

# COVID-19 Day 533 Press Update

August 25, 2021

DOH Acting Secretary David R. Scrase, MD

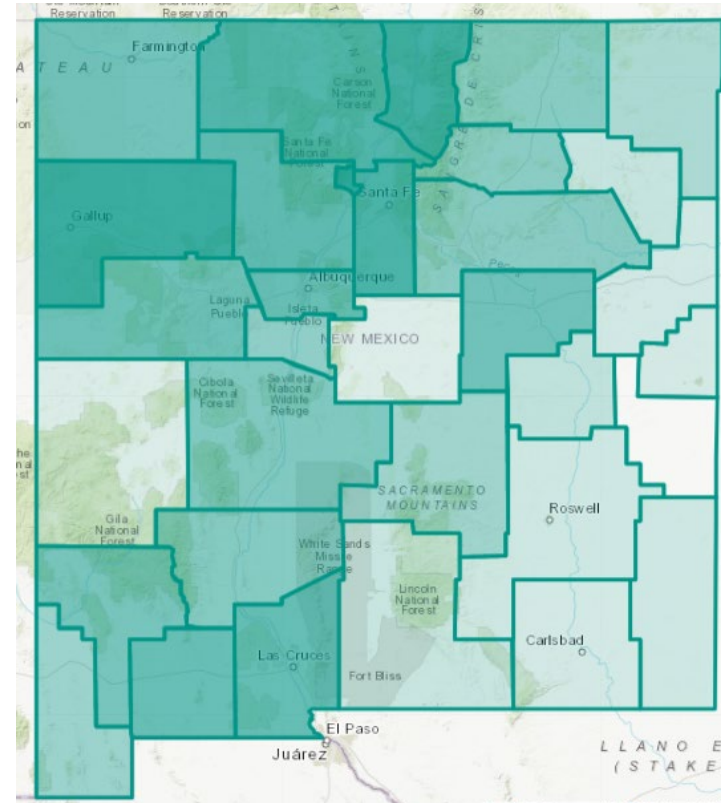
DOH Deputy Secretary, Laura C. Parajón, MD, MPH

DOH State Epidemiologist Christine Ross, MD, MPH

# New Mexico vaccination rates

- **76.4%** of New Mexicans (18+) and **57.9%** (12-17) have **received at least a first dose**
- **66.9%** of New Mexicans (18+) and **45.0%** (12-17) are **fully vaccinated**

Percent of New Mexico Residents 18+ with Vaccination Series Completed



# FDA gave full approval for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine on 8/23/21

- FDA approval for 16+
- “The vaccine is effective in preventing COVID-19 and potentially serious outcomes including hospitalization and death.” - FDA



Source: US Food and Drug Association 8/23/21 <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-approves-first-covid-19-vaccine>

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# 6 days left for \$100 vaccine incentive!

- The last day to receive \$100 for getting vaccinated is Aug. 31
- First or second shot of Pfizer or Moderna – or a first-and-only shot of J&J
- 3<sup>rd</sup> dose shots are not eligible
- \$100 incentive available by email, text, or physical mail
- Email and text can only be spent online
- Physical mail can be spent anywhere, online or offline




**VaccineNM.org**  
**855-600-3453**

# Opt-in to receive your vaccine incentive by 9/10/21 at VaccineNM.org

VaccineNM.org


Individuals can choose to receive their incentive by physical mail. Incentives distributed by email or text can only be spent for online purchases. Incentives distributed by physical mail can be spent anywhere, online or offline.



**Step 1:**

Get vaccinated at any location in New Mexico in the month of August.


**FIND A VACCINE LOCATION**



**Step 2:**

Sign up for your incentive at [vaccinenm.org/stay-ahead](https://vaccinenm.org/stay-ahead) or call 1-855-600-3453.

**OPT IN TO CLAIM YOUR \$100**



**Step 3:**

Once verified by NMDOH, we will send you the \$100 incentive

**CHECK YOUR INCENTIVE STATUS**

# COVID-19 vaccine booster is being considered for all

- "We know that even highly effective vaccines become less effective over time," Dr. Vivek Murthy, the surgeon general, said at a White House briefing.
- "I think this recent surge is mainly the delta variant," says Dr. David Scrase, at the press conference today.

Food and Drug Administration evaluate and authorize/approve vaccine use



Centers for Disease Control Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (CDC/ACIP) provides advice and guidance regarding 3<sup>rd</sup> dose usage



New Mexico MAT will defer to CDC/ACIP recommendations since vaccine has already been evaluated by MAT



# Who needs a 3<sup>rd</sup> COVID-19 vaccine dose NOW?

- Please talk to your provider or pharmacist to see if a 3<sup>rd</sup> COVID-19 vaccine dose is right for you.

- NMDOH urges healthcare providers caring for immunosuppressed patients to register with the agency as an approved COVID-19 vaccine provider: [TakeCareNM.org](https://www.takecarenm.org)

Active treatment for solid tumor and hematologic malignancies

Receipt of solid-organ transplant and taking immunosuppressive therapy

Receipt of CAR-T-cell or hematopoietic stem cell transplant (within 2 years of transplantation or taking immunosuppression therapy)

Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (e.g., DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)

Advanced or untreated HIV infection

Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids (i.e.,  $\geq 20$ mg prednisone or equivalent per day), alkylating agents, antimetabolites, transplant-related immunosuppressive drugs, cancer chemotherapeutic agents classified as severely immunosuppressive, tumor-necrosis (TNF) blockers, and other biologic agents that are immunosuppressive or immunomodulatory.

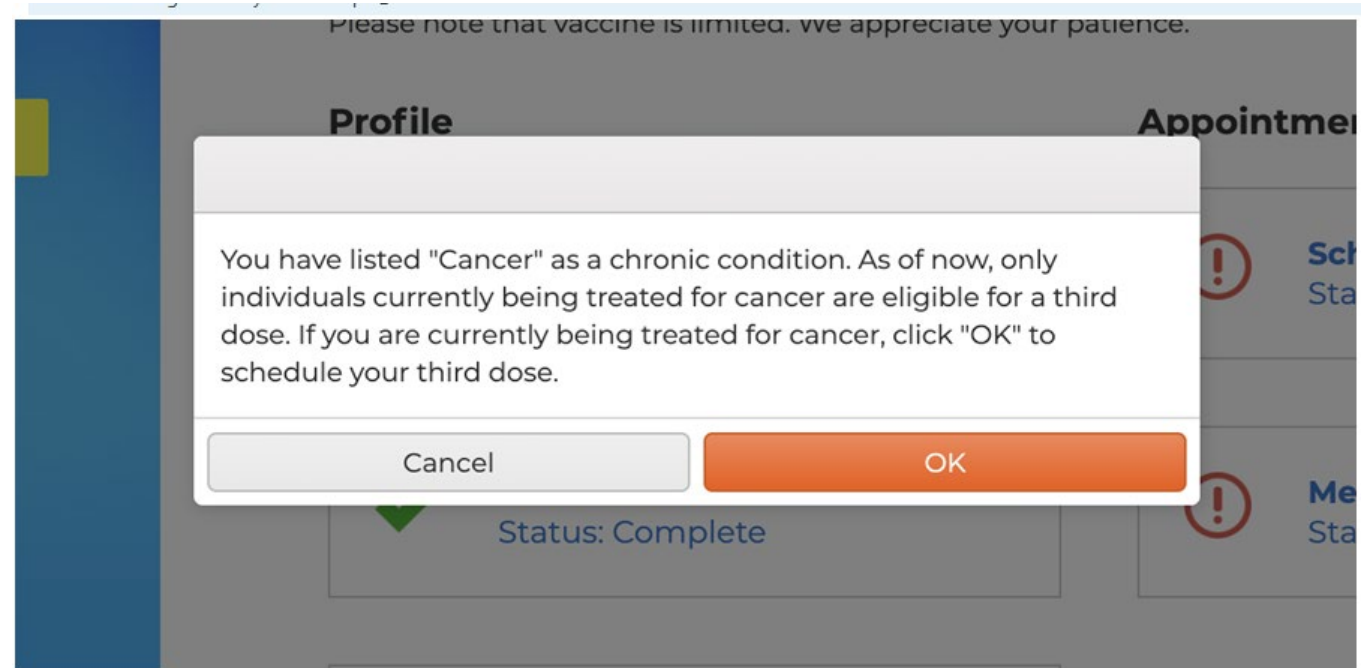
CDC guidance for immunocompromised persons: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/immuno.html>

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# Scheduling a 3rd dose if you have cancer and are currently in treatment

“Notice from NM Dept of Health: You have indicated 'cancer' as a chronic condition on vaccineNM.org. At this time, only individuals being actively treated for cancer are eligible for a 3rd dose of COVID-19 vaccine. If you are being treated for cancer, please schedule an appointment for your 3rd shot. Thank you”






# How sick can I get with COVID if I am pregnant?

## Hospitalized pregnant women with COVID-19 can have severe illness





About half of hospitalized pregnant women with COVID-19 had symptoms



Some hospitalized pregnant women who had symptoms had severe outcomes, including

- ICU admission
- Mechanical ventilation
- Death

### Slow the spread and protect yourself from COVID-19 during pregnancy

-  **Wear a mask when out in public**
-  **Stay 6 feet apart**
-  **Wash hands often**
-  **Continue receiving prenatal care**

COVID-19-Associated Hospitalization Surveillance Network (COVID-NET) among 13 states  
Vaccine Safety Datalink (VSD) surveillance of COVID-19 hospitalizations among eight healthcare centers.

