![AppHealthCare logo] **AppHealthCare** — Caring for our Community

Alleghany Communicable Disease Update
December 2nd, 2022

Communicable Disease Trends, Updates & Important Points

- **RSV and Flu increases**
- **Monkeypox decrease, now referred to as mpox**
- **General Communicable Disease**
- **STIs across counties**
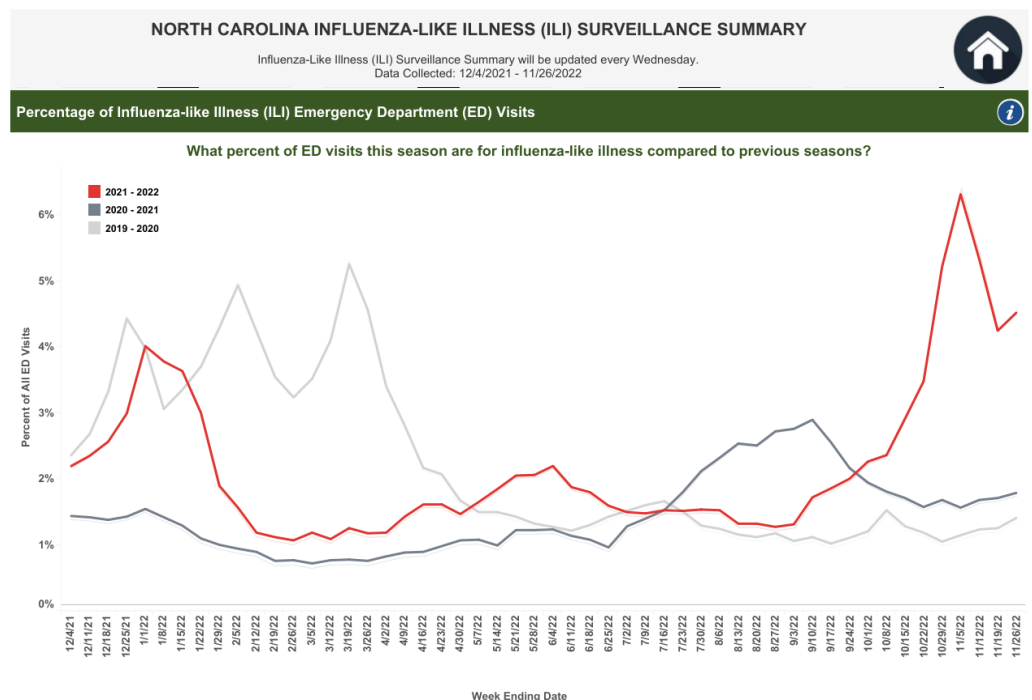- **COVID-19 Contact Tracing Infographic**

Respiratory Virus Surveillance

New Respiratory Virus Surveillance Dashboard
NC DHHS's Respiratory Virus Surveillance Dashboard shows past and present trends.

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) and Influenza (flu)

- **Consistently higher rates of ED visits for flu-like illness than 2019-20 and 2020-21.**
- **4.6%** of Emergency Department (ED) visits this week are attributed to influenza-like illness
  - **1.8%** of ED visits this week last flu season (2020-21) and **1.4%** of ED visits this week from 2019-20 were attributable to influenza-like illness comparably
- Recent state and nation-wide data shows a substantial

NORTH CAROLINA INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS (ILI) SURVEILLANCE SUMMARY

Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Surveillance Summary will be updated every Wednesday.
Data Collected: 12/4/2021 - 11/26/2022

Percentage of Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Emergency Department (ED) Visits

What percent of ED visits this season are for influenza-like illness compared to previous seasons?

Legend: 2021 - 2022; 2020 - 2021; 2019 - 2020

The above graph shows how the percentage of ED visits for influenza-like illness this year compares to previous years. Influenza and COVID-19 can both cause fever and respiratory illness, so influenza-like illness syndrome and COVID-like illness syndrome detect some of the same ED visits

increase in RSV. This increase has the potential to strain pediatric hospital capacity, particularly in combination with increases in other respiratory illnesses.

| The below table shows the change compared to the prior week's percentage of ED visits for Influenza-like illness, for the week ending		
Statewide	**Trend**	**Percent of ED Visits**
2021 - 2022	Increased	**0.28%**

How to protect yourself:

- Get a vaccine for flu and COVID-19, including a COVID-19 booster
- Wash your hands often. Use soap and water or hand sanitizer to kill any germs you may have come into contact with.
- If you are sick, stay home. If you are not feeling well, stay home and away from others as much as possible. This will greatly limit the spread of illness in our community.
- Make a plan in case you get sick ahead of time.
- Keep a supply of COVID tests on-hand. Use them if you become sick. Free tests are available at AppHealthCare locations while they last.
- Know how to reach your healthcare provider if you or your family develop symptoms. Early treatment is important if you are at high risk.
- Do not visit an Emergency Department unless it is a true medical emergency.

