



# Needham Board of Health



## AGENDA

**Friday March 4, 2022**

**6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**

**Via Zoom**

To listen/view this meeting, download the "Zoom Cloud Meeting" app in any app store or at [www.zoom.us](https://www.zoom.us). At the above date and time, click on "Join a Meeting" and enter the meeting ID **890 8544 1888** and passcode **704687** or click the link below to register:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89085441888?pwd=RU5McE5Xb3pjUGZ6WXlVZ1pUNE5Sdz09>

- **6:00 to 6:05 – Welcome**
- **6:00 to 6:30 – COVID-19 Update**
  - **Needham cases rates and positive testing percentage**
  - **Vaccination Levels**
  - **State and Federal-level Policy Changes**
  - **Discussion and Vote – BOH Emergency Order Mandating Use of Face Coverings in Select Municipal Buildings**
- **Next BOH meetings**

|                         |                          |                                     |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ○ <b>March 29, 2022</b> | <b>9:00 – 11:00 a.m.</b> | <b>Zoom &amp; Needham Town Hall</b> |
| ○ <b>April 27, 2022</b> | <b>6:00 – 8:00 p.m.</b>  | <b>Zoom &amp; PSAB</b>              |
- **Adjournment**

**(Please note that all times are approximate)**

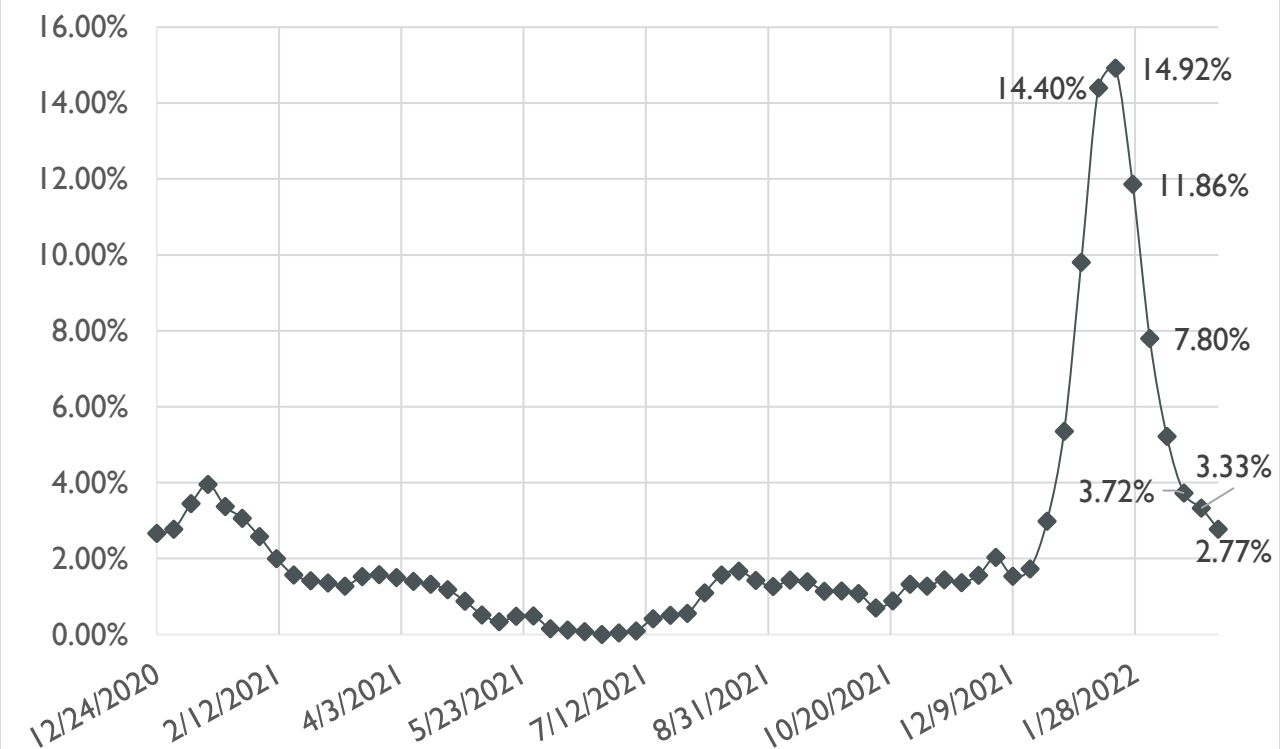
# COVID-19 UPDATE

March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Needham Public Health

# INCIDENCE RATE, PERCENT POSITIVITY, VACCINATION RATES

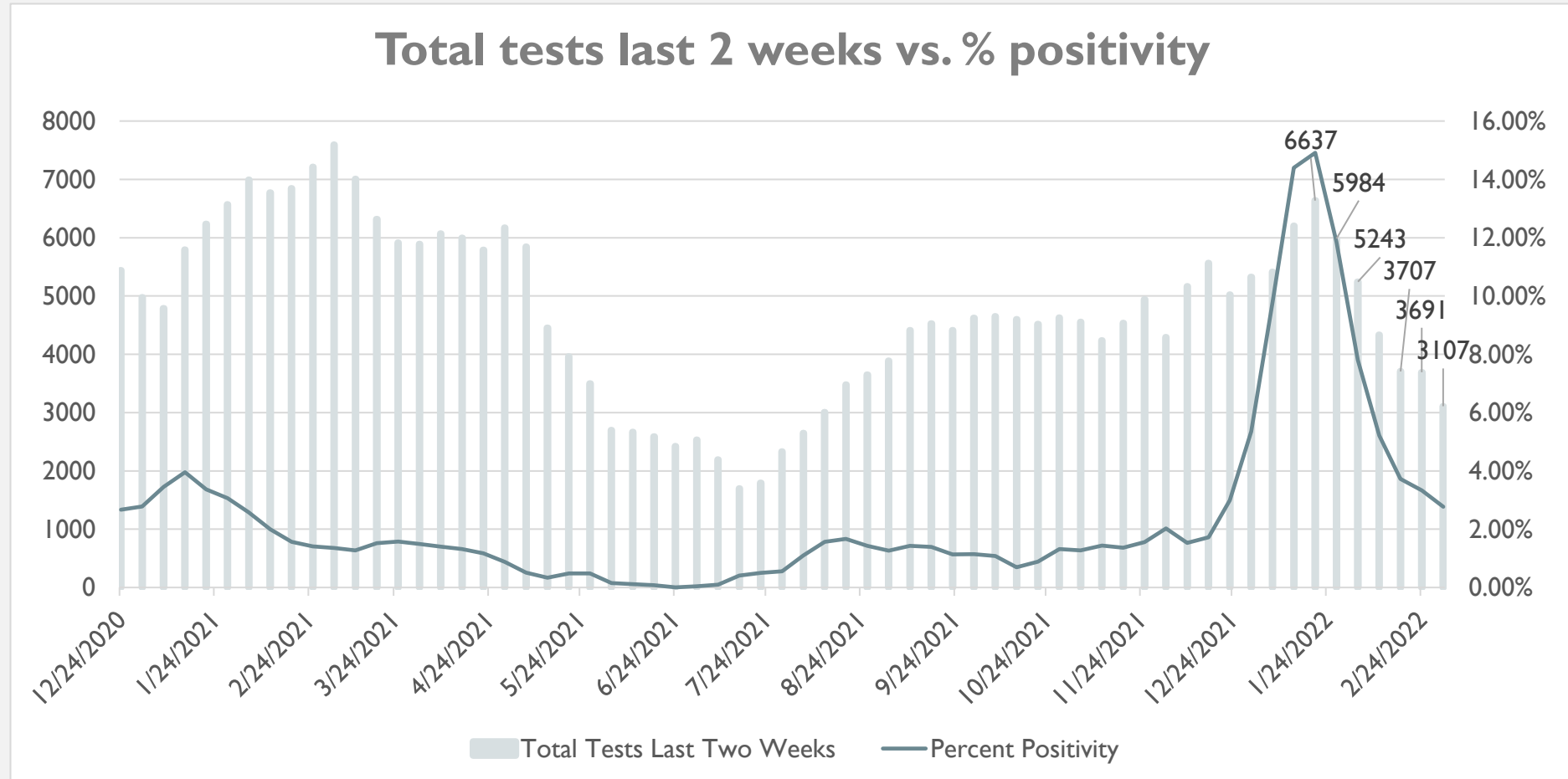
## Percent Positivity



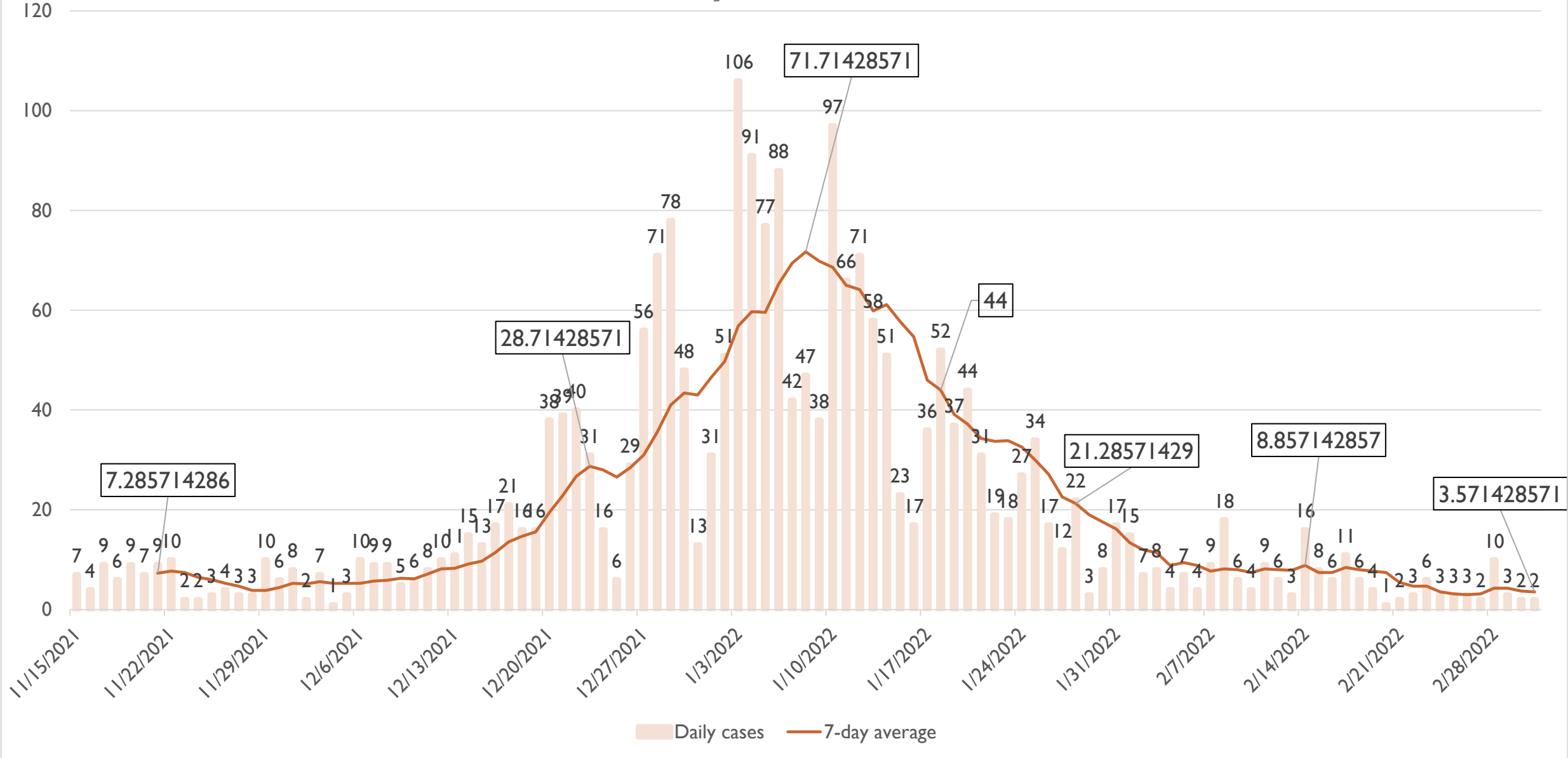
| City/Town/County                                                                               | Avg. Daily Incidence Rate per 100K (last 14 days) | Percent Positive Tests (last 14 days) | Fully vaccinated individuals per capita | Individuals with booster doses per capita |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <b>Massachusetts</b>                                                                           | 16.1 ↘                                            | 2.32% ↘                               | -                                       | -                                         |
| Needham                                                                                        | 18.8 ↘                                            | 2.77% ↘                               | >95%                                    | 64%                                       |
| <b>Middlesex County</b>                                                                        | 16.9 ↘                                            | 1.94% ↘                               | -                                       | -                                         |
| Newton*                                                                                        | 34.8 ↘                                            | 3.19% ↗                               | 88%                                     | 57%                                       |
| <b>Norfolk County</b>                                                                          | 12.7 ↘                                            | 2.42% ↘                               | -                                       | -                                         |
| Dedham                                                                                         | 9.1 ↘                                             | 1.83% ↘                               | 74%                                     | 44%                                       |
| Norwood                                                                                        | 15.3 ↘                                            | 3.56% ↘                               | 80%                                     | 45%                                       |
| Wellesley                                                                                      | 25.5 ↘                                            | 2.33% ↘                               | 77%                                     | 50%                                       |
| Westwood                                                                                       | 15.6 ↘                                            | 3.02% ↘                               | 93%                                     | 59%                                       |
| <b>Suffolk County</b>                                                                          | 23.6 ↘                                            | 1.87% ↘                               | -                                       | -                                         |
| Boston**  | 25.9 ↘                                            | 1.84% ↘                               | 71%                                     | 36%                                       |

