

COVID-19 Day 554 Press Update

September 15, 2021

DOH Acting Secretary David R. Scrase, M.D., M.H.S.A.

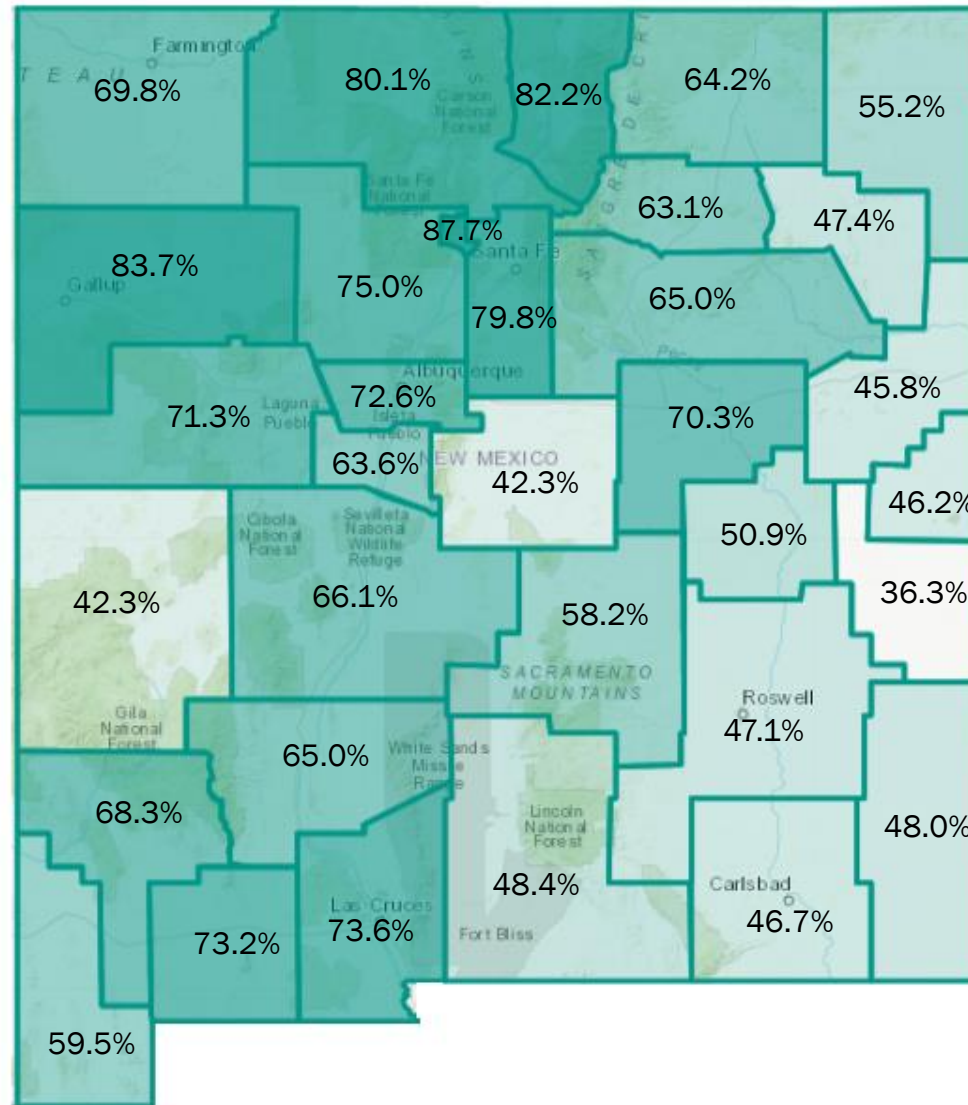
DOH Deputy Secretary Laura C. Parajón, M.D., M.P.H.

PED Secretary-Designate Kurt Steinhaus, Ed.D., M.S.



Percent of Fully Vaccinated Individuals (18+)
by NM County, 09/15/21

- **79.0%** of New Mexicans (18+) and **62.5%** (12-17) have received at least a first dose
- **69.2%** of New Mexicans (18+) and **51.6%** (12-17) are fully vaccinated
- Coming soon: We are working on dashboard updates to reflect additional doses



Path out of the Pandemic: President Biden's COVID-19 Action Plan

Key points for vaccination

- Paid time off for vaccination and recovery
- Executive order requiring vaccination:
 - Medicare and Medicaid certified facilities
 - Federal employees



Vaccinating the Unvaccinated



Further Protecting the Vaccinated



Keeping Schools Safely Open



Protecting Our Economic Recovery



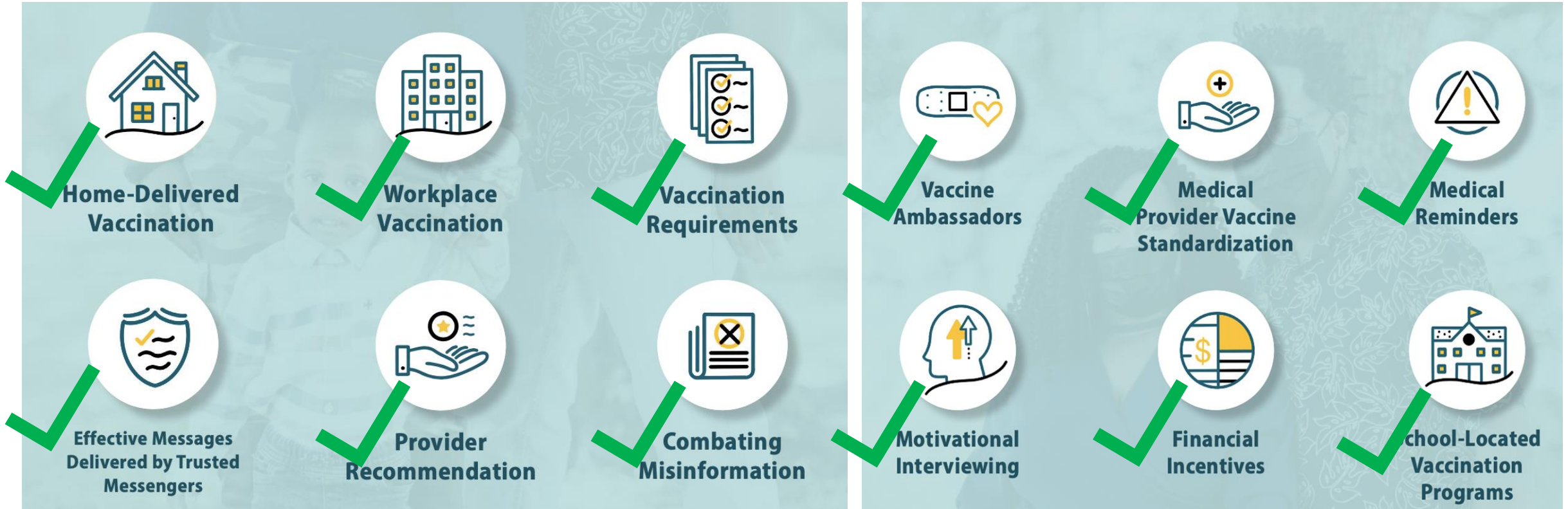
Increasing Testing & Requiring Masking



Improving Care for those with COVID-19

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/covidplan/>

New CDC Guide: 12 COVID-19 Vaccine Strategies For Communities



<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/vaccinate-with-confidence/community.html>

NMDOH Community Resource Center

(English, Spanish, Vietnamese)



UPDATES



REGISTRATION



COVID-19 TESTING



MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY



BOOSTER SHOTS



FLYERS



FLIPCHARTS



TRAINING



DATA

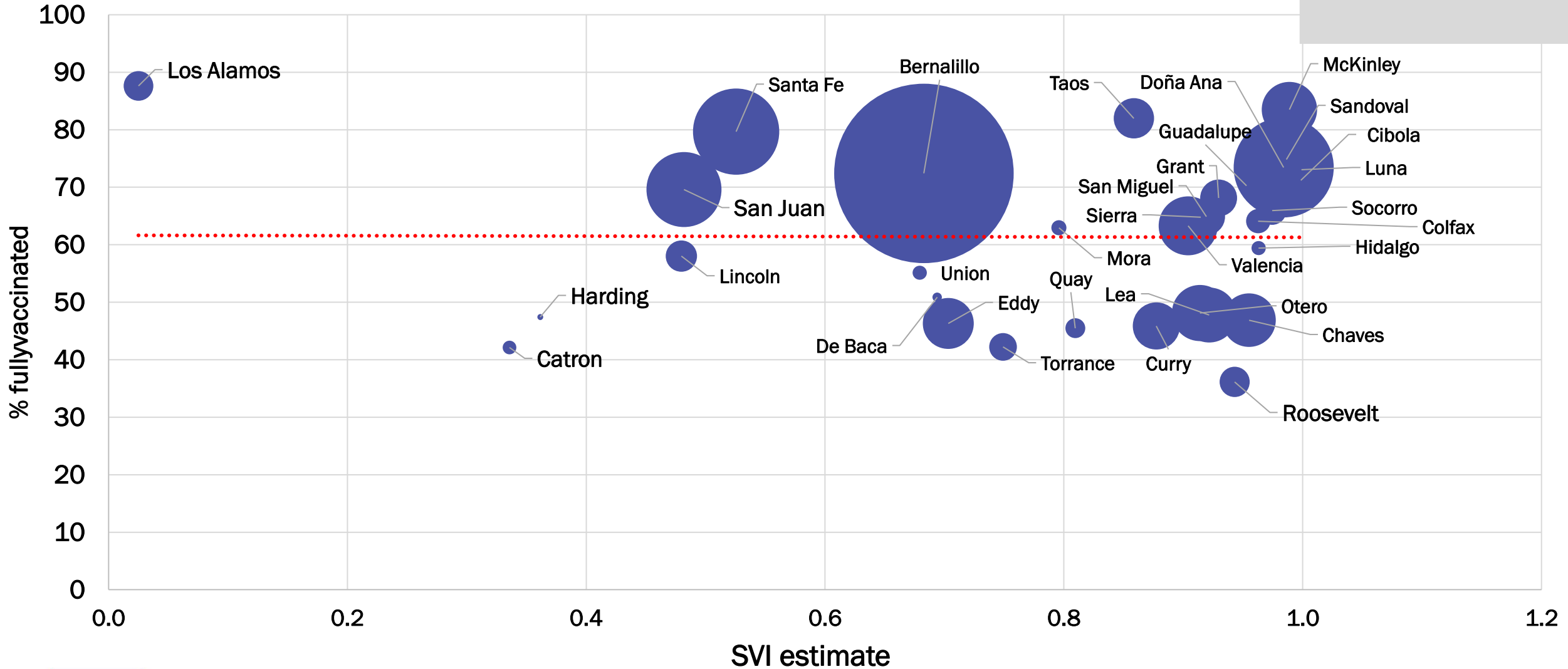


RESOURCES

<https://getthefacts.vaccinenm.org/chw/>

Intro to new vaccine reports located at <https://cv.nmhealth.org/vaccine-reports/>

% population vaccinated and SVI by county



The Lancet's considerations in boosting COVID-19 vaccine immune responses

- Differentiates 3rd dose and booster recipients
- Risk of introducing boosters too soon or too frequently (e.g., myocarditis)
- Cautions regarding the preliminary nature of existing studies
- Questions whether declining antibody levels = waning immunity
- Available vaccines are safe, effective and save lives



The Lancet stresses vaccines are effective

After Delta became the most common variant,*
fully vaccinated people had reduced risk[†] of...

