

Watauga COVID-19 Situation Update

May 6th, 2022

COVID-19 Updates & Important Points

Updates

Electronic Reporting System Broadens Picture of North Carolina COVID-19 Deaths: On May 3rd, [NC DHHS announced](#) additional COVID-19 deaths were identified due to North Carolina moving to an electronic death certificate system. These deaths were added to the [NC DHHS COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#) on Wednesday, May 4th and for Watauga County, it resulted in 9 deaths being added to the overall count. These identified deaths occurred January 1 through March 31, 2022.

Pediatric Vaccine Update: We anticipate the FDA will review and discuss data from Moderna and Pfizer in June for vaccines for younger children under 5 years of age. Based on the recommendation from the FDA, the CDC will also need to recommend the vaccine's use for this younger population before it can be administered. We will wait to learn more as the data is reviewed and recommendations are made.

Protect Yourself & Others

Vaccinate and Boost: Get vaccinated, including a COVID-19 booster as soon as you are eligible as recommended by the CDC. **If you are 50 years and older or have a compromised immune system, you can get a second booster shot.** Vaccines continue to be our best tool at preventing severe outcomes like hospitalization and death. Vaccines are widely available at pharmacies, healthcare offices and health departments. Talk to your healthcare provider if you have specific questions related to your medical history. For a list of local vaccine providers, visit [AppHealthCare.com](#).

Test: Get tested if you have any symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19. Testing is available at pharmacies, healthcare offices and health departments. At-home test kits are also available. For a list of local testing options and at-home testing information, visit [AppHealthCare.com](#).

Mask: Masks can help protect you and others from COVID-19. Individuals may wear a mask based on personal preference. Masks remain important in higher risk settings like healthcare facilities, long term care facilities, and correctional facilities. Also, if you are at higher risk of severe illness, may be in a setting of higher risk or have concerns about your exposure risk, you may choose to add to your layered protection by wearing a high quality, well-fitted mask, in addition to being up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccinations.

Treatment Options

While vaccines offer the best protection against severe outcomes due to COVID-19, treatment options are available to decrease your risk of hospitalization and death. Early testing and treatment are key. Any treatment should be recommended by a healthcare provider and requires a positive COVID-19 test. For more information about available treatment options and to find a treatment location near you, visit the [NC DHHS website](#).

For more information, visit [AppHealthCare.com](#) or call our COVID-19 Call Center at (828) 795-1970.

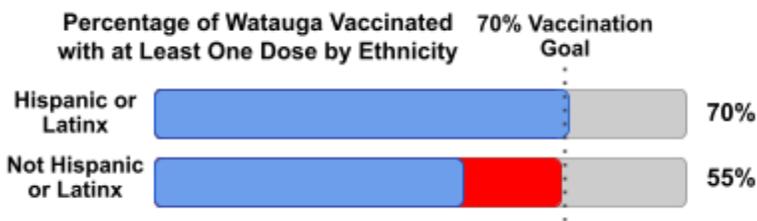
COVID-19 Watauga County Vaccination Updates

County-specific race, ethnicity and age data are from the [NCDHHS COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard](#), - (All vaccine demographic data are current as of 5/5/2022 at 12:00pm).

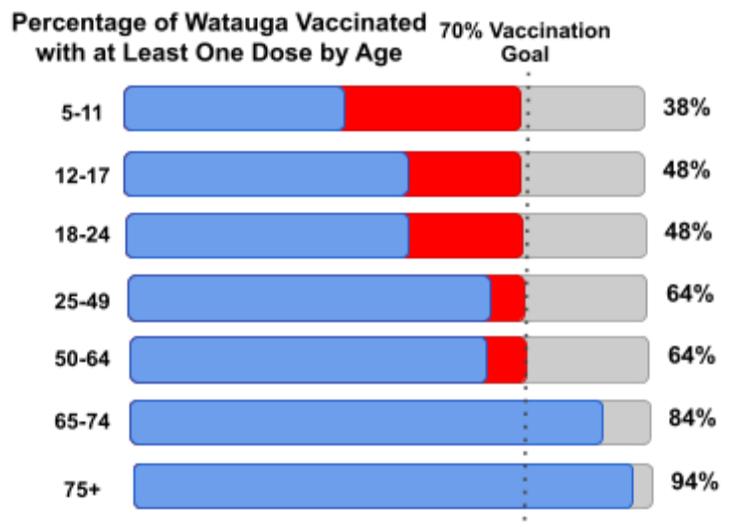
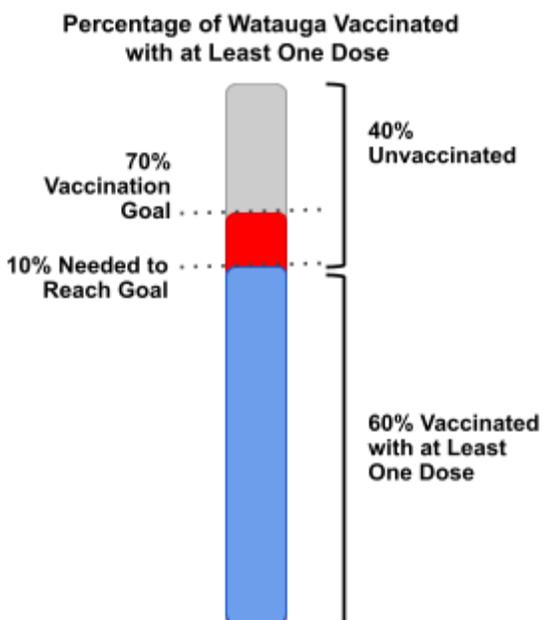
Data tracking these outcomes is updated monthly and can be viewed at [the CDC Data Tracker site linked here.](#)