**CDC.GOV** **MMWR**

# COVID-19 vaccine is safe in pregnancy and does not affect fertility

- Pregnant and recently pregnant people are more likely to get severely ill with COVID-19 compared to non-pregnant people
- Getting a COVID-19 vaccine can protect you from severe illness
- Vaccination Does not Affect Fertility

## Vaccine Recommended for people who are:

- Pregnant
- Breastfeeding
- Trying to get Pregnant
- Might become pregnant in the future

# Navajo Nation is requiring the COVID-19 vaccine for employees

- Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez announced new executive order on Sunday
- All Navajo Nation executive branch employees will need to be fully vaccinated against the virus that causes COVID-19 by the end of September or be required to submit to regular testing



“The bottom line is that we do not want to have another large surge in new COVID-19 cases that would harm our health care system and lead to more lives lost,” President Nez said in a statement to AP.

Source: AP 8/22/21 <https://apnews.com/article/business-health-coronavirus-pandemic-8249047c5251162c526759aa2ff05f13>

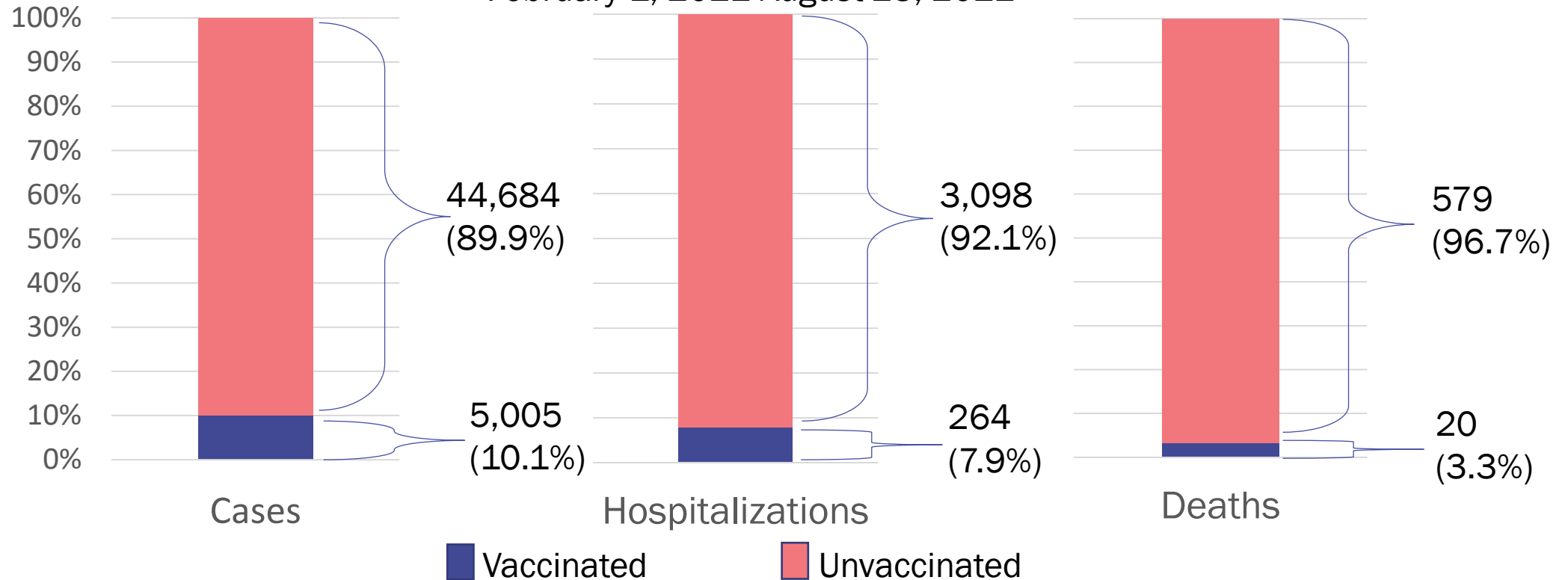
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# Vaccinated vs. Unvaccinated: COVID-19 Cases, Hospitalizations and Deaths

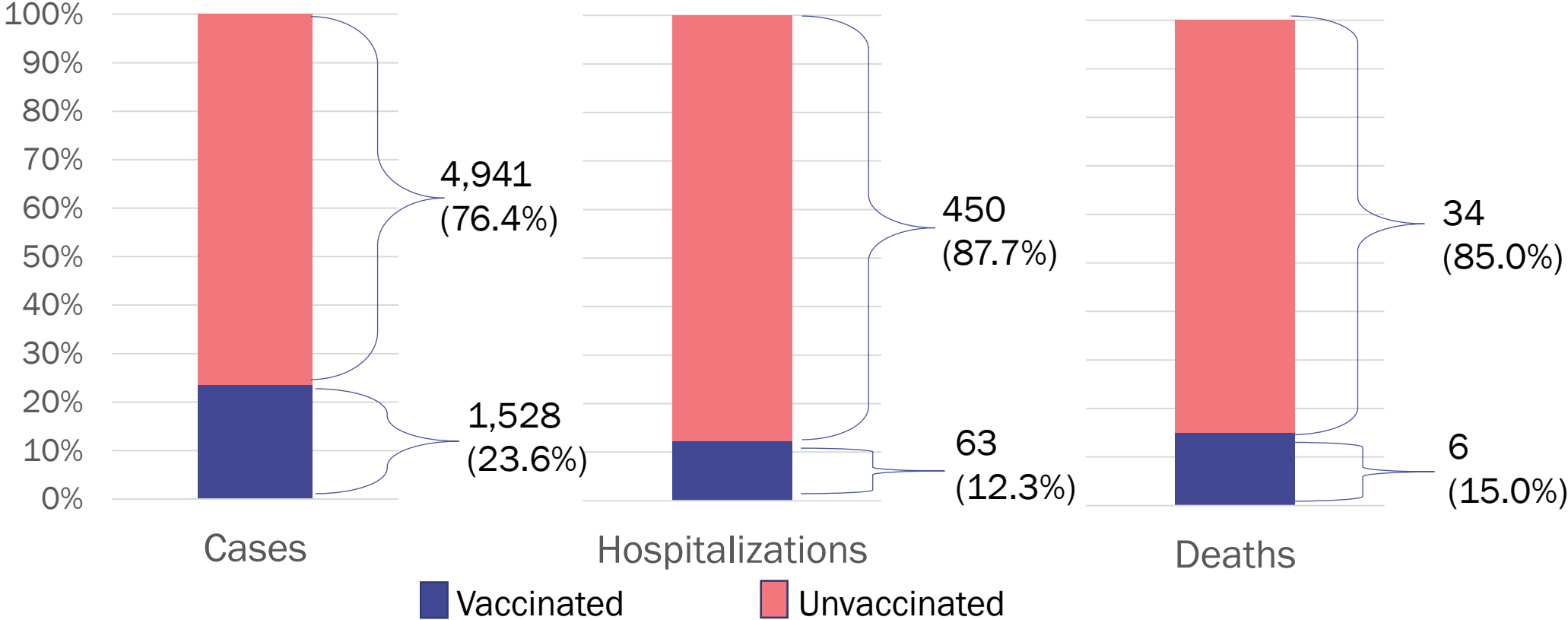
# The majority of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths to date are among unvaccinated New Mexicans

Percent of New Mexico COVID-19 Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths by Vaccination Status  
February 1, 2021-August 23, 2021



# COVID-19 infections, hospitalizations, and deaths are primarily among unvaccinated New Mexicans, but more vaccine-breakthrough cases are now occurring

Percent of New Mexico COVID-19 Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths by Vaccination Status  
Previous 4 Weeks, Reported August 23, 2021



Most recent 4 weeks data: comparison of the number and proportion of cases, hospitalizations, deaths in New Mexico by vaccine status.

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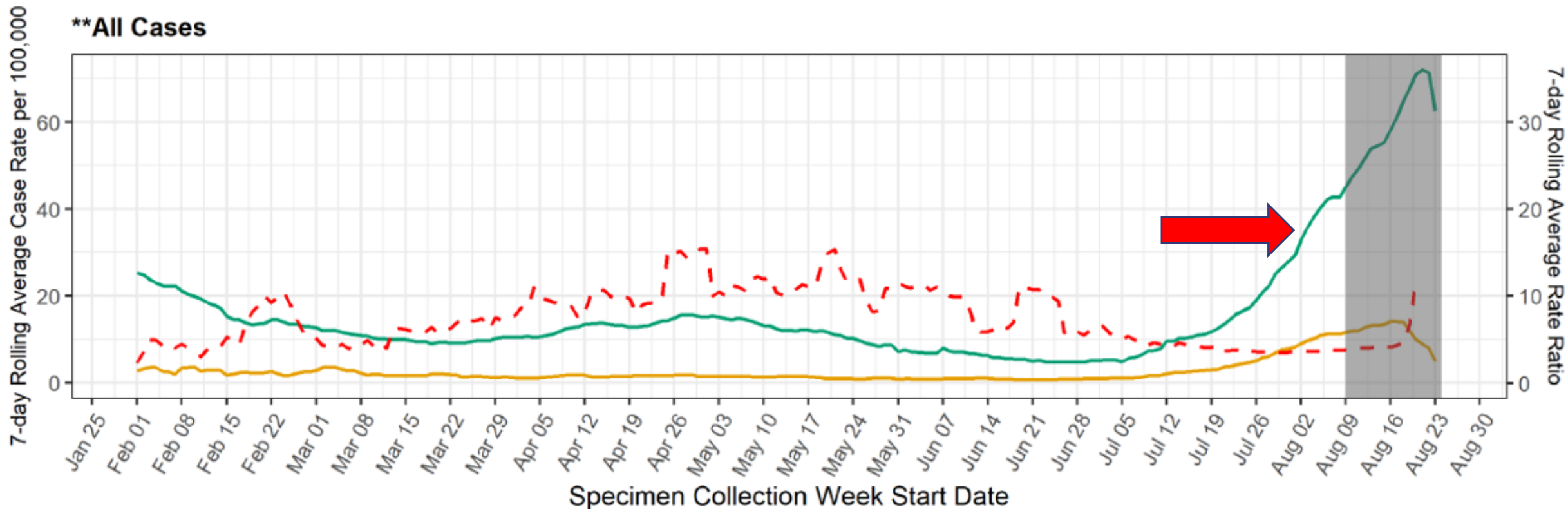
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# The number of COVID-19 infections has recently surged among unvaccinated New Mexicans

