



# Baltimore City COVID-19 Vaccination City Council Hearing

*Dr. Letitia Dzirasa  
Commissioner of Health  
Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD)  
1/12/2022*



**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 1/12/2022

# Agenda

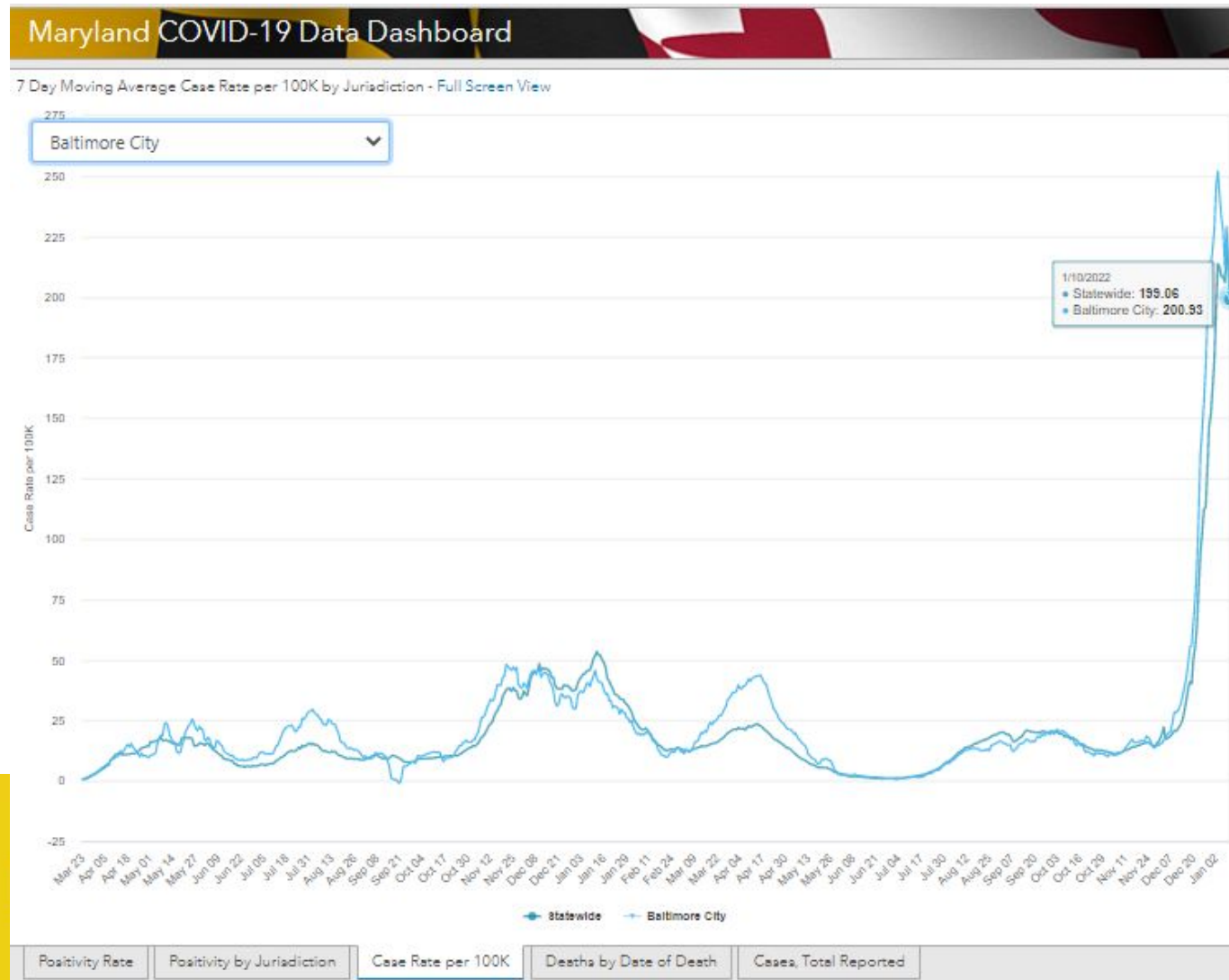
1. COVID data updates
2. COVID vaccination updates
3. Omicron
4. Booster & additional dose updates
5. Vaccine passport
6. ARPA funding for vaccination
7. Testing updates