24,607
 Vaccines Administered by
 AppHealthCare in Watauga
 County
 (as of 5/5/2022)

For more information regarding COVID-19 vaccines or a list of local providers, visit AppHealthCare.com.



| 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% |



Watauga County COVID-19 Case Updates

Cases to Date in Watauga County: *(Data is current as of 5/5/2022 at 9:00 am)*

Watauga County COVID-19 Community Level: Low.

(All data and guidance per the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov), accessed April 1st, 2022)

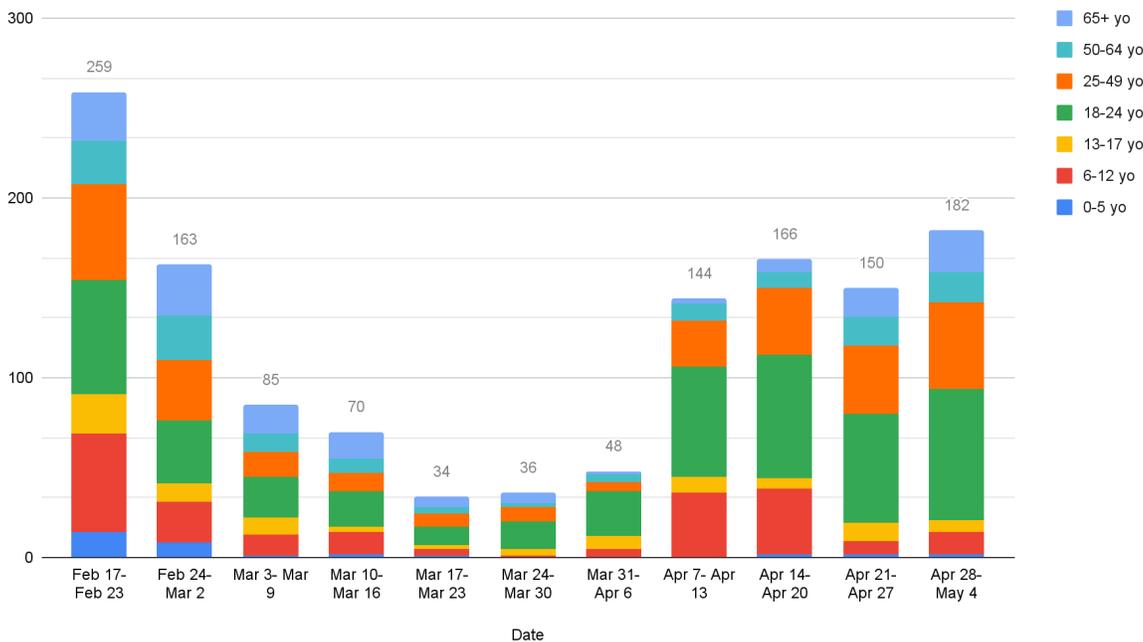
Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines. Get tested if you have symptoms. Wear a mask if you have symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19. Wear a mask on public transportation. You may choose to wear a mask at any time as an additional precaution to protect yourself and others.

Watauga County Community Level Indicators:

| | |
|---|------|
| Case Rate per 100,000 population | 80.1 |
| New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population | 0 |
| % Staffed inpatient beds in use by patients with confirmed COVID-19 | 0% |

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.