7-day Rolling Average Case Rate (per 100,000 population) by Vaccination Status

\*\*All Cases



7-day Rolling Average Case Rate (per 100,000 population) by Vaccination Status

- Rate Ratio
- Unvaccinated
- Vaccinated



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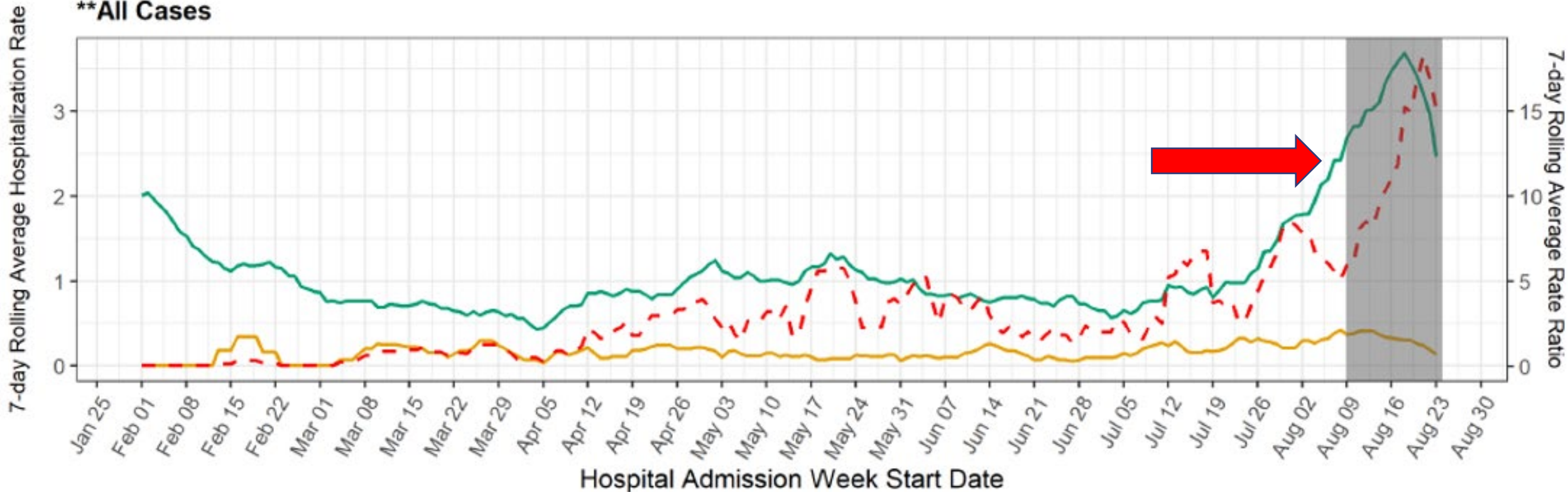
Source: New Mexico [Vaccination Case Report 2021-08-24.pdf](#)

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# The number of hospitalizations has recently surged among unvaccinated New Mexicans

7-day Rolling Average Hospitalization Rate (per 100,000 population) by Vaccination Status

\*\*All Cases



7-day Rolling Average Hospitalization Rate (per 100,000 population) by Vaccination Status

- Rate Ratio
- Unvaccinated
- Vaccinated



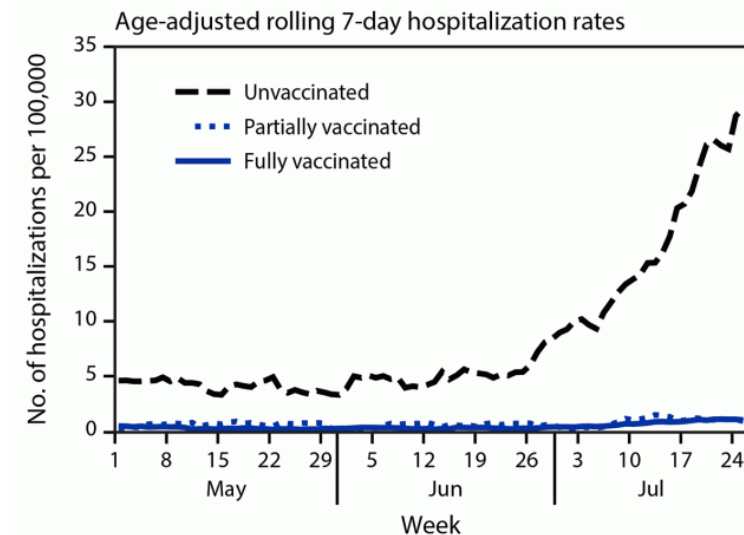
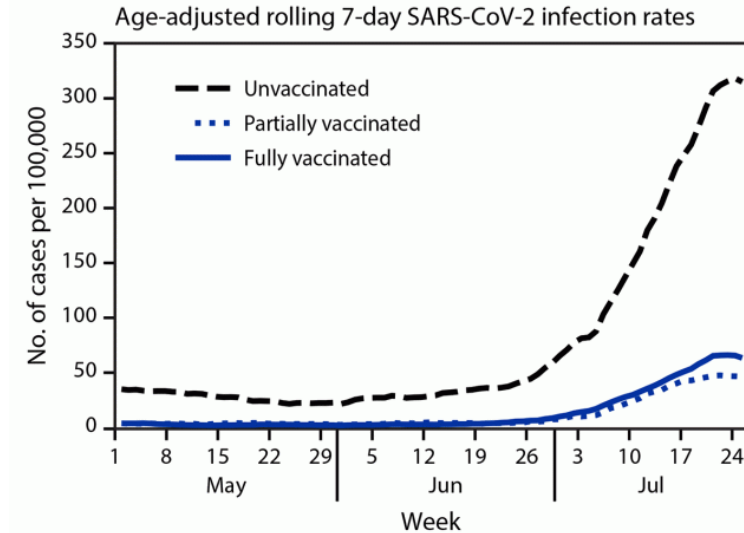
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Source: New Mexico [Vaccination Case Report 2021-08-24.pdf](#)

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# In LA county, hospitalization rates among the unvaccinated were 29x greater than vaccinated

- During May 1–July 25, 2021, among 43,127 COVID-19 infections in residents of Los Angeles County, CA (Delta variant was predominant):
  - 10,895 (25.3%) in fully vaccinated persons,
  - 1,431 (3.3%) in partially vaccinated persons, and
  - 30,801 (71.4%) in unvaccinated persons.
- On July 25, infection and hospitalization rates among unvaccinated persons 4.9 and 29.2, respectively, times rate of fully vaccinated persons
- **Fully vaccinated persons less likely than unvaccinated persons to be hospitalized, to be admitted to ICU, to require mechanical ventilation, or to die from SARS-CoV-2 during period when Delta variant became predominant**
- **Authorized vaccines protect against SARS-CoV-2 and severe COVID-19, even with increased community transmission of Delta variant**



# COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness (VE) against infection has decreased over time, but continue to be highly effective at reducing risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death

- NY State: age-adjusted VE against new COVID-19 *diagnoses* decline from 92% to 80%
  - Age-adjusted VE against hospitalizations remained stable at 92% to 95%
- Mayo Clinic: VE against Delta variant infection decreased for both mRNA vaccines (Pfizer: 76% to 42% and Moderna: 86% to 76%)
  - VE against hospitalization remained high
- Multiple other published studies now available demonstrating a decline in VE against infection



## New COVID-19 Cases and Hospitalizations Among Adults, by Vaccination Status — New York, May 3–July 25, 2021

Eli S. Rosenberg, PhD<sup>1,2</sup>; David R. Halperin, PhD<sup>3</sup>; Vijaya Dandawalla, PhD<sup>4</sup>; MaryBeth Conroy, MPH<sup>1</sup>; Danielle Greene, DrPH<sup>1</sup>; Emily Lamerik, MD<sup>1,2</sup>; Bryan Backstrom, MS<sup>1,2</sup>; Dana Hader, PhD<sup>5</sup>; Johanne Moore, MS<sup>1</sup>; Ursula Bauer, PhD<sup>1</sup>; Howard A. Zucker, MD, JD<sup>6</sup>



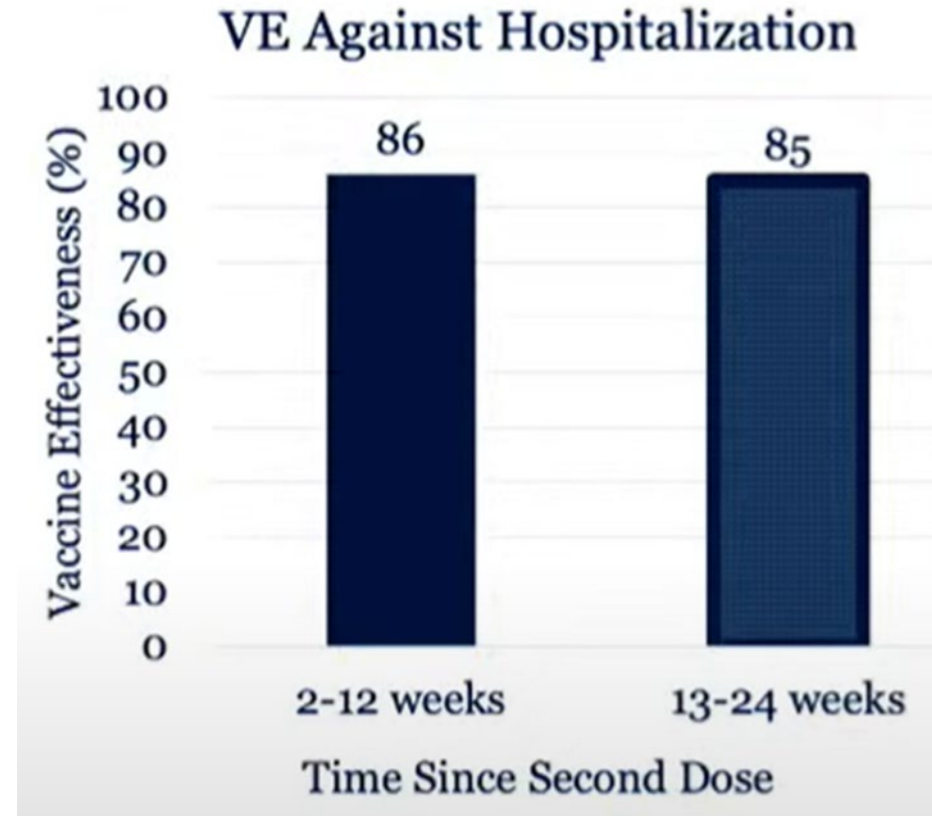
## Comparison of two highly-effective mRNA vaccines for COVID-19 during periods of Alpha and Delta variant prevalence