Mpox Data in North Carolina

(Mpox data accessed from NCDHHS Mpox Data Dashboard, with mpox case count current as of 11/2/2022, and demographic and vaccine information current as of 11/2/2022. Mpox Cases by Date of Symptom Onset is current as of 12/12022 accessed from NCDHHS's 2022 Mpox Surveillance Data)

Mpox Updates:
- Case have been trending downwards since September, 2022
- As of 12/1/2022 there have been no cases detected in Alleghany, Ashe, or Watauga Counties
- 46 Mpox vaccines have been administered in Watauga County, 1 in Ashe County, and 0 in Alleghany as of 12/2/2022
- The World Health Organization has transitioned to use the term "Mpox" to refer to what was previously known as "Monkeypox"


North Carolina Monkeypox Cases by Week of Symptom Onset*, 2022
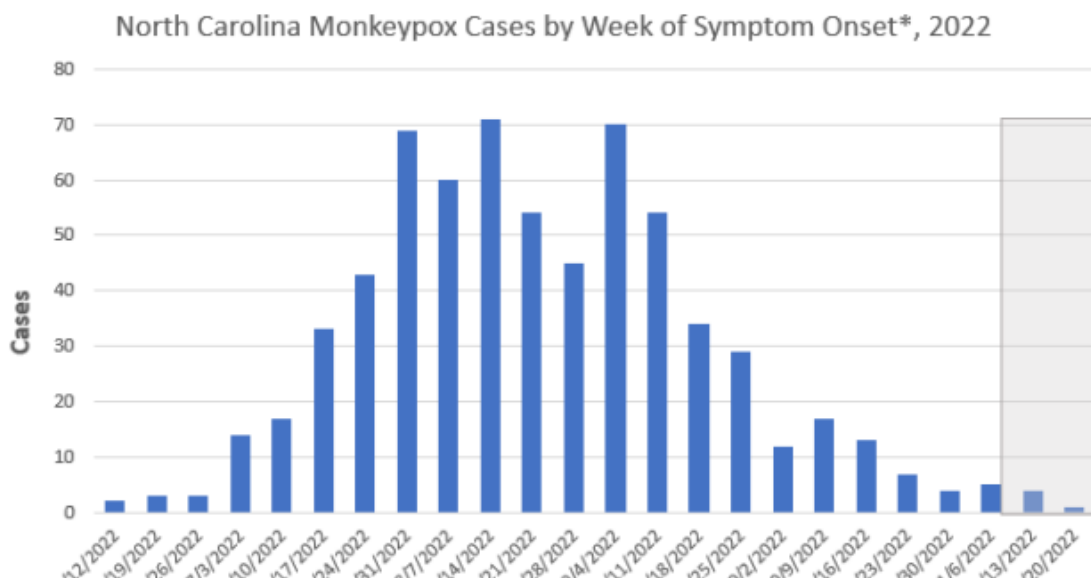
Alleghany General Communicable Disease Data

**General Communicable Disease and Vaccine Preventable Disease:**

Vaccines prevent disease in the people who receive them and also in the broader community. Because of childhood vaccination programs, diseases like polio, measles, diphtheria, rubella (German measles), mumps, tetanus, and Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) are no longer widespread in the United States. However, cases and outbreaks of these diseases continue to occur due to travel to and from areas with lower vaccine coverage. Many diseases however are not preventable through vaccines, including but not limited to lyme disease, rocky mountain spotted fever, and salmonella.

The figures below represent general communicable disease cases in residents of Alleghany County by month, excluding COVID-19 and sexually transmitted conditions.

