AppHealthCare
Caring for our Community

Alleghany Communicable Disease Update
February 10th, 2022

Trends, Updates & Important Points

- COVID cases continue January's downwards trend.
- NCDHHS has partnered with StarMed to offer free telehealth treatment services for people who are COVID-19 positive. Antiviral pills are a safe treatment for those who test positive within 5 days of feeling sick & are at risk of severe illness. Visit StarMed.Care/NC.
- Mpox cases have continued to trend downwards.

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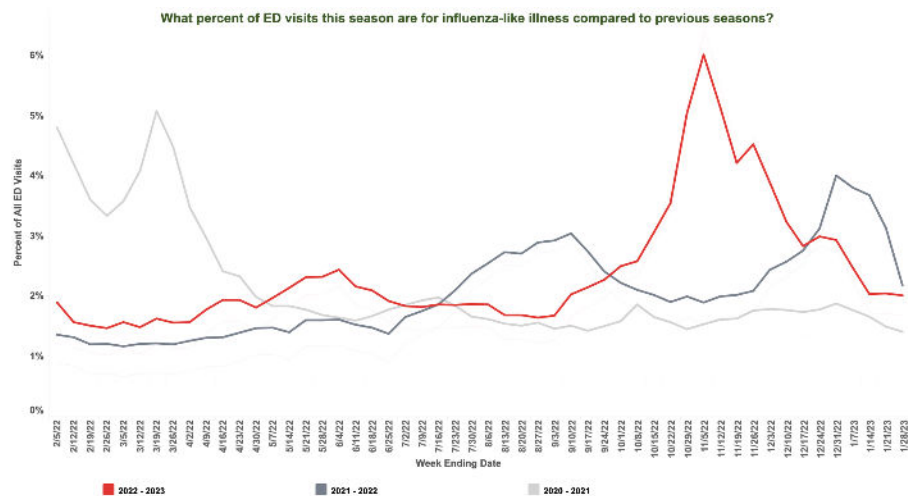
New Respiratory Virus Surveillance Dashboard
NC DHHS's Respiratory Virus Surveillance Dashboard shows past and present trends.

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) and Influenza (flu)
- Flu rates remain higher than those in 2020-2021, and around the same level as those from this time last year.
- 1.7% of Emergency Department (ED) visits this week are attributed to influenza-like illness.

Prevention Basics:
- Get up to date with a flu shot and your COVID-19 vaccine series or booster. This is especially important for anyone who has an underlying health condition or is age 50 or older. If you are 65 and older, consider getting a pneumonia vaccine as well.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Wash your hands often and use hand sanitizer when you do not have access to soap and water.
- Make a plan before you get sick. Keep COVID-19 test kits at home and talk to your healthcare provider about getting access to treatment for flu or COVID if you become sick.
- Consider your risks and layer protection, including using a high quality mask when you may be in crowded areas or around people who may be at high risk for severe illness.
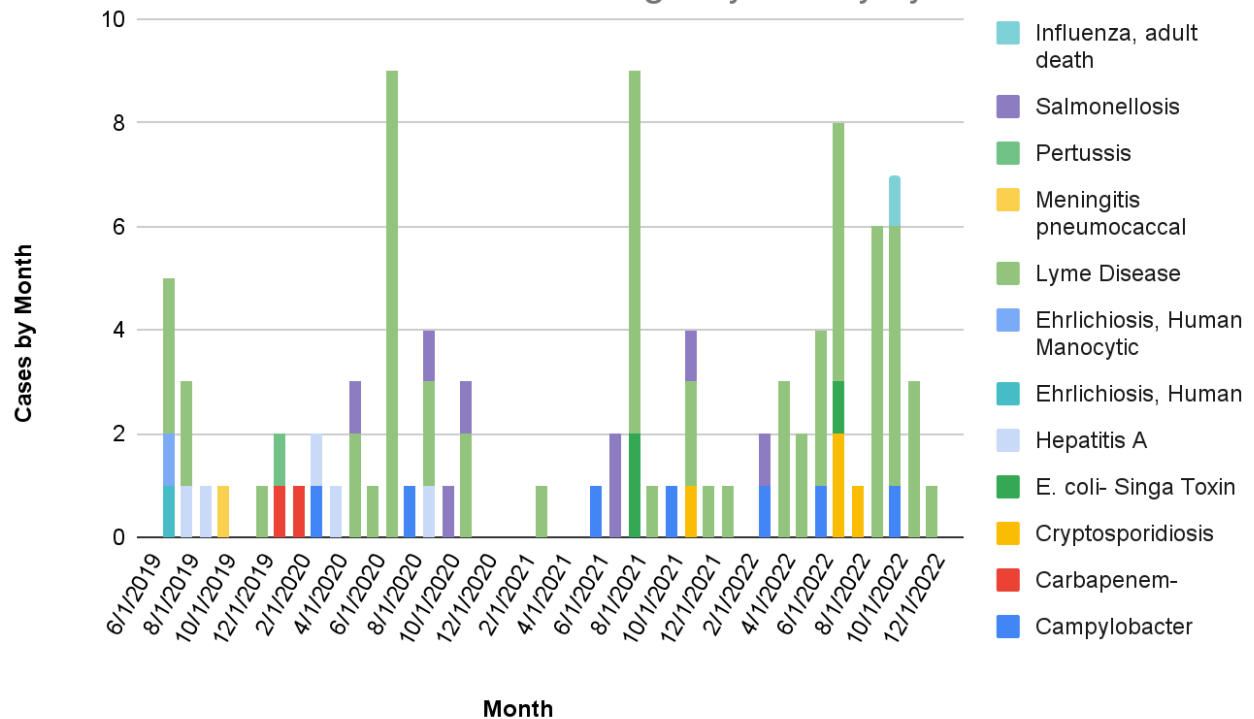

