



# Watauga COVID-19 Situation Update

December 17th, 2021

## COVID-19 Updates & Important Points

*In observance of the Christmas and New Year's Holiday, situation updates will not be released on Friday, December 24th and December 31st. The next update will be released on Friday, January 7th.*

### COVID-19 Data At-A-Glance

Additional information about each measure can be found in this report.

Watauga New Cases (Dec 5-Dec 11)	Watauga Positivity Rate (Dec 5-Dec 11)	Watauga COVID-19 Deaths (To date)	Current Regional Hospitalizations (As of 12/16/21)	Watauga Percent Partially or Fully Vaccinated (As of 12/16/21)
49 (80% unvaccinated)	5.18%	43	Increased	59%

With COVID-19 cases increasing, take actions to protect yourself, loved ones and our community this holiday season. For more information, [visit NC DHHS guidance for Winter Holiday Gatherings](#).

**Transmission:** As of 12/16/2021, Watauga County has a **HIGH** level of community transmission ([CDC COVID Data Tracker](#)). In levels of high or substantial transmission, it is recommended individuals wear a mask in public indoor settings to decrease the spread of the virus. **The majority of COVID-19 cases are among those who are unvaccinated.**

**Guidance for Winter Holiday Gatherings**

**With the holidays approaching and people gathering, protect yourself and your family and friends.**

**THIS WINTER AND HOLIDAY SEASON**

- VACCINATE**  
Get vaccinated before gathering, attending events, or traveling. Get your booster when eligible. Layer protection with a flu shot.
- TEST**  
Get tested if you have symptoms and before and after gathering or traveling, even if you are vaccinated.
- MASK**  
Wear a mask indoors, even if you are vaccinated.

**Variants:** Viruses, including COVID-19, have the ability to change over time. These changes are called variants and are to be expected with any virus. A new variant of COVID-19 was recently identified called Omicron (B.1.1.529) and has been detected in a growing list of countries including the United States. **However, the Delta variant remains the dominant variant in the United States and NC. A handful of cases of the Omicron variant have been detected in North Carolina.** The Omicron variant has been labeled as a variant of concern by WHO which means it's transmissibility, severity and activity is being closely monitored. It is suspected this variant may be more transmissible given how quickly it has spread. The vaccines have been effective against other variants by preventing severe illness, hospitalization and death. **The best thing to do right now is for people to get vaccinated and get your booster if you're eligible.** For more information about Omicron, visit the [CDC's website](#).

**Vaccines:** Vaccines are the best protection we have against COVID-19. The vaccine is **free, safe and effective** at preventing severe outcomes. We encourage anyone who is unvaccinated to get a vaccine to protect yourself, loved ones and the community. We offer walk-in hours Monday through Friday 1:00-4:00pm for those wanting to complete the initial series of vaccines.

