

# COVID-19 Day 1,003

## Press Update

### December 8, 2022

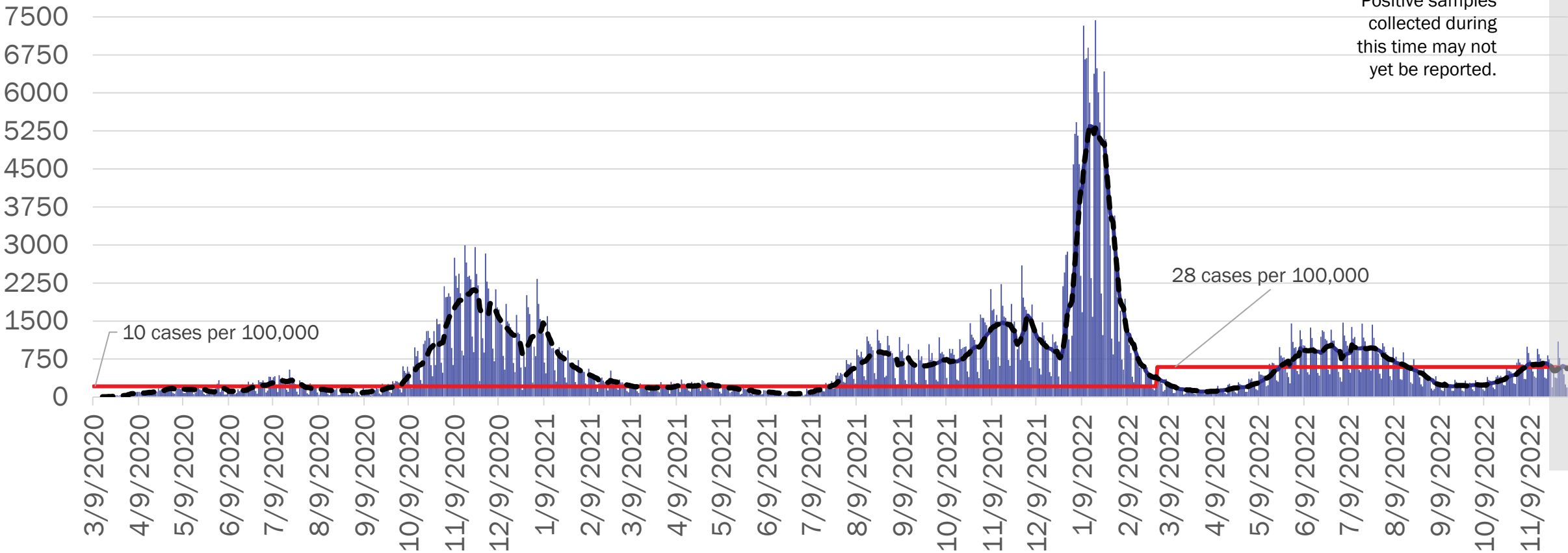
DOH Acting Secretary David R. Scrase, M.D., M.H.S.A.

DOH Deputy Secretary and Acting State Epidemiologist, Laura C. Parajon, M.D., M.P.H.

UNM Children's Hospital Associate Chief Medical Officer, Anna Duran, M.D.

# New Mexico COVID-19 cases

New Mexico COVID-19 Cases by Date of Specimen Collection  
December 5, 2022

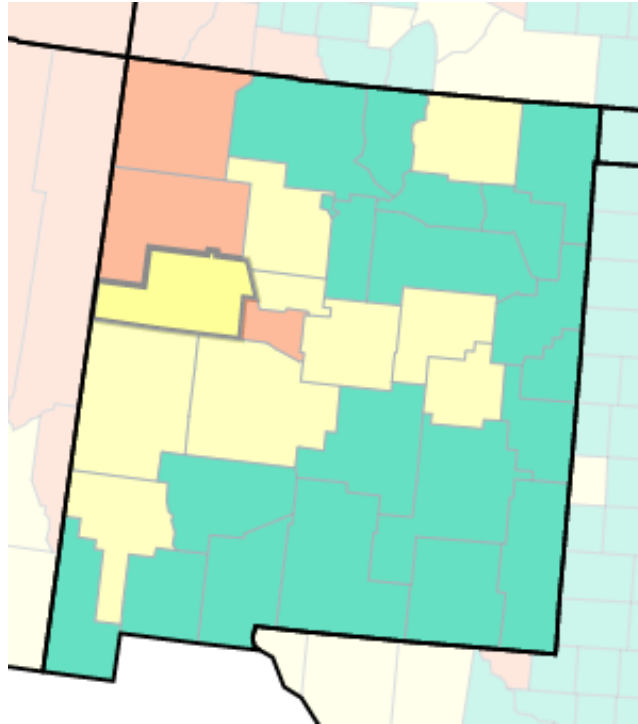


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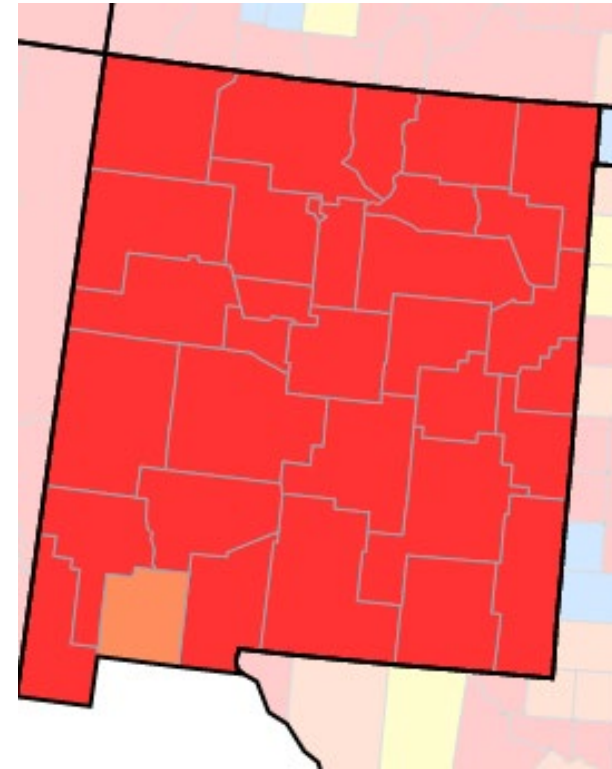
# New Mexico COVID-19 cases