Communicable Disease Cases in Alleghany County by Month
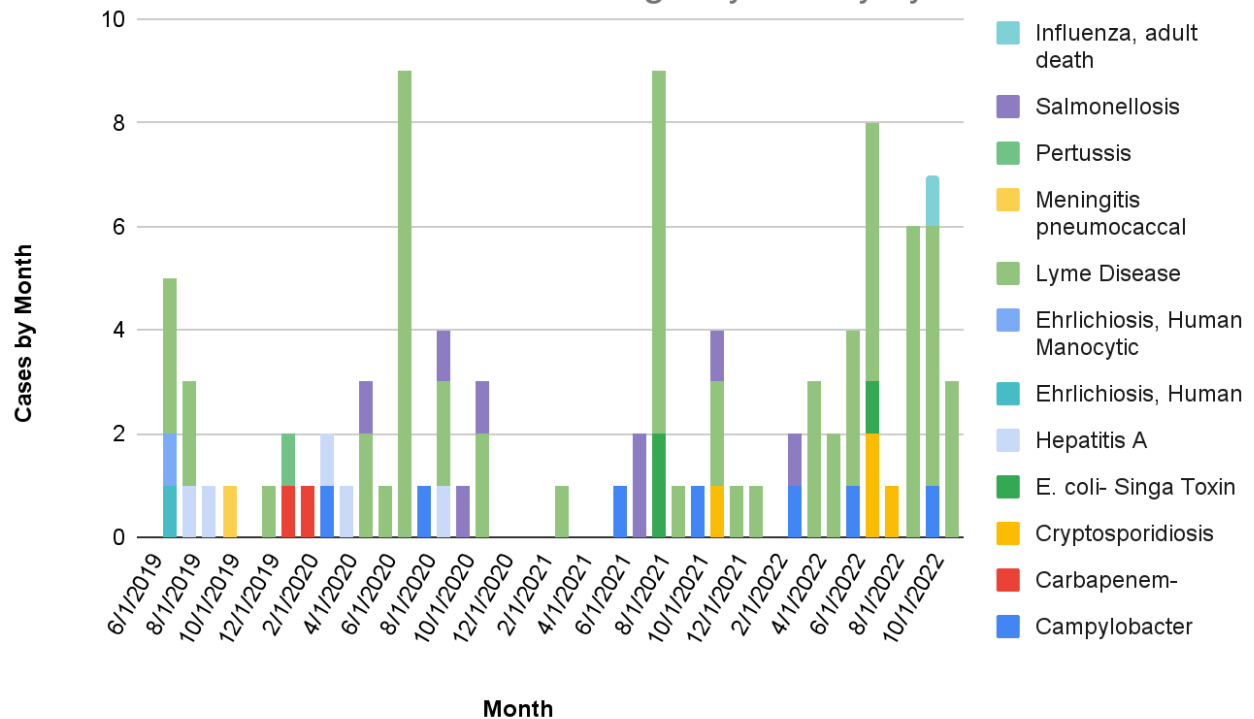

Alleghany County Vaccine Preventable Disease (VPD) and Non-Vaccine Preventable Disease (Non VPD) by Month
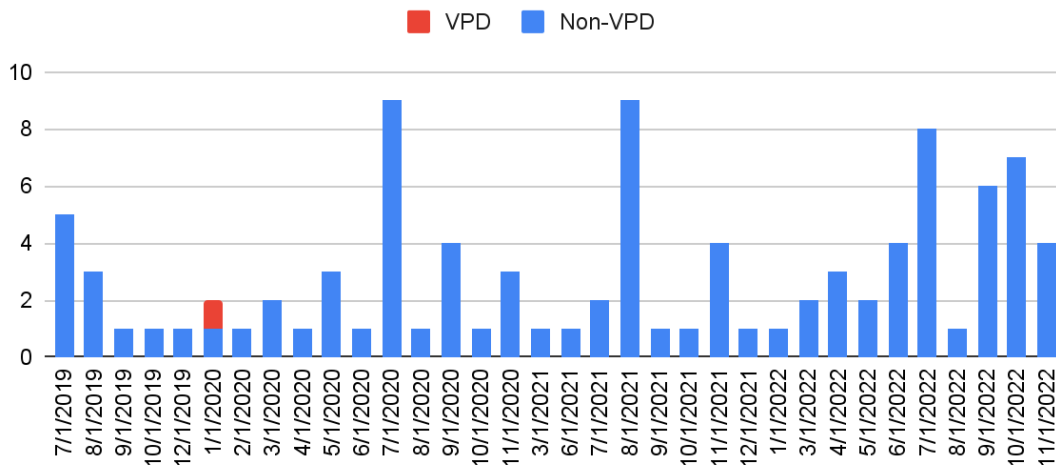
Sexually Transmitted Conditions:

In North Carolina, there are eight reportable bacterial sexually transmitted conditions (STDs & STIs), including gonorrhea, chlamydia, chancroid, lymphogranuloma venereum, granuloma inguinale, nongonococcal urethritis, syphilis, and pelvic inflamatory disease. Chlamydia is the most prevalent STC in Alleghany County, with gonorrhea as the second most prevalent.