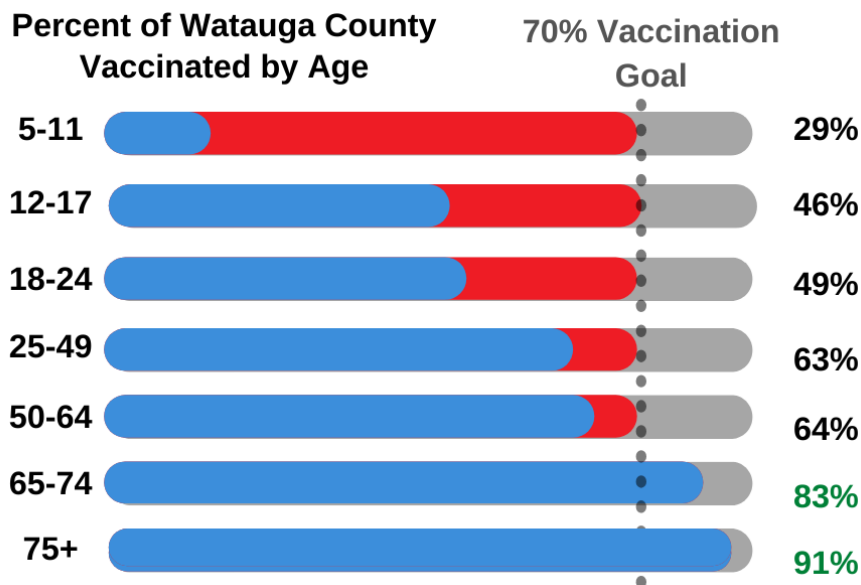
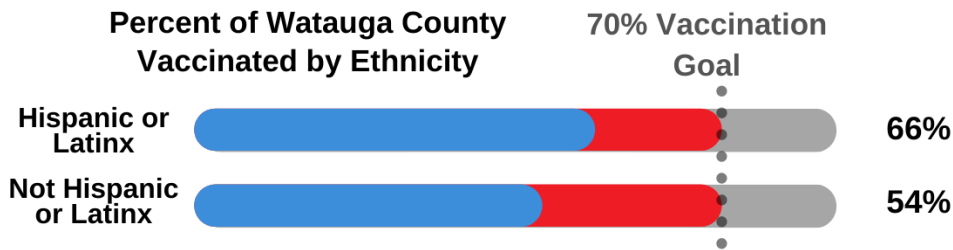
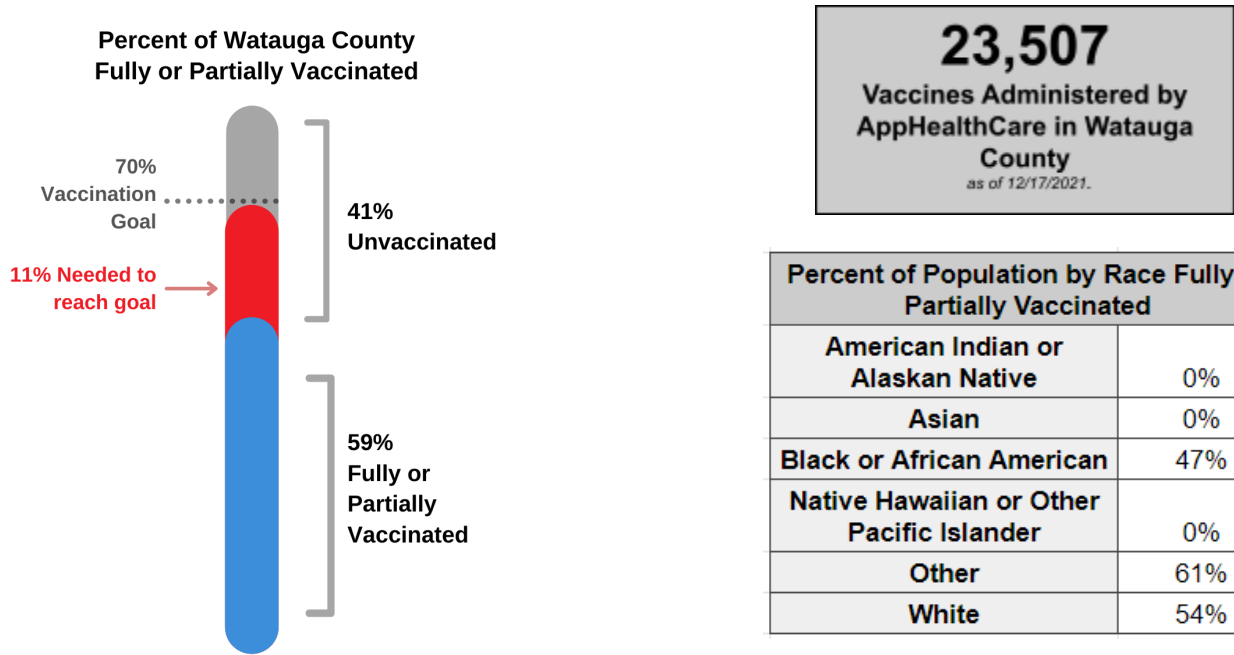
Booster doses are available for **everyone ages 16 years and older**. Teens 16 or 17 years old can only receive the Pfizer booster. The booster will strengthen and extend your protection. We offer booster vaccines by appointment only. Call our COVID-19 Call Center at (828) 795-1970 to make an appointment. For more information about vaccines and how you can get your vaccine, [visit our website](#).