CDC COVID-19  
Community Levels



● Low ● Medium ● High ● No Data

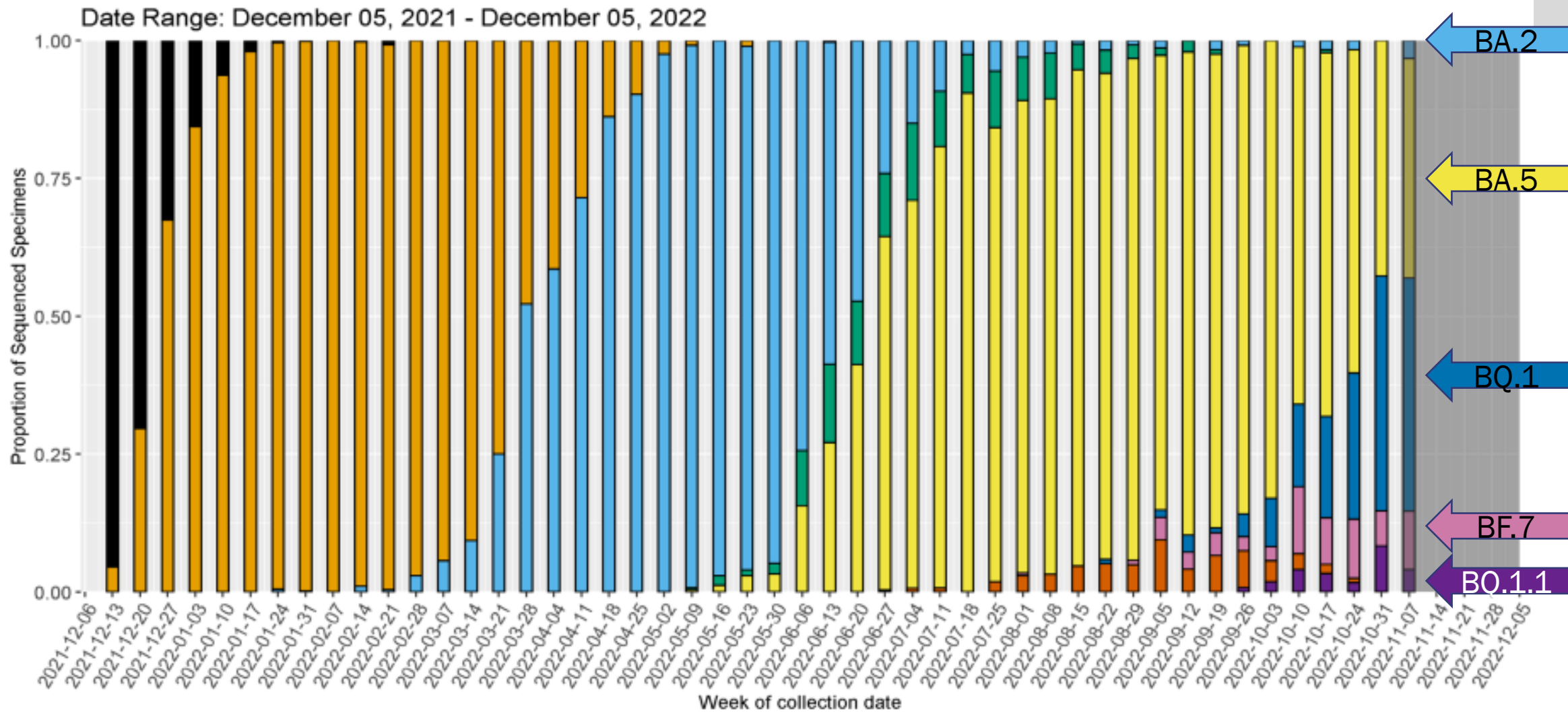
CDC COVID-19  
Transmission Levels



● High ● Substantial ● Moderate ● Low ● No Data

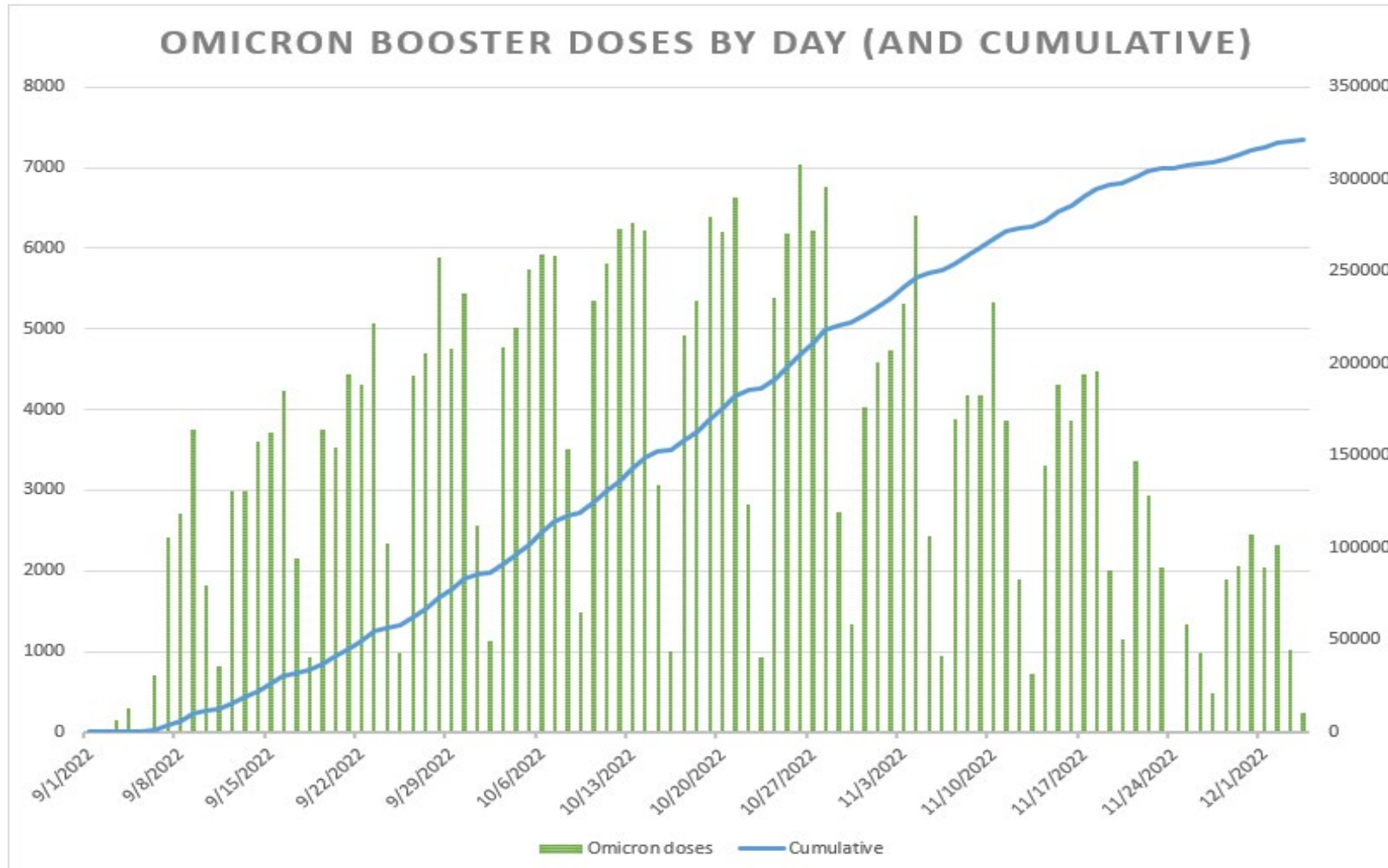
# Omicron remains the dominant COVID-19 variant in NM