INFECTION

5X

HOSPITALIZATION

>10X

DEATH

>10X

**Vaccination offers strong
protection against COVID-19**



bit.ly/MMWR91021

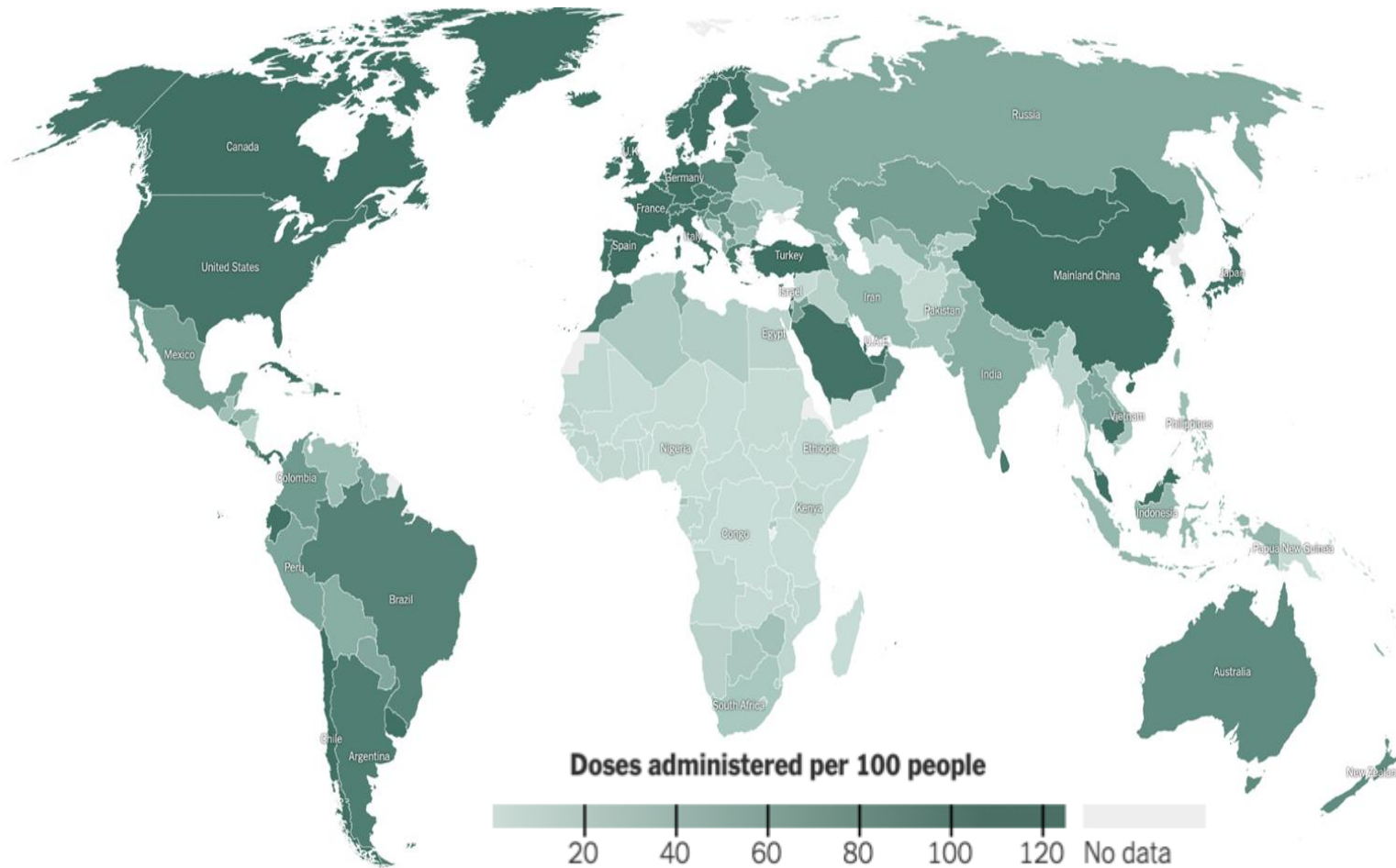
* June 20-July 17, 2021

[†] Compared with people not fully vaccinated

MMWR

Stay tuned...

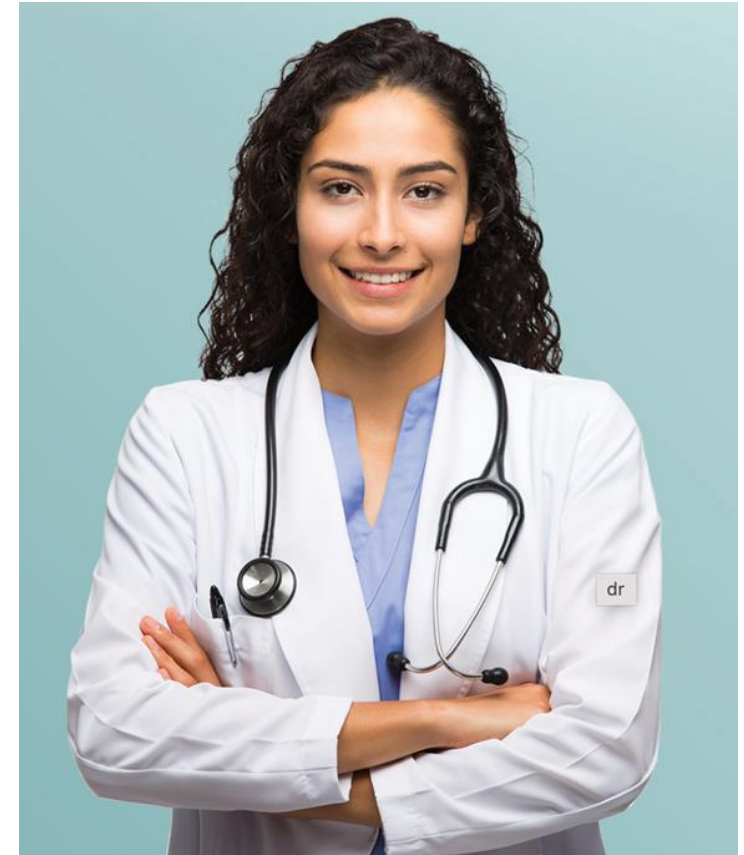
- FDA Committee Meeting: Fri, Sept. 17, from 8:30am- 3:45pm ET
- Anticipated CDC ACIP to discuss at meeting on Sept. 29
- NMDOH is actively planning for boosters but waiting for definitive guidance



Ask your provider for your COVID-19 vaccine

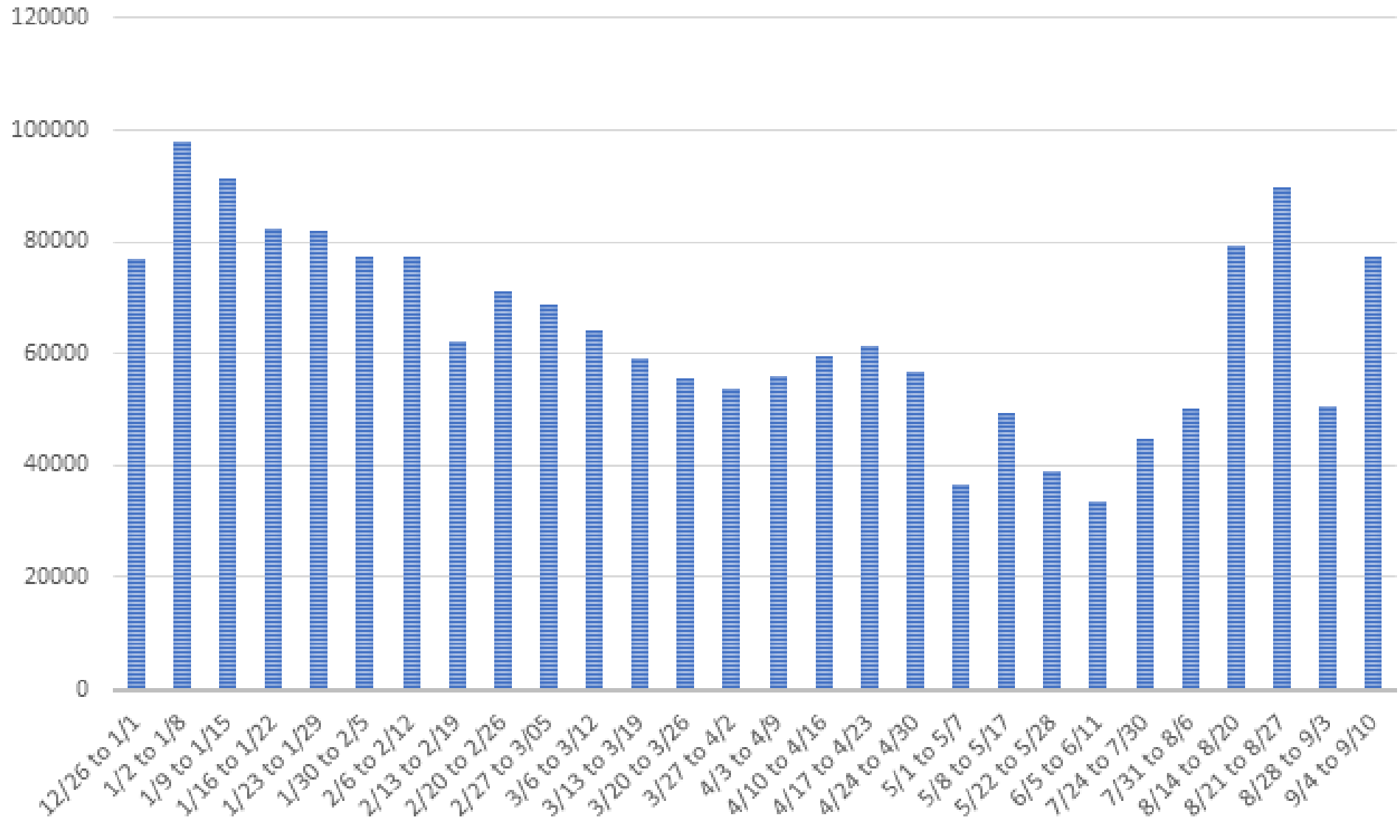
- COVID-19 vaccines, like other vaccines, should be given in provider offices
- **Good timing to get both flu shot and COVID-19 vaccine together**
- Ask your provider if they currently give COVID-19 vaccines, and, if not, when they will be making vaccines available
- NMDOH is working with medical and pharmacy providers to be ready for potential booster doses

[TakeCareNM.org](https://www.takecarenm.org)



NM COVID-19 Testing Update

TESTS RESULTED BY WEEK 2021



New Mexico Test positivity 7-Day Rolling Average, March 17, 2020-September 13, 2021



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New Mexico testing turnaround time

Reporting Laboratory	Test Results, 09/04/2021-09/10/2021	Percent of Total Test Results, 09/04/2021-09/10/2021	Median Turn Around Time in Days, 09/04/2021-09/10/2021	Cumulative Test Results, 03/11/2020-09/14/2021
Curative	23,869	30.8%	↑ 2.59	631,902
LabCorp	6,357	8.2%	↑ 1.97	338,277
Pathology Consultants	1,521	2.0%	↓ 2.30	93,995
Quest	2,198	2.8%	↑ 2.28	254,319
SLD	4,224	5.4%	↓ 1.29	717,072
Southwest Labs	857	1.1%	↓ 0.12	45,593
TriCore	10,035	12.9%	↓ 0.89	994,891
Vault	7,300	9.4%	↑ 4.31	121,500
Other	21,184	27.3%	↑ 1.28	1,142,771
TOTAL	50,501	-	↑ 2.13	4,340,320

Children and adults: Get tested for COVID-19 if...

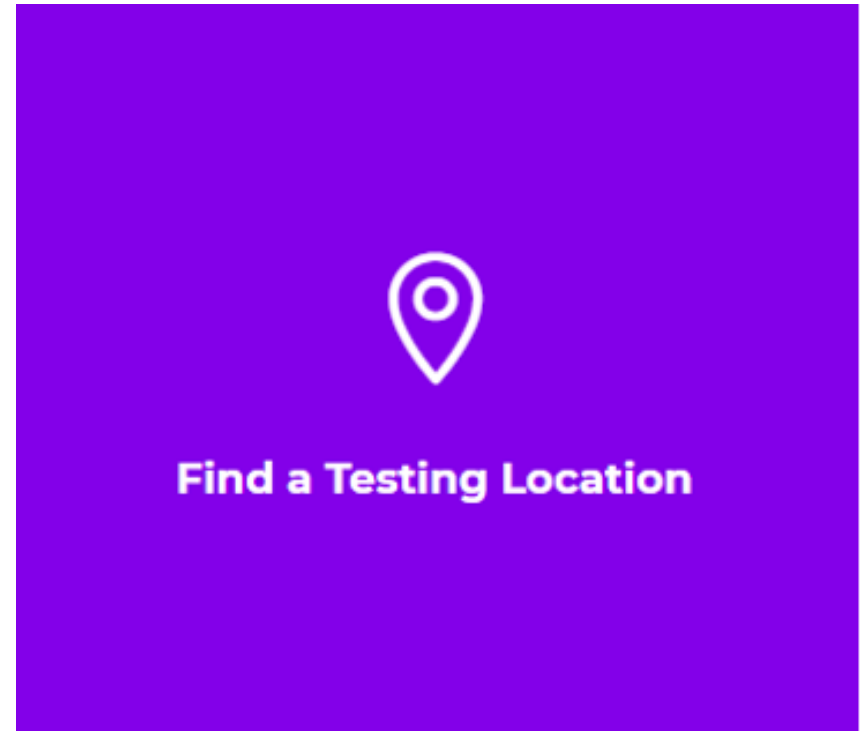
- ...you have COVID-19 symptoms;
- ...you don't have symptoms but were in close contact to a positive case;
- ...you don't have symptoms but live or work in a high-risk congregate setting; or
- ...you are a patient scheduled for surgery or hospital admission

Regardless of vaccination status!



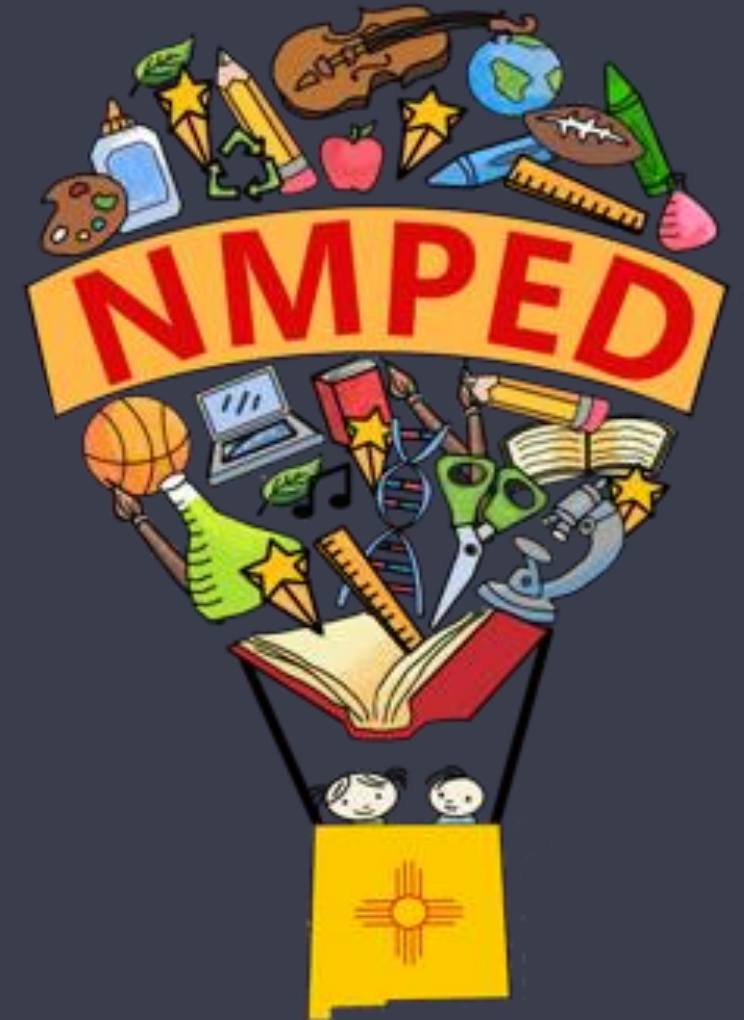
Scheduling a COVID-19 test from your computer or phone is easy!