- \* Indoor mask mandate ended 2/18
- \*\* Proof of vaccine requirement ended 2/18, indoor mask mandate set to end 3/5

# NEEDHAM TESTS OVER TIME



# Needham Daily Cases 11/15/21-3/4/22



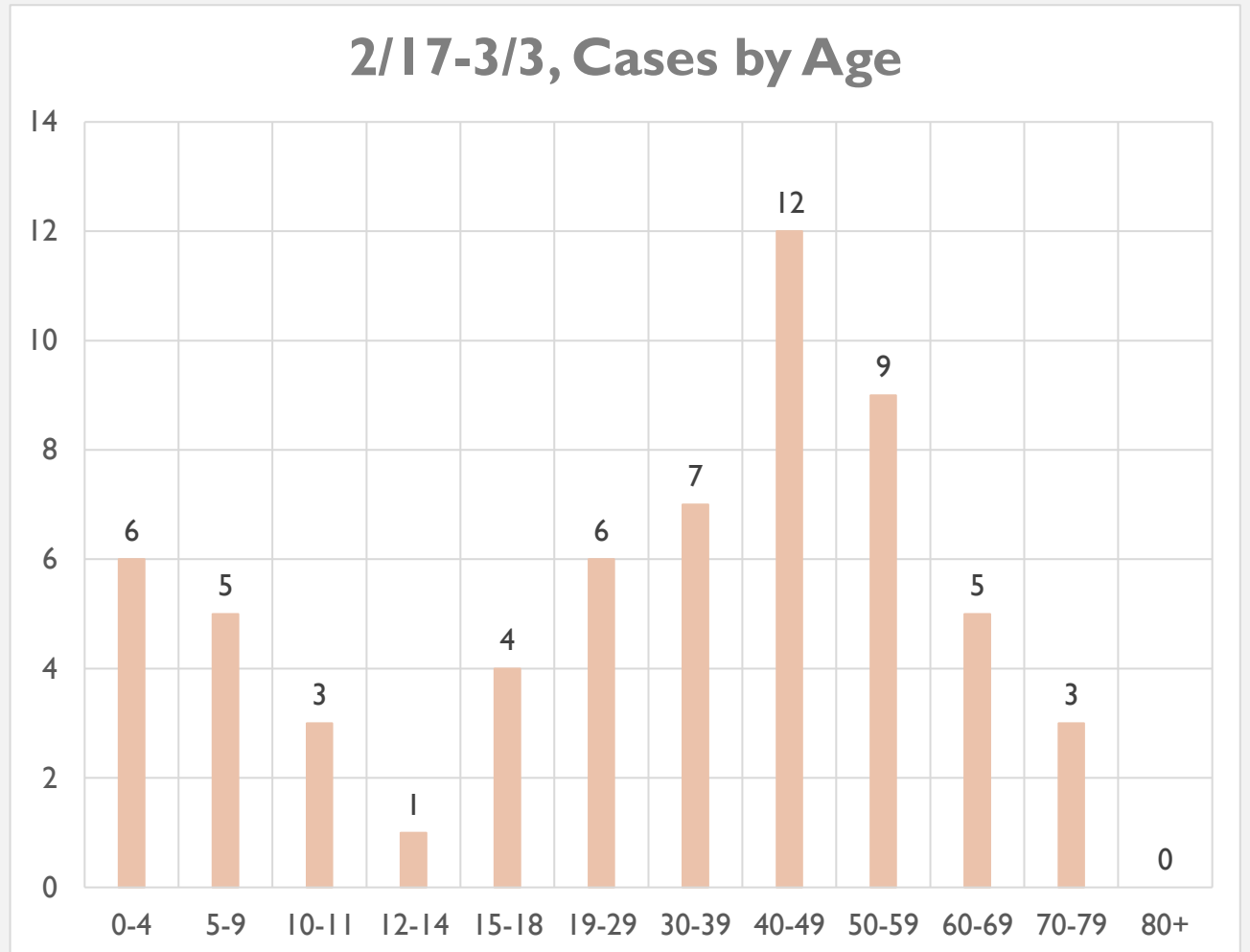
• NOTE: Does NOT include at-home tests

## NEEDHAM: CASES BY AGE

**61** cases from February 17<sup>th</sup>-March 3<sup>rd</sup> (2 weeks)

**13** cases in ages 5-18 years

Average Age: **35.19** years

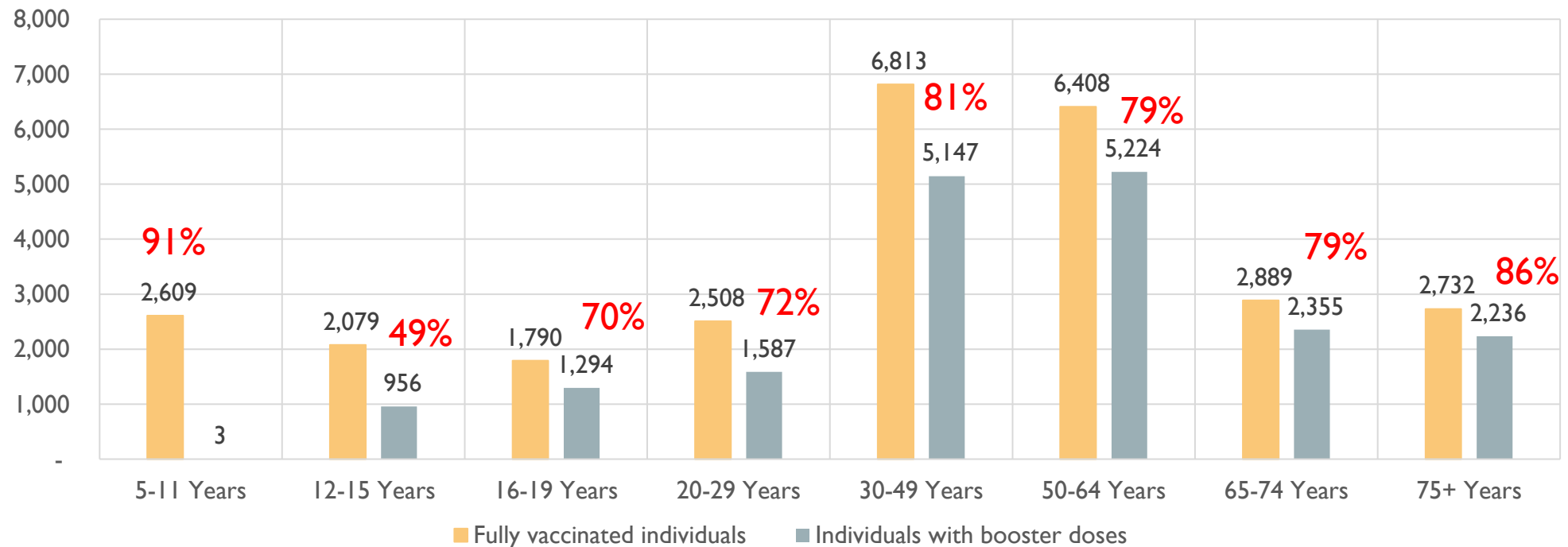


# NEEDHAM VACCINATION AND BOOSTER RATE

>95% fully vaccinated in ages 12 and up

>95% of Needham residents are fully vaccinated; 64% have received booster doses

## Needham Vaccination Rates

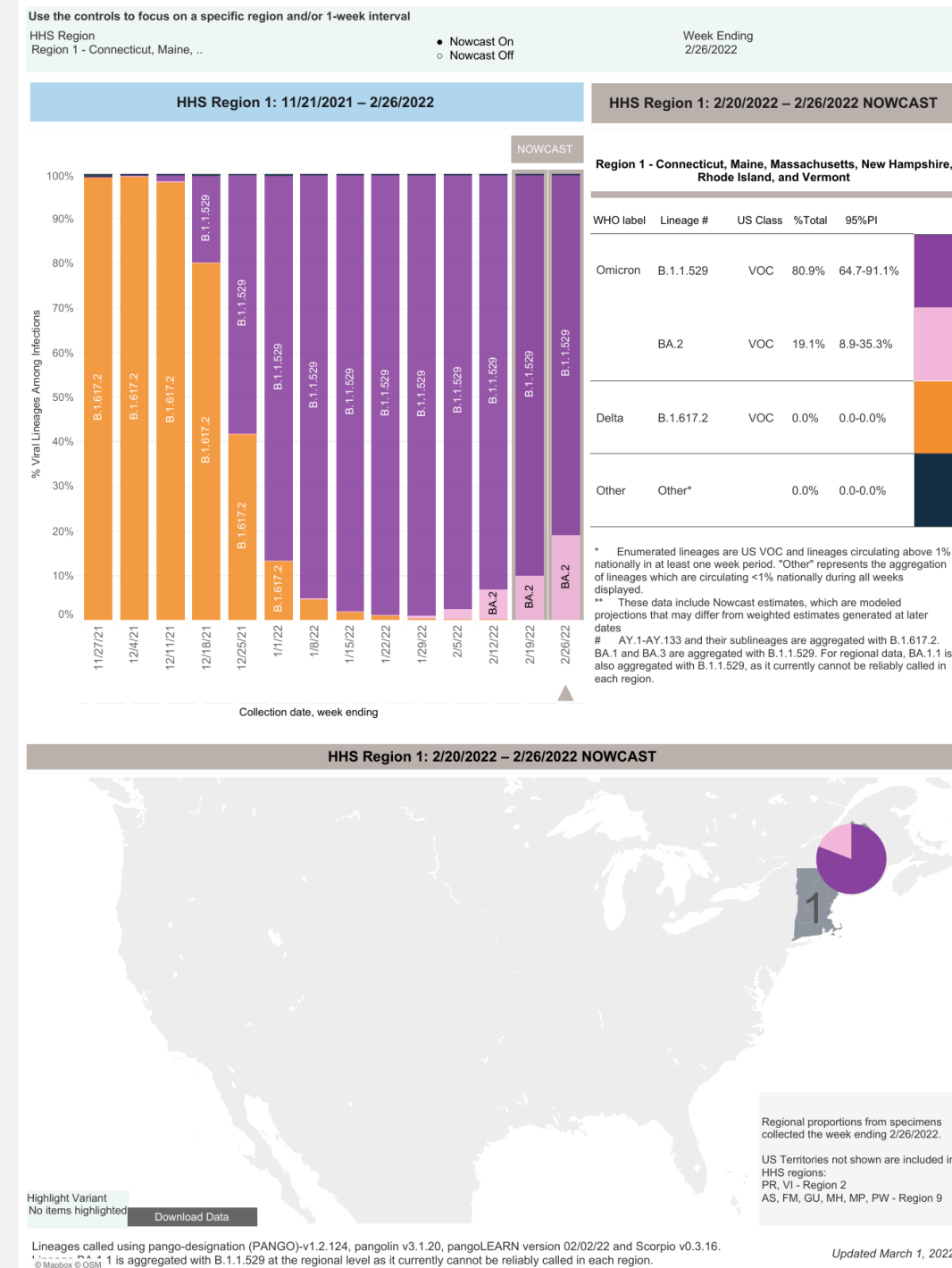


# STATE TRENDS IN CASES AND HOSPITALIZATIONS



# ON THE LOOKOUT: BA.2 VARIANT

- The WHO emphasized BA.2 should continue to be monitored as a distinct sublineage of Omicron
- Globally, BA.2 has been increasing relative to BA.1 recently, but global circulation of all variants is declining/cases globally are declining overall
- Preliminary lab data from Japan using animals WITHOUT immunity to SARS-CoV-2 showed BA.2 may cause more severe disease in hamsters compared to BA.1
- In real world data from South Africa, the UK, and Denmark, where vax rates are high in addition to natural infection, there was not reported difference in severity between BA.2 and BA.1
- In US, BA.2 is 8.3% of Covid-19 cases (as of 2/19/22)
- In Northeast, BA.2 is 19.1% of cases
- Needham has had 2 sequenced samples which were BA.2 (at beginning of February)



# CDC UPDATED MASK GUIDANCE 2/25/22

## ● Low

In **Norfolk County, Massachusetts**, community level is **Low**.

- Stay [up to date](#) with COVID-19 vaccines
- [Get tested](#) if you have symptoms