Proportion of identified SARS-CoV-2 lineages by week\*



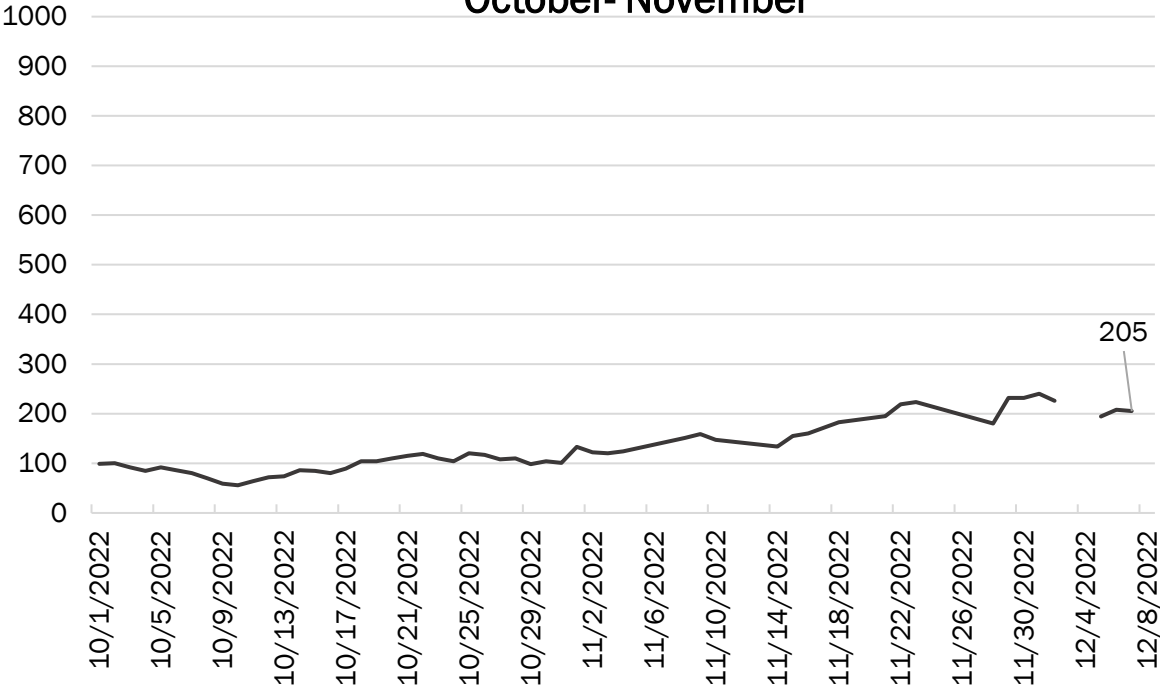


# Over 300,000 Omicron boosters have been administered in NM

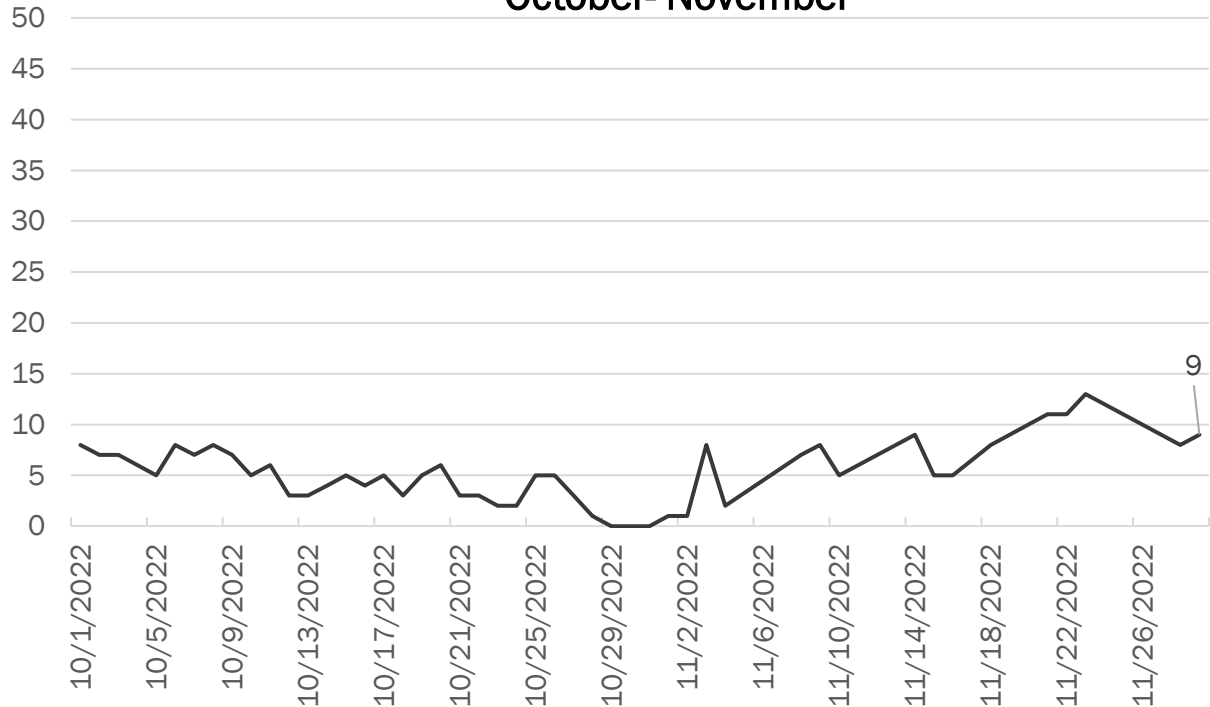