- NM COVID-19 Test Site Directory: FindaTestNM.org
- Asymptomatic screening testing: NMDOH suggests Vault and Curative – **Plan ahead!**
- Symptomatic or close contact testing: local hospitals, public health offices, pharmacies, doctors' offices, and Curative test sites
- Over-the-counter rapid tests



Today's Request: Let's honor our teachers and all school staff — including nurses — who are on the front lines every day with children, keeping them safe, following COVID safe practices, communicating with parents, and moving learning forward.

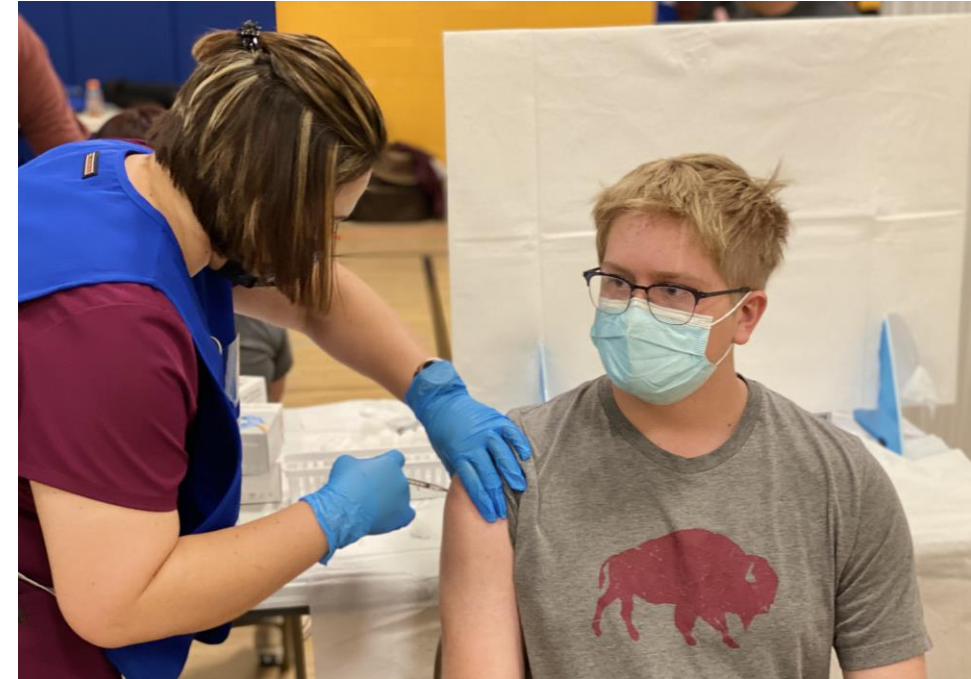
Dr. Kurt Steinhaus
Secretary of Education (Designate)



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How We're Keeping Schools Safe

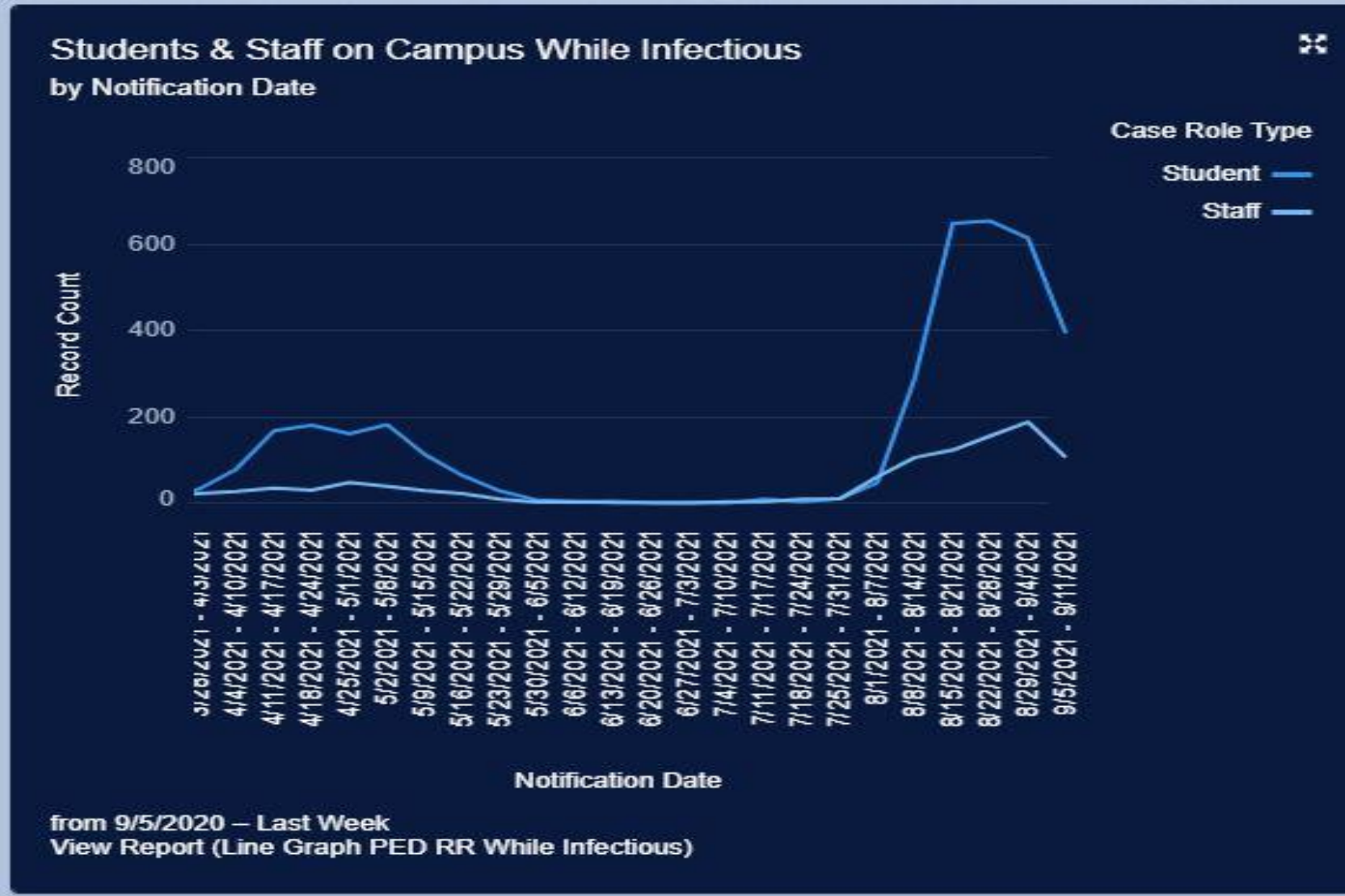
- **School staff who are not vaccinated are required to test weekly**
- **Working to increase testing options, including onsite COVID-19 testing for staff and students**
- **Enhanced COVID-safe practices to avoid transition to remote learning**
- **Supporting schools to sponsor additional vaccination clinics**
- **Continually encouraging everyone who's eligible to get vaccinated**



It is Clear — *In-Person* Learning is Important

- In-person learning is prioritized
- Goal is always to protect the safety and health of students and staff

➔ **Good news:** student and staff cases that were infectious while on campus dropped 37% last week from the week before.

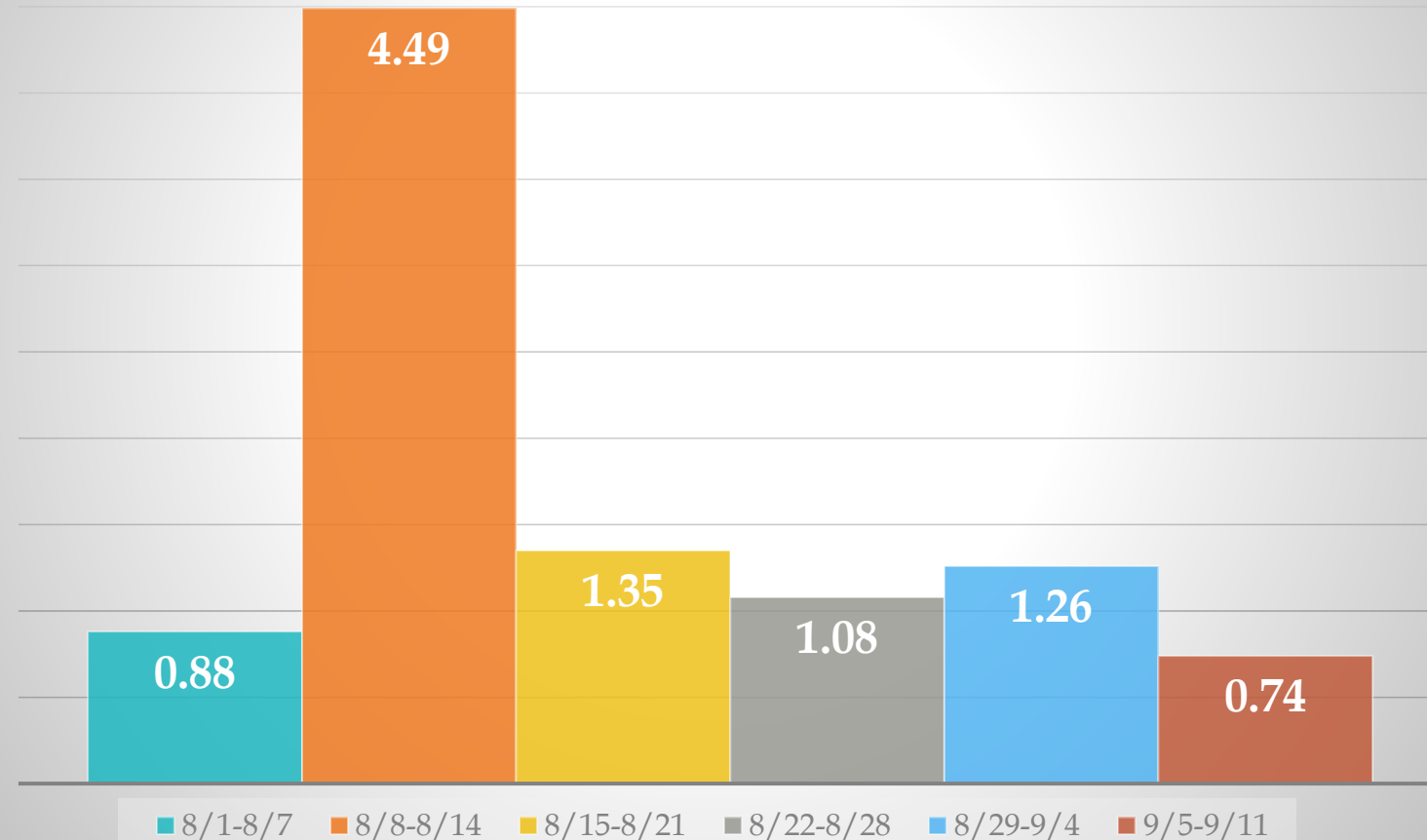


Surveillance Testing

COVID-19 surveillance testing is required for all schools

- The purpose of surveillance testing is to detect COVID-19 outbreaks as early as possible by screening asymptomatic individuals
- New \$63 million DOH grant for COVID-19 testing in schools

Staff Positivity Rate (by percentage)



Enhanced COVID-Safe Practices

Schools are not required to automatically switch to remote learning upon four rapid responses within a 14-day period. Instead, all districts and charter schools must create and implement a **district plan for enhanced COVID-safe practices**.

- Plans include a summary of CSPs currently in place **plus** enhanced CSPs as needed (e.g., student cohorting, cessation of extra-curricular activities for unvaccinated students, prohibiting spectators and outside visitors).
- Plans are submitted to NMPED and must be posted on district, school or charter websites no later than **October 1, 2021**.