**Testing:** If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or have been exposed to someone who has COVID-19, we encourage you to get tested. We offer drive-thru testing Monday through Friday 8:30-10:00am, no appointment is needed. For more information about testing, [visit our website](#).

**Do you have questions about COVID-19, vaccinations, testing or guidance?**  
**Visit our website at [www.AppHealthCare.com](http://www.AppHealthCare.com) or call our COVID-19 Call Center at (828) 795-1970.**

# COVID-19 Watauga County Vaccination Updates

County-specific race, ethnicity and age data are from the [NCDHHS COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard](#),  
 - (All vaccine demographic data are current as of 12/16/2021 at 12:00pm.).



# North Carolina COVID-19 Updates

## North Carolina State Synopsis

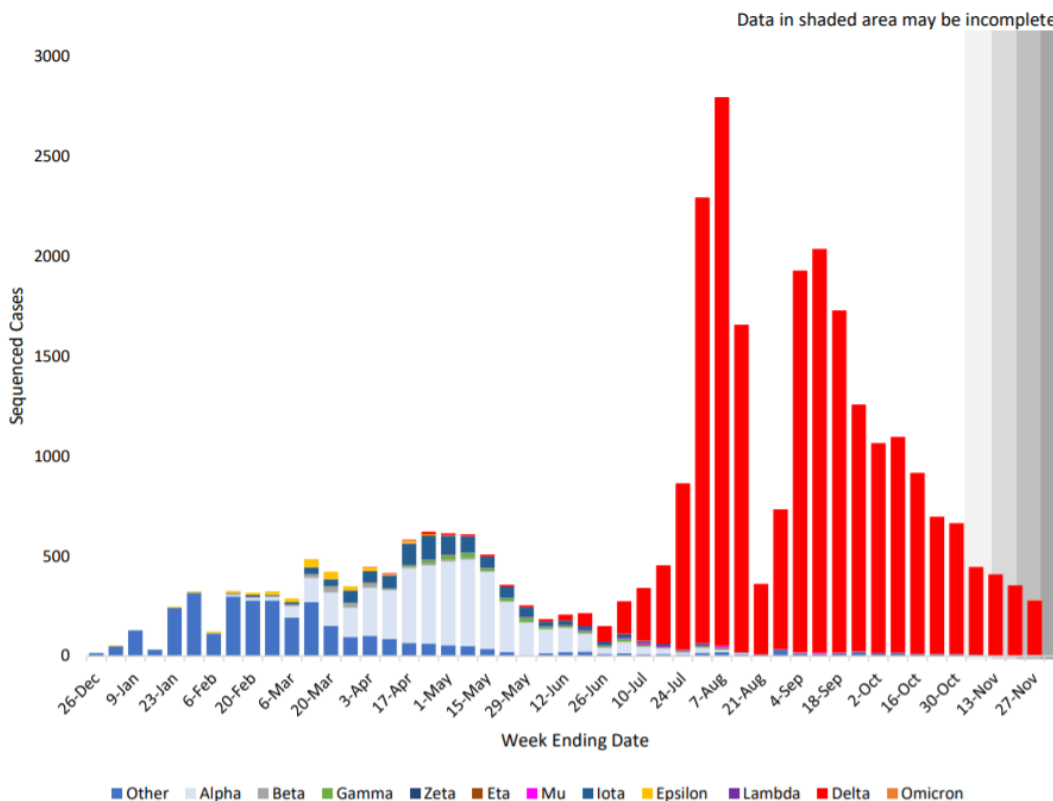
Data is from [COVID-19 State Profile Report](#), provided by White House COVID-19 Team, Joint Coordination Cell, Data Strategy and Execution Workgroup - (All data is current as of 12/10/2021)

