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Caring for our Community

Kids HAVE A
SPOT
TO TAKE THEIR
SHOT.

Watauga COVID-19 Situation Update

February 18th, 2022

COVID-19 Updates & Important Points

COVID-19 Data At-A-Glance

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

Watauga New Cases (Feb 10-Feb 16)	Watauga Positivity Rate (Feb 6- Feb 12)	Watauga COVID-19 Deaths (To date)	Current Regional Hospitalizations (As of 2/17/22)	Watauga Percent Vaccinated w/ 2 Doses or One Dose of J&J (As of 2/17/22)
180	13.2%	55	Decreased	60%

Our local trends are improving and statewide metrics show improvement in COVID-like illness visits to hospital emergency departments to more baseline levels. As we respond to the current and future pandemic response efforts, we will begin to shift what metrics we review and share on our dashboard and reports to those that help us understand severity of illness or deaths, hospitalization/healthcare resource impacts and monitor COVID-like illness surveillance.

Protect Yourself & Others

Vaccinate and Boost: Get vaccinated now, including a COVID-19 booster as soon as you are eligible. This is particularly critical for those over age 65, those with underlying medical conditions and healthcare workers. The Moderna and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines are the best choice for most people.

Test: Get a COVID-19 test before joining indoor gatherings with others who are not in your household and before and after traveling, regardless of your vaccine status. Get tested if you have any symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19.


Mask: Wear a mask indoors in public while we have high transmission as we do today, even if you are vaccinated. Please follow mask requirements that may remain in place as local governing boards review their policies given the latest guidance was announced by NC DHHS. Read more about this announcement below:

Additional information: [NC DHHS](https://www.ncdhhs.gov/covid19/masks)


On February 17th, NC DHHS and Governor Cooper announced updates to their guidance as we move into a new phase of the COVID-19 pandemic to recommend lifting mask requirements in schools and local governments. It will still be important for masks to be worn in higher risk settings like healthcare facilities, long term care facilities, and correctional facilities. It will also be important to help individuals who may be in a setting of higher risk or have concerns about their exposure risk have tools, including high quality, well-fitting masks, to add to their layered protection in addition to being up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccinations.

Protect Yourself and Others


If you test positive for COVID-19:

 Limit contact with others for 5 days


THEN

 Wear a mask for an additional 5 days


If you test positive for COVID-19 and have symptoms:

 Limit contact with others until you are fever-free and your symptoms are improving
(This should be at least 5 days since your symptoms began.)


THEN

 You should wear a mask until it has been a total of 10 days after your symptoms began

If you are exposed to COVID-19:


 Limit contact with others for 5 days

THEN

 Wear a mask for an additional 5 days

UNLESS

If you are up-to-date on vaccines - including boosters if eligible - OR have tested positive in the last 90 days THEN wear a mask for 10 days.

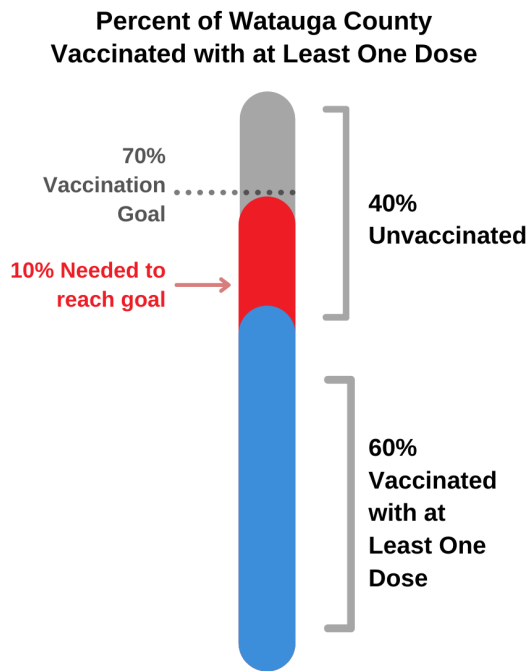
 Always wear a mask in public places indoors

NC Department of Health and Human Services | www.ncdhhs.gov | NCDHHS is an equal opportunity employer and provider. | 1/14/2022

For more information about COVID-19 vaccines and testing, visit www.AppHealthCare.com or call our COVID-19 Call Center at (828) 795-1970.