What percent of ED visits this season are for influenza-like illness compared to previous seasons?

Legend: 2022 - 2023, 2021 - 2022, 2020 - 2021

Alleghany General Communicable Disease Data

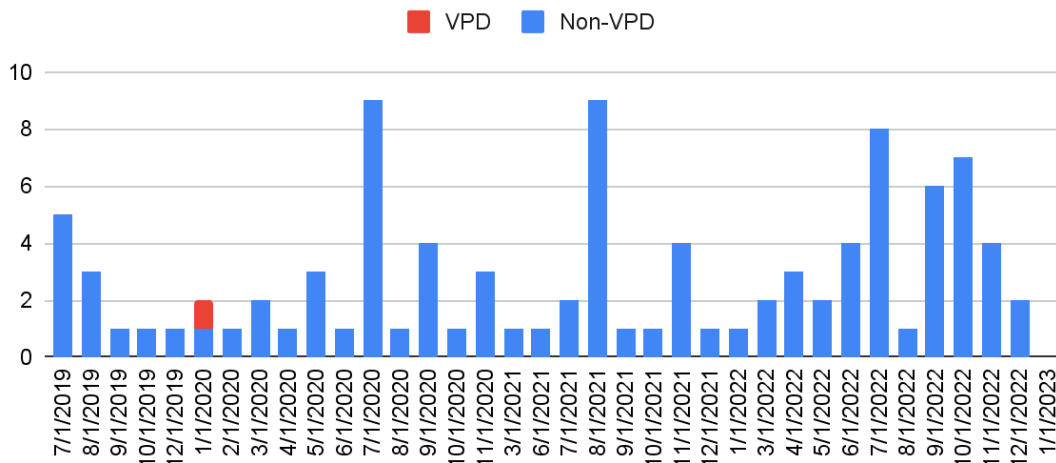**General Communicable Disease and Vaccine Preventable Disease:**
Vaccines prevent disease in the people who receive them and also in the broader community. Because of childhood vaccination programs, diseases like polio, measles, diphtheria, rubella (German measles), mumps, tetanus, and Haemophilus influenzae 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
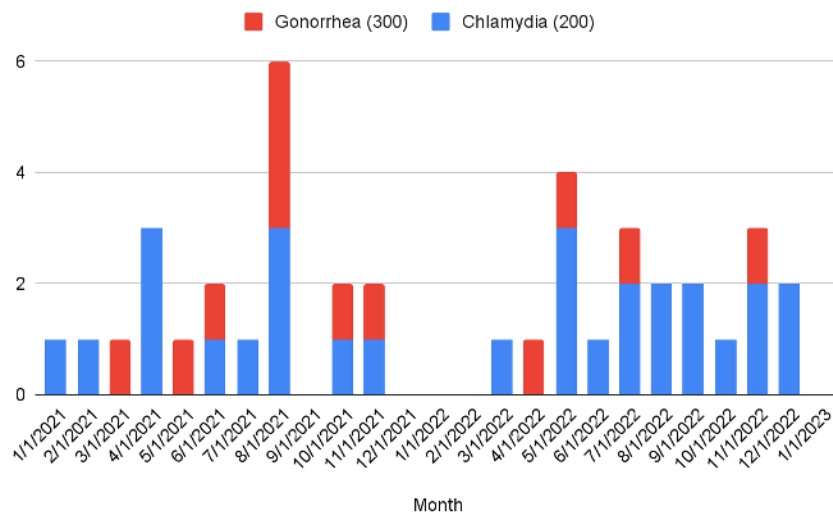
Sexually Transmitted Conditions:

