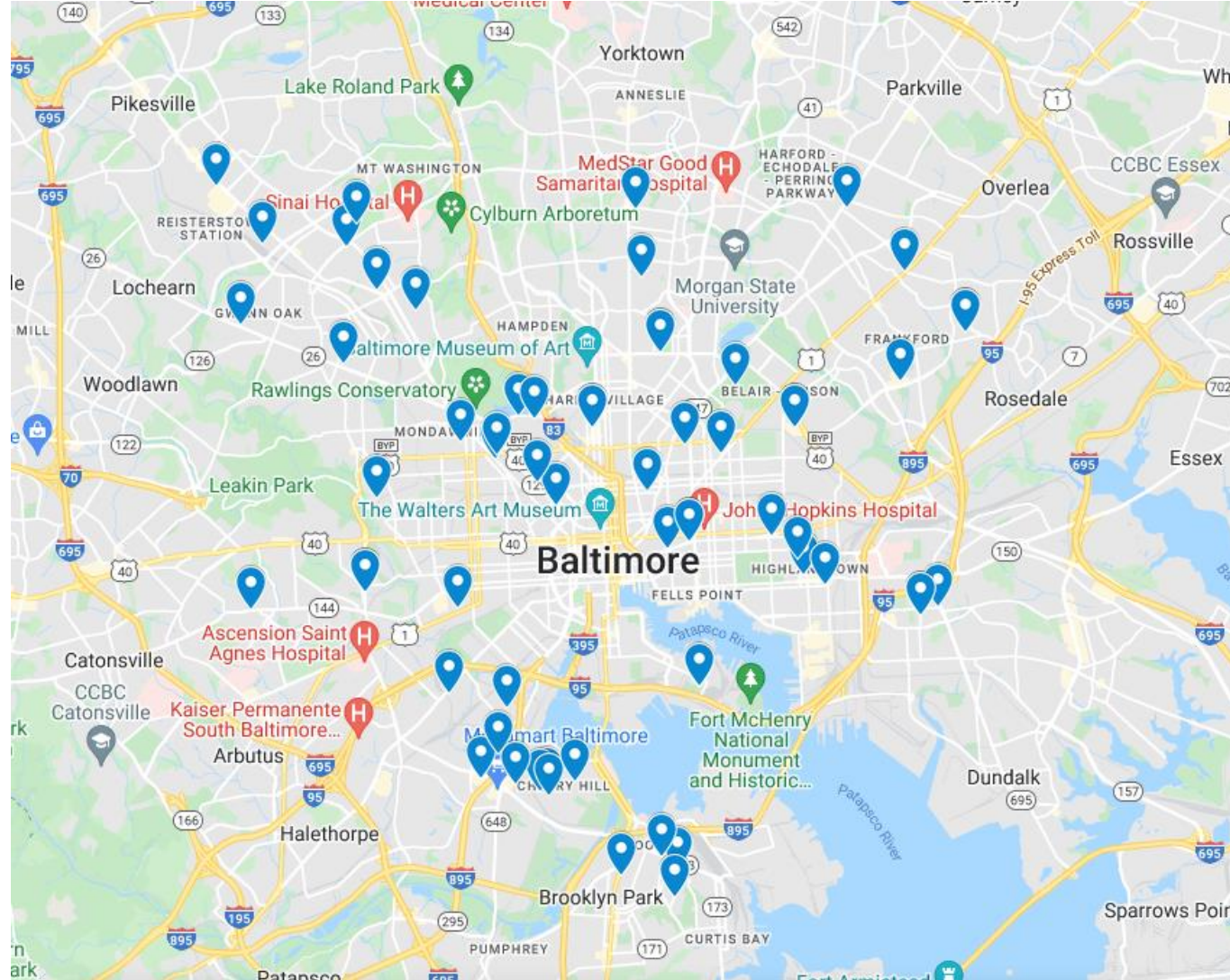
# Current Availability/Access

- BCHD community test sites
  - Operate 5 days per week
  - Free
  - No pre-registration required
  - No internet required for results
- Community
  - State Center, urgent care, primary care
- Rapid test kits
  - BCHD distribution
  - Purchase/reimbursement
  - HHS - additional free test kits via HHS