Active Clusters and Outbreaks in Watauga County

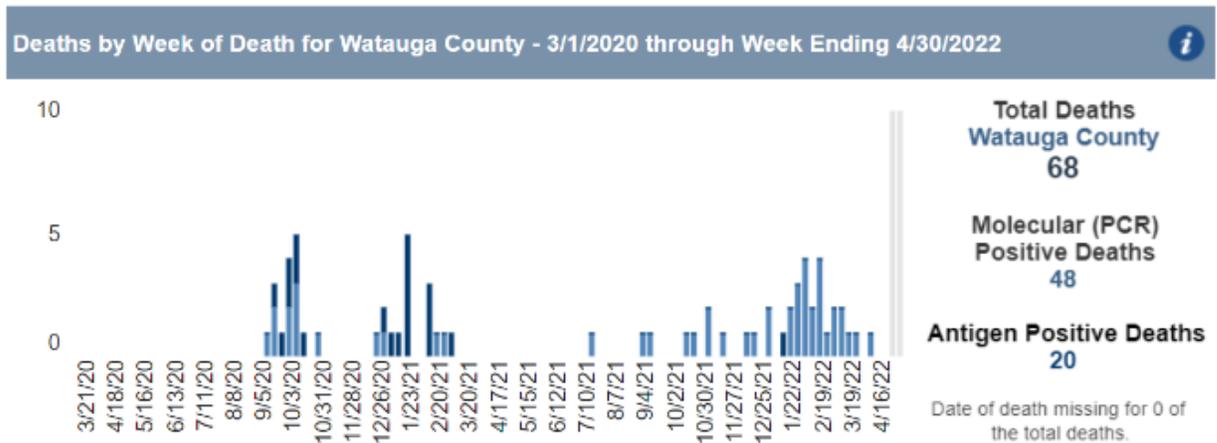
The current cluster and outbreak information for congregate living, childcare and educational settings in our district can be viewed at the [NC DHHS Cluster and Outbreak reports](#). An outbreak is defined as two or more laboratory confirmed cases within a 28 day period in a congregate living setting.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

COVID-19 Related Deaths

The majority of COVID-19 related deaths occur among individuals who are unvaccinated. Staying up to date on vaccination, including boosters recommended by the CDC, remains the most effective way to prevent severe outcomes like severe illness, hospitalization and death from COVID-19.

North Carolina now uses an electronic death certificate system which has identified additional deaths that occurred January 1 through March 31, 2022. The total deaths for Watauga County residents is 68 (as of 4/30/2022).



For additional data related to COVID-19 deaths, visit the [NC DHHS COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#).

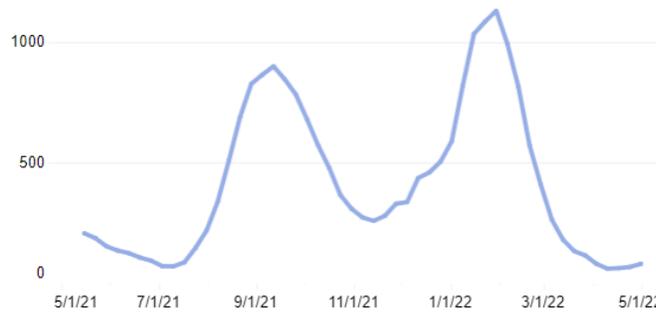
Regional COVID-19 Hospitalization Data

The hospitalization data reflected includes Watauga County. All hospitalization data is from [NCDHHS' Hospitalization Data Dashboard](#). (All data is current as of 5/5/2022)



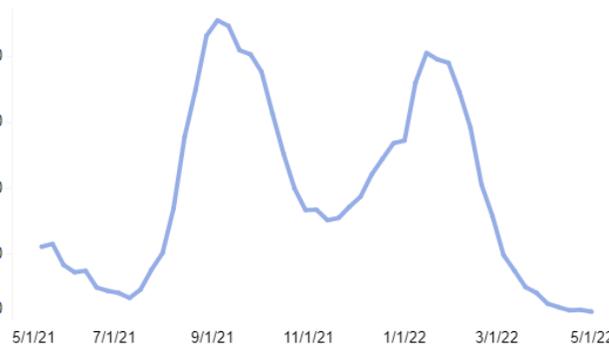
CapRAC - Capital Region Healthcare Preparedness Coalition
 DHPC - Duke Healthcare Preparedness Coalition
 EHPC - Eastern Healthcare Preparedness Coalition
 MAHPC - Mountain Area Healthcare Preparedness Coalition
 MCRHC - Mid Carolina Regional Healthcare Coalition
 MRHC - Metroline Healthcare Preparedness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

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



79
Currently COVID-19 hospitalized patients as of 4/30/2022

Number of COVID-19 Adult ICU Patients in THPC



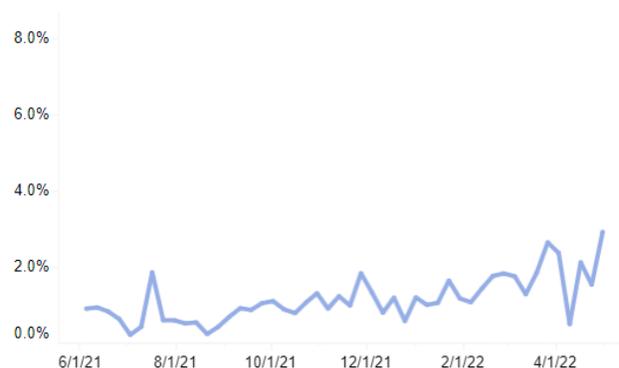
6
Current COVID-19 adult ICU patients as of 4/30/2022