# COVID Data Updates

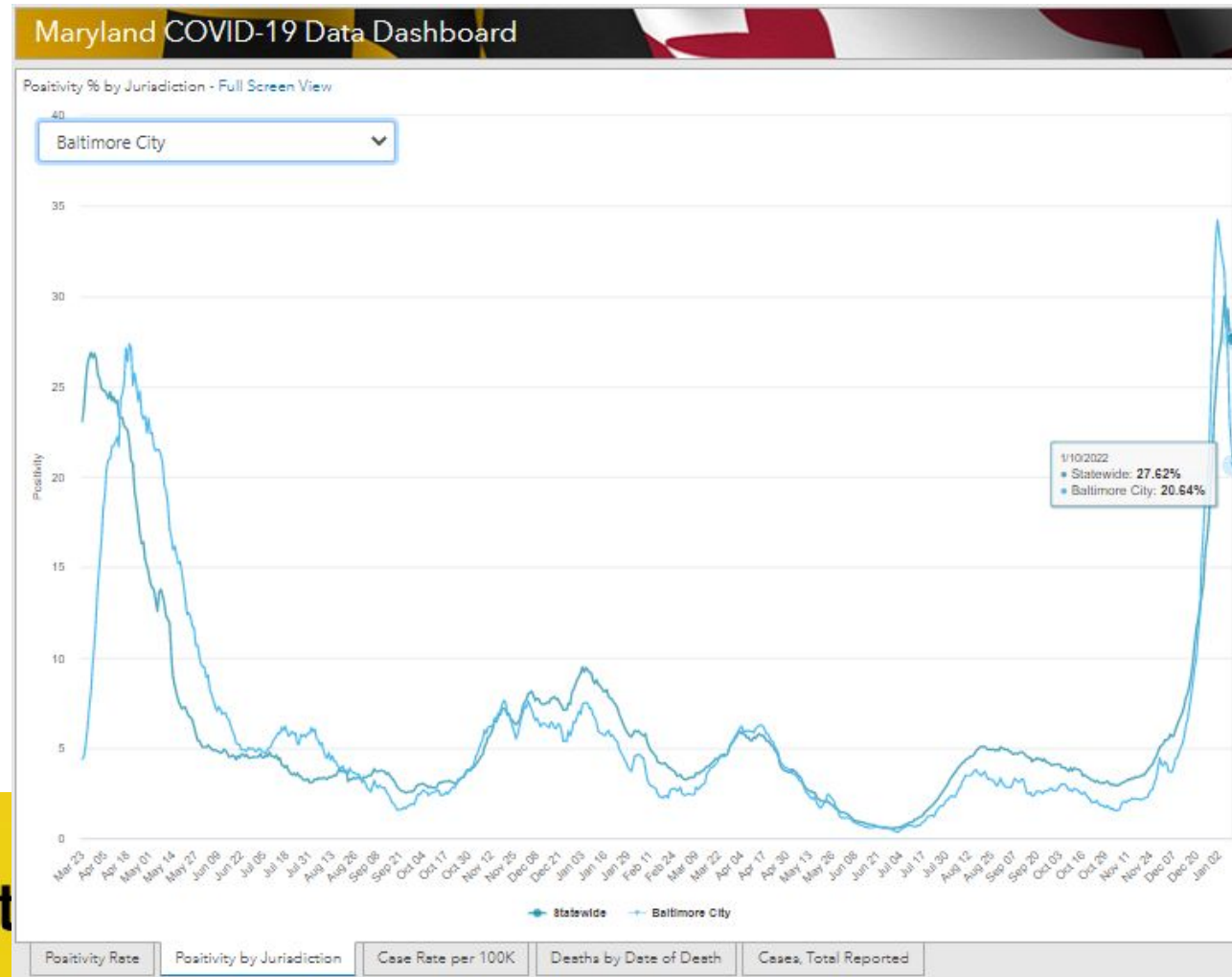
# Maryland Dept of Health (MDH) Network Security Incident

- On 12/4/21, MDH experienced a network security incident that took servers offline and impacted COVID data reporting
- 95% of state-level surveillance data has been restored on the state dashboard ([coronavirus.maryland.gov](https://coronavirus.maryland.gov))
- BCHD cannot update certain data on our dashboard because MDH has not restarted the data flows needed to populate our public facing dashboards
  - COVID cases, deaths, testing, vaccinations
- BCHD still receives much of this data internally and it continues to drive our work around testing and vaccination

# Baltimore City COVID Case Rate



# Baltimore City COVID Positivity %



# COVID Vaccination Updates



# Benchmarks for the goal to vaccinate 80% of Baltimore City residents against COVID-19 by February 2022

## For the entire population:

- Vaccinate 135,000 residents by April 30, 2021
- Vaccinate 40% of the population by August 31, 2021
- Vaccinate 60% of the population by November 30, 2021
- **Vaccinate 80% of the population by February 28, 2022**

## For children 5-11 years:

- Vaccinate 60% of children 5-11 by June 30, 2022
- **Vaccinate 80% of children 5-11 by September 30, 2022**

Jan 10, 2022 - Due to a network security incident involving the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) in December 2021, there was a pause in the Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) receiving COVID vaccination data from MDH. This pause continues, though MDH's COVID dashboard is now current. Please visit the MDH dashboard at <https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/> for information on Baltimore City's vaccinations as calculated by MDH. COVID vaccination data on this dashboard have not been updated since Friday, December 3, 2021. Data will be updated as soon as possible once MDH restarts sharing these data with BCHD.

**Current Maryland COVID-19 Vaccination Phase**

**3**

[COVID-19 Vaccination Phase Description](#)

**COVID-19 Vaccine Information and Resources**

- [Baltimore City Health Department COVID-19 Vaccine Information](#)
- [Baltimore City Health Department COVID-19 Dashboard](#)
- [Maryland Department of Health COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard](#)
- [Maryland Department of Health COVID-19 Vaccine Information](#)

Vaccine Information | Vaccine Phases | Dashboard Information

**Baltimore City Residents**

First or Single Dose of COVID-19 Vaccine (ages 18+)