# BCHD Community Testing Sites

## April 2020- August 2022

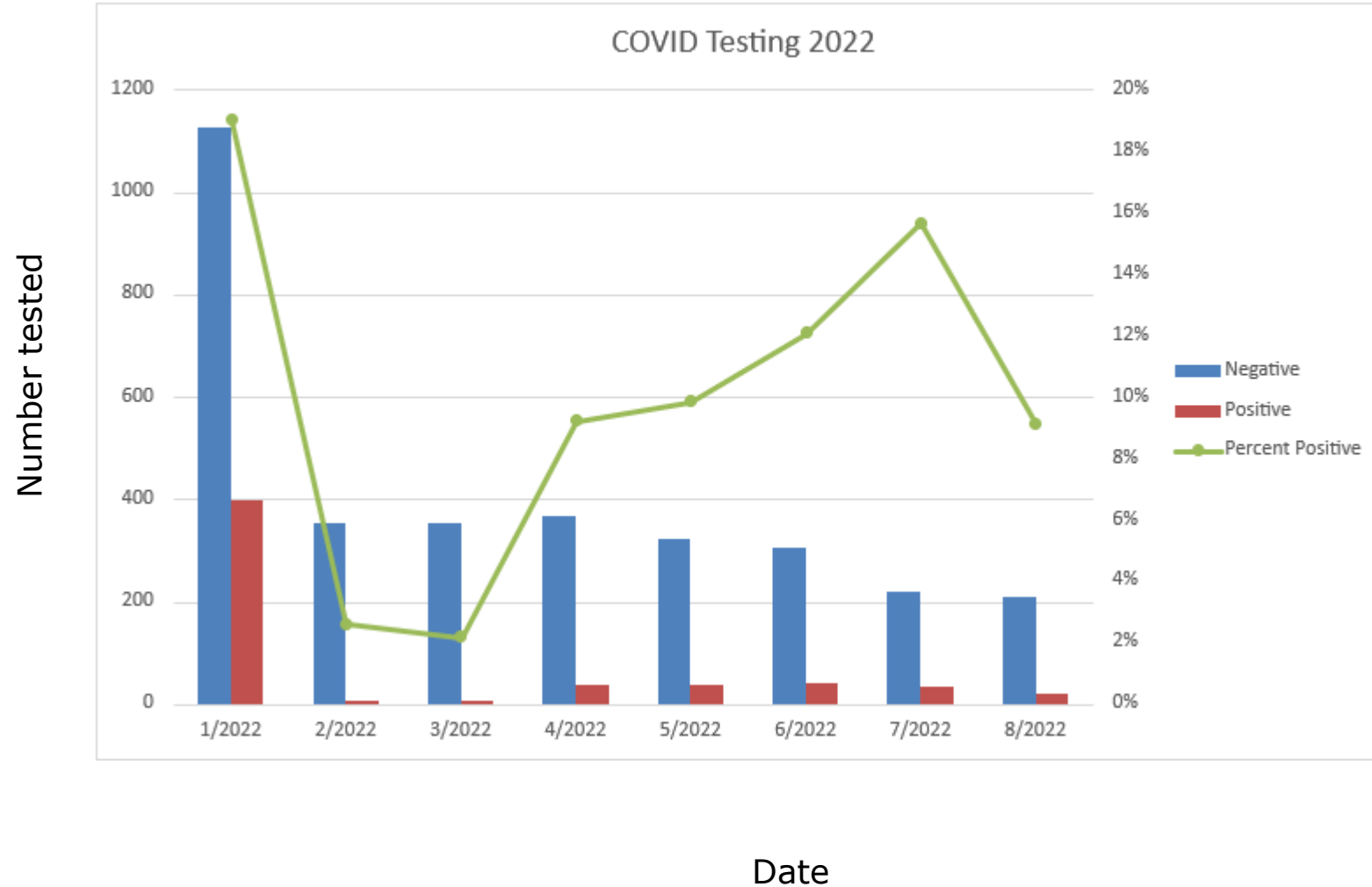


*Brandon M. Scott*  
Mayor, Baltimore City

*Dr. Letitia Dzirasa, M.D.*  
Commissioner of Health, Baltimore City



# Total number tested at BCHD Community Testing Sites January-August 2022



Brandon M. Scott  
Mayor, Baltimore City

Dr. Letitia Dzirasa, M.D.  
Commissioner of Health, Baltimore City



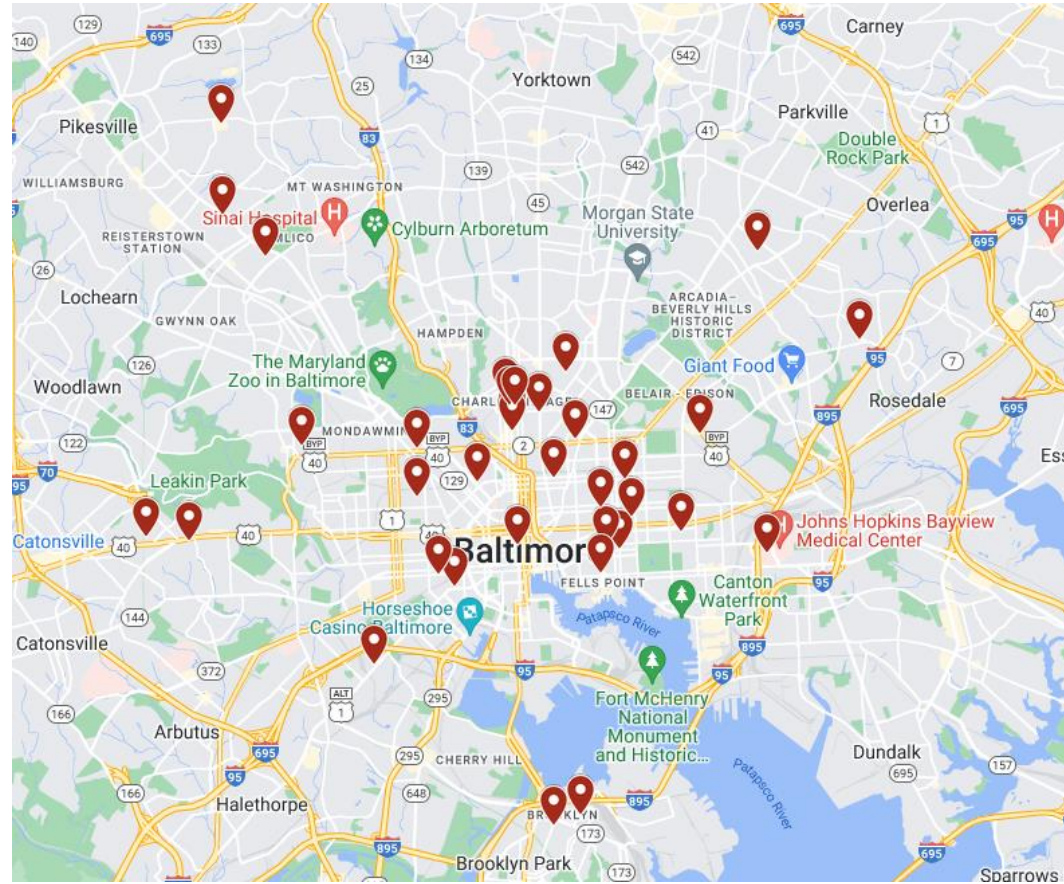


# Rapid COVID Test Kits Distributed

CBO Program Nov 2021-March 2022	32,126
CBO Program April 2022-Present	47,068
Enoch Pratt Free Library	98,719
Baltimore City Public Schools	50,000
Behavioral Health Systems Baltimore	2,414
Mayor's Office Homeless Services	590
More Than a Shop community distribution	920
Mobile Testing and Vaccination	1,638
Civic works homebound	198
Assisted Living Facilities	300
Safe Streets/SSP	2,864
BCHD Outbreaks	450

Total rapid test kits distributed by BCHD Nov 2021-present: **237,287**

# CBO COVID Test Kit Distribution Partners



**It's Baltimore versus COVID. Let's win this together.**

To learn more, visit [coronavirus.baltimorecity.gov/covax](https://coronavirus.baltimorecity.gov/covax)



**Brandon M. Scott  
Mayor**

# Ongoing Case Investigation/Contact Tracing (CI/CT)

# CI/CT Current Updates

- In June 2022 CI/CT teams went through a scheduled staffing reduction.
  - The program went from 120 staff down to 80 staff.
  - Staffing levels are monitored closely to ensure readiness for surges in cases this fall.
- Staff are continuing to provide case investigation and contact tracing to city residents.