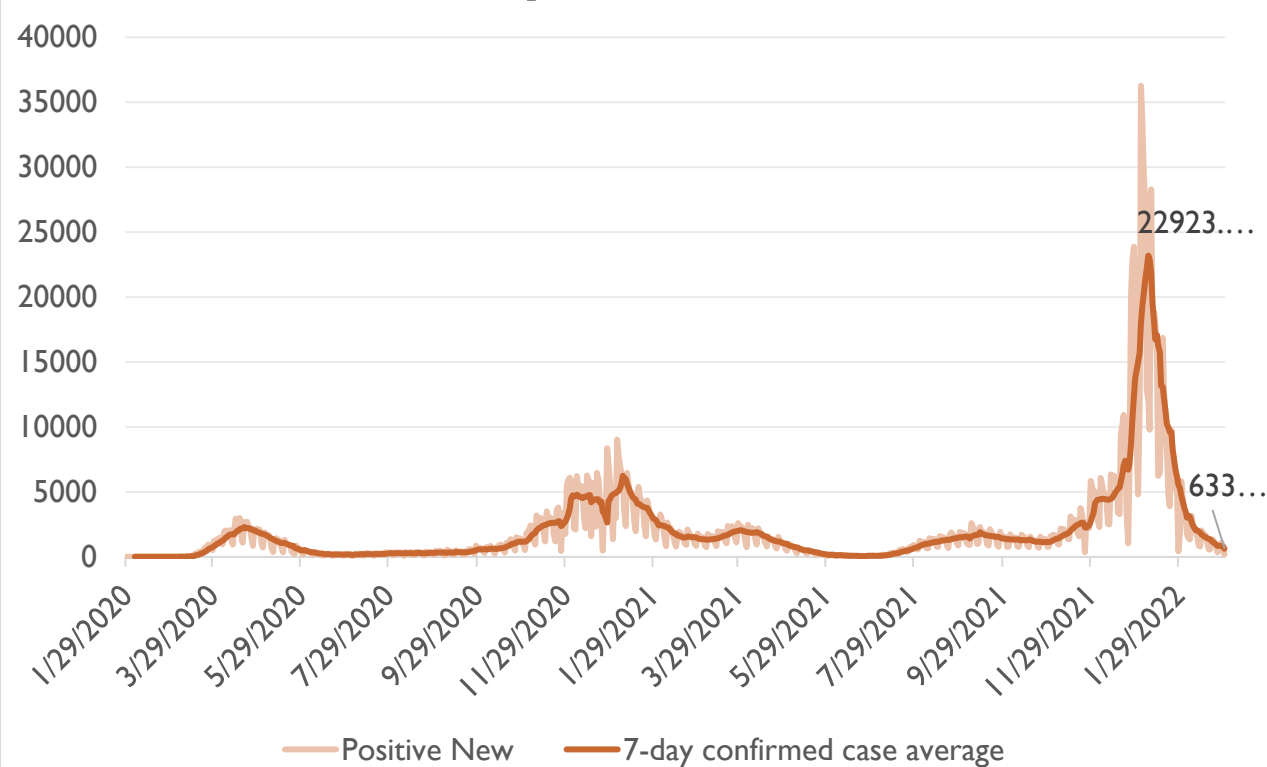
### COVID-19 Community Levels – Use the Highest Level that Applies to Your Community

| New COVID-19 Cases<br>Per 100,000 people in<br>the past 7 days | Indicators                                                                         | Low    | Medium     | High   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|------------|--------|
| Fewer than 200                                                 | New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)                       | <10.0  | 10.0-19.9  | ≥20.0  |
|                                                                | Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)    | <10.0% | 10.0-14.9% | ≥15.0% |
| 200 or more                                                    | New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)                       | NA     | <10.0      | ≥10.0  |
|                                                                | Proportion of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average) | NA     | <10.0%     | ≥10.0% |

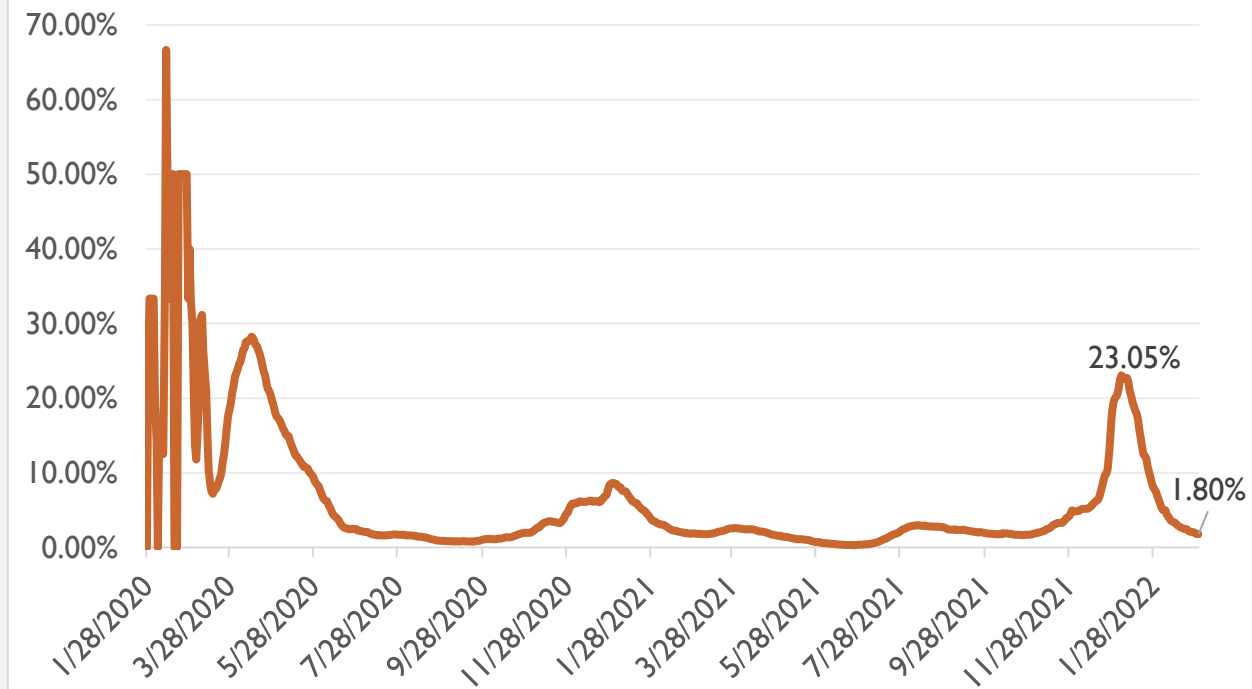
Effective February 25, 2022, CDC is exercising its enforcement discretion to not require that people wear masks on buses or vans operated by public or private school systems, including early care and education/child care programs. CDC is making this change to align with [updated guidance](#) that no longer recommends universal indoor mask wearing in K-12 schools and early education settings in [areas with a low or medium COVID-19 Community Level](#). School systems at their discretion may choose to require that people wear masks on buses or vans.