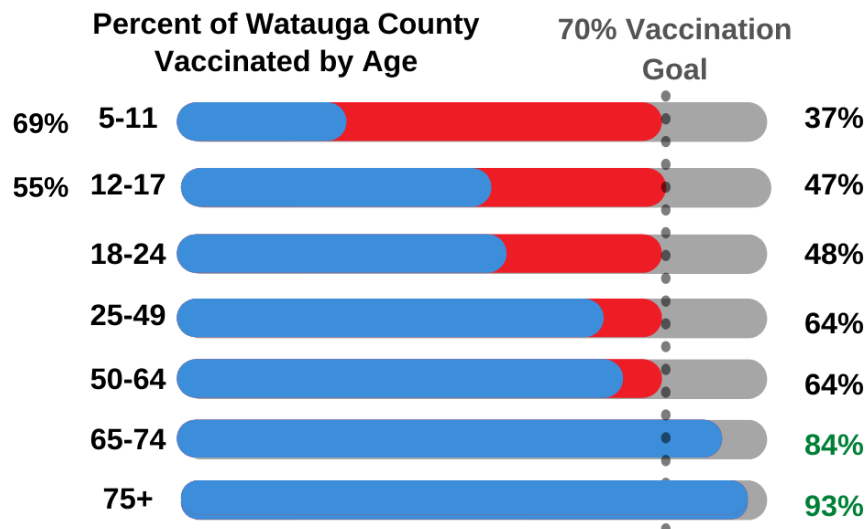
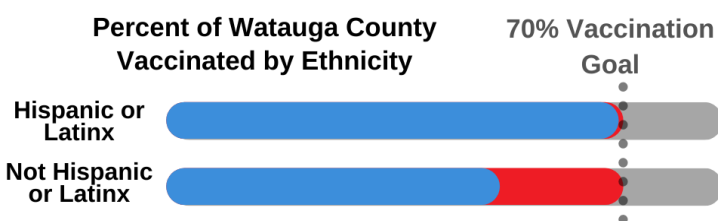
COVID-19 Watauga County Vaccination Updates

County-specific race, ethnicity and age data are from the [NCDHHS COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard](#),
- (All vaccine demographic data are current as of 2/17/2022 at 12:00pm).



23,983
Vaccines Administered by
AppHealthCare in Watauga
County
as of 2/17/2022.

Percent of Population by Race Vaccinated with at Least One Dose	
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0%
Asian	0%
Black or African American	48%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0%
Other	61%
White	54%