**361,373**

Last update: 2 minutes ago

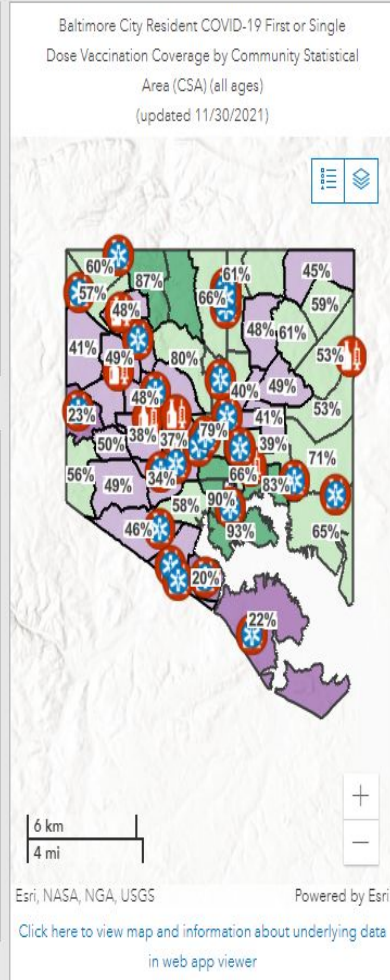
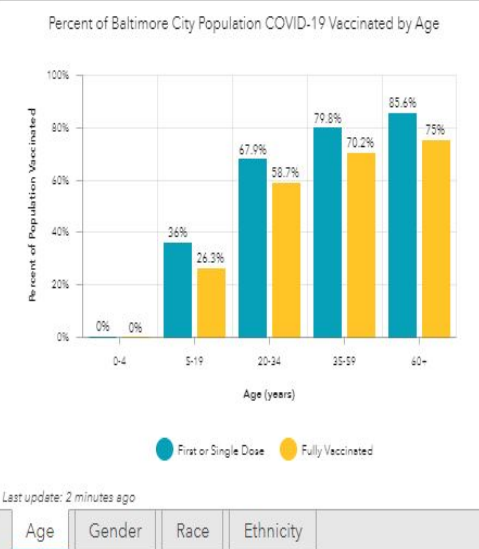
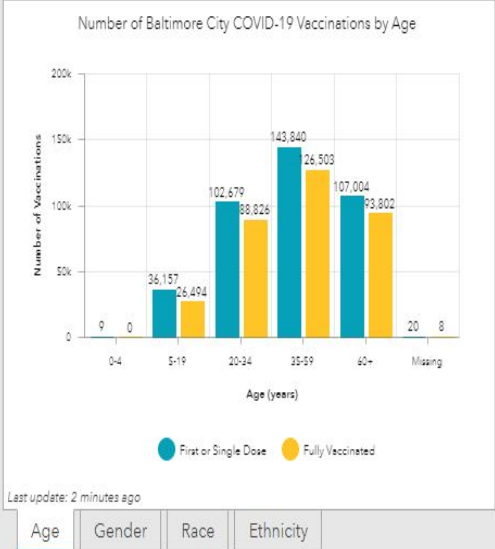
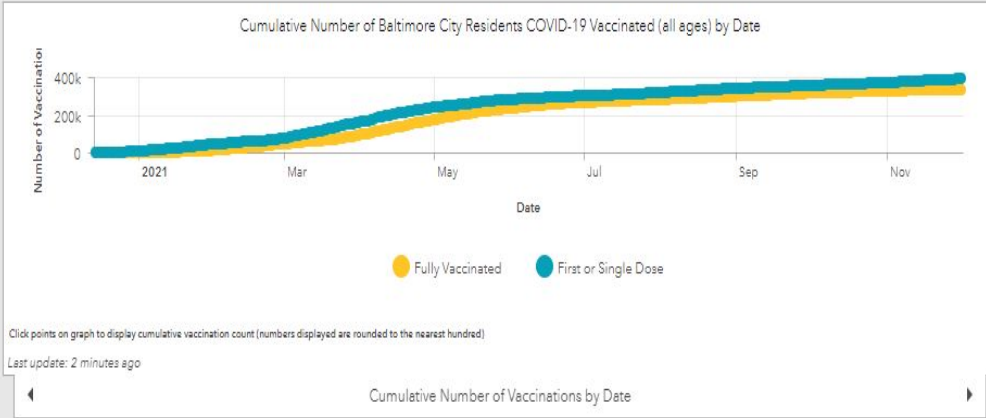
First or Single Dose (ages 18+)

Percent of Baltimore City Residents Vaccinated (first or single dose) (ages 18+)

**76.3%**

Last update: 2 minutes ago

First or Single Dose (ages 18+)



**First/Single dose (as of 12/3)**

- 18+ **76.3%**
- 12+ **72.5%**
- 5-11 **14.7%**
- All ages **65.7%**



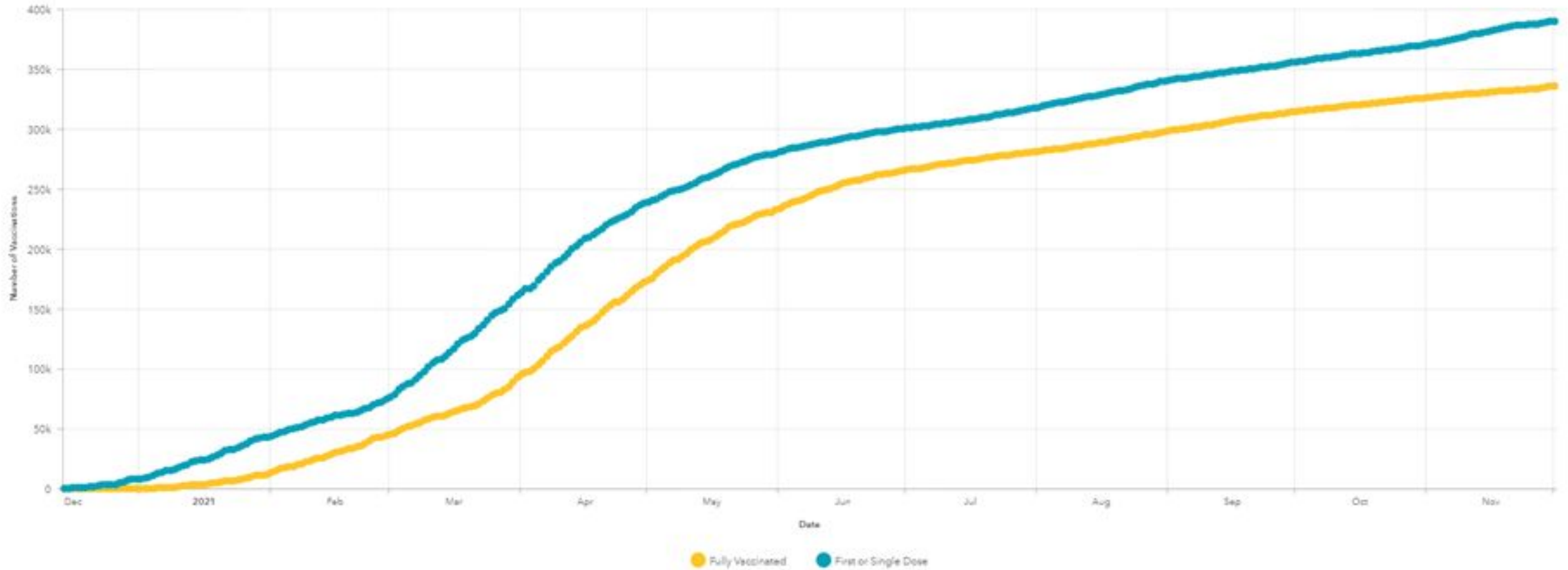
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Cumulative Number of Baltimore City Residents COVID-19 Vaccinated (all ages) by Date