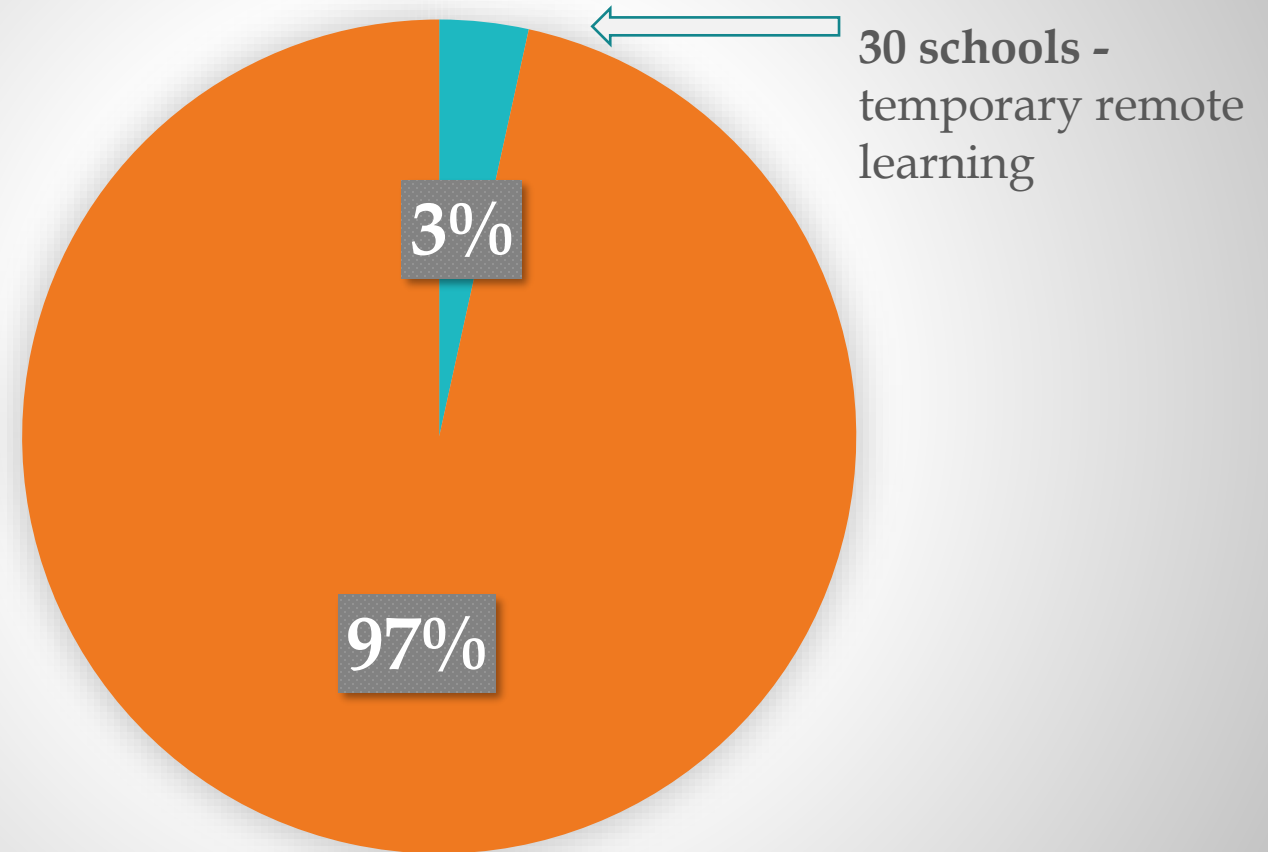


NOTE: NMDOH has the ability to temporarily close any public facility, including public schools, if infectious case counts become dangerously high or if district or charter plans for enhanced COVID-safe practices are insufficient to properly address public health concerns.

Local Option - Transition to Remote Learning

- **30 schools** opted to temporarily return to remote learning since August 6
- Currently, **NO schools** are in remote learning
- This school year—no NMPED school closures

Voluntary Closures: Schools/Charter Schools



Mobile Vaccination Clinics and Online Portal

- Since August 1, 2021 – **59 school-based vaccination events** held across New Mexico
- Announced today – online **social-emotional learning portal**
[New Mexico Cares](#)

vaccinenm.org

School-Based Vax Events

Roswell

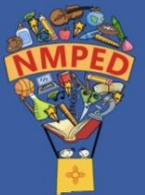
- 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
- NM Military Institute
- 101 W. College Blvd.

Los Lunas

- 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
- UNM Valencia
- 280 La Entrada Road

TODAY!

**30
AUG**



COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective and FREE

New Mexico Schools COVID-19 Testing

A Partnership between NMDOH and NMPED

Support for New Mexico Schools

Safe and Healthy in Person Learning



Support made possible by CDC Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Funding– Reopening of Schools Grant

- CK 19-1904 COVID-19 Supplemental Funds ELC Reopening Schools
- Part of the \$1.9T American Rescue Plan of 2021
- Awarded by the CDC to NMDOH

Award Amount

- \$63 million (85% for school COVID -19 testing and screening)

Recipients

- Public school districts and charters, nonpublic, Bureau of Indian Education and tribal schools

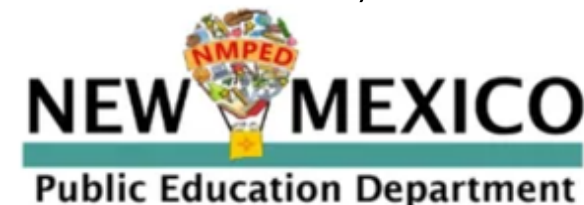
Administration

- The New Mexico Public Health Division, Office School and Adolescent Health
- Support from communications firm, Kesselman-Jones, Inc.



More information about the ELC Reopening Schools Grant:

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dpei/pdf/guidance-etc-reopening-schools-508.pdf>



Flexible and customizable options at no cost to schools

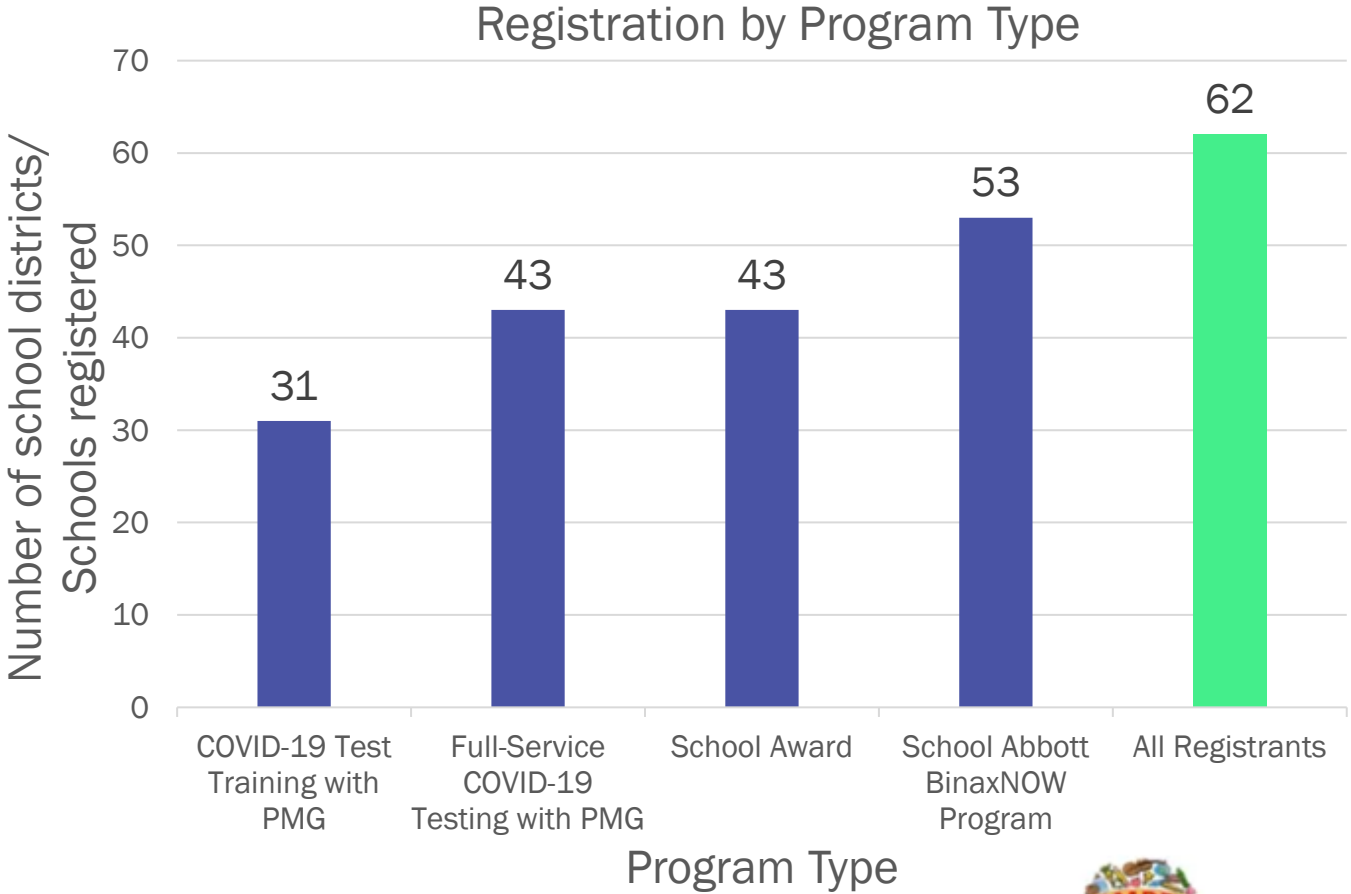
New Mexico K-12 public school districts, public charters, nonpublic, BIE and tribal schools may opt into any or all program options, including:

- Full Service COVID -19 testing with Premier Medical Group providing testing personnel
- COVID-19 Training for school staff to learn to COVID-19 test
- School Abbott BinaxNOW Program
- Supplemental direct funding to each school
- Health information technology



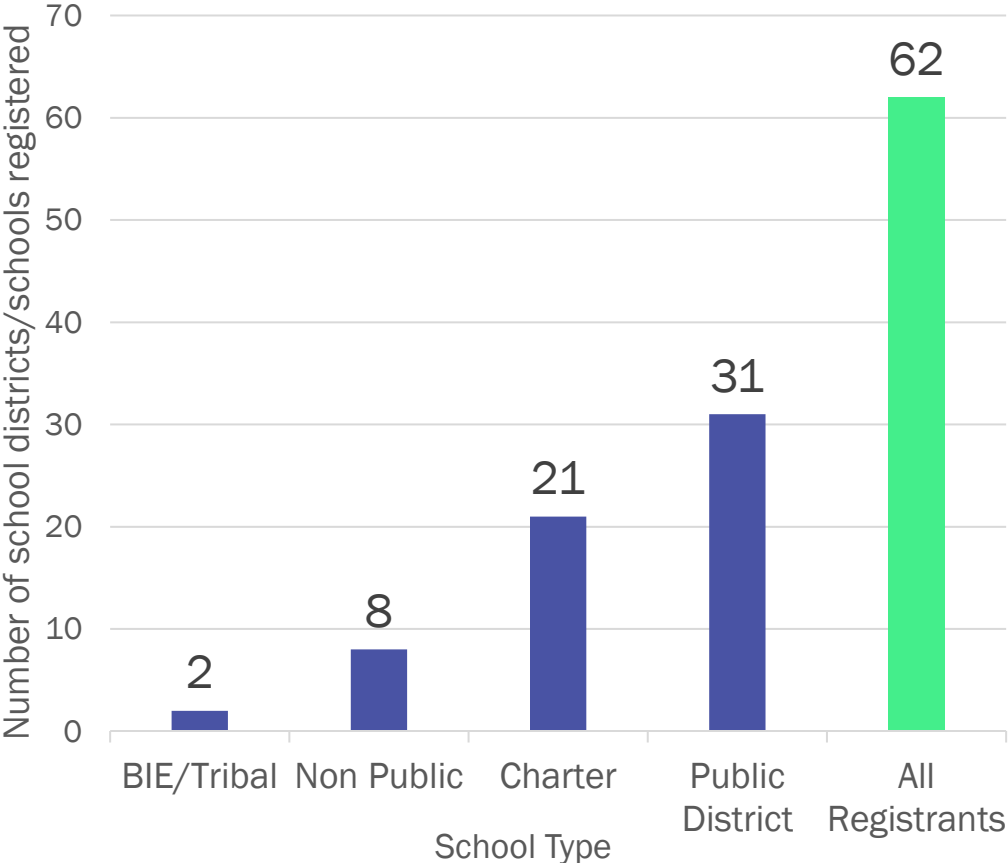
Registration for the schools testing program

- 62 public school districts, public charters, nonpublic, BIE and tribal schools
- 30,179 education staff COVID-19 tests
- 184,808 student COVID-19 tests