Arjun Puranik<sup>1\*</sup>, Patrick J. Lenehan<sup>1\*</sup>, Eli Silvert<sup>1</sup>, Michiel J.M. Niesen<sup>1</sup>, Juan Corchado-Garcia<sup>1</sup>, John C. O'Horo<sup>2</sup>, Abinash Virk<sup>2</sup>, Melanie D. Swift<sup>2</sup>, John Halamka<sup>2</sup>, Andrew D. Badley<sup>2</sup>, A.J. Venkatakrishnan<sup>1</sup>, Venky Soundararajan<sup>1</sup>



# Vaccine effectiveness against hospitalization remains high, data through July, 2021

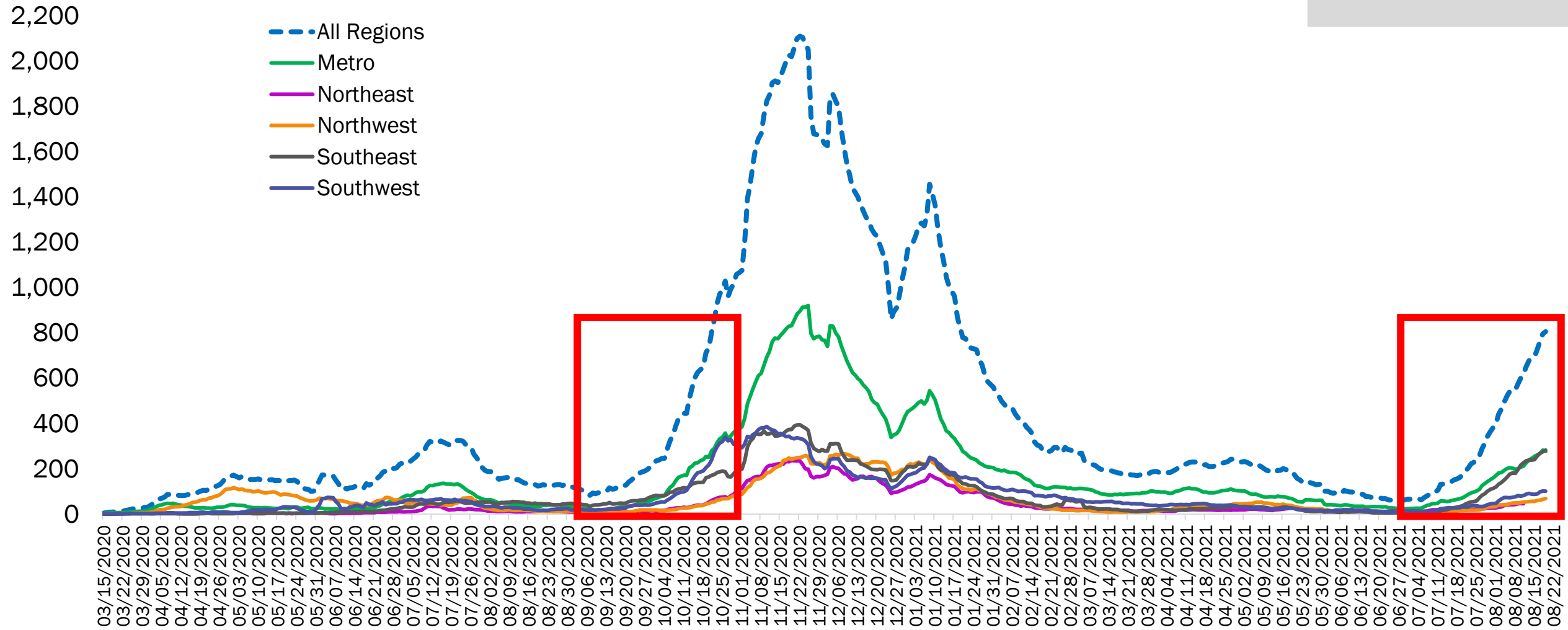
In a MMWR evaluation at 21 hospitals in 18 states, the duration of mRNA vaccine effectiveness against COVID-19-associated hospitalizations was assessed among adults aged  $\geq 18$  years



# COVID-19 Case Update



# 7-Day Average of Daily COVID-19 Positive Cases by Date of Specimen Collection, NMDOH Regions 8/25/2021



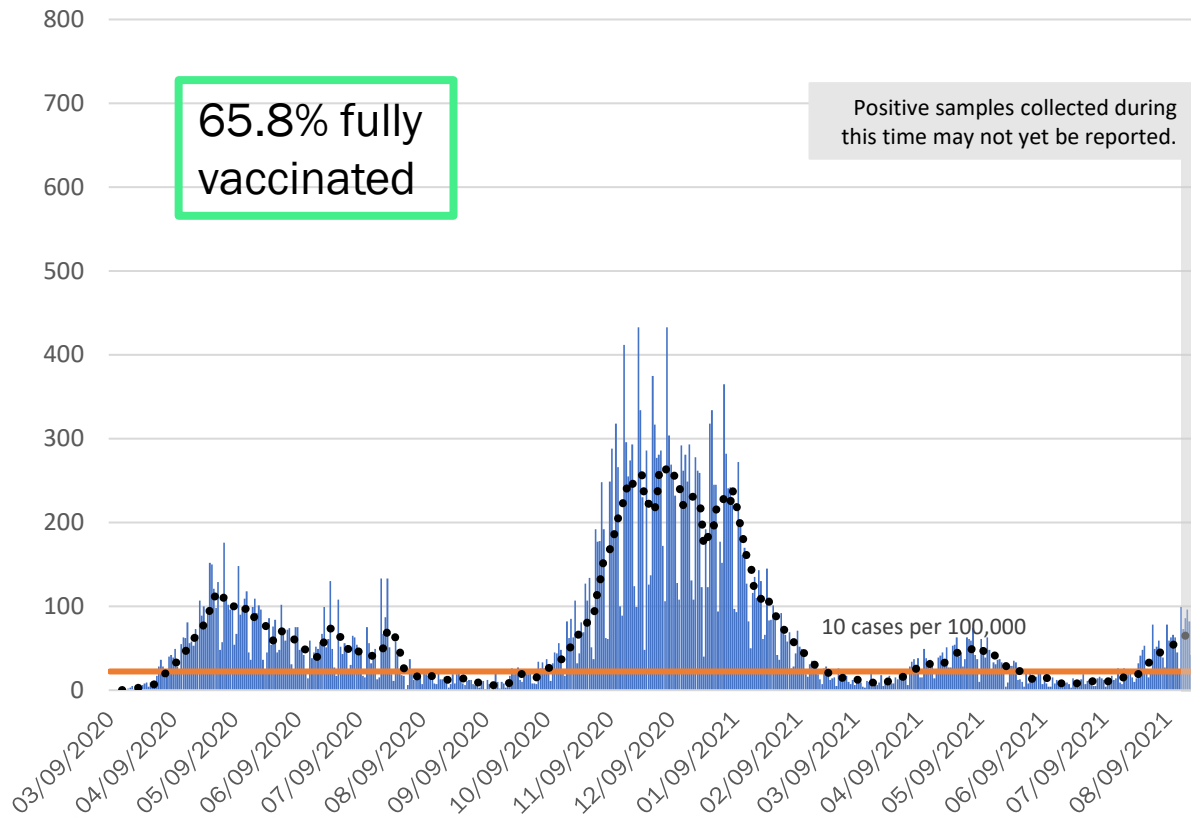
Source: New Mexico Department of Health. There is a 6-day lag in case reporting.