North Carolina COVID-19 Updates

North Carolina State Synopsis

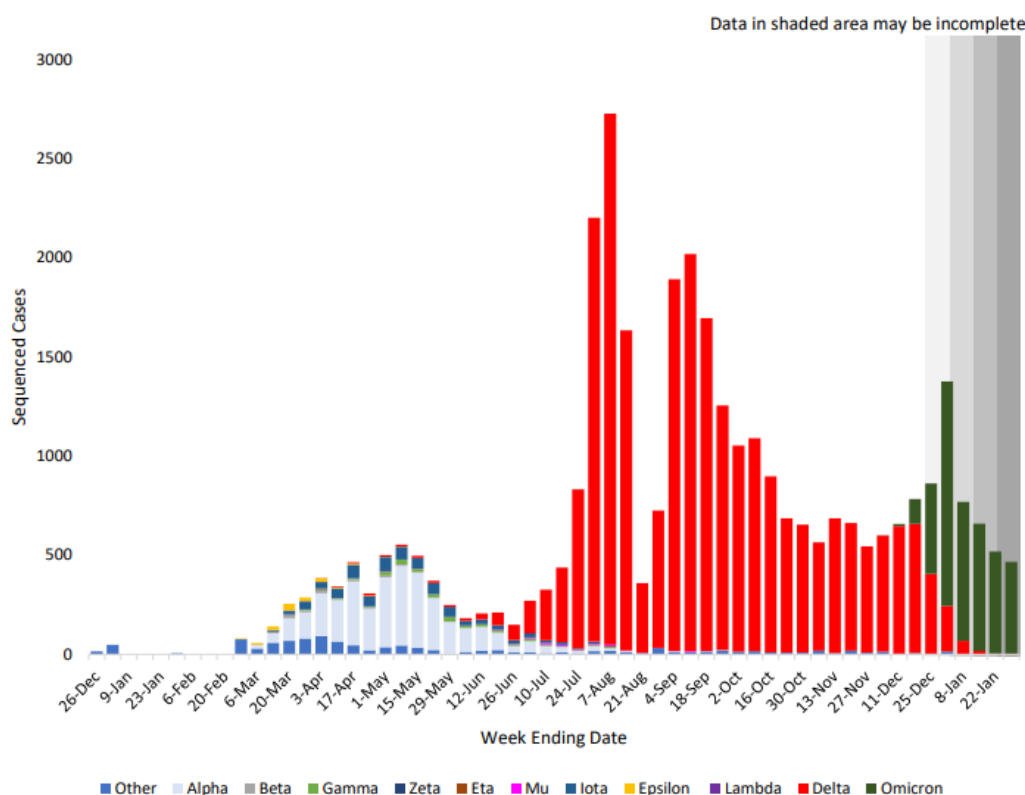
Data is from [COVID-19 State Profile Report](#), provided by White House COVID-19 Team, Joint Coordination Cell, Data Strategy and Execution Workgroup - (All data is current as of 2/11/2021)

	LAST WEEK	CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS WEEK
RATE OF NEW COVID-19 CASES PER 100,000	480	-45%
NUCLEIC ACID AMPLIFICATION TEST (NAAT) POSITIVITY RATE	19.4%	-6.4%
NEW CONFIRMED COVID-19 HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS / 100 BEDS	12.8	-26%
RATE OF NEW COVID-19 DEATHS PER 100,000	3.1	+13%
COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION LEVEL	HIGH TRANSMISSION	
PEOPLE RECEIVED AT LEAST 1 DOSE	8,561,357 people	81.6% of total pop.
PEOPLE 5-11 RECEIVED AT LEAST 1 DOSE	258,640 people	29.0% of 5-11 pop.
PEOPLE 12+ RECEIVED AT LEAST 1 DOSE	8,301,009 people	92.4% of 12+ pop.
PEOPLE FULLY VACCINATED	6,174,810 people	58.9% of total pop.
PEOPLE 12+ FULLY VACCINATED	5,992,150 people	66.7% of 12+ pop.
PEOPLE 65+ RECEIVED BOOSTER	573,413 people	38.3% 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 2/10/2022 at 4:00pm)

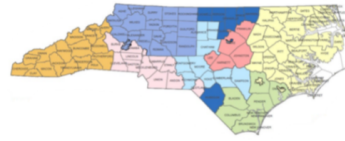
What COVID-19 variants are being detected in North Carolina?



The Omicron variant seems to spread more easily and quickly than other variants, which may lead to more cases of COVID-19. Current COVID-19 vaccines are expected to protect against severe illness, hospitalizations, and deaths from the Omicron variant. The best way to protect yourself is by getting a COVID-19 Vaccination, and booster once eligible.