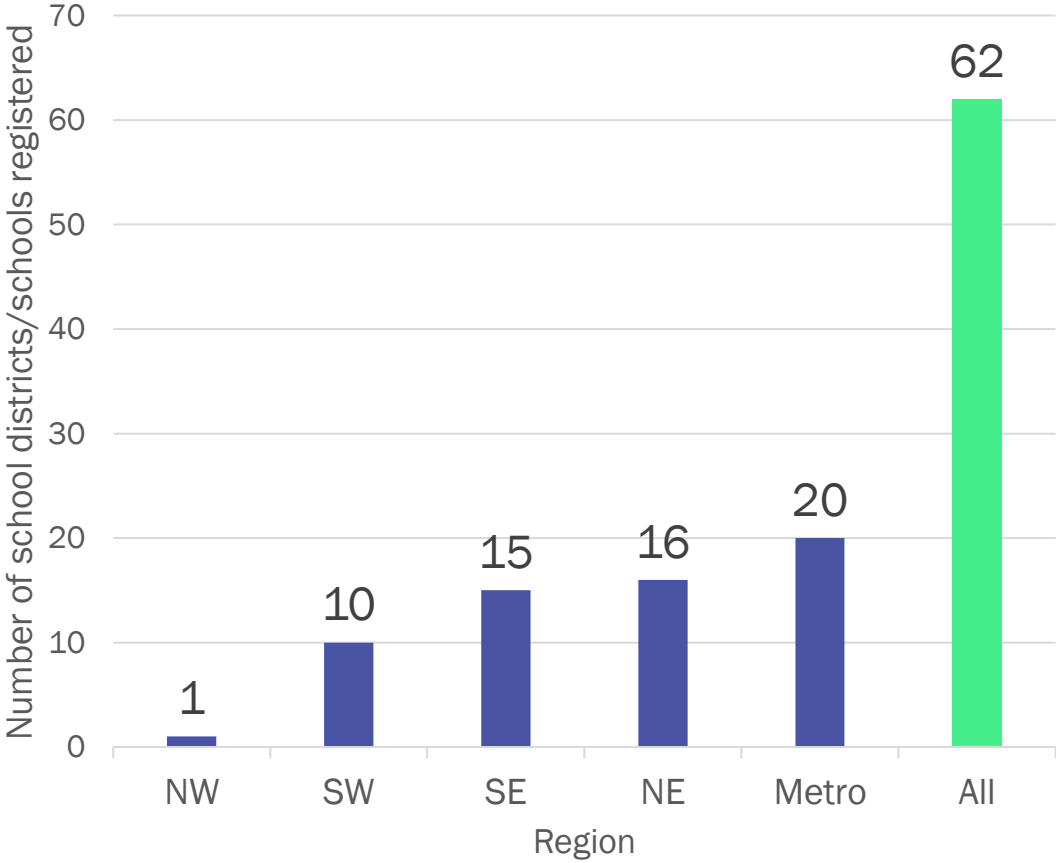


Registration for the schools testing program

Registration by School Type



Registration by Region



New Mexico reopening of schools dashboard

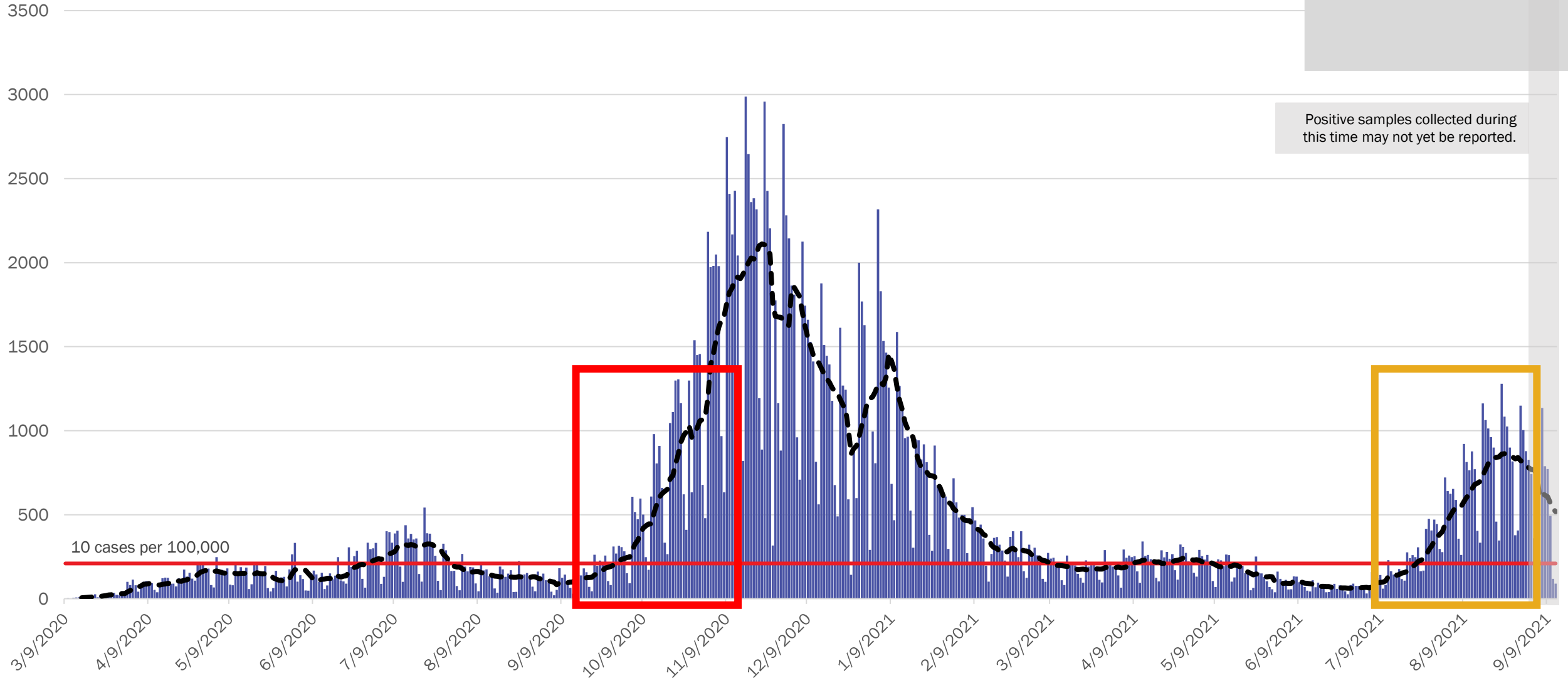
A one stop portal for all COVID-19 school testing information and to register for program options

- Schools must apply to participate
- Apply at:
www.NMSchoolsCOVIDTesting.com



NM COVID-19 Cases

New Mexico COVID-19 Cases by Date of Specimen Collection September 13, 2021



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Community transmission is HIGH in NM

County	Population Count	Number of Cases (14 days)	Number of Cases + Negative Tests (14 days)	Total New Cases per 100,000 persons	Percentage of Tests that are Positive During the Past 14 days
Harding	657	0	29	0.0	0.00%
Los Alamos	18856	18	1178	6.8	1.53%
Santa Fe	149635	300	11449	14.3	2.62%
Grant	27862	75	2329	19.2	3.22%
Río Arriba	38716	115	2467	21.2	4.66%
De Baca	1840	7	143	27.2	4.90%
Union	4090	17	339	29.7	5.01%
Bernalillo	679590	2434	44567	25.6	5.46%
Hidalgo	4242	12	219	20.2	5.48%
Sandoval	146415	574	10305	28.0	5.57%
Luna	24444	105	1780	30.7	5.90%
Cibola	26801	93	1535	24.8	6.06%
Sierra	11076	59	968	38.0	6.10%
San Juan	126122	526	8458	29.8	6.22%
Socorro	17193	86	1370	35.7	6.28%
Valencia	75427	262	4061	24.8	6.45%
Taos	32513	134	2070	29.4	6.47%
Doña Ana	218836	874	13356	28.5	6.54%
Otero	67700	295	4243	31.1	6.95%
Guadalupe	4419	18	258	29.1	6.98%
San Miguel	27969	301	4292	76.9	7.01%
McKinley	70330	306	4132	31.1	7.41%
Catron	3533	9	117	18.2	7.69%
Torrance	15923	73	829	32.7	8.81%
Mora	4566	31	346	48.5	8.96%
Colfax	11903	95	1042	57.0	9.12%
Roosevelt	19901	118	1259	42.4	9.37%
Quay	8396	71	732	60.4	9.70%
Curry	49915	434	3770	62.1	11.51%
Eddy	58252	592	4457	72.6	13.28%
Lincoln	19860	220	1596	79.1	13.78%
Chaves	64104	716	4662	79.8	15.36%
Lea	71570	960	5398	95.8	17.78%

Indicator - If the two indicators suggest different transmission levels, the higher level is selected	Low Transmission Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
Total new cases per 100,000 persons per day	0-1.42	1.43-7.13	7.14-14.28	≥ 14.29
Percentage of tests that are positive during the past 14 days	0-4.99%	5-7.99%	8-9.99%	≥ 10.0%

= <30 cases/day

= 30-150 cases/day

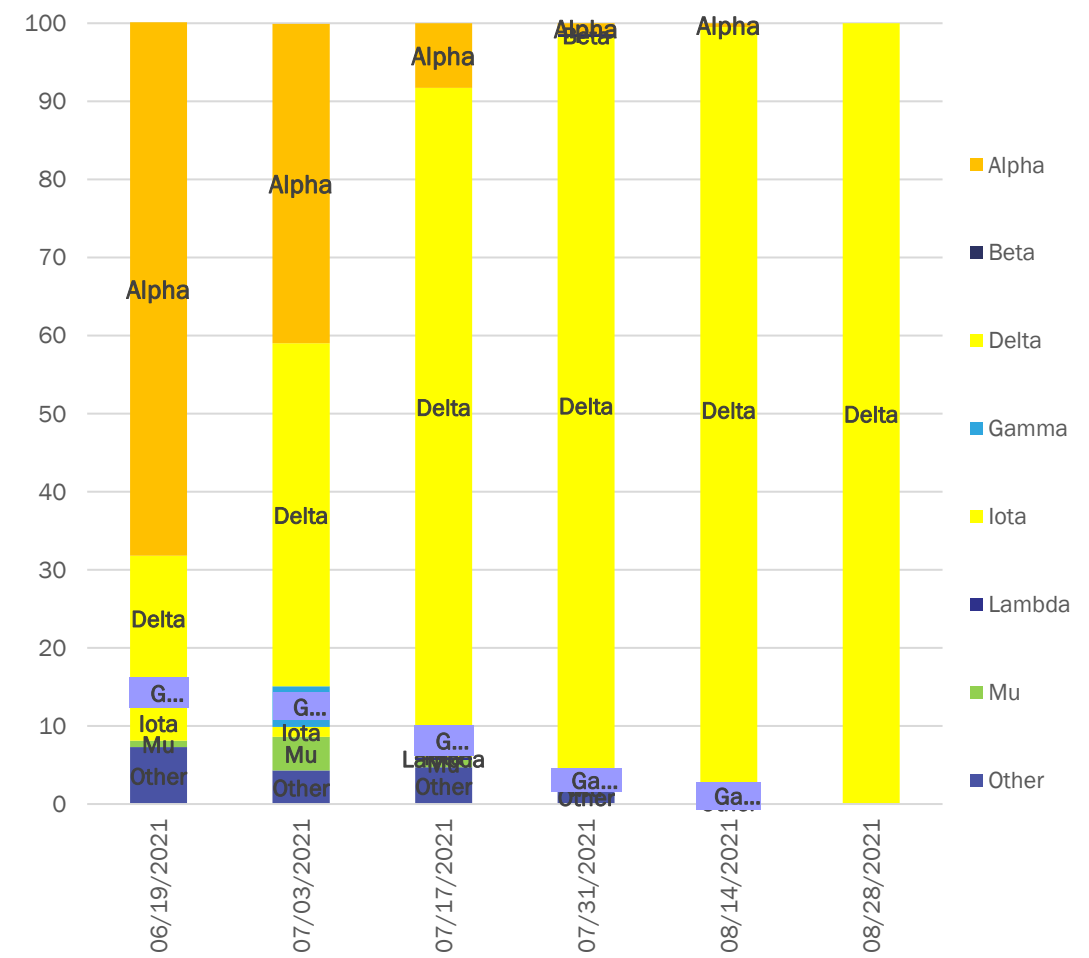
= 150-300 cases/day

= >300 cases/day

Delta variant continues to be majority of COVID-19 infections

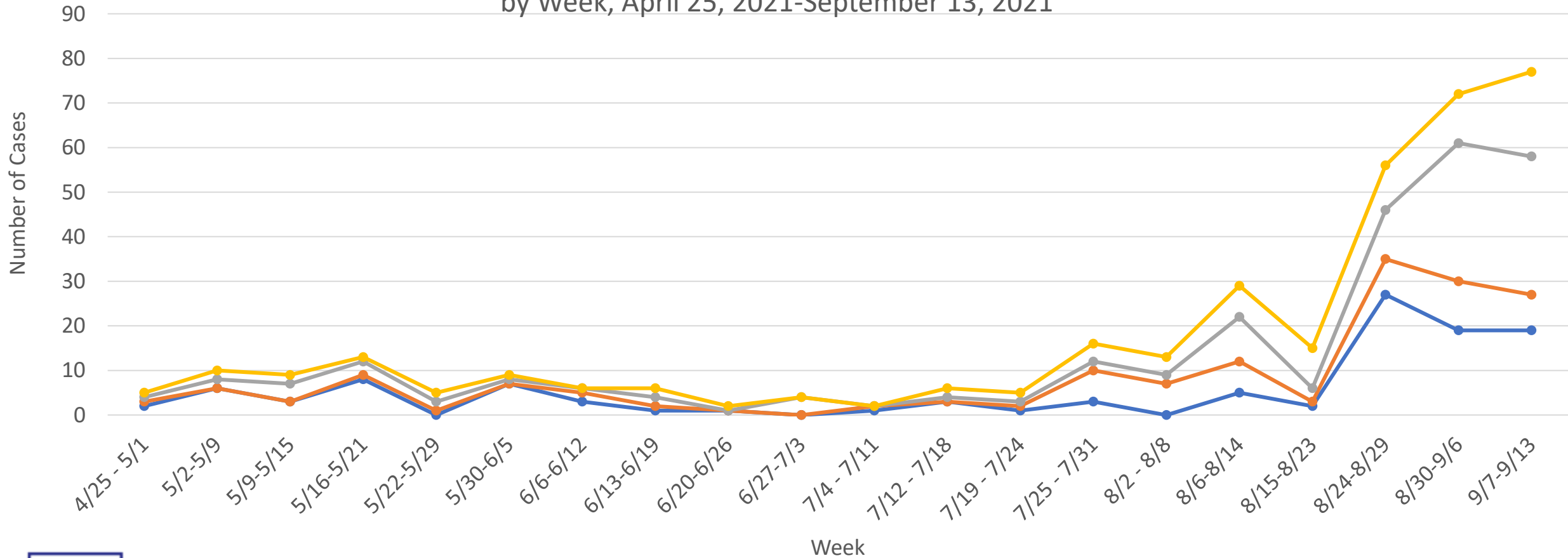


New Mexico: 6/19/2021 - 8/28/2021



COVID-19 cases in NM long term care facilities are rising

Number of COVID-19 Cases Amongst Staff at Residents in NM Long Term Care Facilities, by Week, April 25, 2021-September 13, 2021