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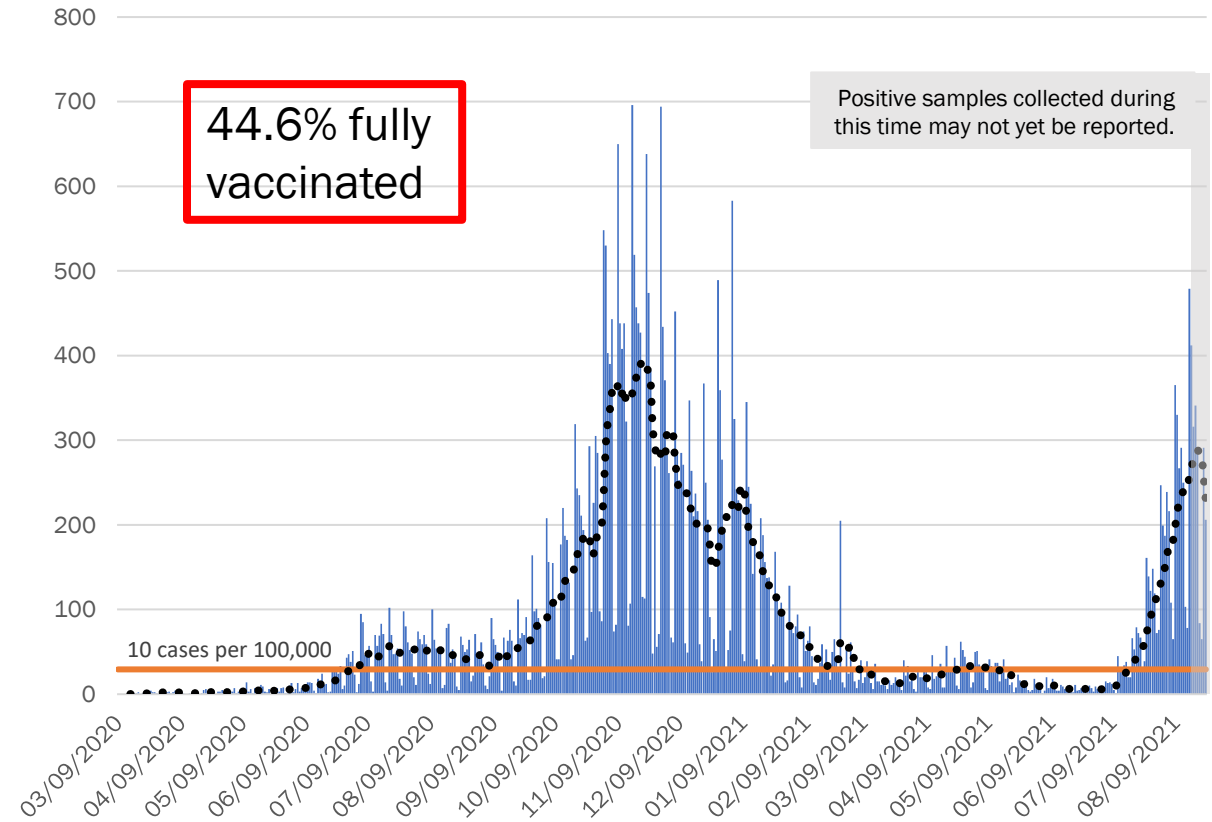


# A tale of two regions: NW and SE, NM

Northwest Region Case Count by Collection Date with 7-Day Moving Average August 25, 2021



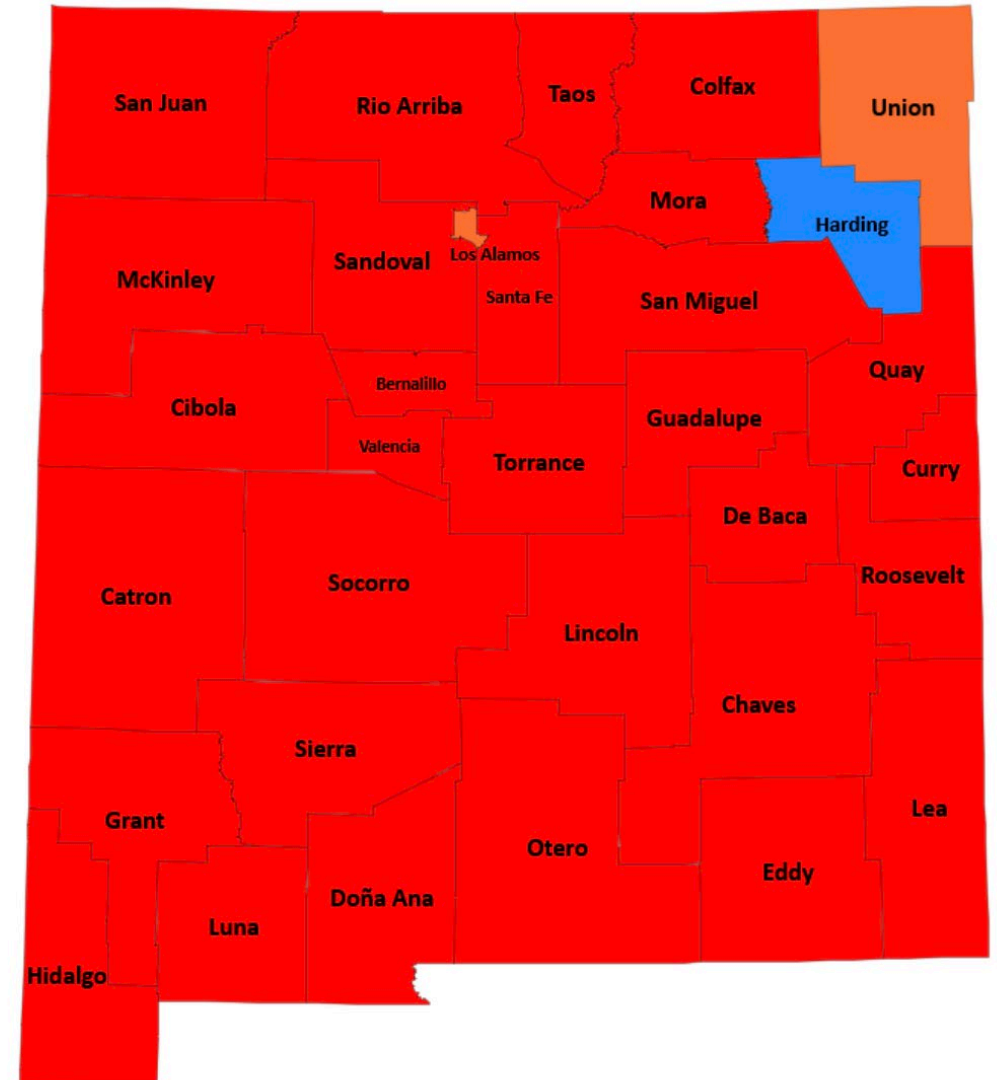
Southeast Region Case Count by Collection Date with 7-Day Moving Average August 25, 2021



# Rates of COVID-19 transmission are HIGH in NM

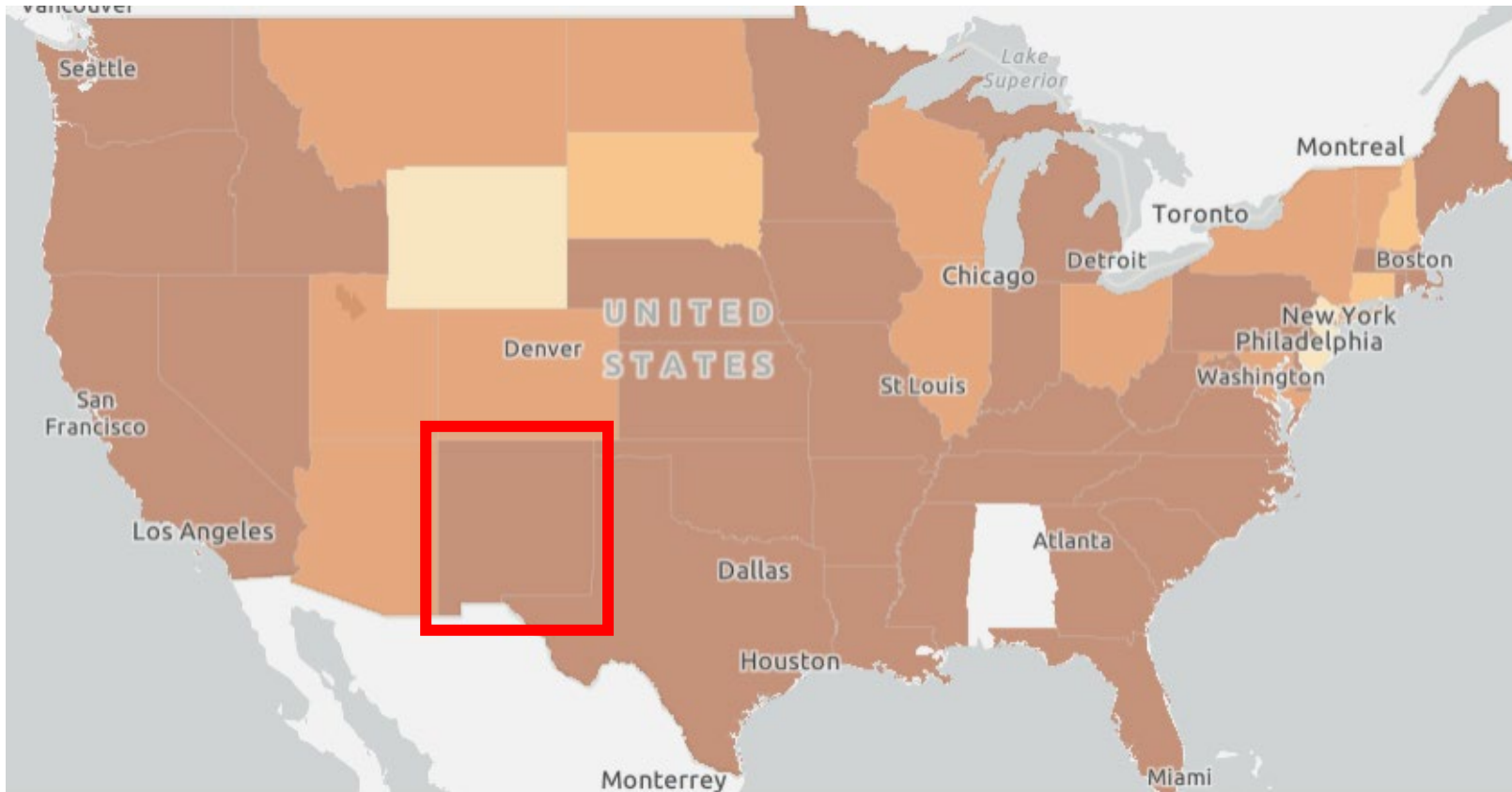
County	Population Count	Number of Cases (14 days)	Total Number of Tests (14 days)	Total New Cases per 100,000 persons	Percentage of Tests that are Positive During the Past 14 days
Harding	657	0	10	0.0	0.00%
Los Alamos	18856	35	997	13.3	3.51%
Union	4090	6	155	10.5	3.87%
Santa Fe	149635	361	10153	17.2	3.56%
Grant	27862	57	1404	14.6	4.06%
Luna	24444	64	1465	18.7	4.37%
Sandoval	146415	578	12064	28.2	4.79%
Sierra	11076	36	744	23.2	4.84%
Socorro	17193	44	845	18.3	5.21%
Cibola	26801	68	1220	18.1	5.57%
Taos	32513	92	1591	20.2	5.78%
Bernalillo	679590	2613	40854	27.5	6.40%
Rio Arriba	38716	152	2353	28.0	6.46%
San Miguel	27969	176	2624	44.9	6.71%
Doña Ana	218836	713	10090	23.3	7.07%
Colfax	11903	64	826	38.4	7.75%
Valencia	75427	359	4603	34.0	7.80%
Otero	67700	335	3787	35.3	8.85%
San Juan	126122	529	5830	30.0	9.07%
McKinley	70330	314	3239	31.9	9.69%
Mora	4566	22	203	34.4	10.84%
Hidalgo	4242	24	219	40.4	10.96%
Torrance	15923	90	756	40.4	11.90%
De Baca	1840	11	90	42.7	12.22%
Lincoln	19860	183	1420	65.8	12.89%
Catron	3533	13	94	26.3	13.83%
Curry	49915	385	2758	55.1	13.96%
Guadalupe	4419	42	279	67.9	15.05%
Chaves	64104	777	4643	86.6	16.73%
Eddy	58252	896	4841	109.9	18.51%
Quay	8396	83	439	70.6	18.91%
Lea	71570	1458	7385	145.5	19.74%
Roosevelt	19901	157	770	56.4	20.39%