# COVID-19-related hospitalizations have increased (4.4% on ventilation)

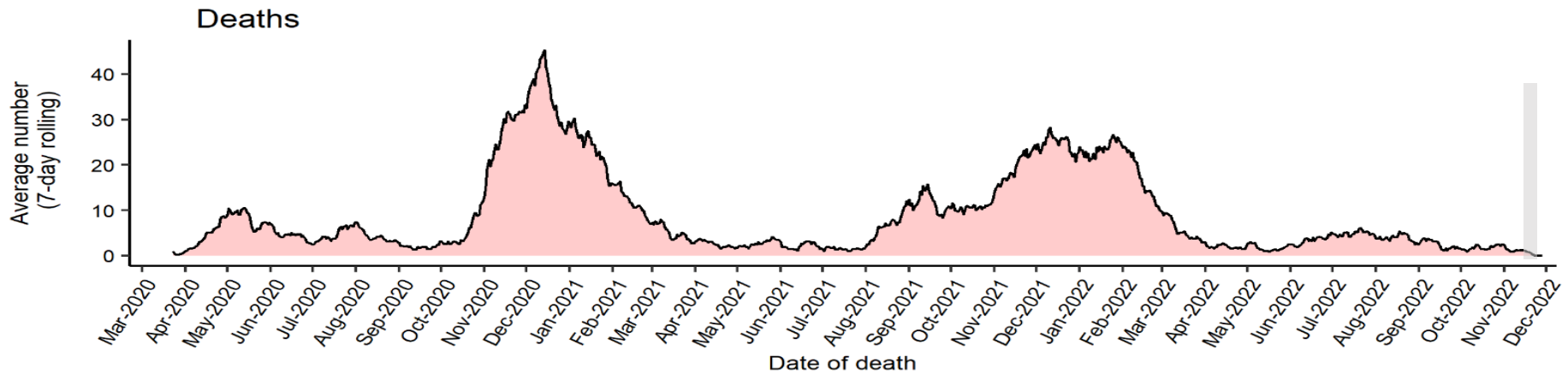
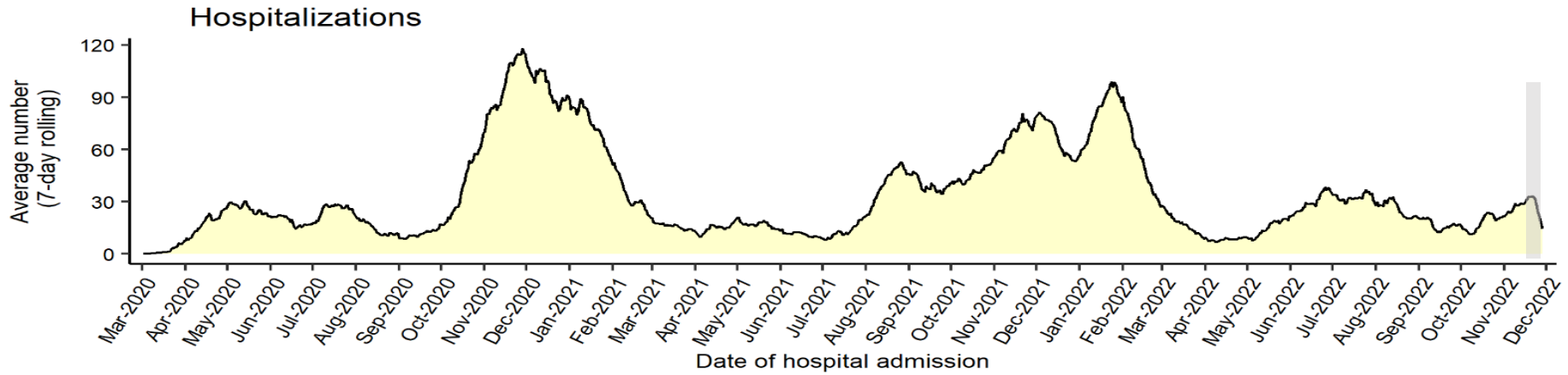
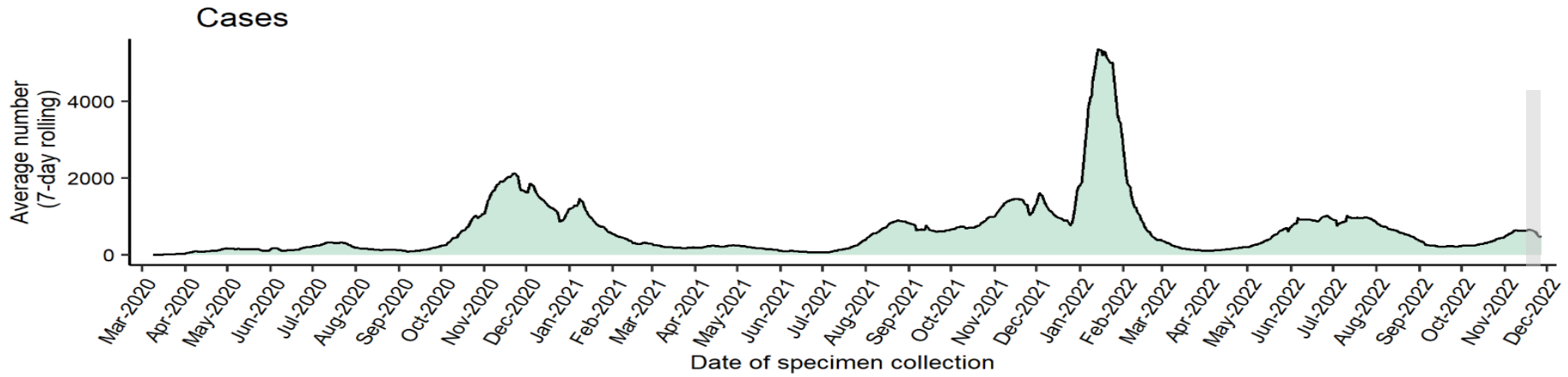
COVID-19 Positive Patients In NM Hospitals, October- November