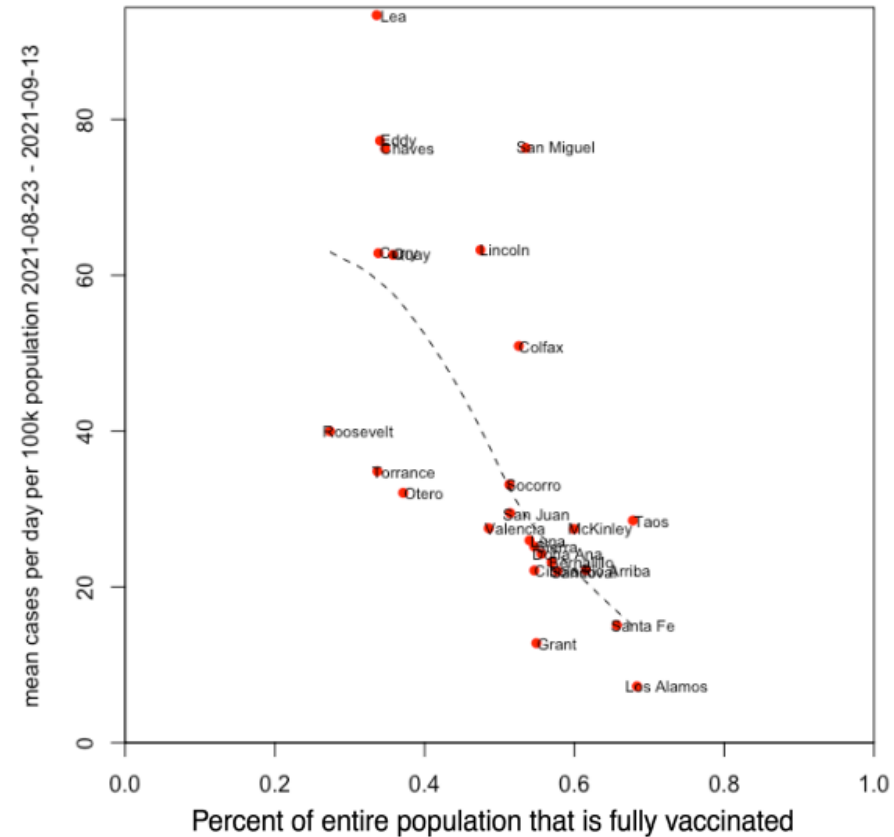
Long-term care facility visitation state and federal mandates

		Resident	
		Vaccinated	Unvaccinated
Visitor	Vaccinated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In room visits without supervision May have close contact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closed window or virtual visits only
	Unvaccinated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In designated visitation area with appropriate PPE Resident may choose to have close contact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closed window or virtual visits only

NM modeling shows vaccines are protecting against COVID-19 infection

- LANL Modeling from 9/14/21 shows the relationship between vaccination and cases is strong and highly protective on a by-county basis

Cases plotted versus vaccination by county

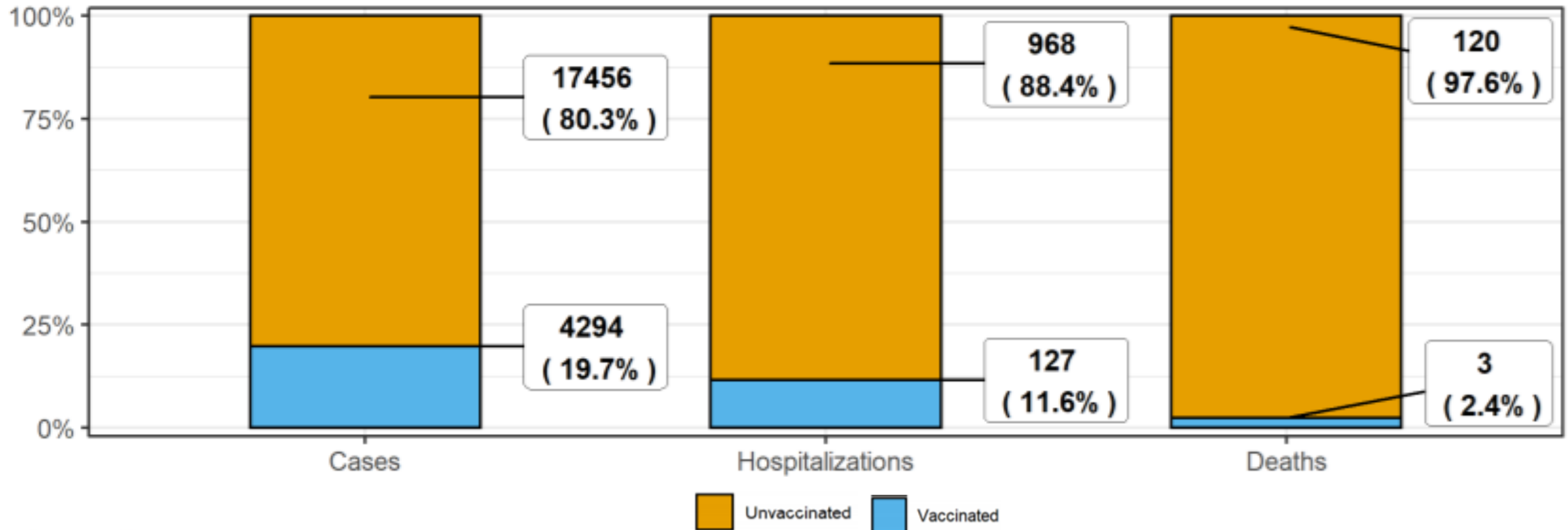


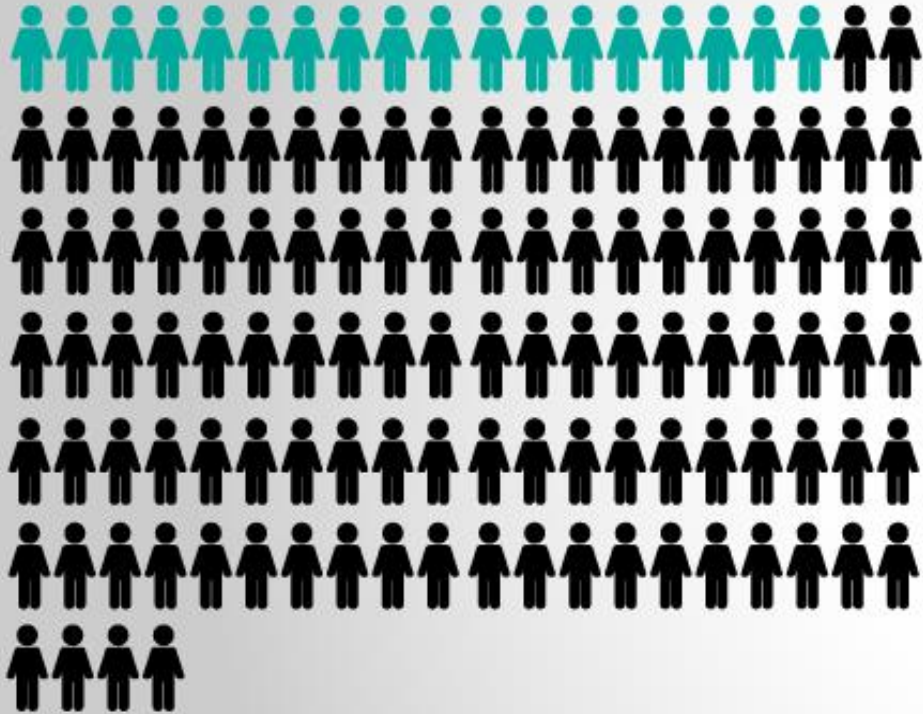
9/14/21 LANL Modeling: https://cvmodeling.nmhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2021/09/LANL-COVID_ModelingResults_9.14.2021.pdf

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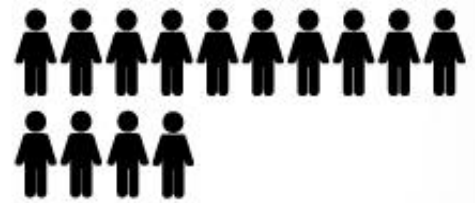
Cases, hospitalizations, and deaths by vaccination status over prior 4-week period

Percent of Cases Hospitalizations and Deaths by Vaccine Status
16 August, 2021 - 13 September, 2021





124 HOSPITALIZED
18 VACCINATED



14 IN THE ICU
0 VACCINATED



7 ON VENTILATORS
0 VACCINATED

COVID Patients recently admitted
to Lovelace Health System



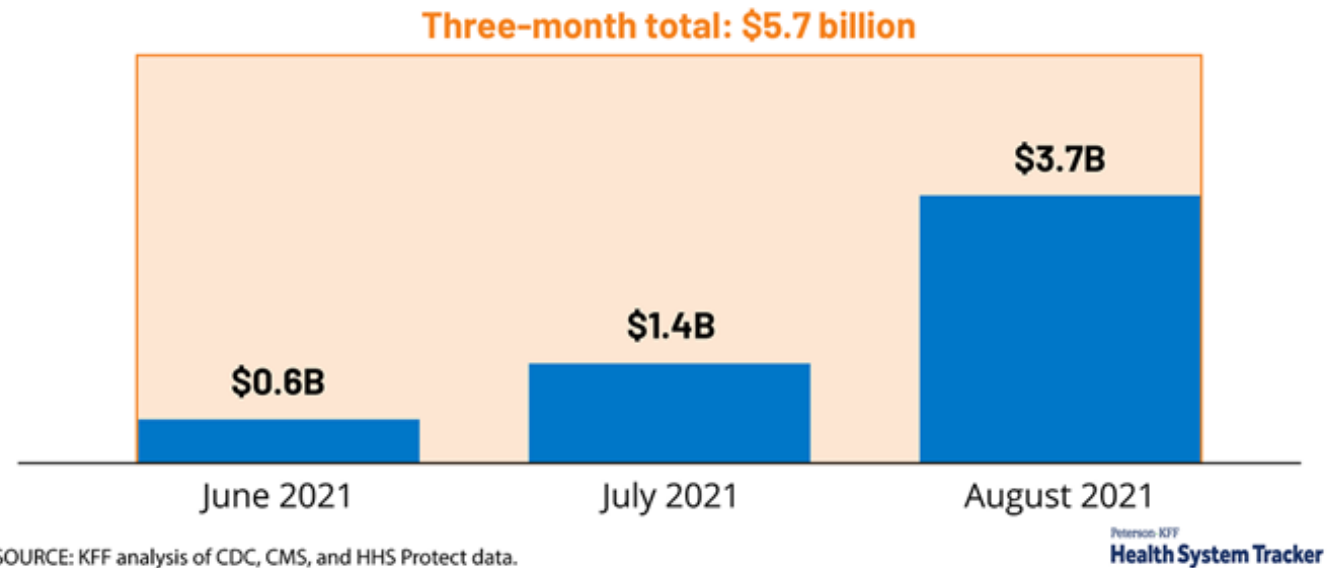
Lovelace
Health System

REV0913

Estimated costs for treating unvaccinated patients in hospitals nationwide tops \$5B