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 inflammatory disease (PID). Chlamydia is the most prevalent STC in Alleghany County, with gonorrhea as the second most prevalent.
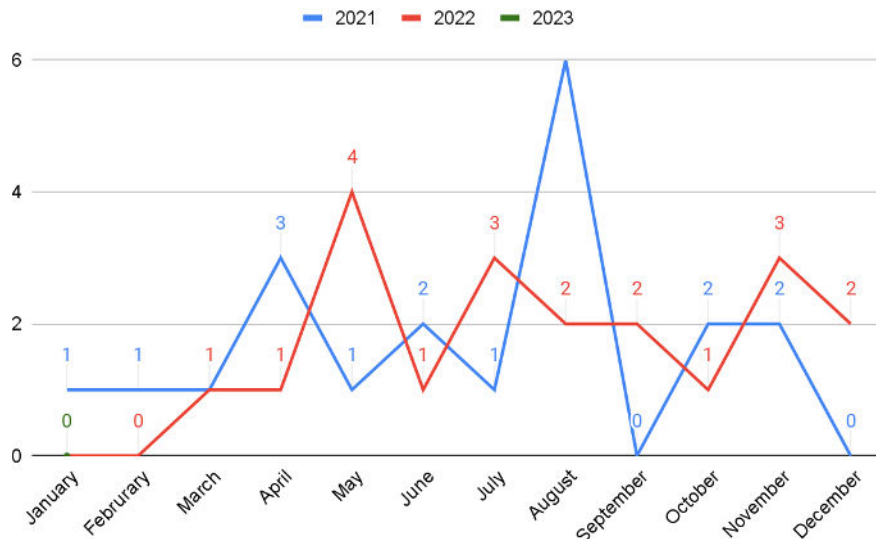
To prevent the spread of STDs, NCDHHS's Communicable Disease Branch supports free testing and treatment in many diverse settings, including community-based organizations and correctional facilities. AppHealthCare provides clinical services, education and awareness efforts and monitoring disease trends 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.

Reportable Sexually Transmitted Conditions in Alleghany County by Month

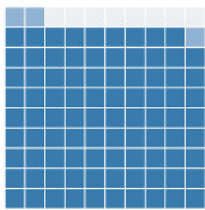## Monthly STC (Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and PID) Cases by Year

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 2/6/2023.

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.
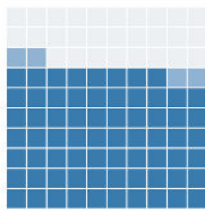

65+ Year Olds
- 92% At Least One Dose (2,868)
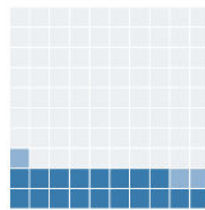- 89% Initial Series Complete (2,785)

18+ Year Olds
- 72% At Least One Dose (6,655)
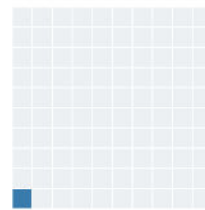- 68% Initial Series Complete (6,298)

5-17 Year Olds
- 21% At Least One Dose (288)
- 18% Initial Series Complete (253)
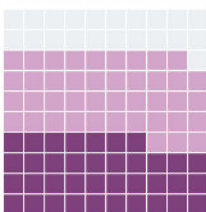
0-4 Year Olds
- 1% At Least One Dose (6)
- 1% Initial Series Complete (3)

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.
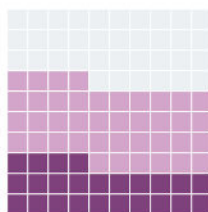

65+ Year Olds
- 79% At Least One Original Booster (2,199)
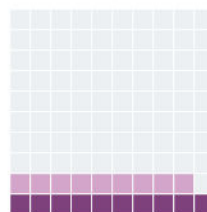- 37% Updated Booster (1,018)