	LAST WEEK	CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS WEEK
RATE OF NEW COVID-19 CASES PER 100,000	208	+68%
NUCLEIC ACID AMPLIFICATION TEST (NAAT) POSITIVITY RATE	7.8%	+0.2%
NEW CONFIRMED COVID-19 HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS / 100 BEDS	4.3	+6%
RATE OF NEW COVID-19 DEATHS PER 100,000	1.4	+111%
COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION LEVEL	<b>HIGH TRANSMISSION</b>	
PEOPLE RECEIVED AT LEAST 1 DOSE	7,592,363 people	72.4% of total pop.
PEOPLE 5-11 RECEIVED AT LEAST 1 DOSE	149,309 people	16.7% of 5-11 pop.
PEOPLE 12+ RECEIVED AT LEAST 1 DOSE	7,442,189 people	82.8% of 12+ pop.
PEOPLE FULLY VACCINATED	5,801,466 people	55.3% of total pop.
PEOPLE 12+ FULLY VACCINATED	5,732,919 people	63.8% of 12+ pop.
PEOPLE 65+ RECEIVED BOOSTER	442,434 people	30.1% of fully vaccinated 65+ pop.

## COVID-19 Variants Detected in North Carolina by Week

Data is from [North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services' COVID-19 Surveillance Study](#). (Data is current as of 12/16/2021 at 4:00pm)

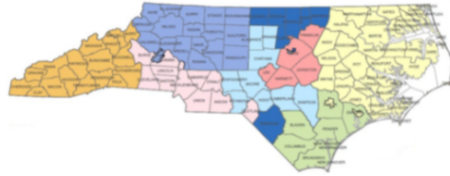
What COVID-19 variants are being detected in North Carolina?



The Delta variant was first detected in the United States in March 2021. This variant seems to spread more easily and quickly than other variants, which may lead to more cases of COVID-19. The best way to protect yourself is by getting a COVID-19 Vaccination.

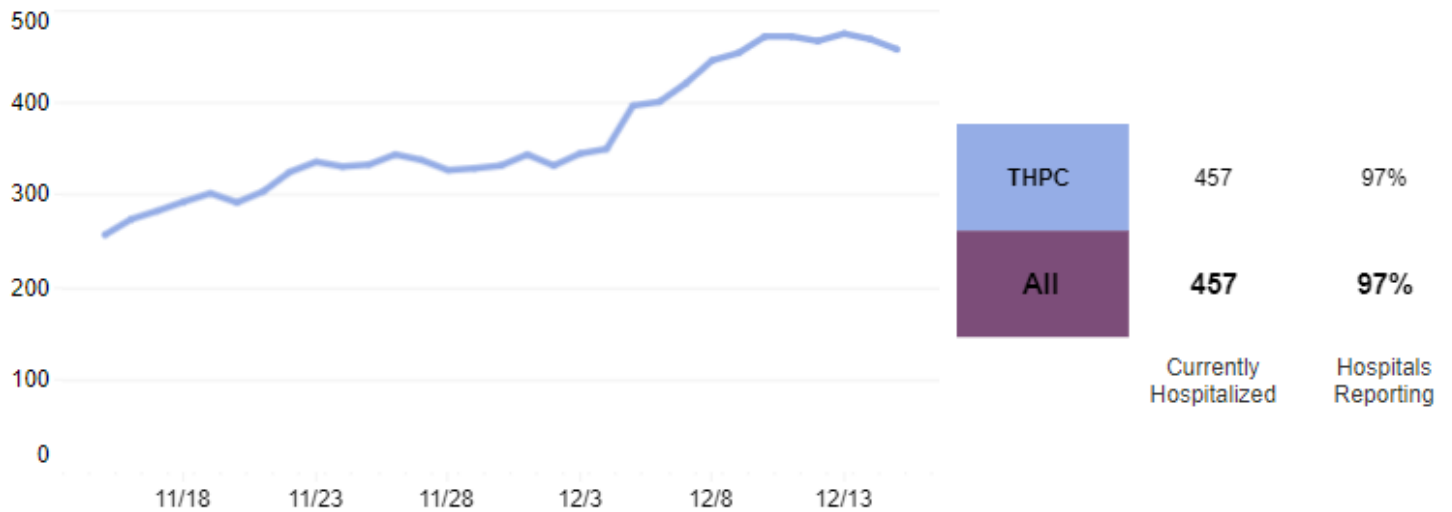
# Regional COVID-19 Hospitalization Data