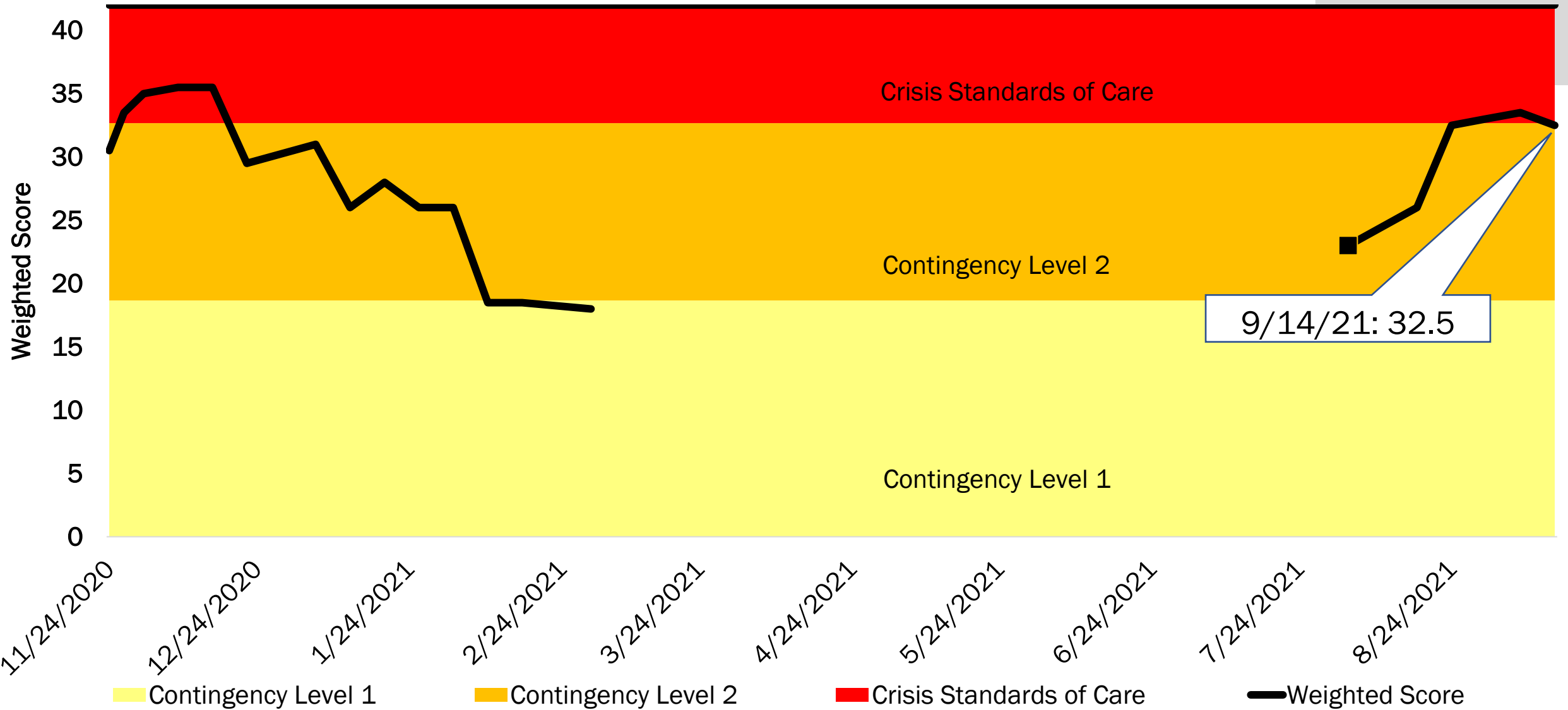
- In August, a new Pearson-KFF analysis estimates that the preventable costs of treating unvaccinated patients in hospitals total \$3.7 billion, almost twice the estimates for June and July combined
- The total preventable costs for July, July, and August now stand at an estimated \$5.7 billion

Preventable COVID-19 Hospitalizations Among Unvaccinated Adults Tops \$5 Billion Through August



NM COVID-19 Hospitalizations and Deaths

NM Hospital Systems Capacity Self-Evaluation



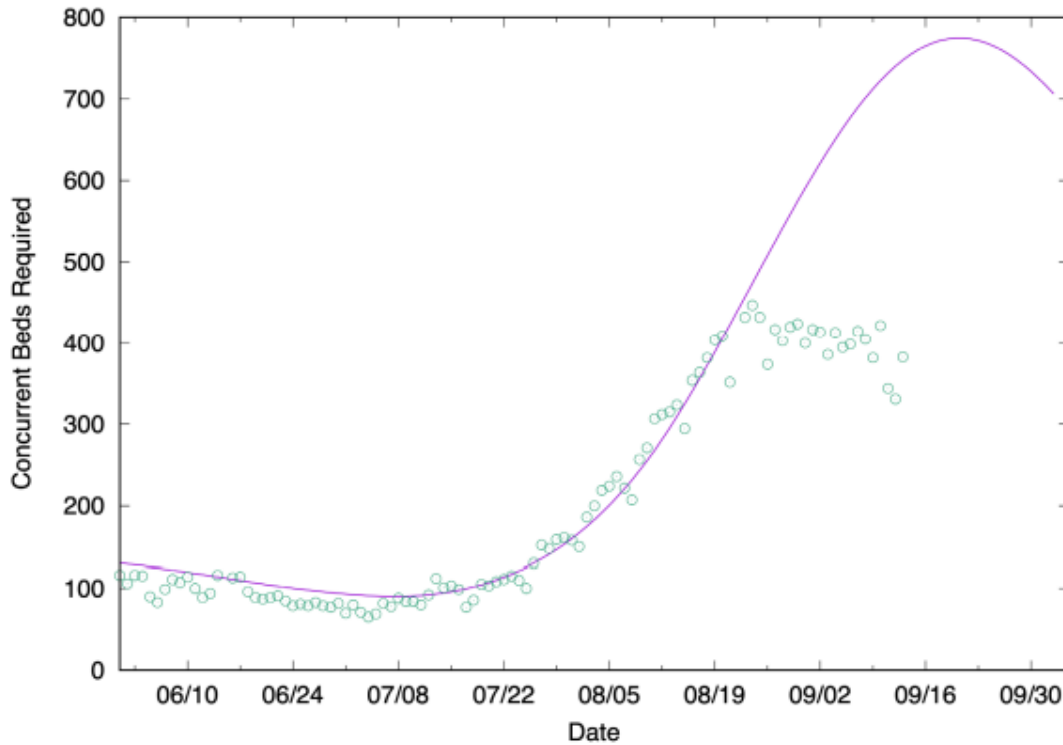
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Self-evaluation data not collected between 3/3/21 and 8/17/21.

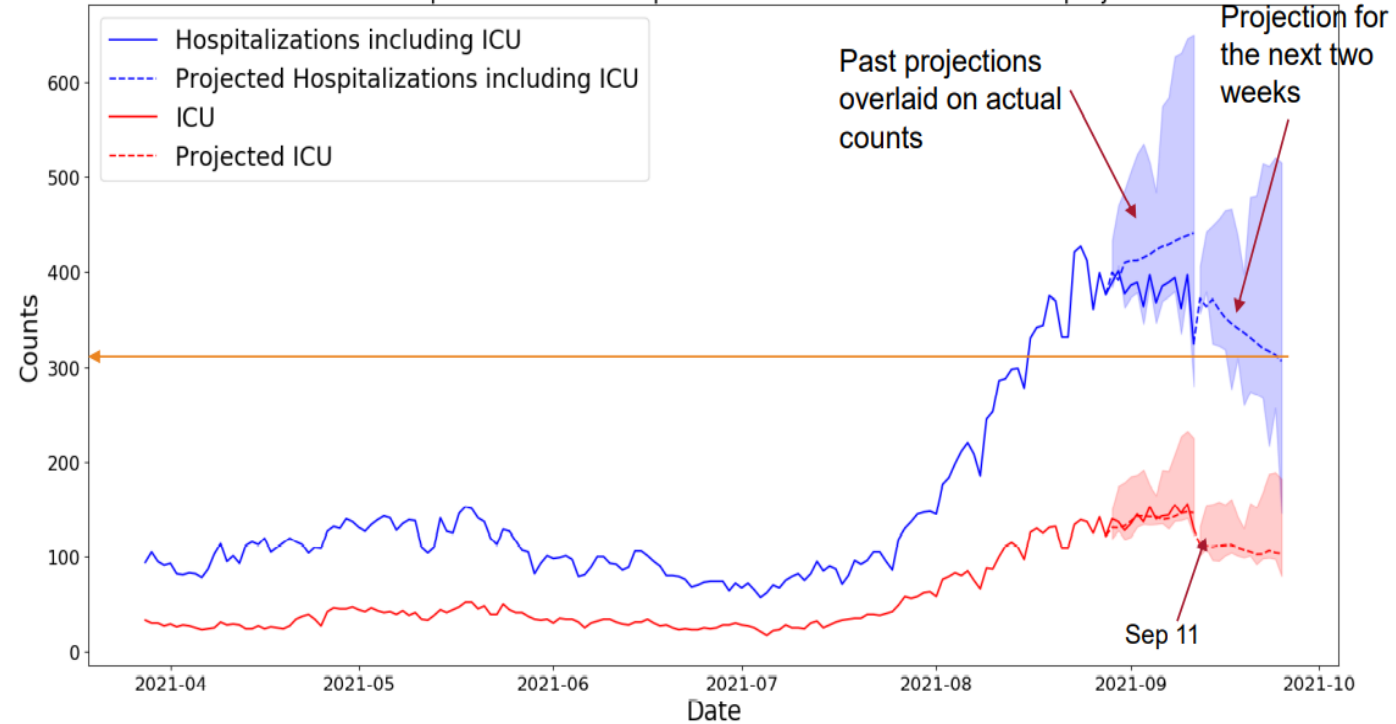
Hospitalizations are still trending down in NM modeling projections

9/14/21 LANL Hospital Projections



9/14/21 Presbyterian Hospital Projections

Adult confirmed-positive COVID hospitalizations to date and two-week projections



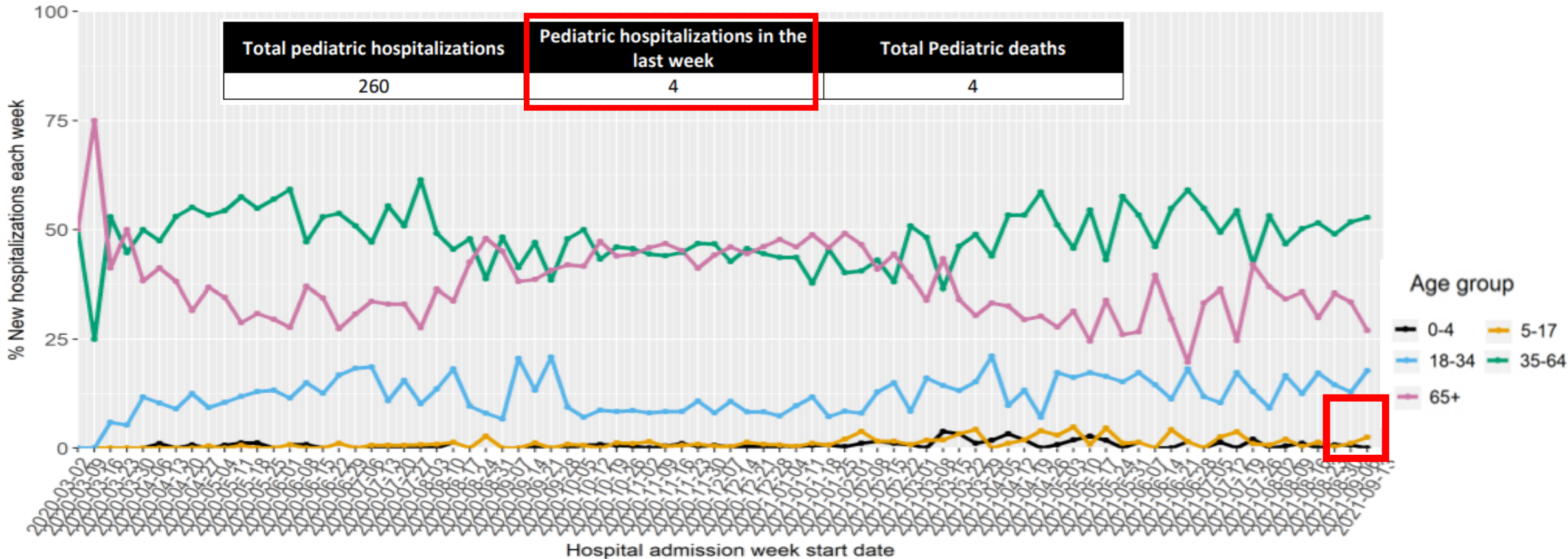
9/14/21 Modeling https://cvmodeling.nmhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2021/09/LANL-COVID_ModelingResults_9.14.2021.pdf

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In the last week, there was an increase in 5-17-year-old hospitalizations in NM

Percentage of new hospital admissions each week by age



9/13/21 Hospitalization Update https://cv.nmhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/COVID19_hospitalizations_09.13.2021.pdf

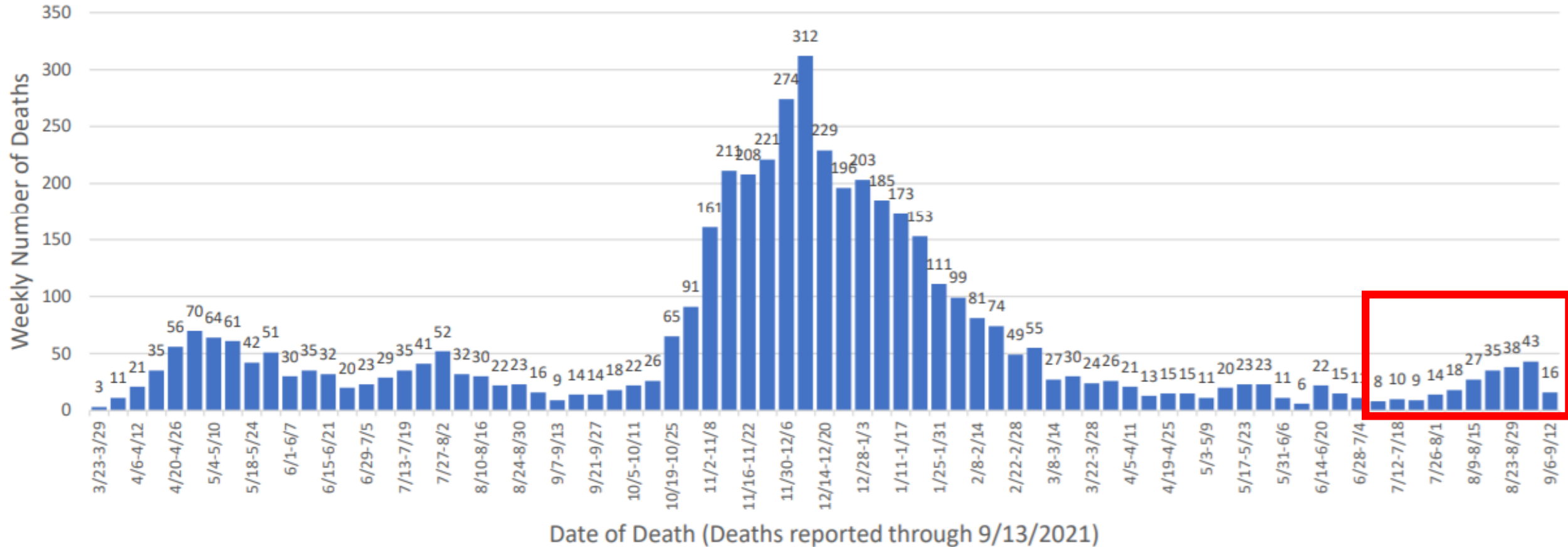
9/13/21 Pediatric Update https://cv.nmhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/COVID19-pediatric-report_09.13.2021.pdf