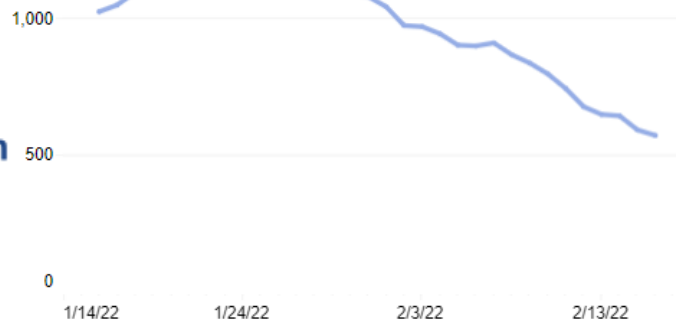
Regional COVID-19 Hospitalization Data

The hospitalization data reflected includes Watauga County. All hospitalization data is from [NCDHHS' Hospitalization Data Dashboard](#). (All data is current as of 2/17/2022 at 2:00 pm)



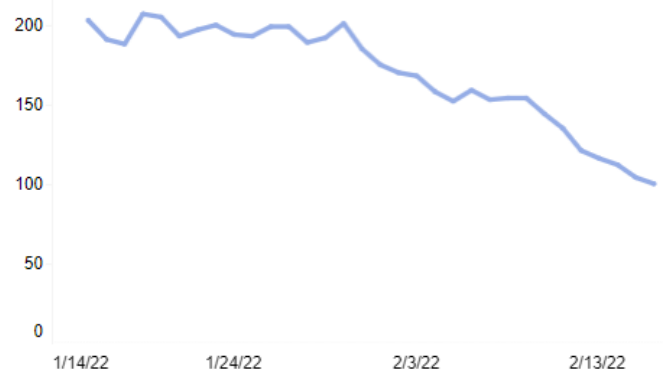
CapRAC - Capital Region Healthcare Preparedness Coalition
DHPC - Duke Healthcare Preparedness Coalition
EHPC - Eastern Healthcare Preparedness Coalition
MAHPC - Mountain Area Healthcare Preparedness Coalition
MCRHC - Mid Carolina Regional Healthcare Coalition
MHPC - Metrolina Healthcare Preparedness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

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



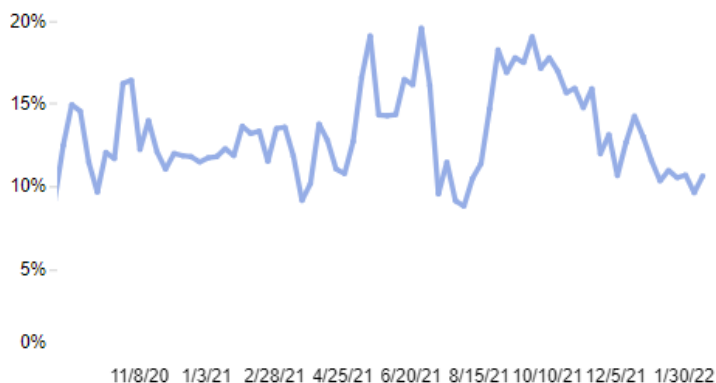
561
Currently COVID-19 hospitalized patients as of 2/16/22

Number of COVID-19 Adult ICU Patients in THPC



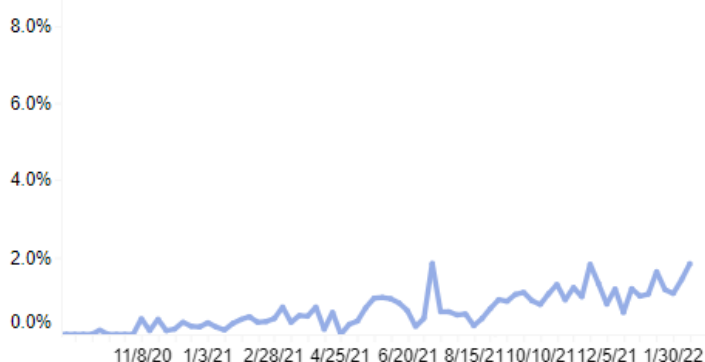
100
Current COVID-19 adult ICU patients as of 2/16/22

Weekly COVID-19 Hospital Severity Trend: Percent of Patients on a Ventilator in THPC



11%
Of currently hospitalized COVID-19 patients on a ventilator as of 2/13/22

Weekly COVID-19 Hospital Severity Trend: Percent of Pediatric Hospitalizations in THPC

