

COVID-19 Variant Update

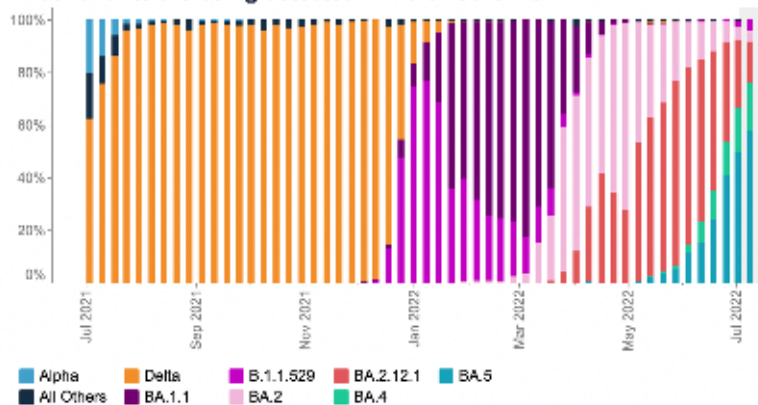
July 29th, 2022

Updates & Important Points for Ashe, Alleghany and Watauga Counties

COVID-19 Prominent Variants and Case Trends:

As COVID-19 continues to spread, the virus mutates over time and new variants emerge. At this point in North Carolina, BA. 5 is the most prominent variant. BA.5 is more transmissible than the variants we have seen before, and has been leading the increase in cases, hospitalizations, emergency room visits for covid-like illness, and virus particles found in wastewater. The rate of increase of this spike has so far been slower than previous COVID-19 waves, which can be seen in the charts below.

What variants are being detected in North Carolina?



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

Category	Type	Sequenced Cases	% of Total
Omicron	BA.2	81	4.78%
	BA.2.12.1	192	15.06%
	B.1.1.529	52	4.08%
	BA.4	229	17.96%
	BA.5	741	58.12%

COVID-19 Data from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS)

(Data is current as of 7/29/2022 at 11:00 am)

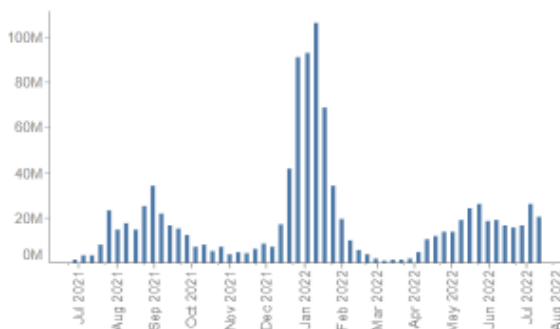
Early Warning Indicators

Rising levels of these can be an early sign of community spread and illness.

20.5 Million  Previous Week 25.8 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.

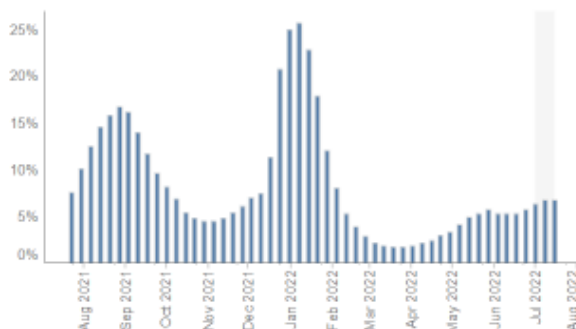


Average COVID-19 virus copies found per person per week from participating North Carolina wastewater treatment plants. [More Info](#)

6.8%  Previous Week 6.7%

Emergency Room Visits for COVID Symptoms

The percentage of all emergency department visits that are for COVID-like symptoms can signal how much illness there is in a community.



Emergency department visits that are for COVID-like illnesses (CLI). [More Inf.](#)

COVID-19 Data from NCDHHS Continued

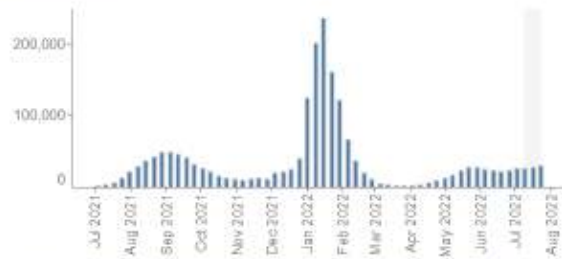
(Data is current as of 7/29/2022 at 11:00 am)

Health System Capacity

Rising levels of these can indicate strain on the health care system.

32,156 Previous Week 28,950

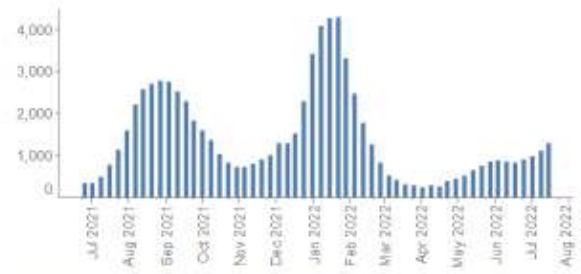
COVID-19 Reported Cases by Week of Specimen Collection



Number of new cases reported to the state each week, shown by the date the specimen was collected. [More Info](#)