COVID-19 Positive Ventilated Patients in NM Hospitals, October- November



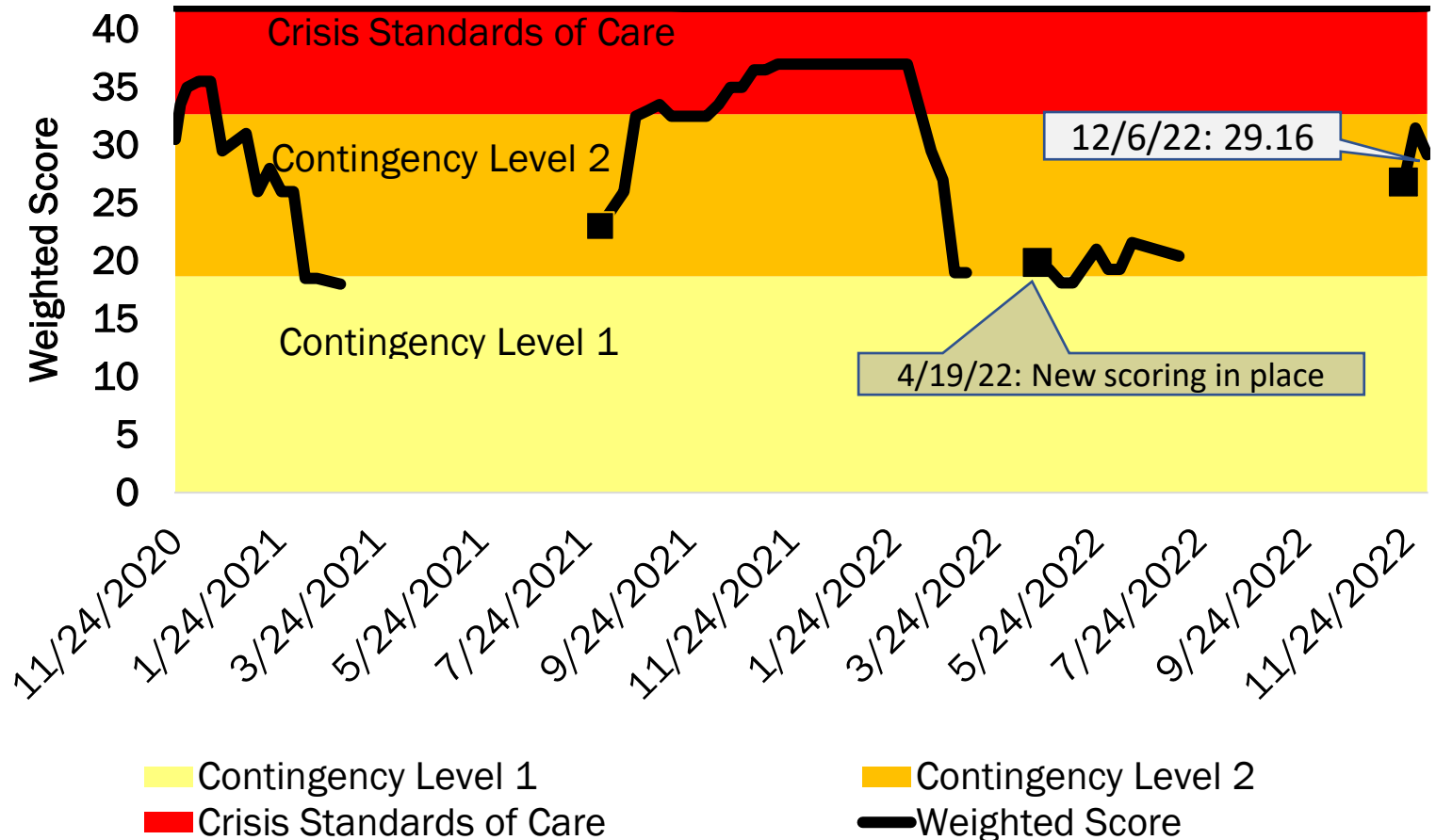
Total Deaths:	<b>8,702</b>	Deaths in the Last 14 Days:	<b>14</b>
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# NM hospitals self-evaluation: capacity is Contingency Level 2

Indicator	Criteria Demonstrating Crisis Standards of Care on 12/6/22
Emergency Department	More than 50% utilization of maximum expanded ED capacity and/or alternative access points for multiple days within each reporting period
Non-ICU	More 50% utilization of contingency capacity for multiple days within each reporting period
Workforce Ratios	Unable to further increase staff to patient ratios due to compromise of patient care
Supply Acquisition	Supply and/or equipment shortages leading to triage and/or resource allocation that compromise patient care