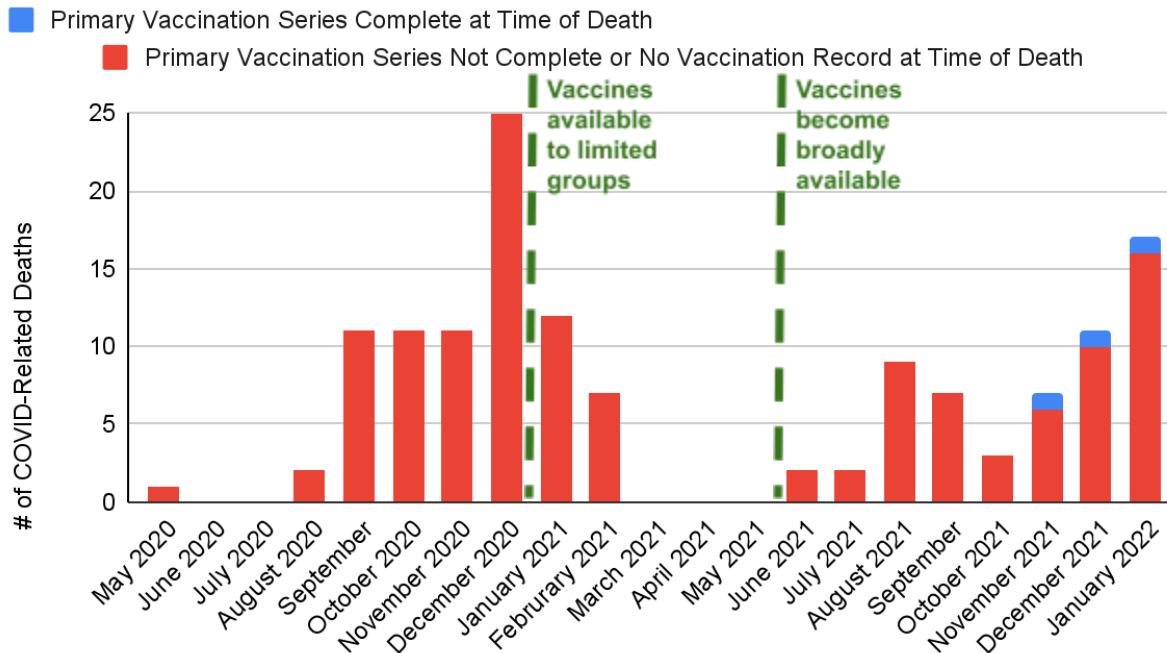


1.8%
Of currently hospitalized COVID-19 patients are pediatric as of 2/13/22

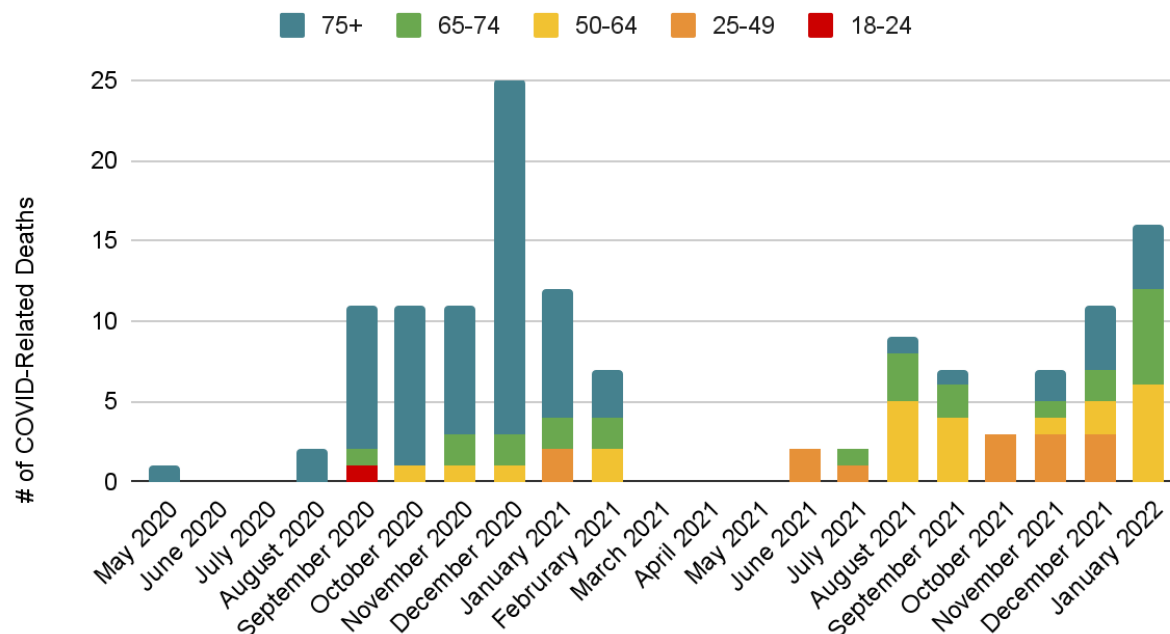
Monthly COVID-Related Deaths in the Appalachian District