August 10 - August 23, 2021

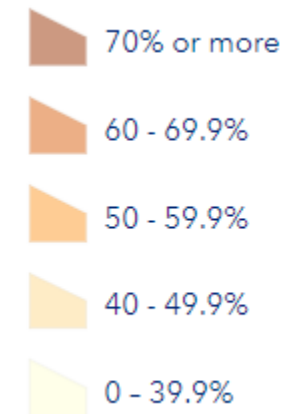


# ICU beds nationwide are filling up

ICU Bed Utilization by State



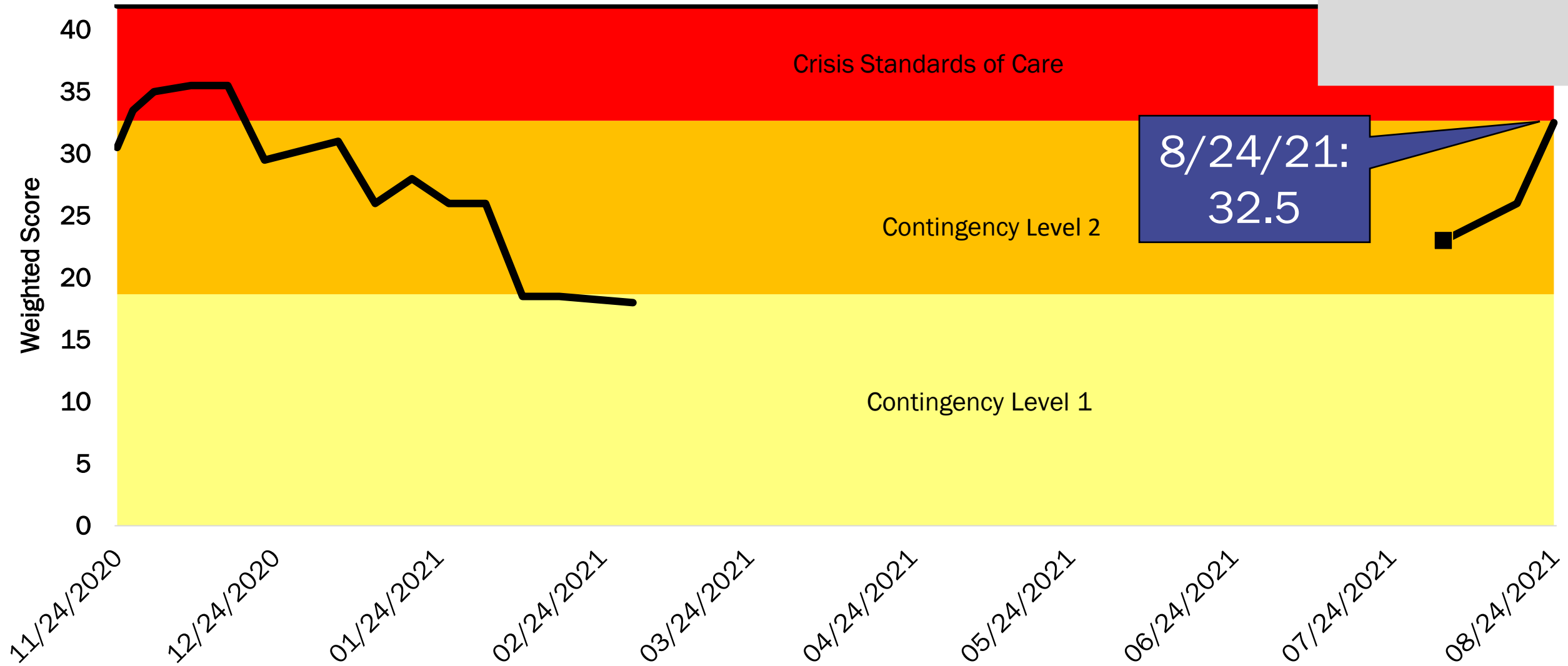
% of ICU Beds Occupied (All Patients)







# NM Hospital Systems Capacity Self-Evaluation



Contingency Level 1
  Contingency Level 2
  Crisis Standards of Care
  Weighted Score



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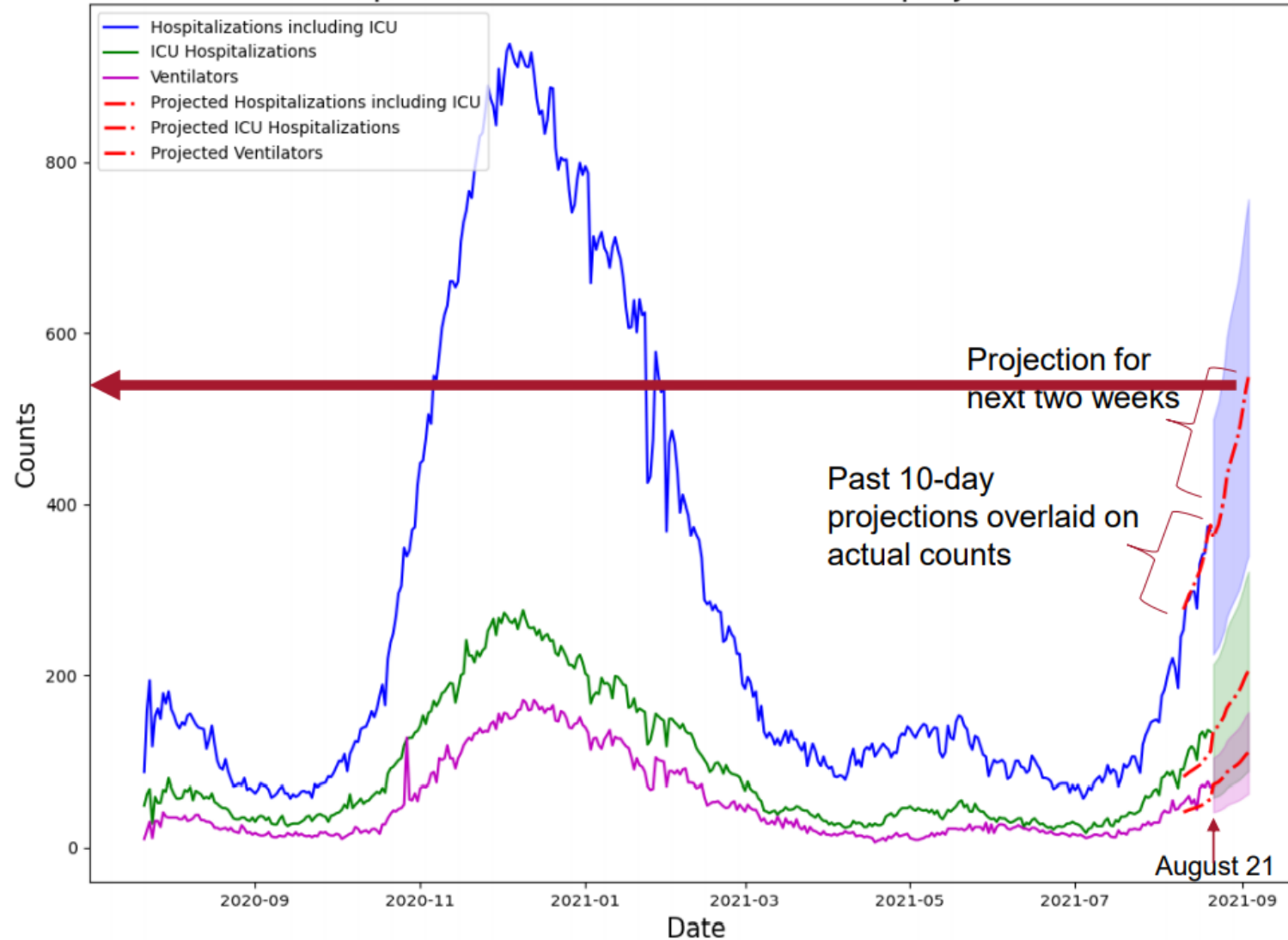
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Self-evaluation data not collected between 3/3/21 and 8/17/21.