Reportable Sexually Transmitted Conditions in Alleghany County by Month
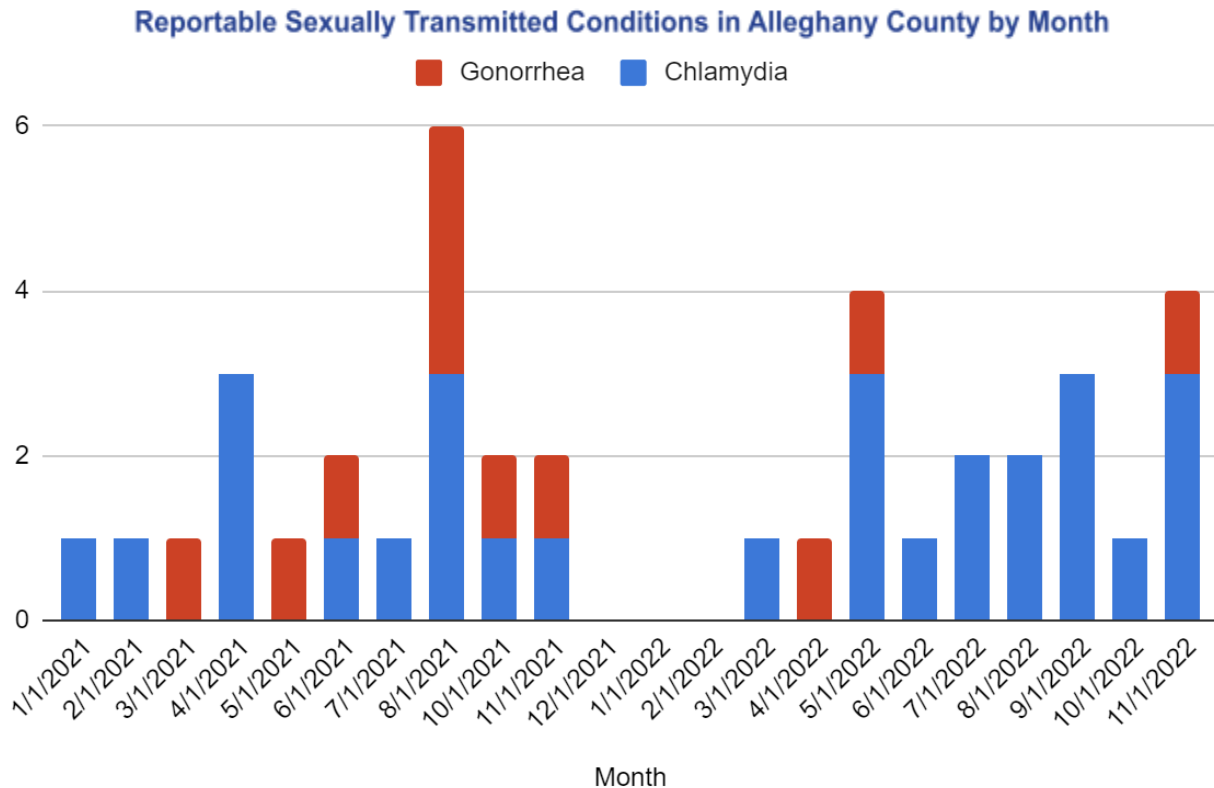
To prevent the spread of STDs, NCDHHS's Communicable Disease Branch supports free testing and treatment in many diverse settings, including community-based organizations and correctional facilities. AppHealthCare provides clinical services, education and awareness efforts and monitoring disease trends through surveillance and epidemiology.

To best prevent the spread of STDs, seek treatment if relevant, seek free routine testing, and take precautions to promote safety.

COVID-19 Alleghany County Vaccination Updates

County-specific race, ethnicity and age data are from the NCDHHS COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard, Vaccine demographic data are current as of 11/3/2022.