The data reflected includes COVID-19 related deaths for residents of Alleghany, Ashe and Watauga counties combined. Data is collected from hospital reports (*All data is current as of 2/4/2022 at 9:00 am*)

COVID-19 Related Deaths Over Time in Appalachian District Residents

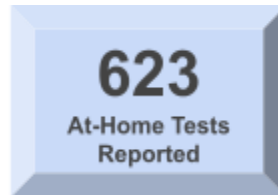
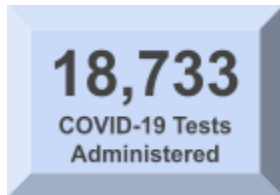


COVID-19 Related Deaths in Appalachian District Residents by Age



Watauga County COVID-19 Case Updates

Cases to Date in **Watauga County**: (All data is current as of 2/17/2022 at 9:00 am- Cumulative case counts may decrease or fluctuate due to ongoing reconciliation of data sets and elimination of duplicate data.)

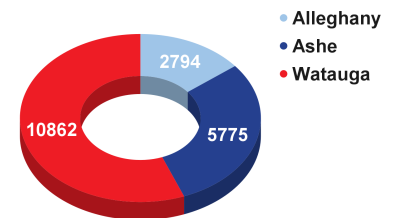


Active Clusters and Outbreaks in Watauga County

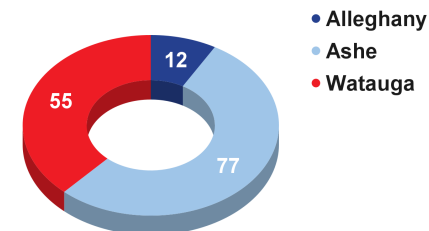
The current cluster and outbreak information for congregate living, childcare and educational settings in our district can be viewed at the [NC DHHS Cluster and Outbreak reports](#). An outbreak is defined as two or more laboratory confirmed cases within a 28 day period in a congregate living setting. 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.