1,290 Previous Week 1,102

Hospital Admissions - COVID-19 Patients by Week

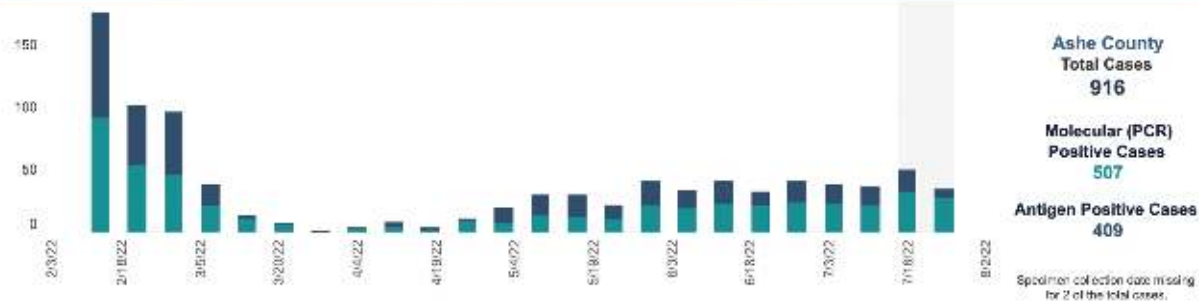


Number of confirmed COVID-19 patients admitted to hospitals each week. [More Info](#)

COVID-19 in Ashe, Alleghany, and Watauga Counties

Ashe County Cases from February 12th through July 23rd

Cases by Week of Specimen Collection for Ashe County - 2/12/2022 through Week Ending 7/23/2022



Ashe County Total Cases 916

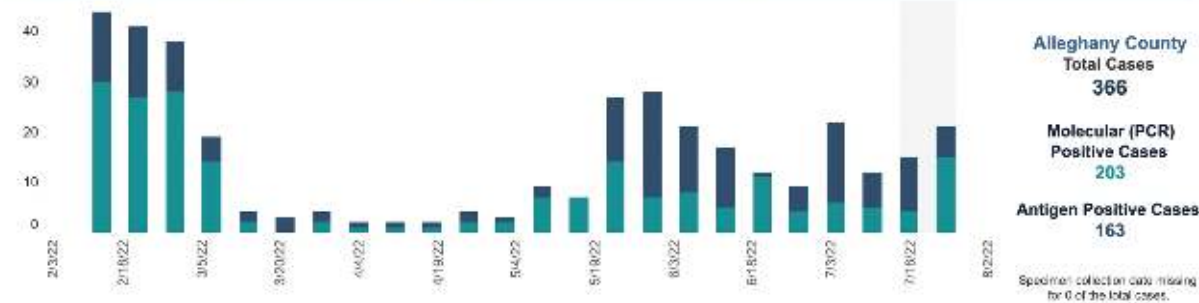
Molecular (PCR) Positive Cases 507

Antigen Positive Cases 409

Specimen collection date missing for 2 of the total cases.

Alleghany County Cases from February 12th through July 23rd

Cases by Week of Specimen Collection for Alleghany County - 2/12/2022 through Week Ending 7/23/2022



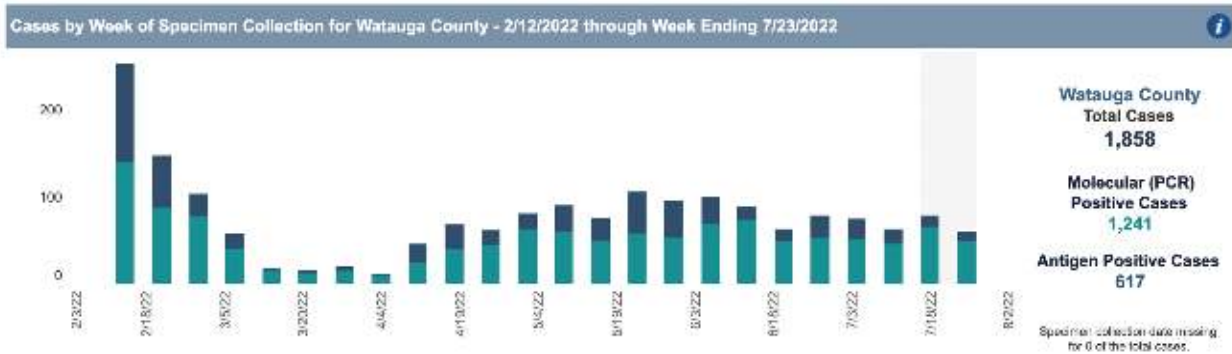
Alleghany County Total Cases 366

Molecular (PCR) Positive Cases 203

Antigen Positive Cases 163

Specimen collection date missing for 0 of the total cases.

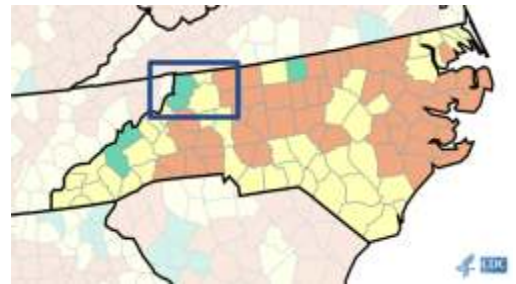
Watauga County Cases from February 12th through July 23rd



COVID-19 Community Levels Updates

(Data is current as of 7/29/2022 at 11:00 am)

Ashe and Watauga Counties remain in the low community level category, and Allegheny County remains in the medium community level category, [according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#).



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

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