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As expected, we continue to see an increase in COVID-19 deaths



9/13/21 Mortality Update https://cv.nmhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/COVID-19-Mortality-Rates-Public-Report_09.13.2021.pdf

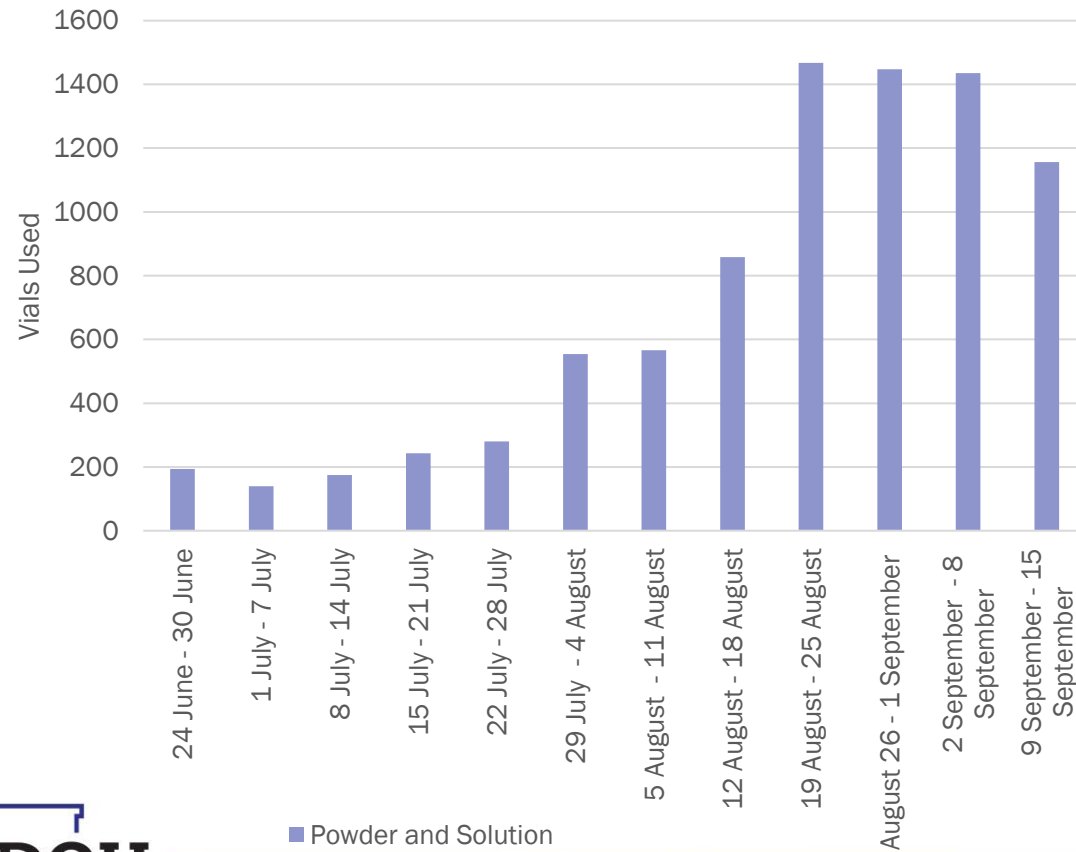
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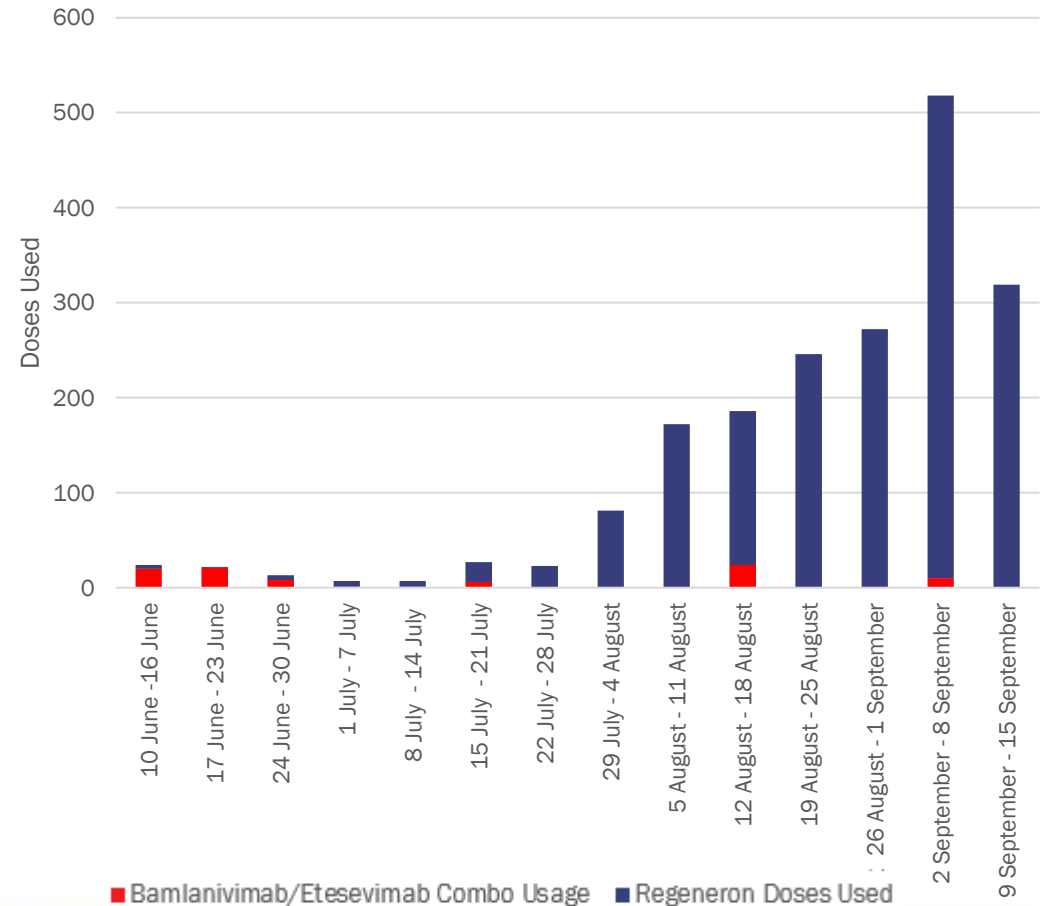
COVID-19 Treatments

There has been a significant increase in inpatient and outpatient mAbs treatments, but not enough!

Remdesivir (moderately ill, given in hospital)



mAbs (symptoms + >64, obese, OR one risk factor, given as outpatient)



Changes to nationwide mAbs allocations

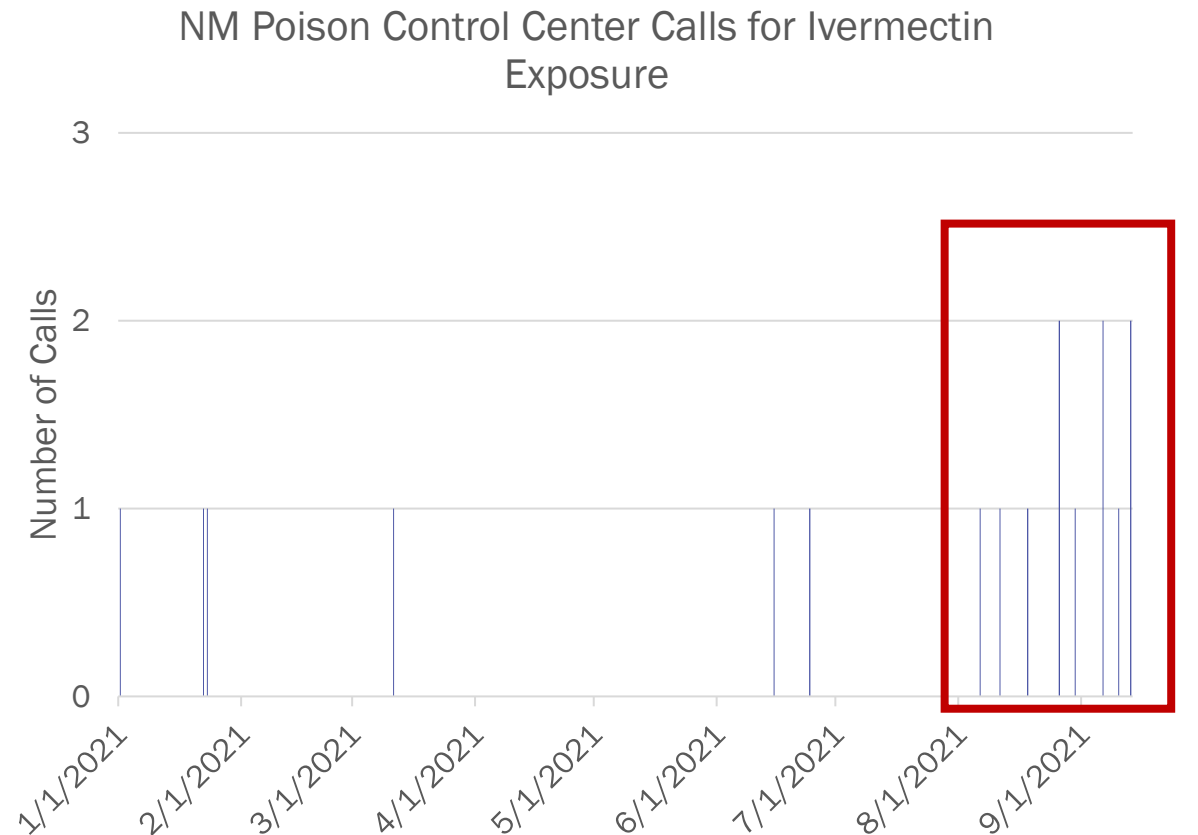
- As of Monday, Sept. 13, HHS transitioned from a direct ordering process to a state/territory-coordinated distribution system
- HHS will determine the weekly amount of mAb products each state receives based on COVID-19 case burden and mAb utilization
- In NM, NMDOH will identify which sites receive product as well as the amount each site receives
- **Providers, for more information visit:**
<https://cv.nmhealth.org/covid-19-monoclonal-antibody-treatments/>



Misinformation moment: Ivermectin is NOT an approved treatment for COVID-19!

- Ivermectin is NOT authorized or approved by the FDA to prevent or treat any viral infection, including COVID-19
- The NM Medical Advisory Team does not recommend ivermectin therapy in patients with COVID-19 infection outside of clinical trials until more data is available
- NMDOH is now requiring provider reporting of Ivermectin toxicity
- Taking Ivermectin without medical guidance and a prescription can be dangerous, or even fatal

Call New Mexico Poison & Drug Information Center if you or someone you know has taken Ivermectin: 1-800-222-1222



Total calls since 1/1/21: 17 | Total calls since 8/6/21: 11

A 2nd county in the U.S. has declared misinformation a public health crisis

- Following the U.S. Surgeon General's health advisory urging all Americans to help slow the spread of health misinformation, two California counties have now declared misinformation a public health crisis (San Diego and Monterey counties)
- Health misinformation is a serious threat to public health and can cause confusion, sow mistrust, harm people's health, and undermine public health efforts



Luis Alejo 🗳️ @SupervisorAlejo · 15h

Today, Monterey County considers aligning its policies w U.S. @Surgeon_General's recommendations to fight health misinformation & declaring health misinformation a public health crisis in our county

Monterey County would follow San Diego County's leadership by @nathanfletcher! 🙌



3

4

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U.S. Surgeon General's Misinformation Advisory <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/surgeon-general-misinformation-advisory.pdf>

Monterey County Supervisor Luis Alejo's Twitter: <https://twitter.com/supervisoralejo?lang=en>

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West Las Vegas High School institutes masks for everyone at all outdoor district athletic events

“It’s to protect the kids and the staff,” West Las Vegas School District Superintendent Chris Gutierrez told the Santa Fe New Mexican in August, “...I figured the safest thing to do is to mask up, wash our hands and follow our COVID protocols.”



Get Vaccinated. Stay home and get tested if you have COVID-19 symptoms.

- Get tested if you think you have COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone who is positive.
- If you have a COVID-19 positive test, symptoms and risk factors, 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!