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

Positive Cases

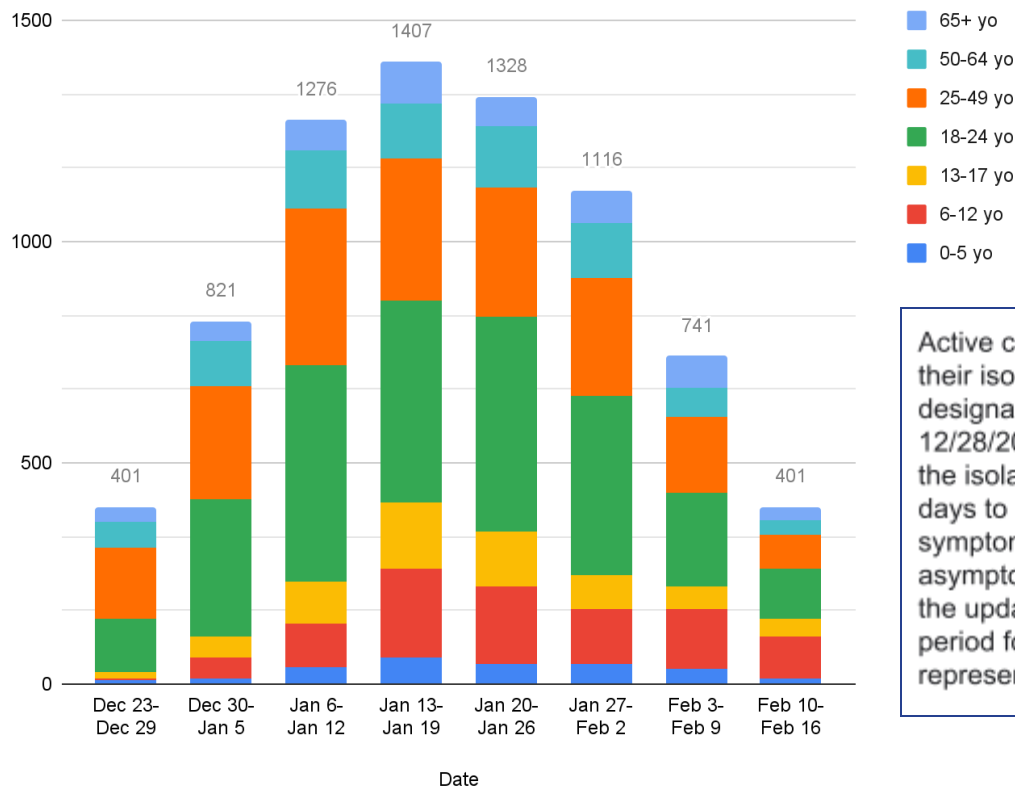


COVID-19 Deaths



Active Cases/Week Broken Down by Age Group

Watauga County

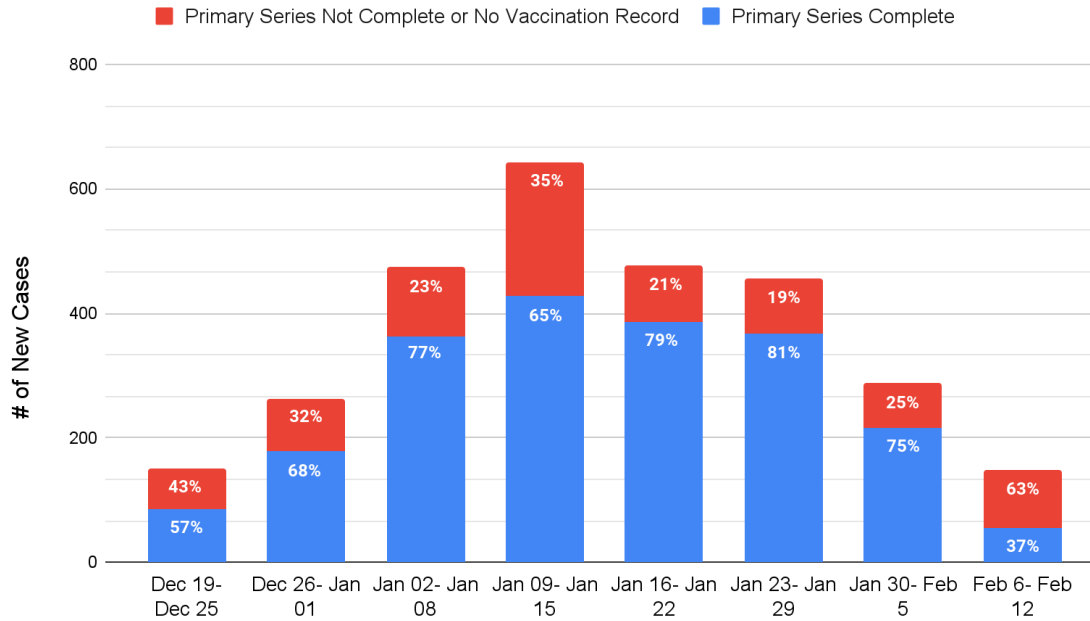


Active cases include those in their isolation period within the designated time frame. On 12/28/2021 the CDC reduced the isolation period from 10 days to 5 days, starting from symptom onset, or test date if asymptomatic. The data reflects the updated 5-day isolation period for all date ranges represented.