Click points on graph to display cumulative vaccination count (numbers displayed are rounded to the nearest hundred)

Last update: 2 hours ago

Cumulative Number of Vaccinations by Date



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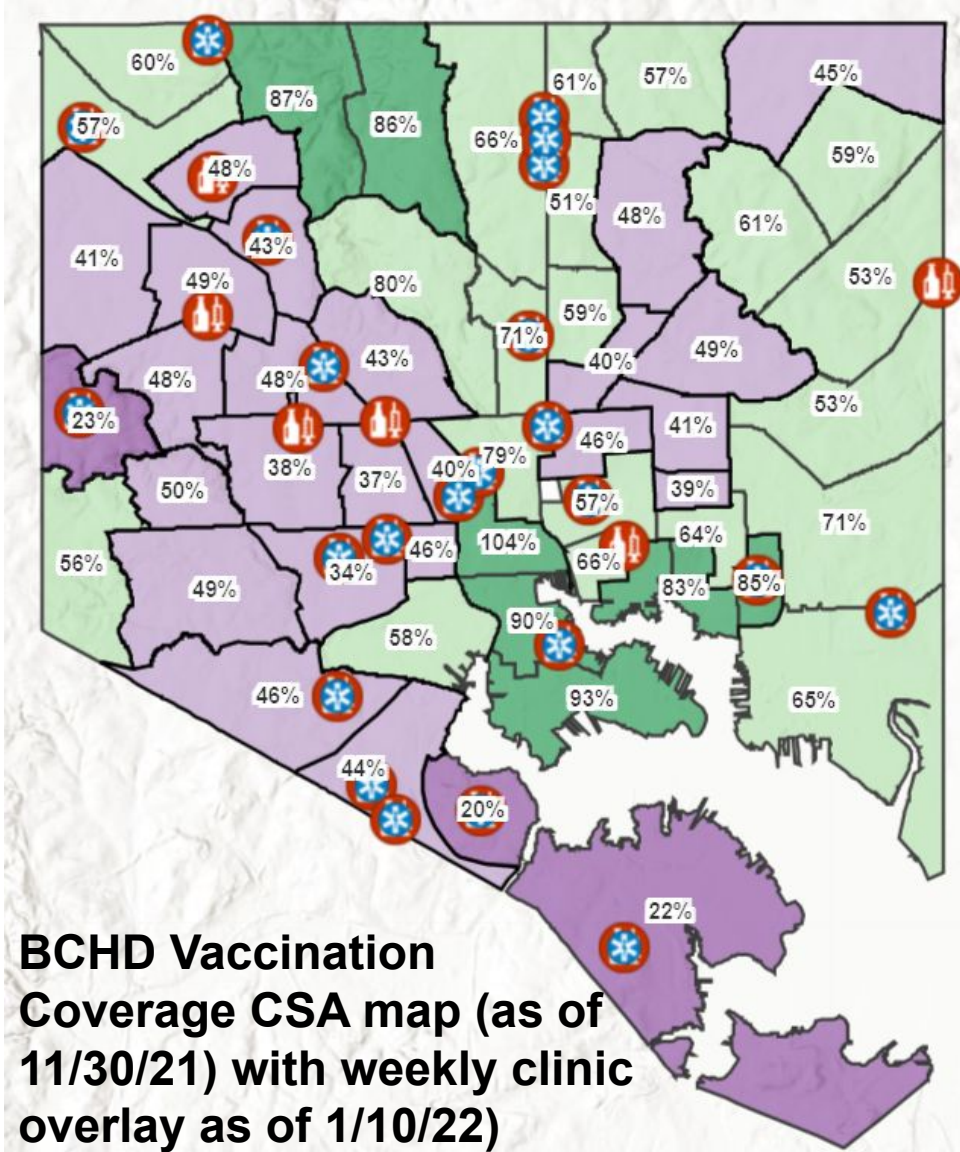


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# BCHD vaccination efforts

**1,364** BCHD and  
BCHD-involved COVID-19  
vaccination clinics as of 1/5/22

**44,044** COVID-19  
vaccination doses administered at  
BCHD and BCHD-involved  
clinics as of 1/5/22



**BCHD Vaccination Coverage CSA map (as of 11/30/21) with weekly clinic overlay as of 1/10/22)**

# Progress towards current benchmark: vaccinate 80% of Baltimore City residents against COVID-19 by February 2022

Population	Current status for 80%	Additional first/single doses needed weekly to reach 80%
Overall (12 + years of age)	On TRACK to meet	N/A because on track
Ages 5-11	On TRACK to meet (80% goal date 9/30/2022)	N/A because on track
Ages 12 -17	Lagging	436
Ages 18-34	Lagging	1,079
Ages 35-59	On TRACK to meet	N/A because on track
Older adults (60+ years)	TARGET MET	N/A because target met
Black or African-American (12+)	Lagging	4,229

Data for all vaccinations through **Nov 29, 2021**; data from Maryland Department of Health ImmuNet for Baltimore City residents