# DOWNWARD TREND CONTINUES IN MA DAILY CASES AND PERCENT POSITIVITY

## Daily New Cases

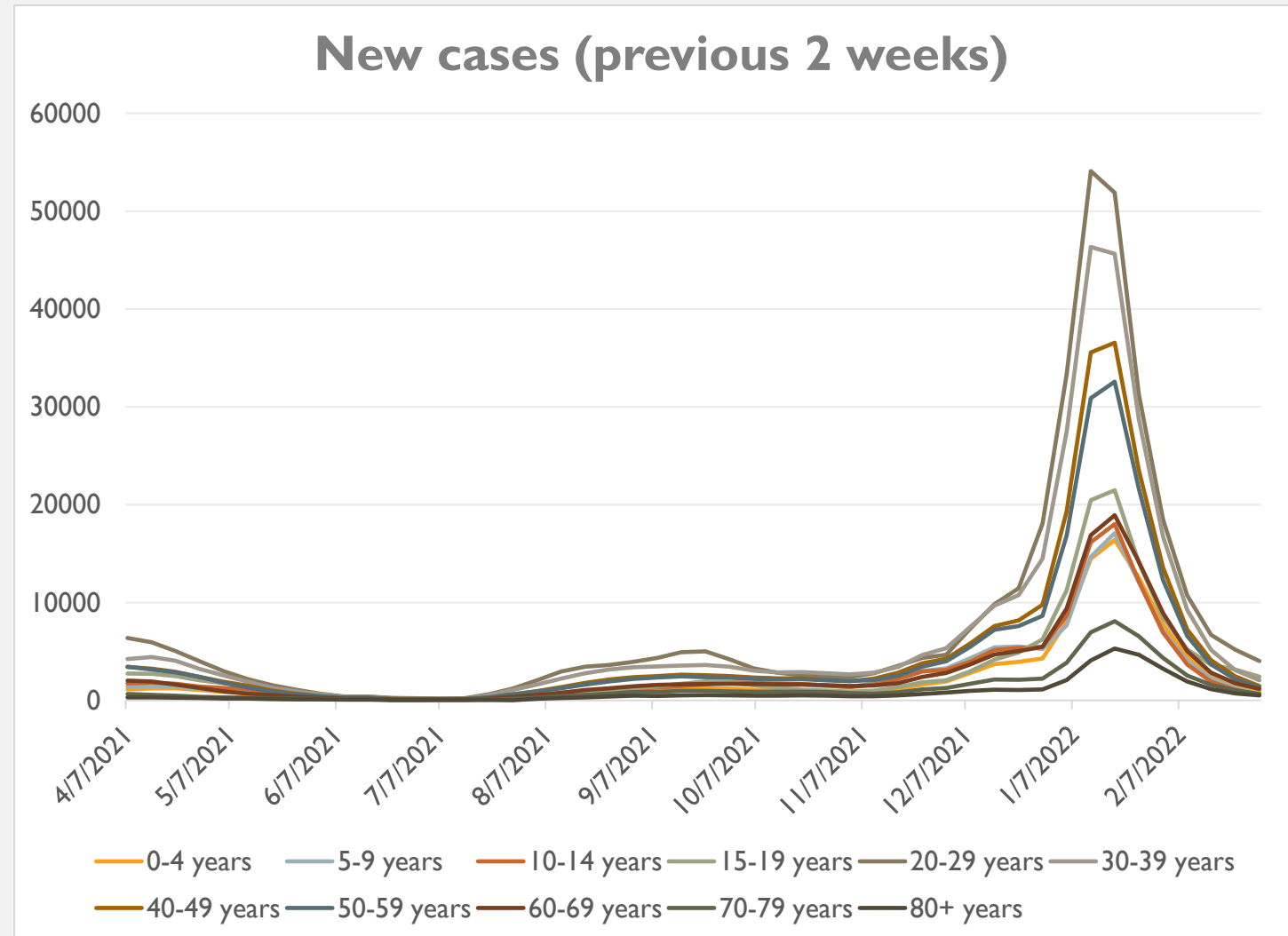


## 7-day weighted average positive test rate all molecular tests in MA



# MA NEW CONFIRMED CASES BY AGE

| Age Group | # cases <u>current</u> reporting period (2/13-2/26/22) | # cases <u>previous</u> reporting period (2/6-2/19/22) | # cases <u>1 year ago</u> (2/14-2/27/21) |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 0-4       | 897                                                    | 1,552                                                  | 5,083*                                   |
| 5-9       | 661                                                    | 1,249                                                  |                                          |
| 10-14     | 527                                                    | 1,087                                                  |                                          |
| 15-19     | 2,408                                                  | 3,138                                                  |                                          |
| 20-29     | 4,016                                                  | 5,166                                                  | 4,091                                    |
| 30-39     | 2,035                                                  | 3,078                                                  | 2,990                                    |
| 40-49     | 1,456                                                  | 2,436                                                  | 2,531                                    |
| 50-59     | 1,337                                                  | 2,150                                                  | 2,711                                    |
| 60-69     | 1,174                                                  | 1,759                                                  | 1,913                                    |
| 70-79     | 654                                                    | 1,011                                                  | 898                                      |
| 80+       | 496                                                    | 695                                                    | 538                                      |