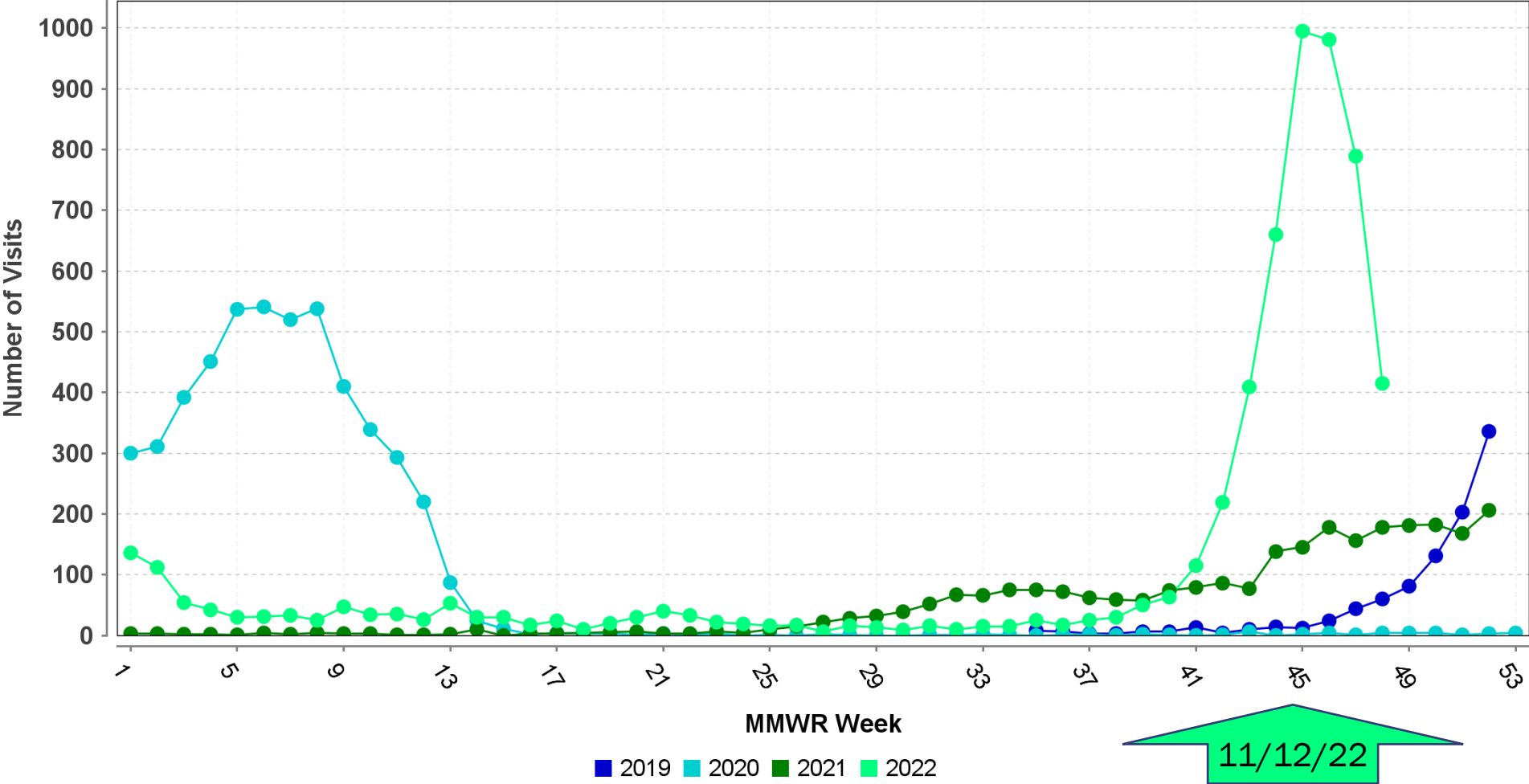
NM Hospital Systems Capacity Self-Evaluation