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# Omicron

# Omicron

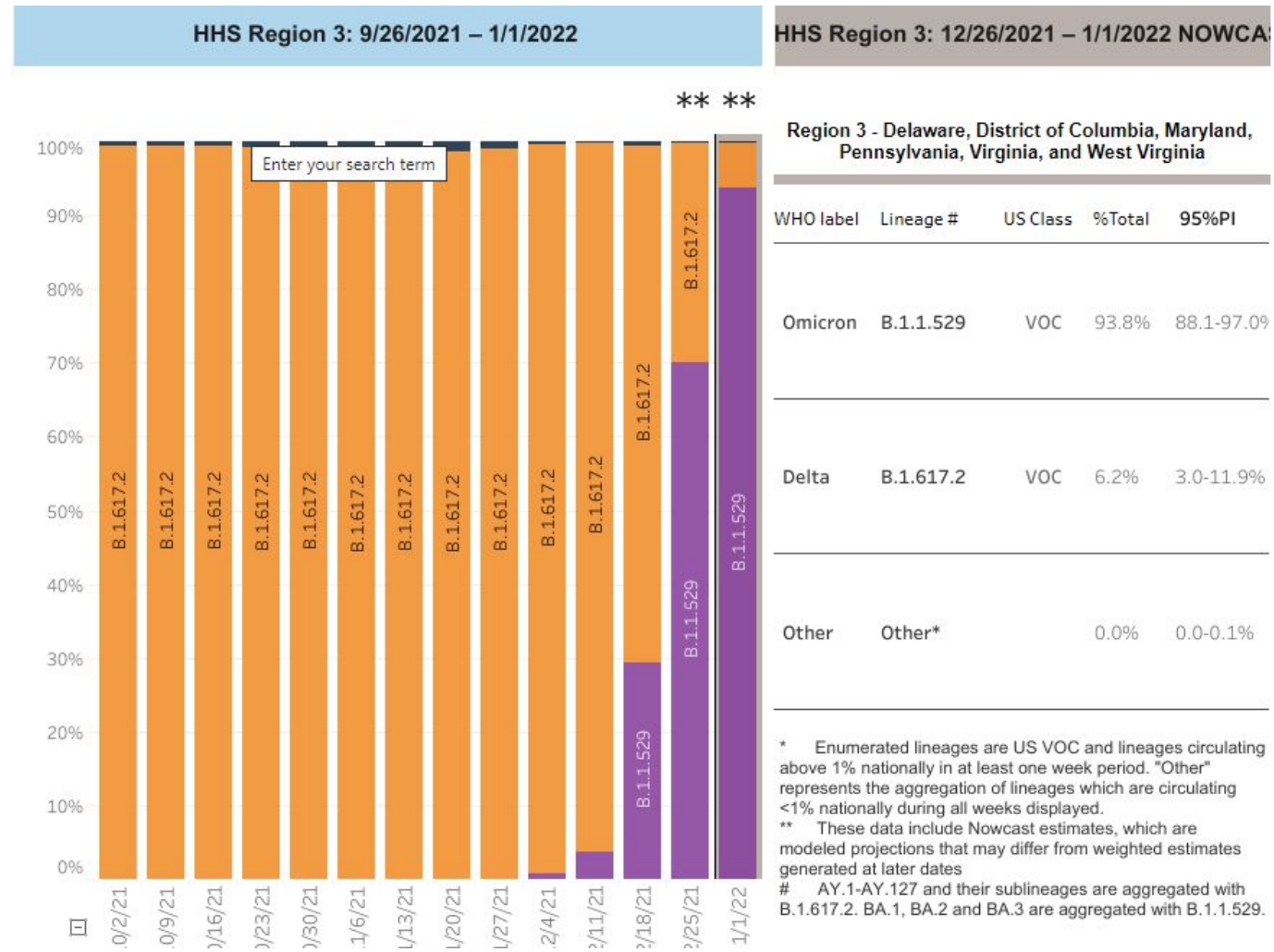
- Highly contagious, spreads person-to-person faster than prior variants
- Emerging data suggests milder cases; individuals not up to date on vaccination and/or with underlying medical conditions remain vulnerable to severe disease
- More likely to cause breakthrough infection and reinfection compared to prior variants
- Decreased vaccine effectiveness against infection, however with the booster the vaccine continues to provide protection against hospitalization and death

# Omicron is the dominant variant in the US and Mid-Atlantic Region

Omicron variant accounts for 94% of sequenced COVID test results in the Mid-Atlantic Region (MD, DE, DC, VA, WV, PA)

Delta variant accounts for 6% of sequenced COVID test results in the Mid-Atlantic Region

<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#nowcast-heading>



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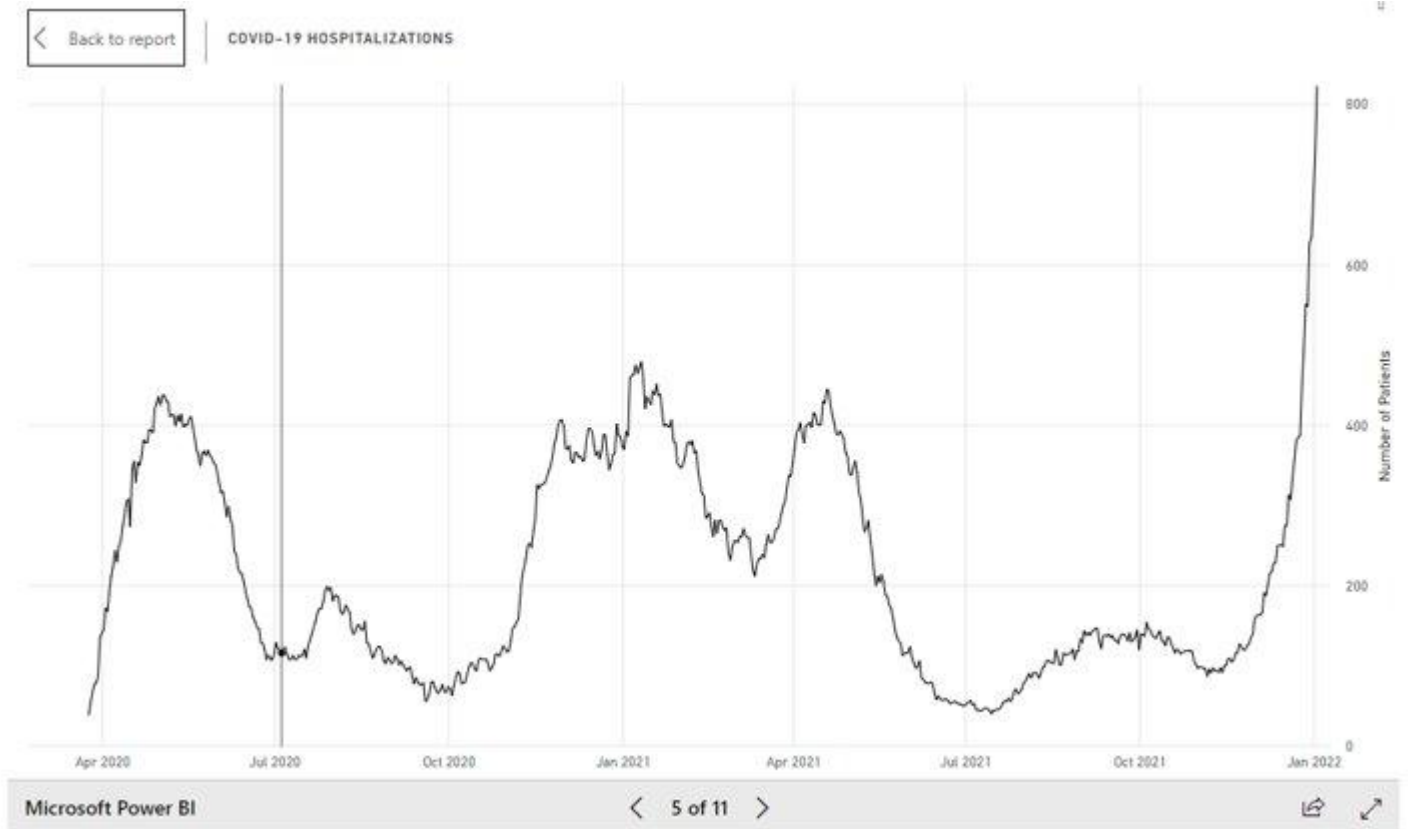