18+ Year Olds
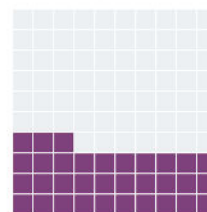- 64% At Least One Original Booster (4,016)
- 24% Updated Booster (1,509)

5-17 Year Olds
- 19% At Least One Original Booster (48)
- 10% Updated Booster (25)

0-4 Year Olds
- 33% *Updated Booster* (1)

Alleghany County COVID-19 Updates

(Community level data and guidance per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, accessed February 6th, 2023)

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

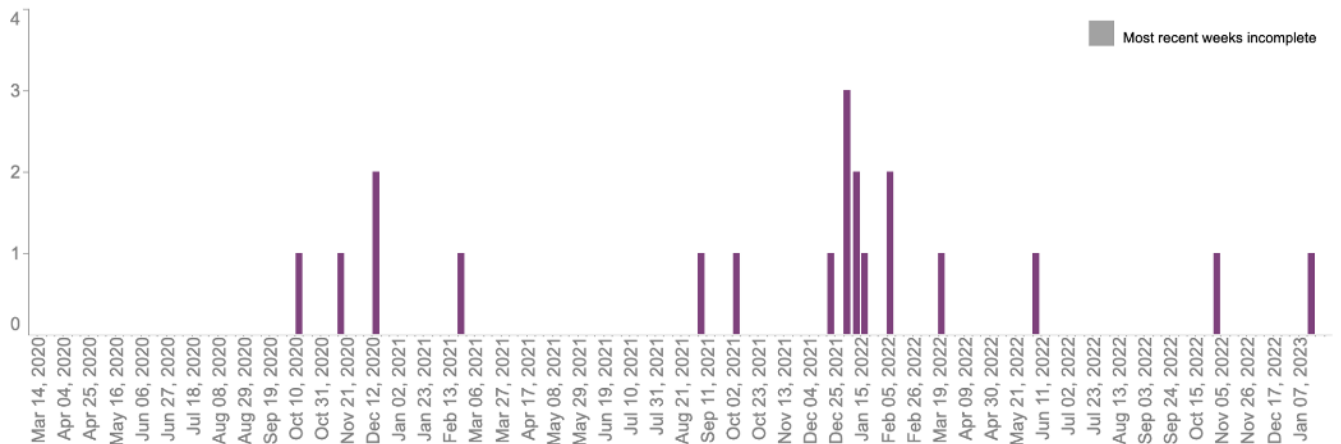|	
Case Rate per 100,000 population	98.77
New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population	9.6
% Staffed inpatient beds in use by patients with confirmed COVID-19	2.2%

COVID-19 Deaths:

(COVID-19 death data per North Carolina Health and Human Services, current as of 2/1/2023.)

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.
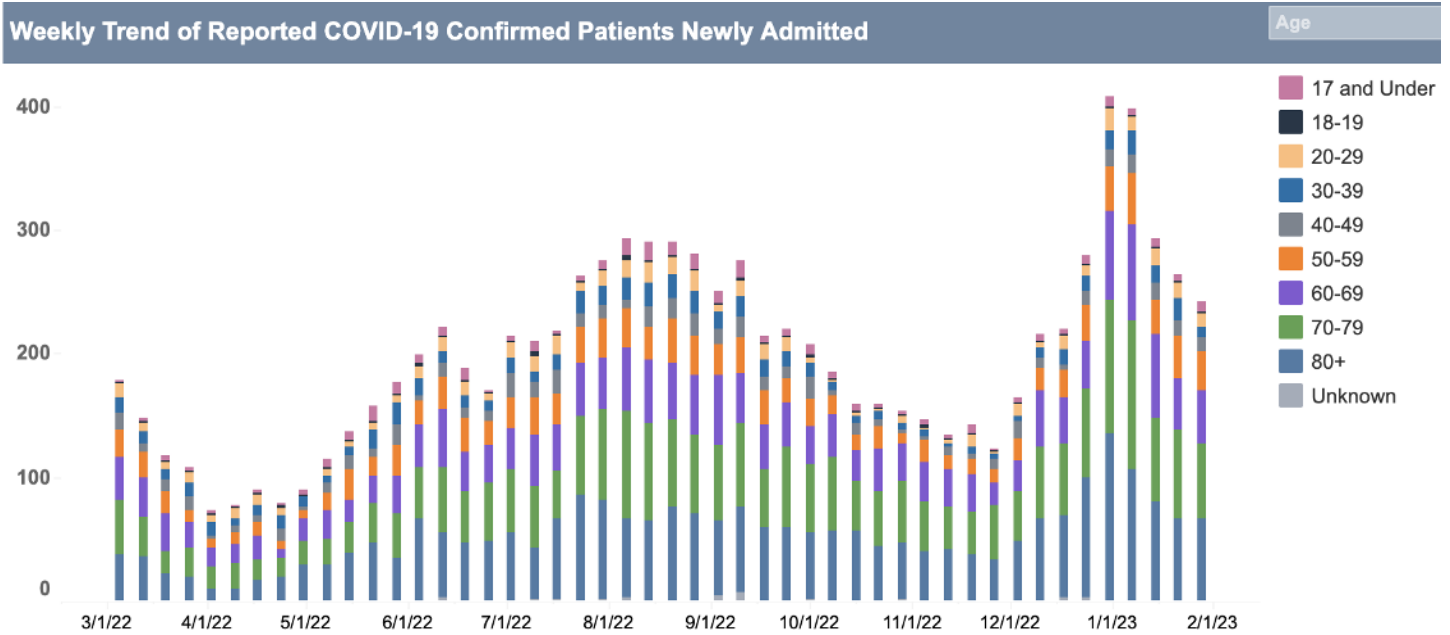
Deaths
All Time:
20 Total Deaths in Alleghany County