Initial Vaccinations

Initial vaccination updates reflect the percentage of all Alleghany County residents. Initial series range from one to three doses based on the vaccine type (Pfizer, Moderna, Johnson and Johnson, etc.) and the recipient's age.
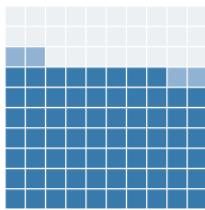
65+ Year Olds	18+ Year Olds	5-17 Year Olds	0-4 Year Olds
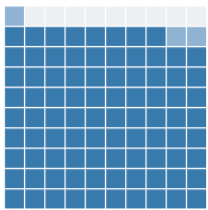
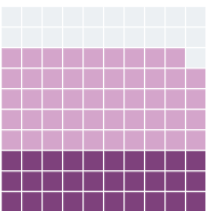| 65+ Year Olds	18+ Year Olds	5-17 Year Olds	0-4 Year Olds
91% At Least One Dose (2,834)	72% At Least One Dose (6,666)	21% At Least One Dose (290)	1% At Least One Dose (7)
88% Initial Series Complete (2,747)	68% Initial Series Complete (6,286)	19% Initial Series Complete (256)	1% Initial Series Complete (4)
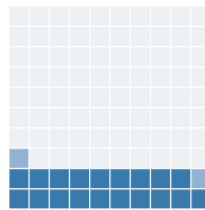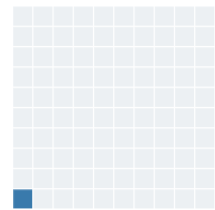
Boosters

The booster percentage shows what percent of people have at least one original booster or an updated booster, out of all of those who have finished their initial vaccination series.
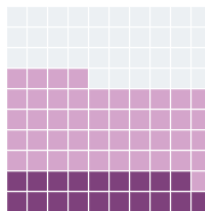
65+ Year Olds	18+ Year Olds	5-17 Year Olds	0-4 Year Olds

65+ Year Olds	18+ Year Olds	5-17 Year Olds	0-4 Year Olds
79% At Least One Original Booster (2,173)	64% At Least One Original Booster (4,017)	20% At Least One Original Booster (51)	Boosters are not available for this age range yet
30% Updated Booster (826)	19% Updated Booster (1,196)	5% Updated Booster (14)	

Alleghany County COVID-19 Updates

(Community level data and guidance per the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), accessed December 1st, 2022)

COVID-19 Community Level: Low

Guidance: 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.

Weekly Metrics Used to Determine the COVID-19 Community Level

|	
Case Rate per 100,000 population	107.75
New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population	9.6
% Staffed inpatient beds in use by patients with confirmed COVID-19	1.1%

COVID-19 Deaths:

(COVID-19 death data per [North Carolina Health and Human Services](#), accessed December 1st, 2022)

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.
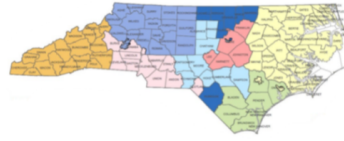
Deaths
All Time:
19 Total Deaths in Alleghany County
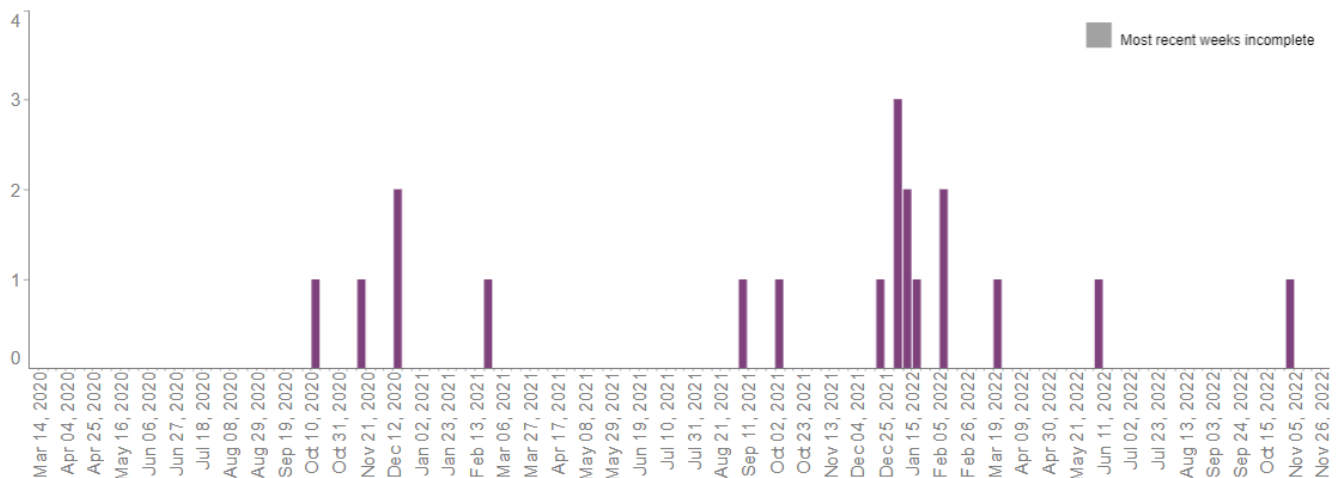
Regional COVID-19 Hospitalization Data

The hospitalization data reflected is for the Triad Health Preparedness Coalition Region (THPC), which includes Alleghany County. All hospitalization data is from NCDHHS' Hospitalization Data Dashboard.