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# Omicron infections have resulted in a surge in hospitalizations

170% increase in hospitalizations in Baltimore over the past 2 weeks



<https://coronavirus.baltimorecity.gov/>



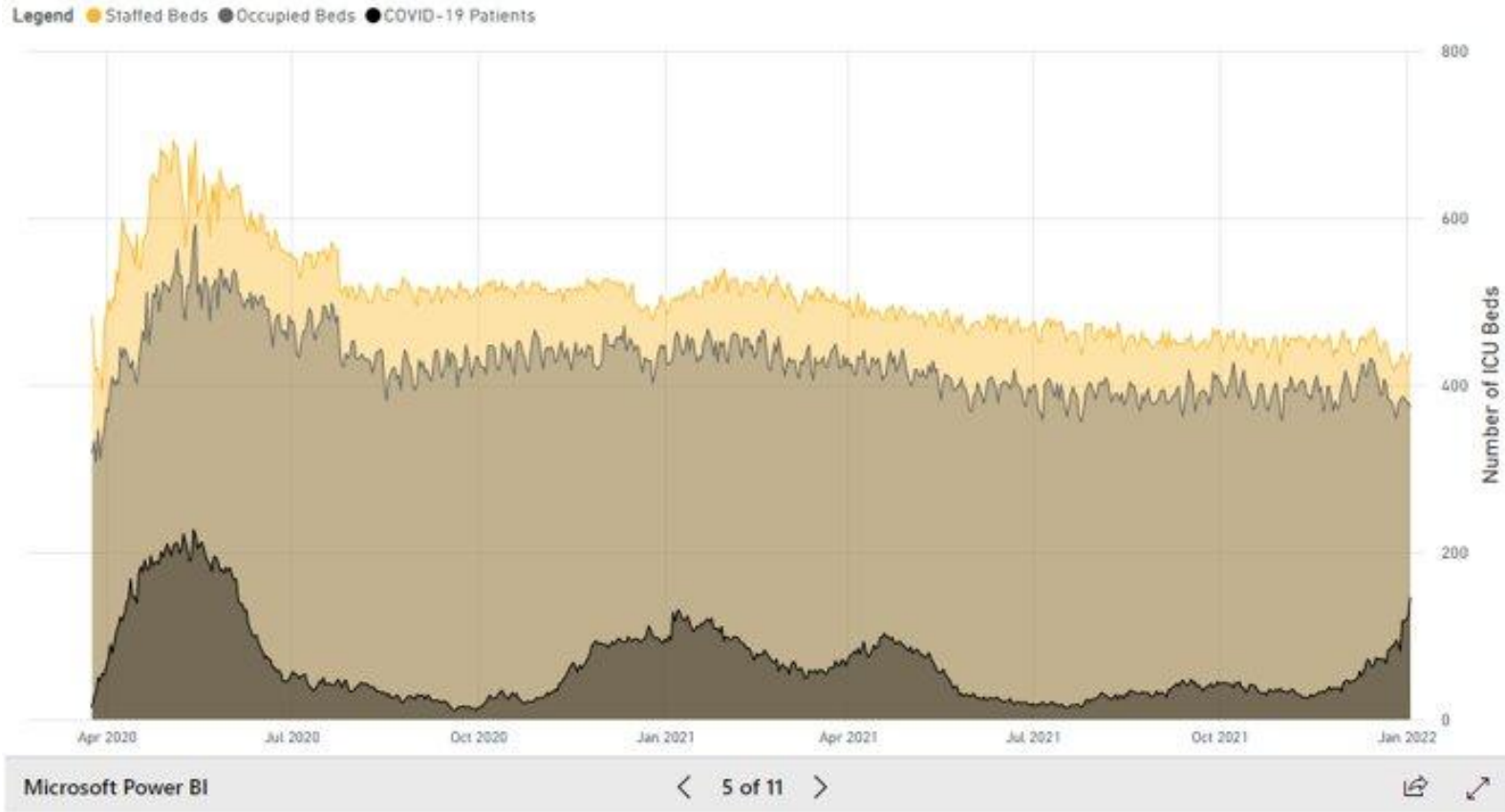
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# Increase in hospitalizations, however less ICU admissions compared to earlier in the pandemic