The hospitalization data reflected includes Watauga County. All hospitalization data is from [North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services' Hospitalization Data Dashboard](#). (All data is current as of 12/16/2021 at 2:00 pm)

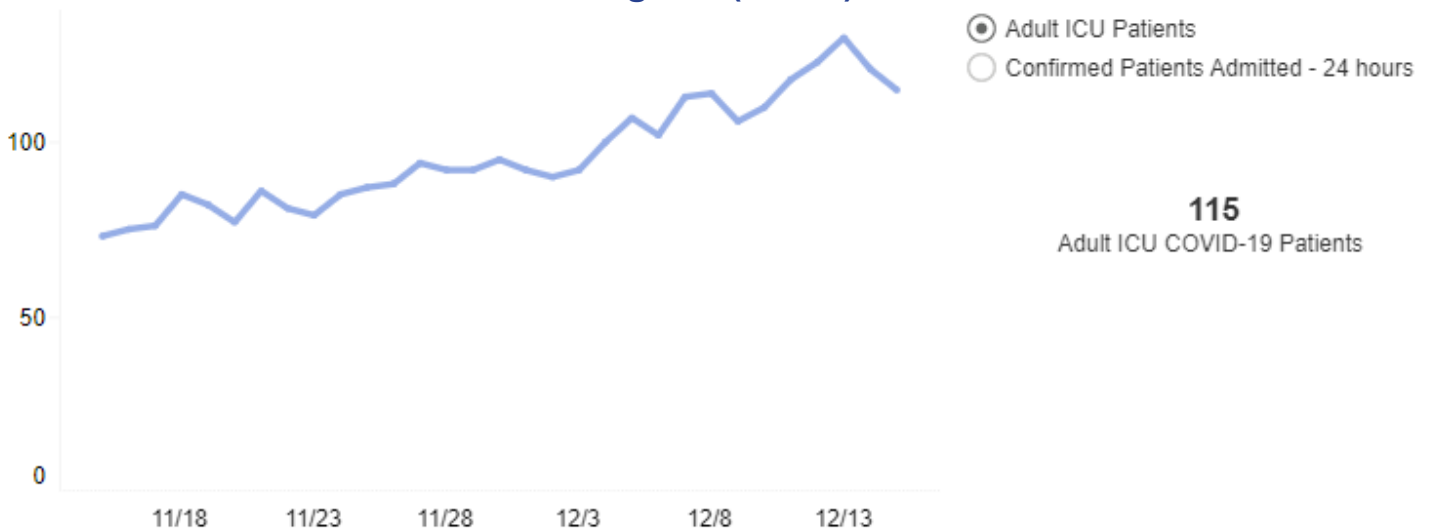


- CapRAC - Capital Region Healthcare Preparedness Coalition
- DHPC - Duke Healthcare Preparedness Coalition
- EHPC - Eastern Healthcare Preparedness Coalition
- MAHPC - Mountain Area Healthcare Preparedness Coalition
- MCRHC - Mid Carolina Regional Healthcare Coalition
- MHPC - Metrolina Healthcare Preparedness Coalition
- SHPR - Southeastern Healthcare Preparedness Region
- THPC - Triad Healthcare Preparedness Coalition

## Currently Hospitalized COVID-19 Patients in Triad Health Preparedness Coalition Region\* (THPC)



## Number of COVID-19 Adult ICU Patients in Triad Health Preparedness Coalition Region\* (THPC)



# Watauga County COVID-19 Case Updates

**Updated** Cases to Date in **Watauga County**: (All data is current as of 12/16/2021 at 9:00 am- Cumulative case counts may decrease or fluctuate due to ongoing reconciliation of data sets and elimination of duplicate data.)