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



4%
Of currently hospitalized COVID-19 patients on a ventilator as of 4/30/2022

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



2.9%
Of currently hospitalized COVID-19 patients are pediatric as of 4/30/2022

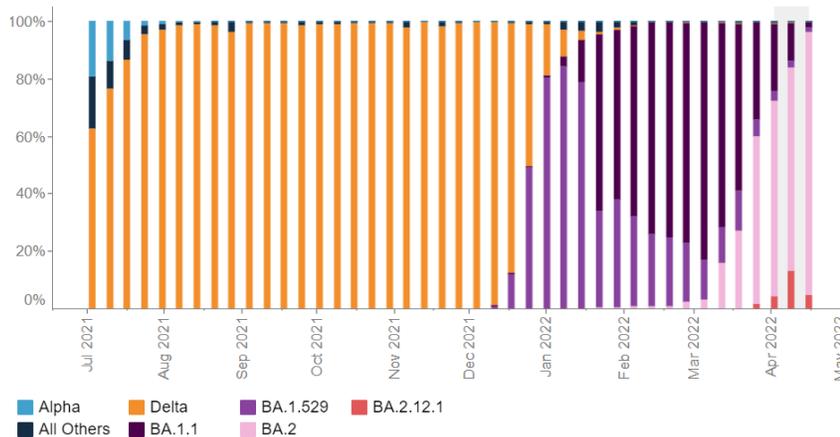
North Carolina COVID-19 Case Updates

North Carolina State Synopsis

The North Carolina COVID-19 State Synopsis can be viewed at: [COVID-19 State Profile Report](#), which is provided by White House COVID-19 Team, Joint Coordination Cell, Data Strategy and Execution Workgroup.

COVID-19 Variants Detected in North Carolina by Week

The Omicron variant (BA.1) and the BA.2 variant seem to spread more easily and quickly than other variants, which may lead to more cases of COVID-19. Current COVID-19



Last Two Weeks
Apr 03, 2022 - Apr 16, 2022

| Category | Type | Sequenced Cases | % of Total |
|----------|------------|-----------------|------------|
| Omicron | BA.1.1 | 65 | 7.97% |
| | BA.1.529 | 14 | 1.72% |
| | BA.2 | 664 | 81.37% |
| Other | All Others | 72 | 8.82% |
| | All Others | 1 | 0.12% |

vaccines are expected to protect against severe illness, hospitalizations, and deaths from the COVID-19 variants. The best way to protect yourself is by getting a COVID-19 vaccination, and booster once eligible.

Data on COVID-19 Variants Detected in North Carolina by Week was accessed from and can be viewed at: [North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services' COVID-19 Surveillance Study](#).

State Wastewater Surveillance Data

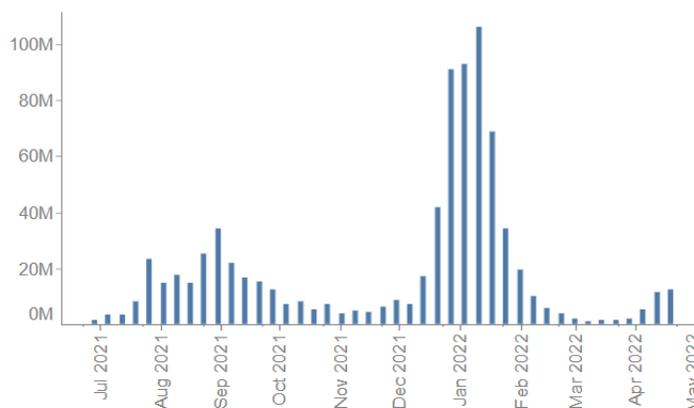
NC Department of Health and Human Services is collecting wastewater samples from an increasing set of participating wastewater treatment plants across NC to test for levels of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Individuals infected with COVID-19 shed viral particles in their stool, which can be measured in wastewater. This metric will be increasingly important in measuring the amount of virus at the community level, as it provides information regarding the levels of virus independently of testing participation or reporting.

State wastewater surveillance data is from the NC DHHS dashboard, where it is updated weekly and can be accessed [here](#).

12.2 Million Previous Week 11.3 Million

COVID-19 Virus Particles Found in Wastewater

COVID-19 virus particles appearing in wastewater can signal how quickly the virus is spreading, even if people don't get tested or have symptoms.



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