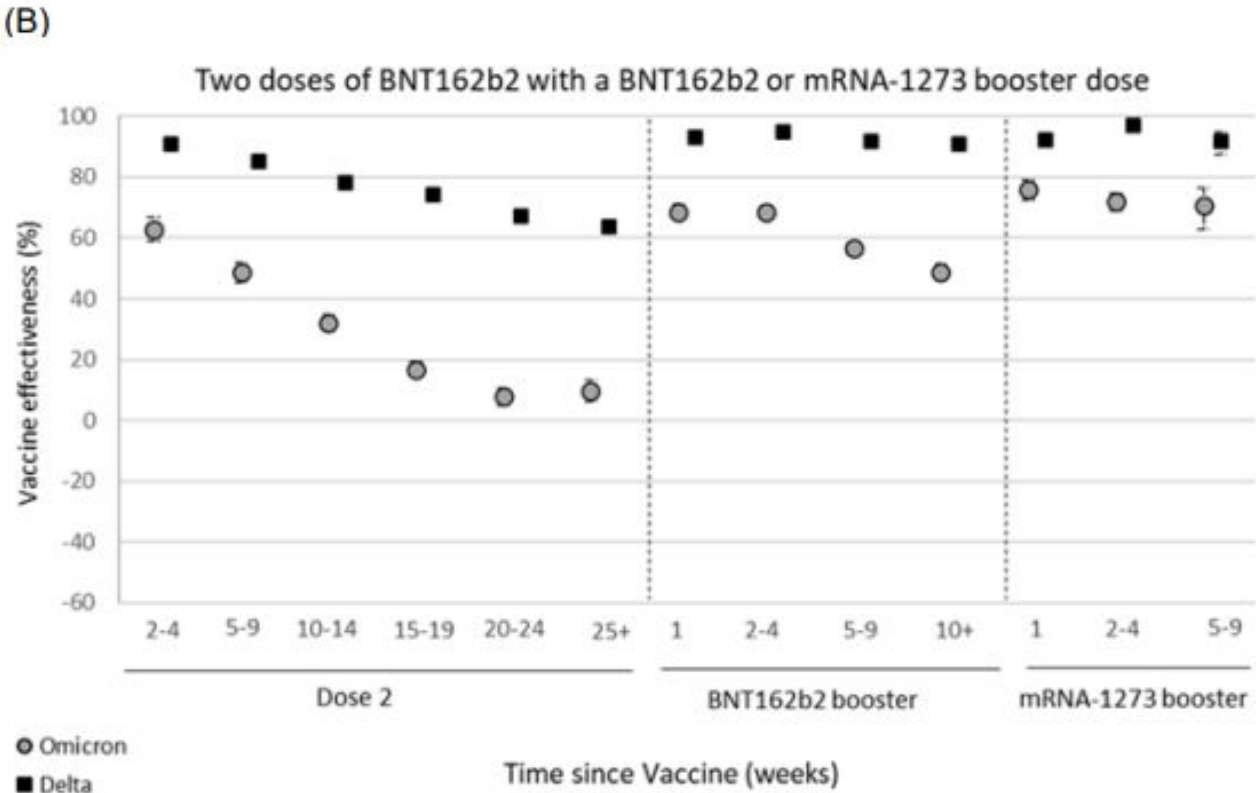
<https://coronavirus.baltimorecity.gov/>

# Booster & Additional Dose Vaccination Updates

# Booster dose is recommended for individuals 12 years and older

- **Booster dose: another dose of a vaccine given to someone who has built protection from disease after vaccination, however the protection decreased over time**
- **Protect against severe disease, hospitalization, and death even with Omicron**
- Pfizer booster dose at least **5** months from completion of the primary series for individuals 12 years and older
- Moderna booster dose at least **5** months from completion of the primary series for individuals 18 years and older
- J&J recipients can get the Moderna or Pfizer booster dose **2** months from completion of primary series
- Mix and Match dosing can be considered for the booster doses only

# Booster dose increases vaccine efficacy against symptomatic disease to ~ 65%



[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1044481/Technical-Briefing-31-Dec-2021-Omicron\\_severity\\_update.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1044481/Technical-Briefing-31-Dec-2021-Omicron_severity_update.pdf)



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# Additional primary doses are available for some individuals with moderate to severe immunocompromise

- People who are moderately to severely immunocompromised are at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19.
- Growing evidence that immunocompromised individuals have decreased or negligible immune response after vaccination with just 2 doses.
- Individuals with moderate to severe immunocompromising conditions 5 years and older should receive Pfizer (5 +) or Moderna (18 +) vaccine 28 days after completion of the 2nd dose. They should also receive a booster dose 5 months after this 3rd dose.
- Additional doses are available at all health department community vaccination clinics.
- Individuals should consult their primary care doctor to determine if they meet criteria for an additional dose. Information can also be found on the BCHD website.

# Where are booster & additional doses available?

- Booster doses are available at all BCHD vaccination clinics.
- BCHD is returning to Senior and Public Housing sites to administer booster doses - 24 clinics held to date.
  - 19 senior housing booster clinics
  - 5 public housing booster clinics

# Homebound Vaccination Program

- Administered 1,448 total doses (primary series and booster doses) to homebound individuals and their caregivers, to date
- Individuals self-refer through BCHD call center, registering on-line or state's No Arm Left Behind Program; partnering with Civic Works to locate homebound individuals not connected to services
- Multi-partner effort – Baltimore City Fire Department, Bikur Cholim, Lifebridge, Lutherville Pharmacy, National Guard, UMMS



# ARPA Funding for Vaccination

# ARPA Funding for Vaccination

- Total estimated amount for FY22-FY25: \$13.28 million
- Hiring staff for:
  - Clinical staff - assisted and congregate living support; general clinical support
  - Outreach staff for VALUE communities
  - Community services integration - integrating vax into other community services like HIV/STI testing, syringe exchange, and clinical services in order to maximize our outreach services and have our programs that have already established how to engage “hard to reach” populations to conduct vaccinations along with their current work
  - Bolstering Immunization Office to cover all covax, flu, and future vaccination issues - 12 new staff
  - Mobile vaccination team - supervisor and community health workers

# ARPA Funding for Vaccination

- Transportation - continuing transportation program to get people to vaccination appointments
- VALUE Communities training and technical support through IVAC and MSU
- Licensing and maintenance for IT systems that support vaccination efforts
- Technology equipment for vaccination staff

# Vaccine Passport

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# Vaccine Passports Internationally

- Several other countries have implemented this requirement earlier in 2021
- A December 13, 2021 study comparing six countries that introduced COVID vaccine passports (for access to non-essential sites) found that the requirement led to increased vaccinations between 20-days prior to the deadline and 40-days after the deadline in countries that had lower than average vaccination rates prior to the announcement.
  - Specifically, increases in vaccination rates were seen in those younger than 20-years-old and 30-49 years-old.
  - The countries included in the study had deadlines between April-August 2021: Denmark, Israel, Italy, France, Germany, and Switzerland.
  - The study could not break down impacts based on race/ethnicity or socioeconomic status.