Watauga County COVID-19 Case Trends

New Cases per Week by Vaccination Status

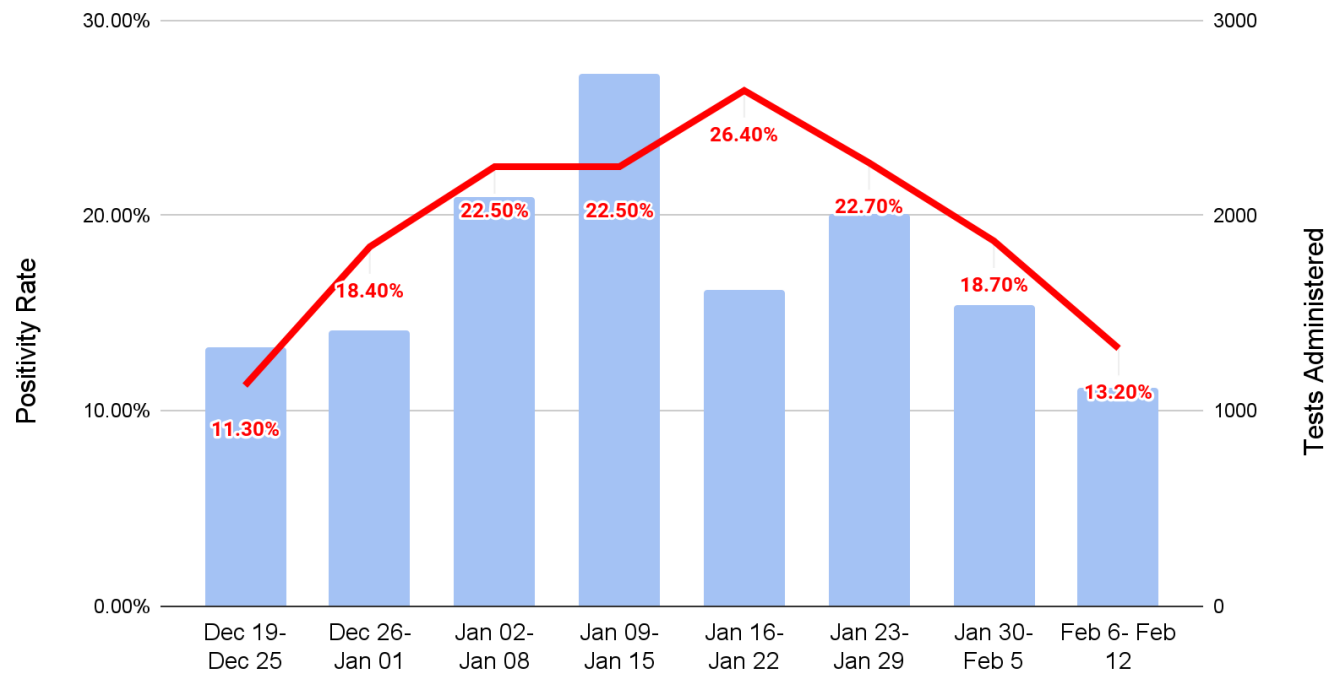
Watauga County



This figure shows the proportion of new cases who have completed at least their primary vaccination series at the time of infection. This means that they received their first dose in a single dose series or 2nd dose in a 2 dose series at least 14 days prior to infection. Cases who only have one dose of a two dose primary series, were 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



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

AppHealthCare COVID-19 Call Center: (828) 795-1970

General COVID-19 Questions: preparedness@apphealth.com

Media inquiries: media@apphealth.com

www.AppHealthCare.com and follow us on Facebook & Twitter