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

7-Day Average of COVID-19 Patients Hospitalized By Week | Region View

	COVID-19 Hospitalizations	Hospitals Reporting
THPC	119	97%
All	**119**	**97%**

119 Currently COVID-19 hospitalized patients in the THPC Region as of 11/26/2022
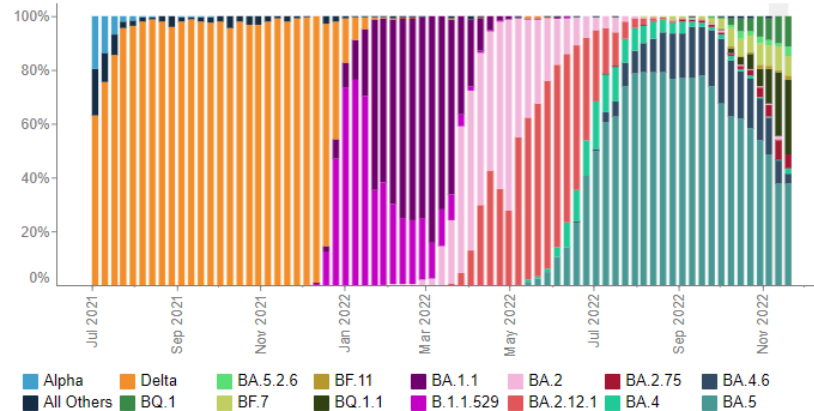
North Carolina COVID-19 Case Updates

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 variants seem 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 COVID-19 variants.The best way to protect yourself is by getting a COVID-19 vaccination, and booster once eligible.

What variants are being detected in North Carolina?

Legend: Alpha, Delta, BA.5.2.6, BF.11, BA.1.1, BA.2, BA.2.75, BA.4.6, All Others, BQ.1, BF.7, BQ.1.1, B.1.1.529, BA.2.12.1, BA.4, BA.5
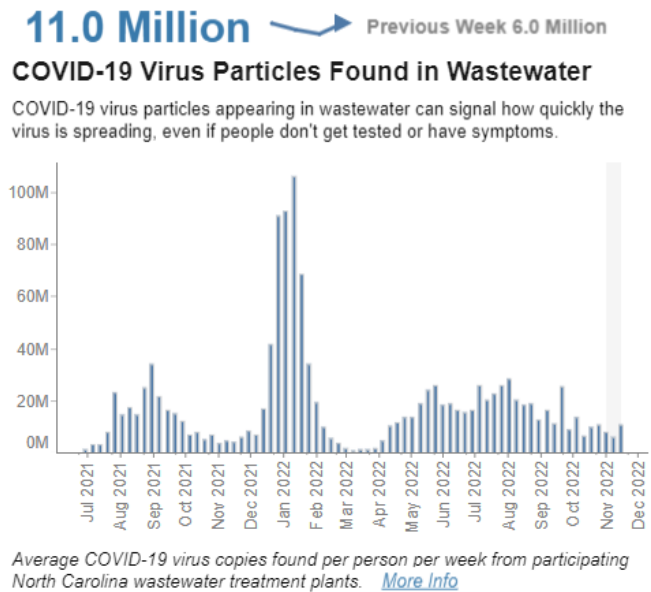
Percentage of variants reported each week by laboratories that sequence to identify COVID-19 variants. (Most cases and tests are not identified by variants; this is a smaller sample.) More info

Last Two Weeks
Nov 06, 2022 - Nov 19, 2022

Category	Type	Sequenced Cases	% of Total
Omicron	BA.2	5	1.21%
	BA.2.12.1	1	0.24%
	BA.2.75	28	6.80%
	BA.4	2	0.49%
	BA.4.6	33	8.01%
	BA.5	157	38.11%
	BF.7	36	8.74%
	BA.5.2.6	6	1.46%
	BF.11	4	0.97%
	BQ.1	41	9.95%
	BQ.1.1	99	24.03%

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.

11.0 Million → Previous Week 6.0 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*