Regional COVID-19 Hospitalization Data

The hospitalization data reflects the number of COVID-19 patients newly admitted in the Triad Health Preparedness Coalition Region (THPC), which includes Alleghany County. All hospitalization data is from NCDHHS' Hospitalization Data Dashboard.
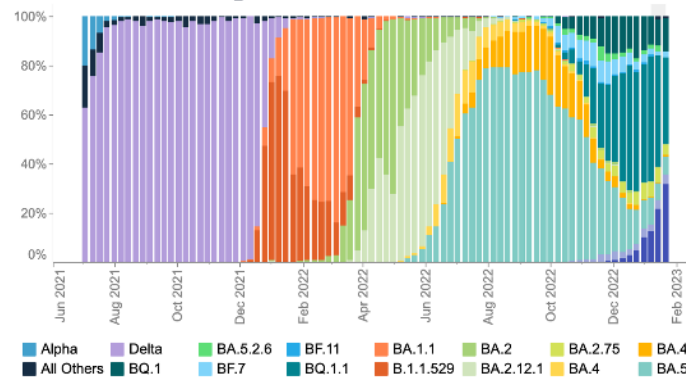

North Carolina COVID-19 Case Updates

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,

What variants are being detected in North Carolina?

Last Two Weeks
Jan 08, 2023 - Jan 21, 2023

Categ..	Type	Sequenced Cases	% of Total
Omicron	BQ.1.1	341	42.63%
	XBB.1.5	194	24.25%
	BQ.1	94	11.75%
	BA.5	58	7.25%
	BA.2.75	44	5.50%
	XBB	30	3.75%
	BF.7	16	2.00%
	BA.5.2.6	12	1.50%
	BA.4.6	2	0.25%
	BA.2	2	0.25%
Other	All Others	7	0.88%

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

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.

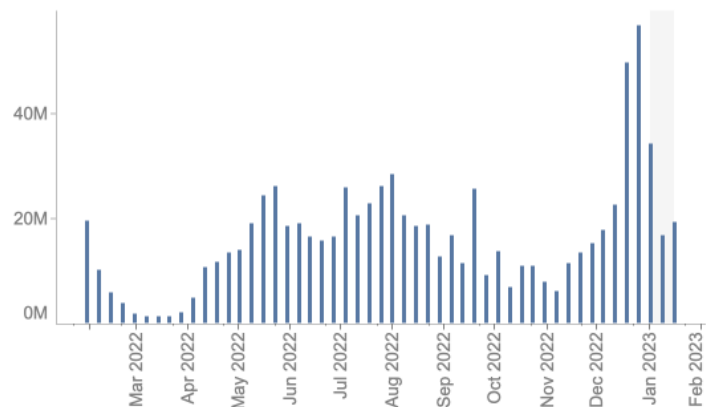# State Wastewater Surveillance Data

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.

19.3 Million → Previous Week 16.8 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*