# New Mexico COVID Hospitalization Projections

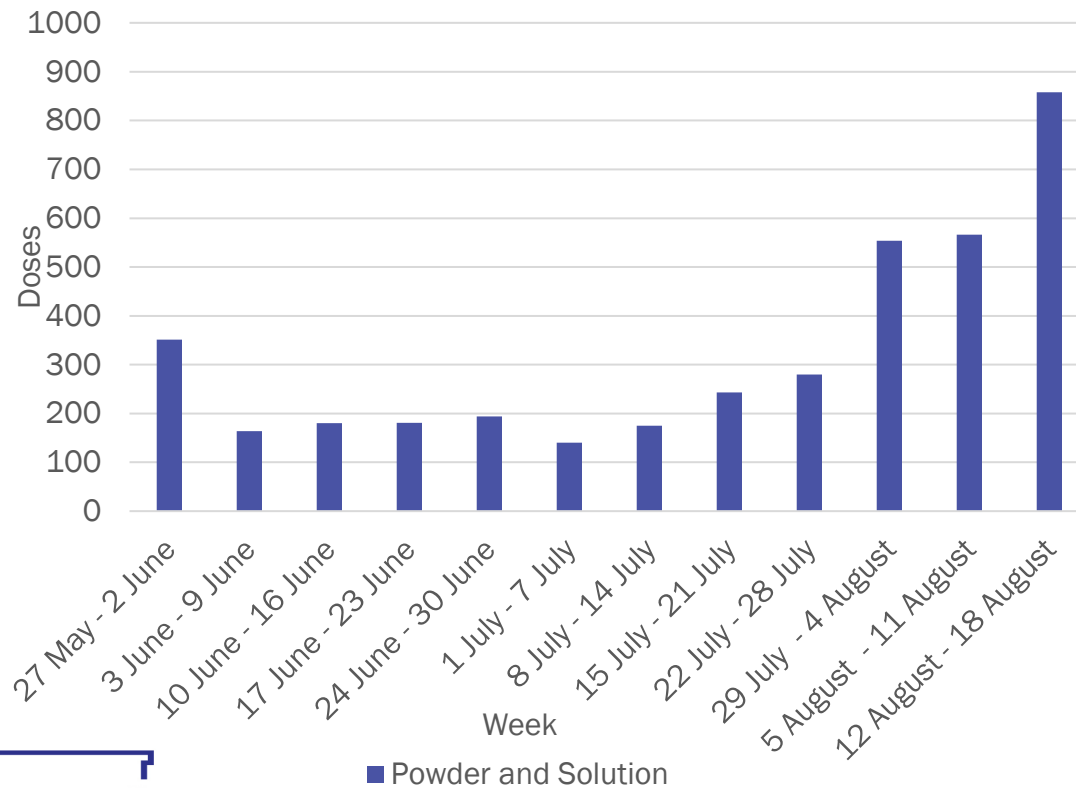
Hospitalized to-date and two-week projections



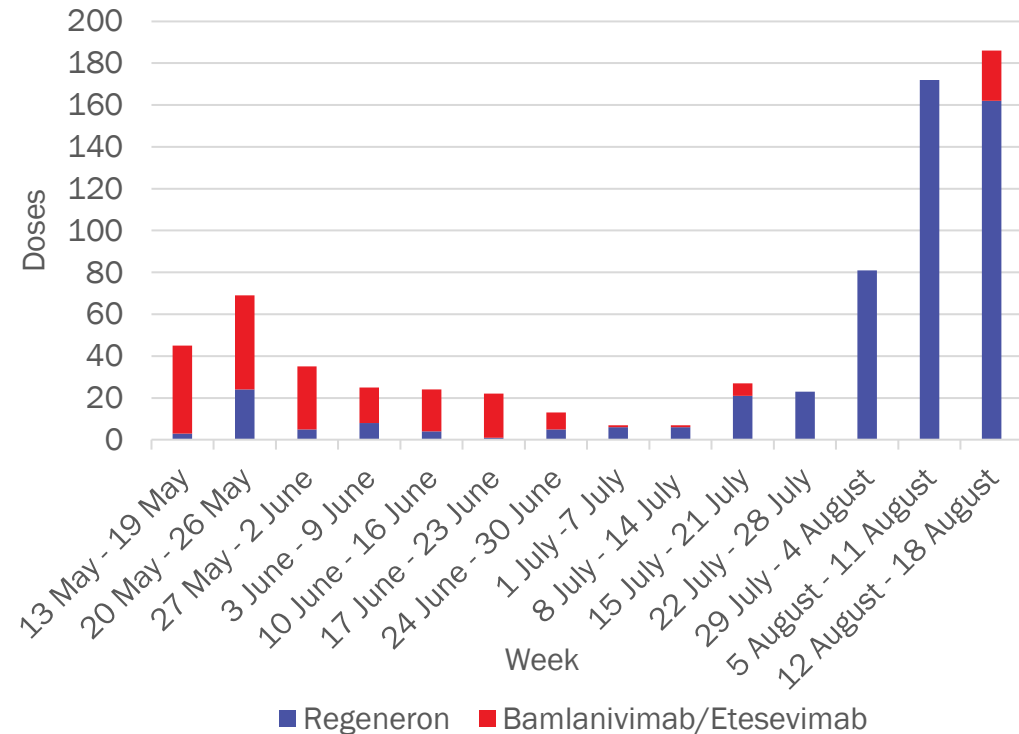
Source: Presbyterian Healthcare Services Modeling

# COVID treatments

## Remdesivir (moderately ill, hospital)



## Mab (>64, obese, OR one risk factor, outpatient)



# Get tested for COVID-19 if...

**...you have COVID-19 symptoms**  
cough, fever, shortness of breath, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, and/or loss of taste or smell

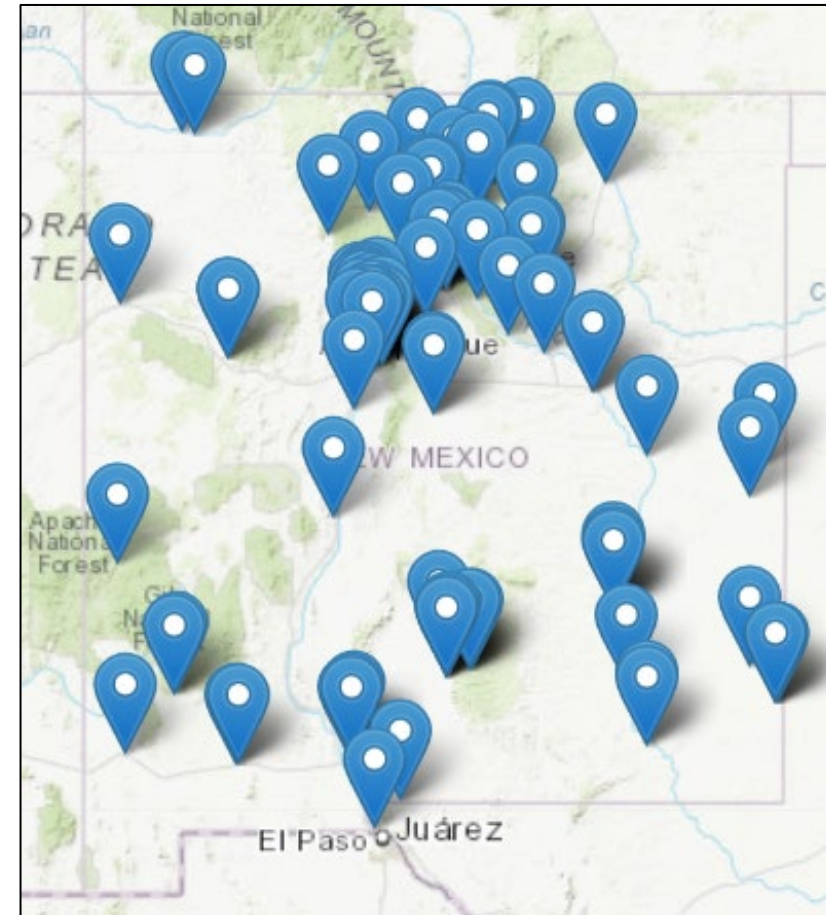
**...you don't have symptoms but were in close contact** or are a household member of someone who has tested positive and are in their infectious period, **regardless of vaccination status**

**...you don't have symptoms but are unvaccinated and live or work in a high-risk congregate setting** such as long-term care facilities, detention centers and correctional facilities

**...you are a patient scheduled for surgery or hospital admission, even if you're fully vaccinated.** Some medical facilities may require testing prior to surgery or admission.

# Get Tested for COVID-19!

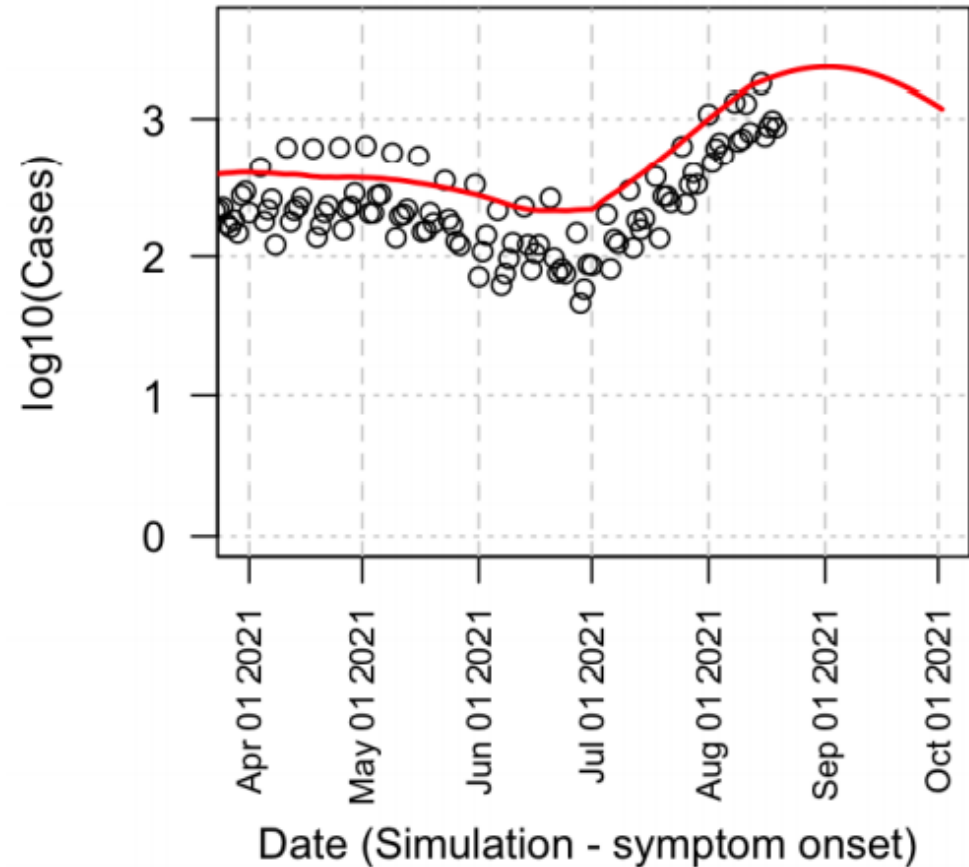
- COVID-19 testing is available at no cost to New Mexicans
- Find a test site near you: [FindATestNM.org](https://findatestnm.org)
- Order an at-home, mail-in COVID-19 test through Vault: <https://learn.vaulthealth.com/nm/>