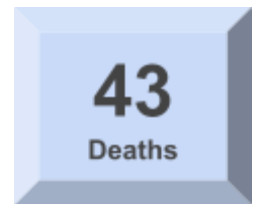


\*At-Home tests, while they provide valuable information regarding COVID status and potential spread, are reportable to NCDHHS as suspected cases and are thus not included in our cases to date.

A breakthrough case is when someone who is fully vaccinated becomes infected. **Breakthrough cases occur in only a small proportion of vaccinated people and the vast majority are avoiding serious illness, hospitalization, or death.**

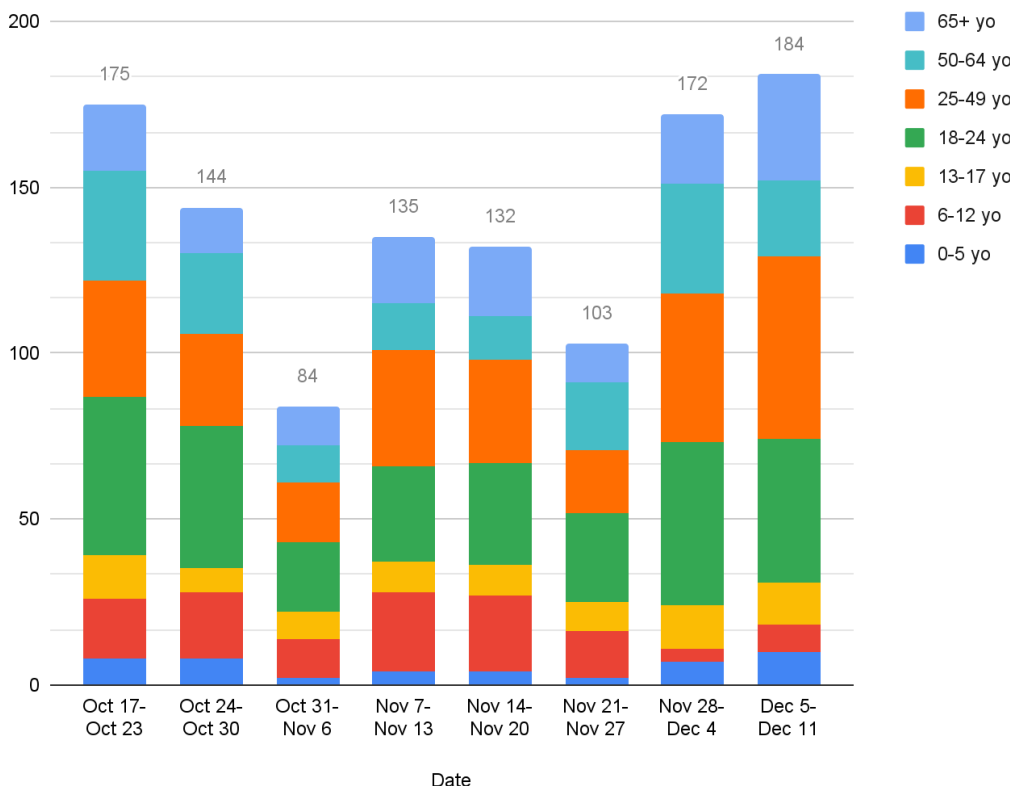
If you have COVID-19 symptoms or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 (regardless of whether or not you have symptoms), we recommend you be tested.

AppHealthCare offers free walk-in testing. Refer to our [website](#) for more information and FAQs regarding getting tested for COVID-19.