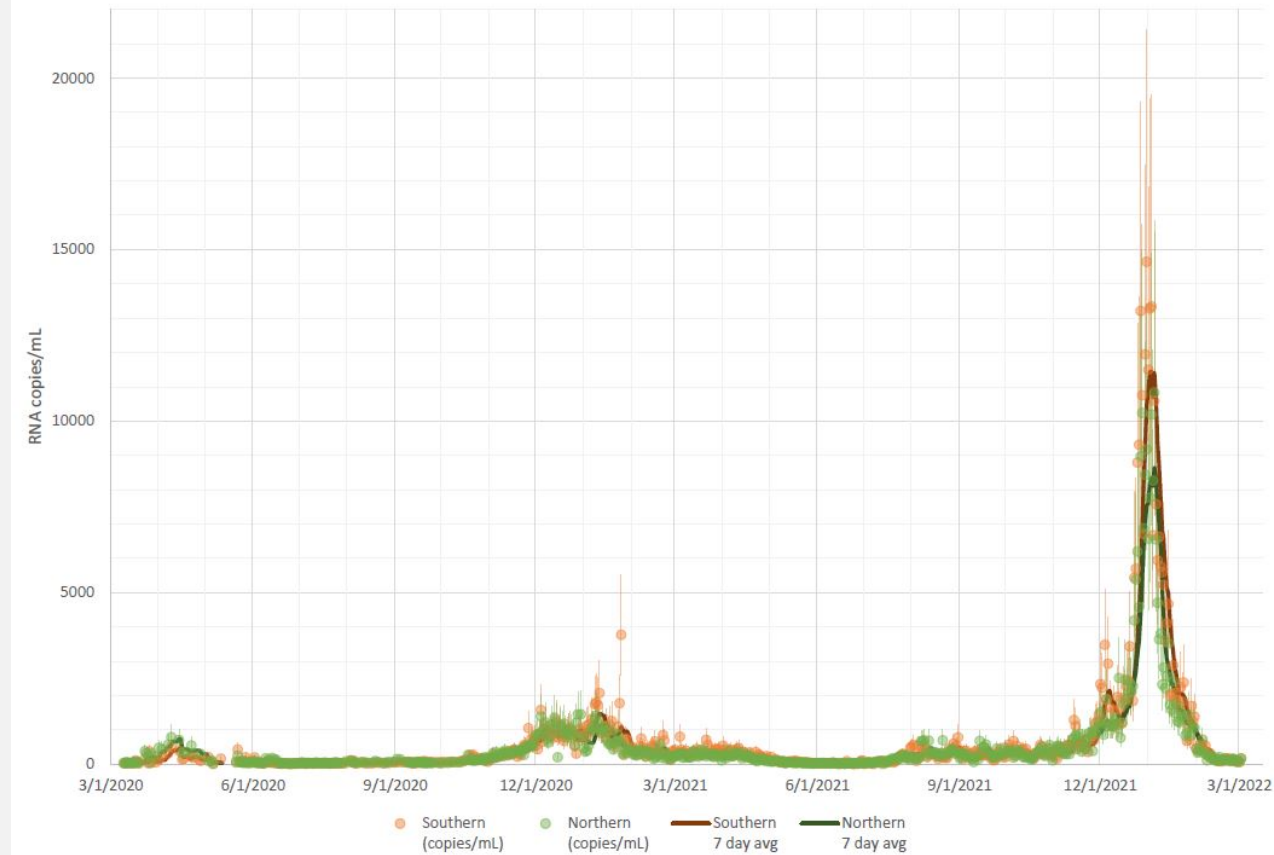


\*all cases 0-19 years included together

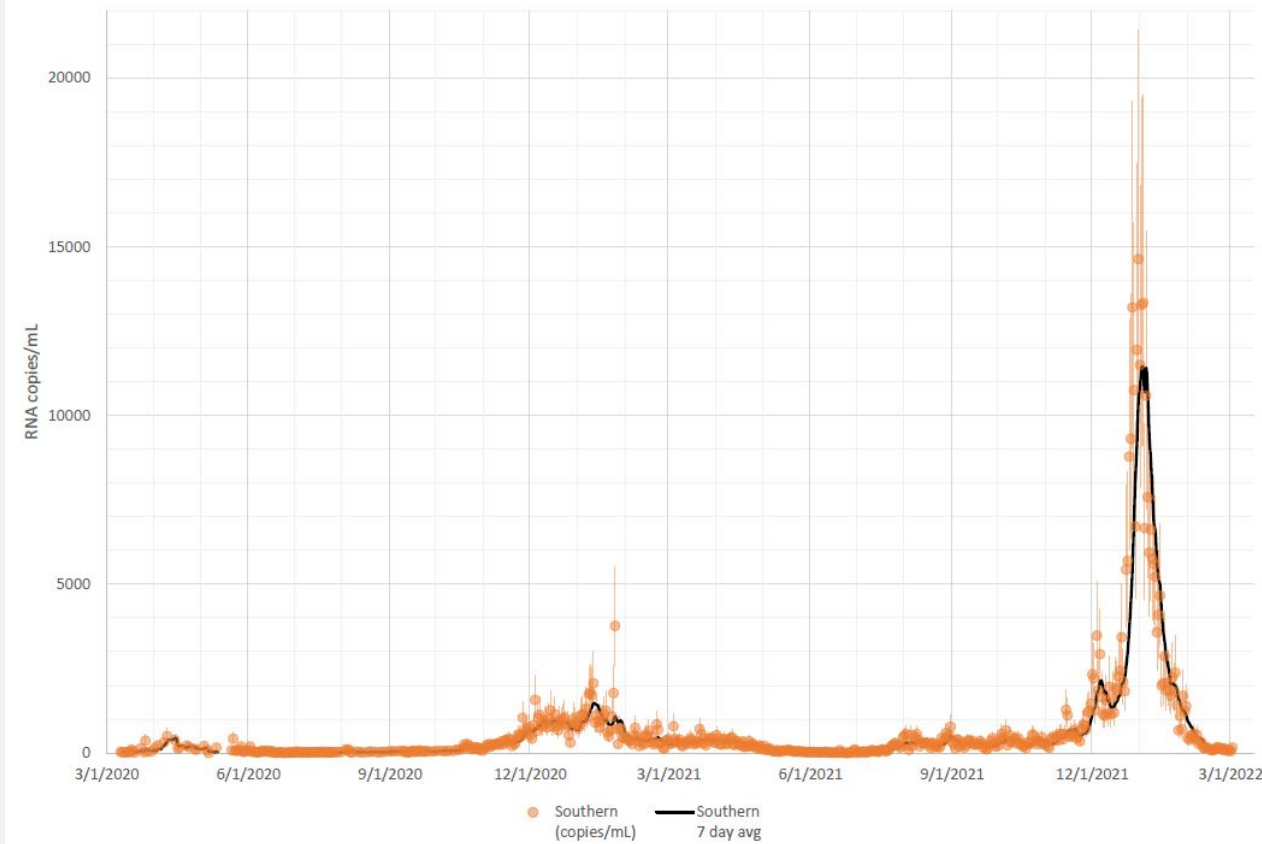
Data as of 3/3/22

# MWRA WASTEWATER MONITORING

DITP Viral RNA Signal by Date

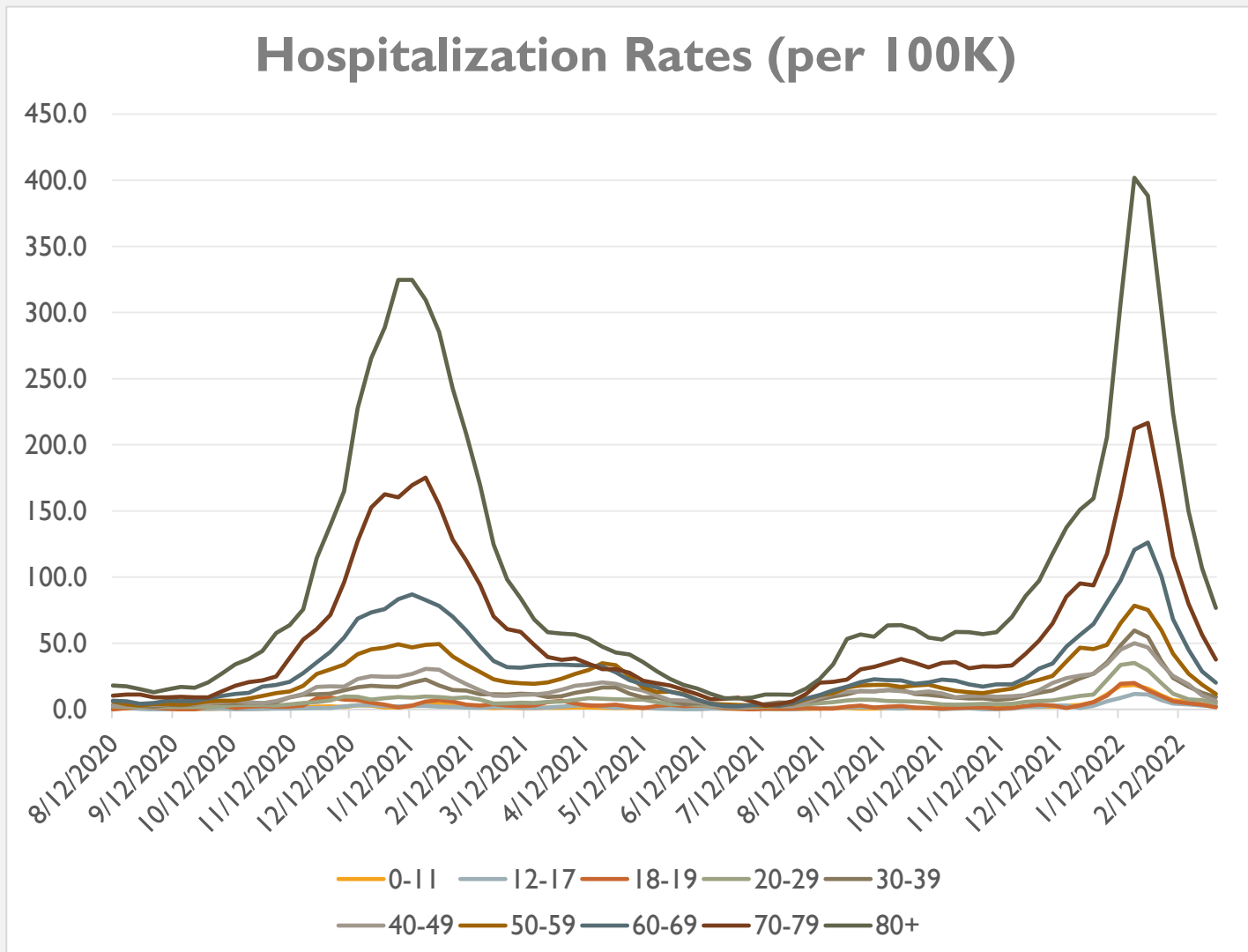


South System Viral RNA Signal by Date



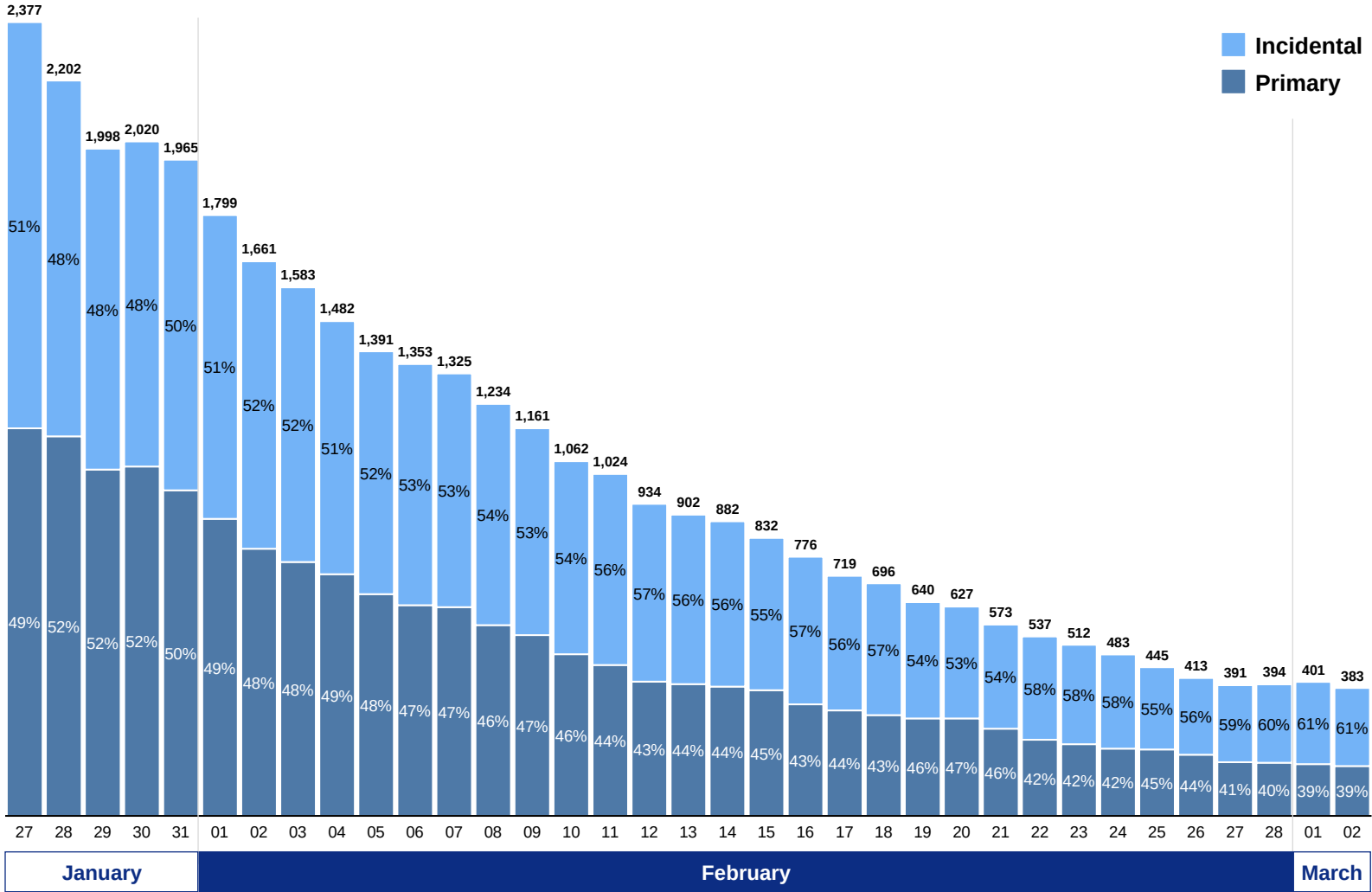
## HOSPITALIZATION RATES (PER 100K), ALL AGES

| Age Group | Hosp. rate <u>current</u> reporting period (2/13-2/26/22) | Hosp. rate <u>previous</u> reporting period (2/6-2/19/22) | Hosp. rate <u>1 year ago</u> (2/14-2/17/21) |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| 0-11      | 2.7                                                       | 3.7                                                       | 1.2                                         |
| 12-17     | 2.2                                                       | 2.8                                                       | 1.6                                         |
| 18-19     | 1.5                                                       | 3.5                                                       | 3.0                                         |
| 20-29     | 4.9                                                       | 7.0                                                       | 4.6                                         |
| 30-39     | 9.3                                                       | 12.5                                                      | 11.2                                        |
| 40-49     | 6.2                                                       | 10.6                                                      | 10.2                                        |
| 50-59     | 11.7                                                      | 18.7                                                      | 20.6                                        |
| 60-69     | 20.2                                                      | 28.6                                                      | 31.8                                        |
| 70-79     | 37.7                                                      | 56.4                                                      | 60.6                                        |
| 80+       | 76.7                                                      | 106.7                                                     | 98.1                                        |



# COVID-19 Hospitalizations

## Statewide COVID-19 Hospitalizations



Of the **383** hospitalized COVID-19 patients statewide, **149 (39%)** patients were reported as being hospitalized due to their COVID-19 (primary COVID-19) and **234 (61%)** hospitalized patients were reported as testing positive for COVID-19 while hospitalized for other reasons (incidental COVID-19)<sup>1</sup>

1. Patients are reported as being hospitalized due to their COVID-19 if they received dexamethasone treatment. Administration of dexamethasone, a type of steroid medication, is considered an indicator of moderate to severe COVID-19 and provides an estimate of primary COVID-19.