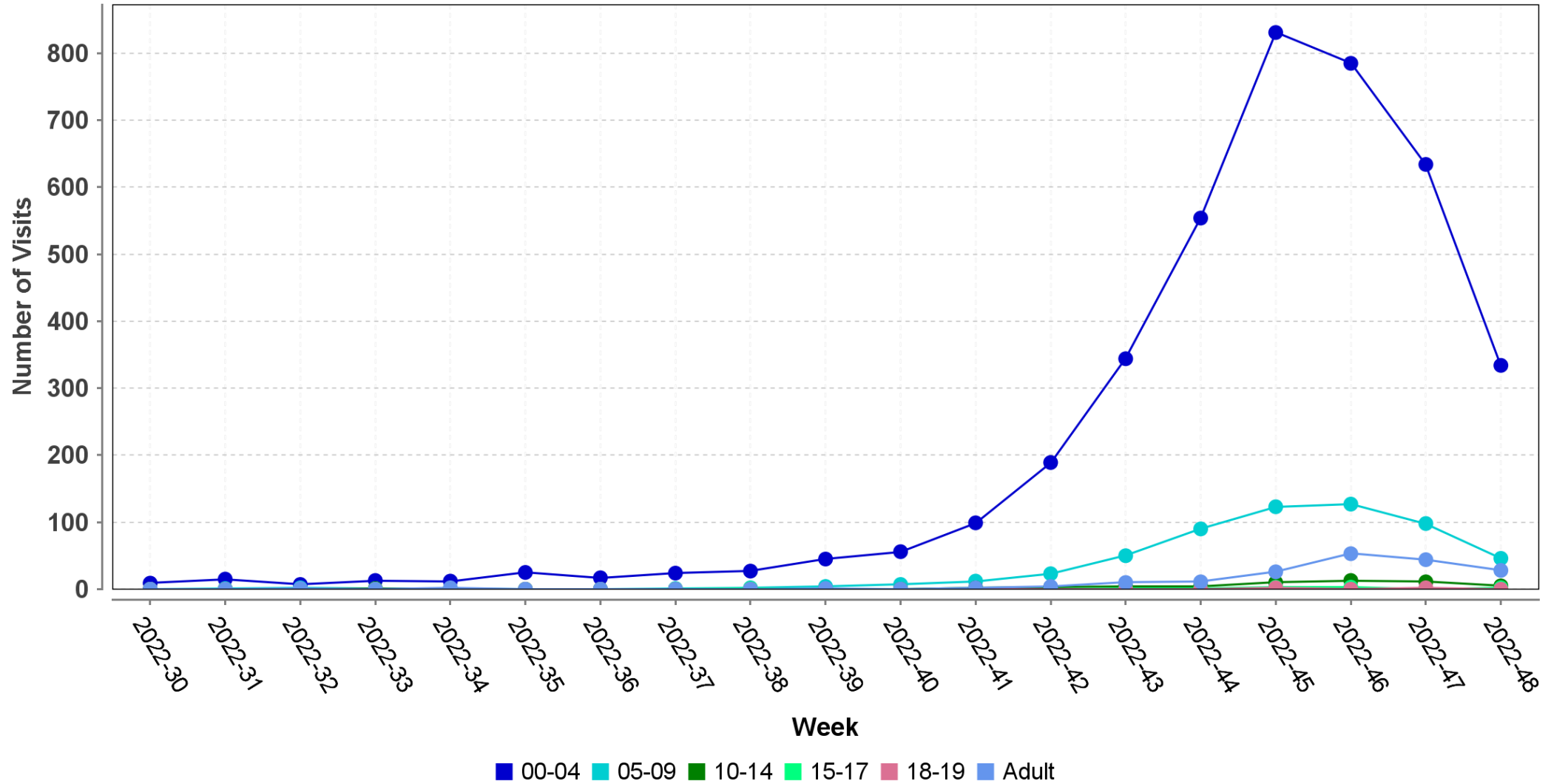


# RSV-related emergency department visits (children and adults) significantly higher than in recent years

RSV-related Emergency Department visits 2019-2022



## Weekly Counts: RSV-Related ED Visits by Pediatric Age Group



# Dec. 1, Public Health Order for RSV Hospitals at capacity

- New Mexico hospitals return to “hub-and-spoke” model of patient triage.
  - Hospitals and emergency rooms operating above their licensed capacity.
- Increased number of pediatric patients, a shortage of hospital staff and a lack of certain types of medical equipment.



MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM  
Governor

DAVID R. SCRASE, M.D.  
Acting Cabinet Secretary

**PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER  
NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
ACTING SECRETARY DAVID R. SCRASE, M.D.**

**December 1, 2022**

**Declaration of Respiratory Syncytial Virus as a  
Condition of Public Health Significance**

**PREFACE**

The purpose of this Order is to declare respiratory syncytial virus (“RSV”) a condition of public health significance and notify the public of the current public health emergency caused by an increase in RSV cases. This Order is further intended to advise the public about precautions that should be taken to decrease the spread of RSV to decompress the current burden on the State’s hospital systems.

**WHEREAS**, in October of 2022, the state saw a significant increase in RSV cases, in addition to an increase in cases associated with COVID-19, influenza, and other respiratory illnesses;

**WHEREAS**, as of November 19, 2022, the State is experiencing “very high” levels of influenza-like-illness activity as documented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s weekly influenza summary update (<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/usmap.htm>);

**WHEREAS**, there is currently no vaccine available to address RSV;

**WHEREAS**, as a result of low healthcare staffing caused by the two-year COVID-19 Pandemic, the state now has a shortage of pediatric providers, including doctors, nurses, respiratory therapists available to serve the State’s hospital systems;

**WHEREAS**, hospital systems are currently experiencing a shortage in both hospital bed availability and critical resources, such as oxygen supply systems, endotracheal tubes, and pediatric oxygen converter kits, necessary to respond to the increase in RSV cases;

# U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Addresses Nationwide Healthcare System Capacity

- In a letter to Governor Lujan Grisham, U.S. HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra confirmed the Federal government will continue "assisting" NM with resources, supplies, and personnel to strengthen our capacity to respond to RSV and other infectious diseases.
- Does not include a Stafford Act declaration activating FEMA, Department of Defense, or any funding.
- DOH is working with NM hospitals and other state partners to identify needs and seek appropriate resources.



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

December 2, 2022

The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Governor  
State of New Mexico  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Dear Governor Lujan Grisham:

As we have all reported, parts of the country are currently experiencing a confluence of respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19, Influenza (flu), and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), especially among children, and this challenge is increasing strain on our health care and hospital systems. I write today to reinforce that the Biden-Harris Administration stands ready to continue assisting you with resources, supplies, and personnel, as it has throughout our fight against COVID-19.

As we head into the winter months, let me reiterate that there are resources and tools available to you and your team to strengthen your capacity to respond to RSV and other infectious diseases, including flexibilities that have been in place during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE). As your federal partner, we stand ready to evaluate any request for federal medical assistance and support – including requests for medical personnel and equipment – working in close coordination with you and local jurisdictions to determine the needs and availability of matching resources.

Of note, the Administration has exercised regulatory flexibilities to help health care providers and suppliers continue to respond to COVID-19. These flexibilities – while critical in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic – can also help address many of the challenges you face during the spread of non-COVID-19 illnesses, including RSV and flu. They remain available to you and health care providers as you all make care available in response to flu, RSV, COVID-19, and other illnesses.

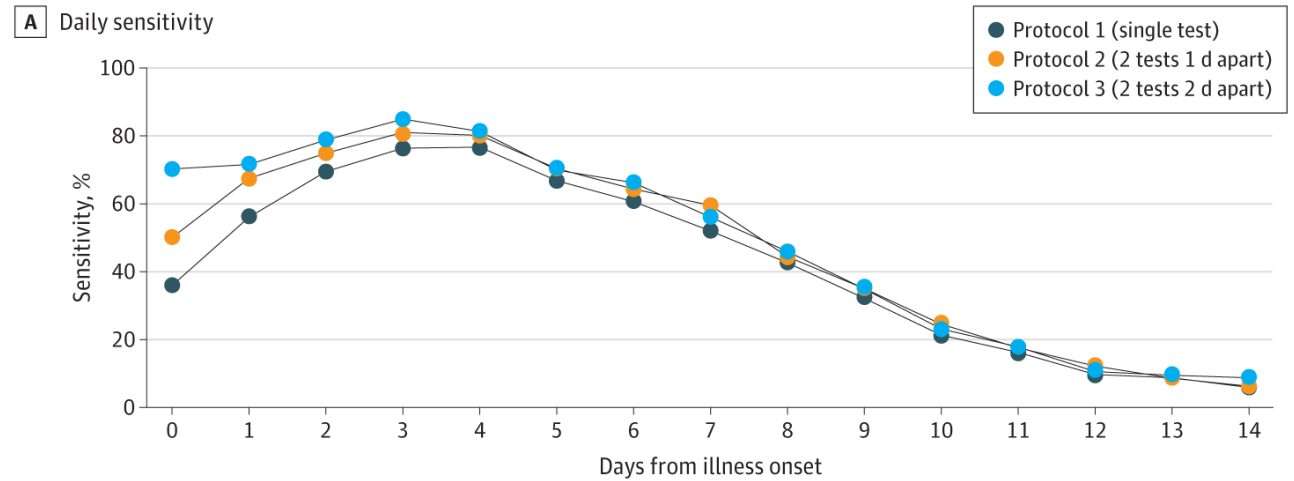
[As respiratory viruses strain US health care systems, Biden administration tells states how it's ready to help | CNN](#)