# Where are we going?

- LANL Modeling 8/24/2021 projection for late August/early September:
  - 1300-1500 cases per day
  - 2-6 deaths per day
- We continue to track along the “worst case scenario” in our modeling

United States\_\_New Mexico



# State employee vaccination rates

- Vaccine is required for all state employees, or weekly testing
- Those who have been working with COVID since the beginning at the Department of Health have a very high vaccination rate
- If we could get all of NM to 85%, we could avert the coming hospital crisis
- If you choose not to be vaccinated, isolate and immediately seek treatment when you are infected

NMDOH Employee Vaccination Rate	
Fully Vaccinated	2,578
Not Vaccinated	367
Total Employees	2,945

88% of NMDOH employees are fully vaccinated!

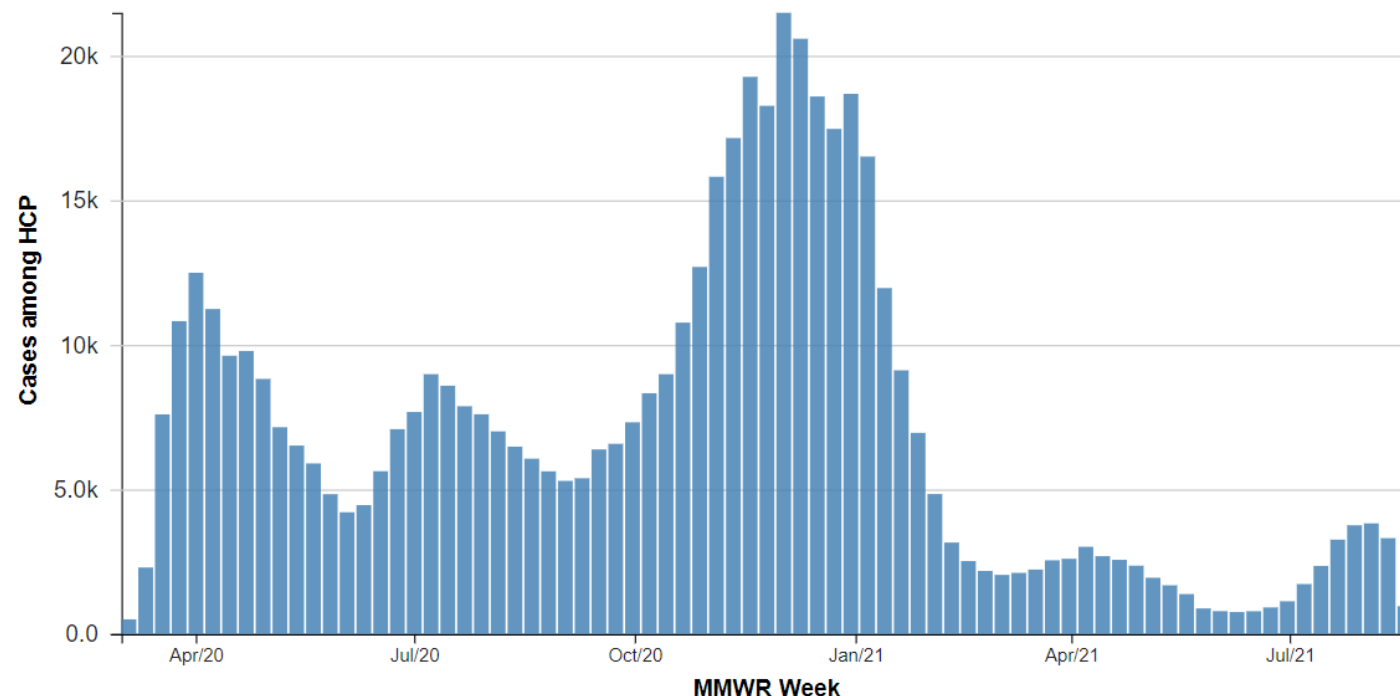


# Required vaccinations for healthcare workers

Most NM hospitals already require the following vaccines for healthcare workers (direct patient contact):

- Hepatitis B
- Influenza
- MMR
- Varicella
- Tdap
- Meningococcal

COVID-19 Cases among Healthcare Personnel (HCP) by Week



There were 687 cases among healthcare personnel for which the date was not known, therefore, those cases are not included in the figure above. There were 358 cases among healthcare personnel before March 1, 2020 not included in the figure above.

# Misinformation Moment: Unvaccinated couple dies of COVID-19 on same day

Martin and Trina Daniel (GA), married for over 20 years, both died of COVID-19 within hours of each other, leaving behind two teenage children facing an unimaginable loss.

Cornelius, Martin and Trina's nephew, told *ABC News*, "...I would prefer a vaccine over a ventilator every day. Too many families have already experienced the pain that we're feeling."



An undated photo of Martin and Trina Daniel  
Courtesy of Daniel family, *ABC News*

# End of federal unemployment programs

- All federal unemployment programs related to COVID-19 will end 9/4/21:
  - Sept 4<sup>th</sup>- Last day of federal extended benefits →
  - Sept 5<sup>th</sup>- Last week for certification of federal extended benefits; waiting week reinstated for new claims
- NMDWS will ensure claimants waiting to receive eligibility determination will receive payments owed to them for all weeks prior to September 4 for which they certified and are determined eligible, even after federal programs end.

## *4 federal unemployment programs related to COVID-19 Pandemic*

- PUA: Pandemic Unemployment Compensation
- FPUC: Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation
- PEUC/PEUC-A: Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation
- MEUC: Mixed Earner Unemployment Compensation

# Do you have questions about end of federal unemployment programs?

- Unemployment Insurance Claims Self-Service Options and Operations Center 1-877-NM4-MYUI (1-877-664-6984)
- <https://www.dws.state.nm.us/COVID-19-Info>
- Follow NMDWS us on Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube @NMDWS, and/or on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/NewMexicoDWS](http://www.facebook.com/NewMexicoDWS))
- Follow NMHED on Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and Facebook @NMHigherEd

# READY NM

- NM Dept. of Workforce Solutions, NM Higher Education Dept., and NM Workforce Connection joining forces to provide single, statewide system for individuals and businesses with easy access to training, education, and employment resources.
- Visit our website at [www.Ready.NM.gov](http://www.Ready.NM.gov)
  - Chatbot available on Ready NM website to answer common questions about education and training resources, job search and career development, and business resources.
- Call 1-800-303-3599







## NEW MEXICO, DO YOU NEED RENTAL ASSISTANCE?

The state of New Mexico will grant **\$170M** of federal aid to New Mexicans for rental and utility assistance to households experiencing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY NOW](#)

# RENTHELPMN.ORG



### ARE YOU A RENTER?

Rental and utility assistance is available to households who are obligated to pay rent on a residential dwelling. Rental assistance can be used for unpaid, current and future rent and utilities. Funding may also be available for other housing-related expenses incurred directly or indirectly due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

[LEARN MORE](#)



### ARE YOU A LANDLORD?

Landlords and utility providers must submit a W9 to DFA via [ERAVendor.Relations@state.nm.us](mailto:ERAVendor.Relations@state.nm.us) to get paid directly.

[LEARN MORE](#)



### ARE YOU COMMUNITY PARTNER?

You can help keep New Mexicans in their homes by partnering with us.

[LEARN MORE](#)

# Need Help Paying for Rent or Utilities?



## WE CAN HELP.

### Apply today for up to 15 months of assistance!

---

#### What is covered:

- Rent
- Utility bills (electric, gas, water, sewer, internet)
- Hotel/motel costs

On average, participants receive  
over \$4,000!

Assistance does not have to be repaid.



Renters, landlords, utility providers – visit [RentHelpNM.org](https://RentHelpNM.org)  
Individuals on SNAP and Medicaid may qualify

# The virus is changing - GET VACCINATED this week! Get tested if you have symptoms!

- The delta COVID variant is spreading up to 4x more rapidly and resists some treatments.
- Get tested if you think you have COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone who is positive.
- If you have COVID-19, seek out monoclonal antibody treatment.
- Be especially careful indoors no matter where you live in NM.

**CASE COUNTS REMAIN TOO HIGH. WE ALL STILL MUST FIGHT THE VIRUS.**

- Wash hands, clean surfaces, cough into tissue/elbow.
- Everyone mask up and maintain social distancing (minimum 6').
- Get needed preventive healthcare.
- Get vaccinated!

**PROTECT  
NEW MEXICO**  
**WEAR A MASK**  
**SLOW THE SPREAD**



#MaskUp  
#ProtectNM