- Staff are also assisting with other COVID activities supporting the COVID Outbreaks and Call Center teams.
- Managers and Supervisors are updating protocols in the event of a surge.
- CI/CT staff are participating in additional CHW training to support other efforts as outlined previously around canvassing and education.

# CI/CT Current Priorities

- Prioritizing workflows to identify the most at risk residents for immediate follow up
- Identifying cases living in congregate settings for outbreak monitoring
- Refining protocols for making referrals to other Health Department programs and community based organizations
- Expanding public education and outreach through participation in community canvassing efforts
- Continued staff training to ensure readiness to address future surges in cases

\*Priorities will be re-evaluated on a routine basis using current data and epi curves to drive decision making.



# Post-COVID Conditions

# Post-COVID Conditions

- Defined as new, returning, or ongoing health problems occurring over 4 weeks after being infected with SARS-CoV-2
- Can include a wide range of ongoing health issues that can last weeks or longer
  - Most common symptoms include respiratory symptoms and musculoskeletal pain
- Found more often in people who had severe illness, but anyone can experience
- People who are not vaccinated are at higher risk of developing post-covid conditions
- Estimates of proportion of people impacted: 20-30% of COVID-19 survivors

# Thank you!

*[Coronavirus.baltimorecity.gov/covax](https://coronavirus.baltimorecity.gov/covax)*