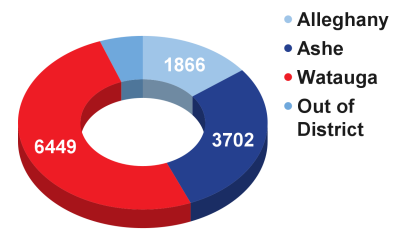


## Active Cases/Week Broken Down by Age Group

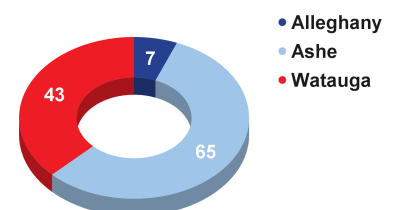
Watauga County



### Positive Cases



### COVID-19 Deaths

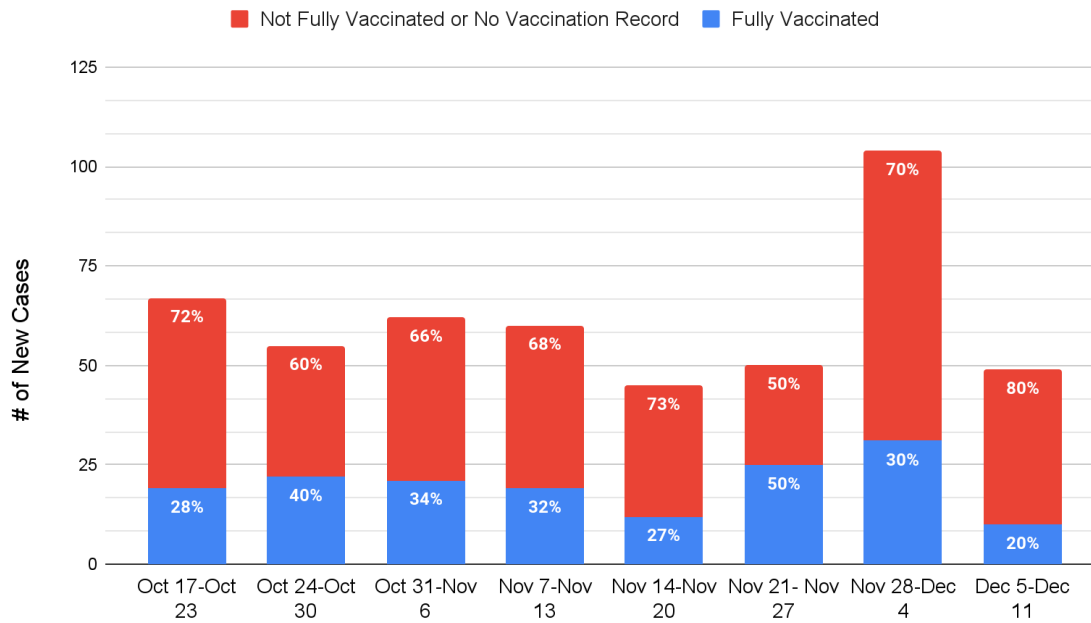


[Click here to view COVID-19 case and trend distribution by demographic groups for Watauga County.](#)