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpub/article/PIIS2468-2667\(21\)00273-5/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpub/article/PIIS2468-2667(21)00273-5/fulltext)

# Vaccine Passports Across US

- In the United States, approximately 20 states have banned vaccine passport requirements.
- Some cities started to rollout vaccine passports that are tied to working in and accessing *non-essential* establishments.
- New York, Hawaii, and California were the first three states to have vaccine passports implemented within their borders.
  - New York City's "Key to NYC" vaccine passport is required to enter indoor dining, fitness, and entertainment/meeting venues.
    - A month after the implementation of the passport, the City announced the vaccination rate increased by 9% overall, with a 13% increase for those ages 18-34.
    - City officials canvassed over 50,000 businesses to receive their input on the passport.
    - Since the implementation, only 15 businesses (of 31,000 business reviewed) were found in violation.
    - New York City is requiring those between 5-12 years old to at least have one shot and those 12-years-old + to be fully vaccinated.
  - The Hawaii island of Oahu implemented the Safe Access Oahu program from September to November 2021.
    - The program requires employees and visitors to be fully vaccinated or have a negative covid test result within 48 hours of entering the establishment.
    - Children under 12 are exempt from this requirement.
  - While the City of San Francisco has required proof of vaccination for those 12 years of age and older to enter/work in indoor non-essential establishments since August 2021 (and removed the mask requirement), the city has recently announced that masks will be required again even for settings with "stable populations of fully vaccinated people."

[https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-vaccines-keytonyc.page\\_3](https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-vaccines-keytonyc.page_3)

<https://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/vax-rate-increased-since-key-to-nyc-mandate-went-into-effect-last-month-de-bl-3320602/>

<https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2021/09/16/new-survey-aimed-gauging-impacts-safe-access-oahu-businesses/> 5

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2021-12-29/san-francisco-and-other-bay-area-communities-tighten-mask-rules>

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# Vaccine Passports Locally

- DC announced their vaccine passport program on December 22
  - Applicable to nonessential businesses
  - 12+ required to have 1st dose by 1/15/22
  - 12+ required to have 2nd dose by 2/15/22
  - Those with medical/religious exemption show proof of negative rapid or PCR test within previous 24 hours
- MoCo reviewing a resolution with County Council this week
  - Phased approach, focus on nonessential businesses
  - 12+ required to have 1st dose by 1/22/22
  - 12+ required to have 2nd dose by 2/15/22
  - 5 year and one month required to have all doses (excluding booster) by 3/1/22

# Testing Updates



# BCHD Community Testing

- We continue to host our community based testing sites, up to 5 sites per week (Mon-Fri).
- We are proud to have continued these sites, without interruption, since April 2020, and having them in place allowed us to flex their capacity quickly.
- We had 36 testing clinics from Dec 1-Jan 11.
- Over the end of December, we saw daily volumes increase from serving around 100 people per clinic, to at times over 500 per clinic. This mirrored similar increases in testing demand we saw at clinics throughout the city.

# BCHD Community Testing

- We also saw our percent positivity increase, ranging from 5-22% in early December, to 25-47% in late December and early January.
- We continue to ensure these sites are accessible to those who might not have access to other testing sites.
- We are committed to ensuring walk-up appointments
  - Limiting testing sites to appointment-only can place barriers to those without internet access or the ability to make appointments over the phone.
- We also ensure that we are able to deliver results to those without internet access.

# Other Community Testing Sites

- We are actively exploring options to increase our community testing sites and hope to be able to expand our capacity in the next few weeks.
- We are working with community partners to increase awareness of testing sites and expansion of current testing sites across the city.
- We are coordinating with MDH on additional state resources in the city including a FEMA/CDC site; MDH sponsored sites at local hospitals.
- We are excited about the additions of Nomi Health and Accu Reference to our weekly schedule of partners testing in the City in the past few weeks.
- Just this week, JH Bayview launched a testing site as well.

# Rapid Test Kits

- Have received 18,012 rapid test kits from MDH from Dec 1-Jan 10.
- Have allocated all of them and distributed 16,968.
  - The remaining 1,044 have been allocated to 17 community based organizations, and are awaiting pick up (3 day pick up window).
- Of the 18,012 kits, the distribution has been as follows:
  - 4,872 to libraries (1 distribution event)
  - 8,466 to 153 CBOs
  - 1,080 distributed at our testing sites
  - 828 at our vaccination sites
  - 858 through syringe exchange
  - 504 through Safe Streets
  - 360 through various home visiting programs

# Rapid Test Kits

- We have just received our first shipment of 100,000 test kits the city purchased independently.
- We are finalizing plans to distribute these to various partners which will include City Schools, CBOs and Libraries, and we will be making announcements very shortly about the distribution plans.
- We are in the process procuring additional test kits for future distribution.

# How to protect yourself and community

- Make sure you are up to date on vaccination - get vaccinated and boosted
- Wear a well fitting mask in indoor public spaces (double mask/KN95)
- Avoid large crowds and large gatherings
- Continue to physically distance
- Practice proper hand hygiene
- If you are ill, get tested and stay away from others
- If you were exposed to someone with COVID, get tested and stay away from others



# Thank you!

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