## Watauga County COVID-19 Case Trends

### New Cases per Week by Vaccination Status

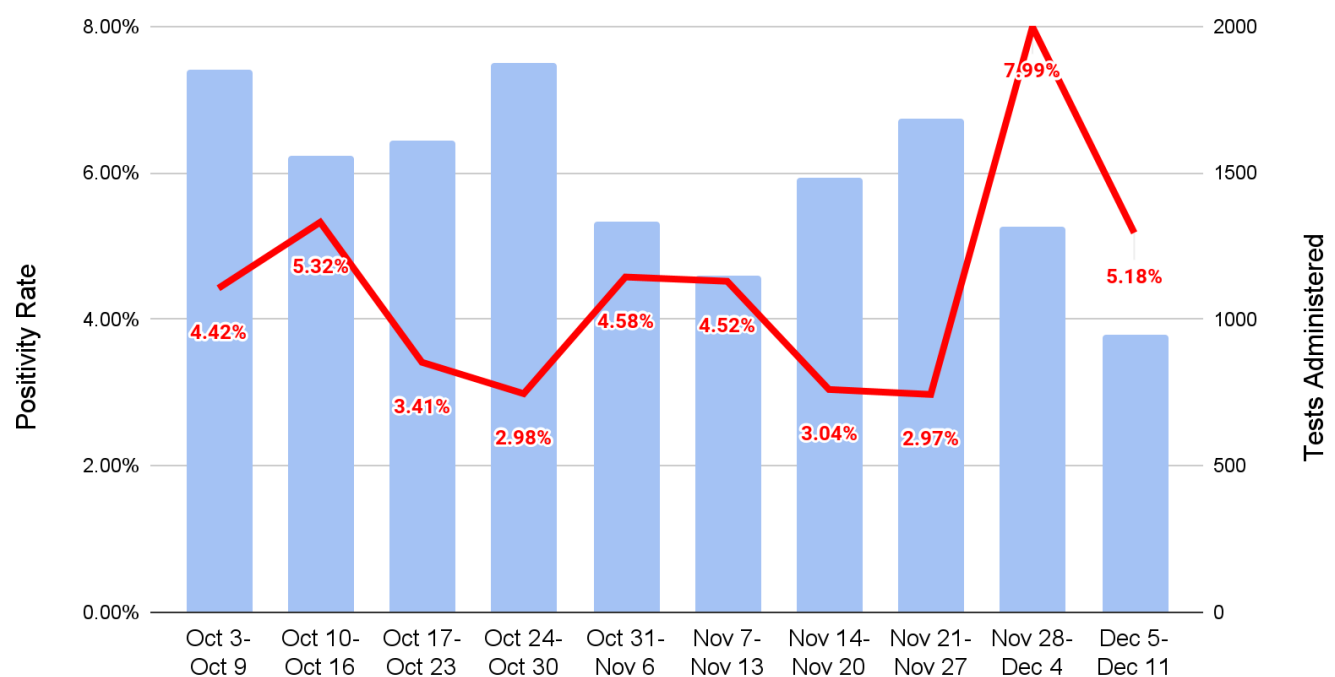
Watauga County



This figure shows the proportion of new cases who are fully vaccinated at the time of illness identification. To be classified as fully vaccinated an individual must have received their first dose in a single dose series or 2nd dose in a 2 dose series at least 14 days ago. Cases who are partially vaccinated, vaccinated less than 2 weeks prior to illness, or who have no record of vaccination available are represented in red.

### Tests Administered Vs Positivity Rate

Watauga County



## Active Clusters and Outbreaks in Watauga County

An outbreak is defined as two or more laboratory confirmed cases within a 28 day period in a congregate living setting. A cluster is defined as a minimum of five cases within a 14-day period and plausible epidemiologic linkage between cases. An outbreak or cluster is considered active until 28 days have passed with no newly identified cases. Additional information on the [definitions of outbreaks and clusters](#) is provided by the North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services.

County	Setting Name	Setting Type	Active Cases	Cumulative Cases	Latest Positive Result
Watauga	Thunder Hill Residence Hall (App State University)	University/College	0	17	11/23/2021
Watauga	Cottages of Boone	Apartment Complex	0	17	11/22/2021
Watauga	The Standard at Boone	Apartment Complex	0	13	12/1/2021
Watauga	Hospitality House	Shelter	0	5	12/3/2021
Watauga	Foley Center	Long Term Care Facility	2	3	12/8/2021

*(Cluster and outbreak data is current as of 12/15/2021 at 9am)*

**Alleghany (336) 372-5641 | Ashe (336) 246-9449 | Watauga (828) 264-4995**

**AppHealthCare COVID-19 Message Line: (828) 795-1970**

**General COVID-19 Questions: [preparedness@apphealth.com](mailto:preparedness@apphealth.com)**

**Media inquiries: [media@apphealth.com](mailto:media@apphealth.com)**

**[www.AppHealthCare.com](http://www.AppHealthCare.com) and follow us on Facebook & Twitter**