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# Changes coming to New Mexico COVID-19 testing options, DOH encourages at-home rapid tests to test for COVID-19

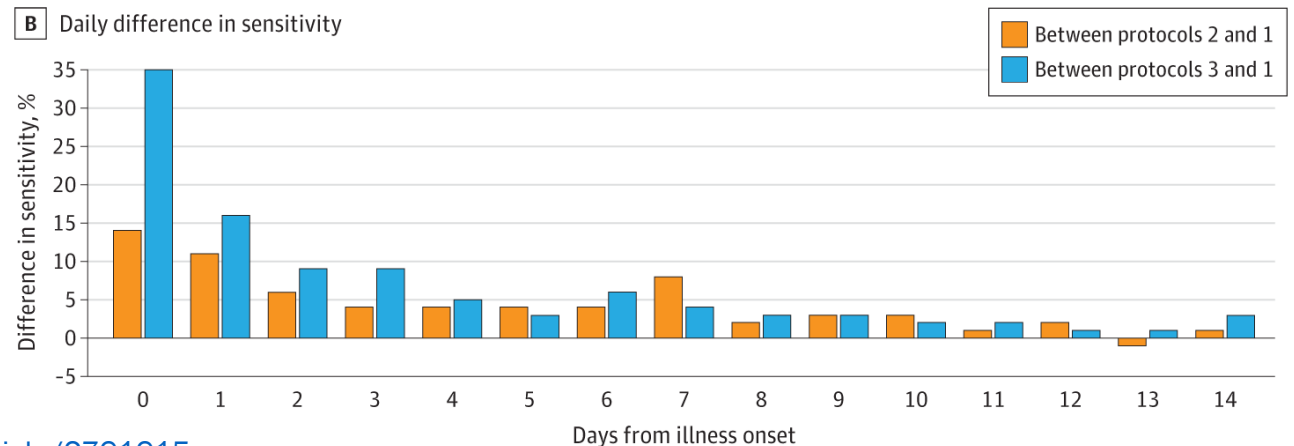
- [Curative](#) will conclude its COVID-19 PCR (polymerase chain reaction) testing services nation-wide at the end of the year.
- DOH encourages community to take advantage of free at-home rapid tests.
- Comparison of two rapid tests versus one PCR test:
  - Antigen test sensitivity was 64% and 84% when compared with same-day RT-PCR and viral culture, respectively.
  - Antigen test sensitivity peaked 4 days after illness onset (77%); a second test 1 to 2 days later showed improved sensitivity (81%-85%).
- Go to <https://findatestnm.org/>

Figure 4. Daily Sensitivity of 3 Home Antigen Testing Protocols



No. of participants

Protocol 1	28	41	59	89	125	154	168	175	194	199	196	197	192	186	171
Protocol 2	26	40	56	89	123	149	158	171	192	187	187	187	178	163	151
Protocol 3	27	39	57	87	119	142	163	173	182	184	182	181	168	155	138





# DOH realigning COVID-19 trend reporting

## Continued Daily Reporting

### Daily Epidemiology Report

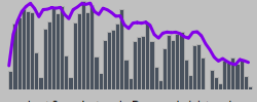
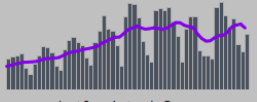
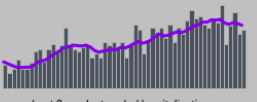
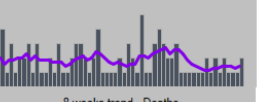
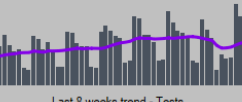
Numbers are posted Monday through Friday except on holidays.

Last Update: 12/7/2022

Hospitalizations		Deaths		Cases		Tests
215 current	12 ventilated	21 new	8,729 total	636 new	650,779 total	6,309 new

### Weekly Reports

Last Update: 12/6/2022

Vaccines Administered	Cases	Hospitalizations	Deaths	Tests
4,536,563 total	650,143 total	32,501 total	8,708 total	8,211,475 total
<b>In the past 7 days</b> 27,394 vaccines given	<b>In the 7 days 11/29 - 12/05</b> 4,482 cases	<b>In the 7 days 11/22 - 11/28</b> 229 admitted	<b>In the 28 days 10/18 - 11/14</b> 50 deaths	<b>In the 7 days 11/25 - 12/01</b> 35,196 tests
71% received primary series 16% received primary series and a bivalent booster	212 cases <i>per</i> 100,000	11 receiving mechanical ventilation (daily avg.)	2.4 deaths <i>per</i> 100,000	15.0% positivity
				
Last 8 weeks trend - Doses administered	Last 8 weeks trend - Cases	Last 8 weeks trend - Hospitalizations	8 weeks trend - Deaths	Last 8 weeks trend - Tests

## Moving to Biweekly Reporting Dec. 20

### Case Reports

[DOWNLOAD THE LATEST COVID-19 GEOGRAPHIC TRENDS REPORT](#)

[DOWNLOAD THE LATEST COVID-19 DEMOGRAPHICS REPORT](#)

[DOWNLOAD THE LATEST COVID-19 HEALTH AND SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS REPORT](#)

### Variant of Concern Reports

[DOWNLOAD THE LATEST COVID-19 VOC REPORT](#)

### Vaccination Reports

[DOWNLOAD THE VACCINATION REPORT](#)

### Community Transmission for Healthcare Facilities

[DOWNLOAD THE COVID-19 COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION REPORT](#)

### Hospitalization Reports

[DOWNLOAD THE LATEST COVID-19 HOSPITALIZATION REPORT](#)

### Mortality Reports

[DOWNLOAD THE LATEST COVID-19 MORTALITY REPORT](#)

### Pediatric Case Reports

[DOWNLOAD THE LATEST COVID-19 PEDIATRIC CASE REPORT](#)

### Wastewater Surveillance

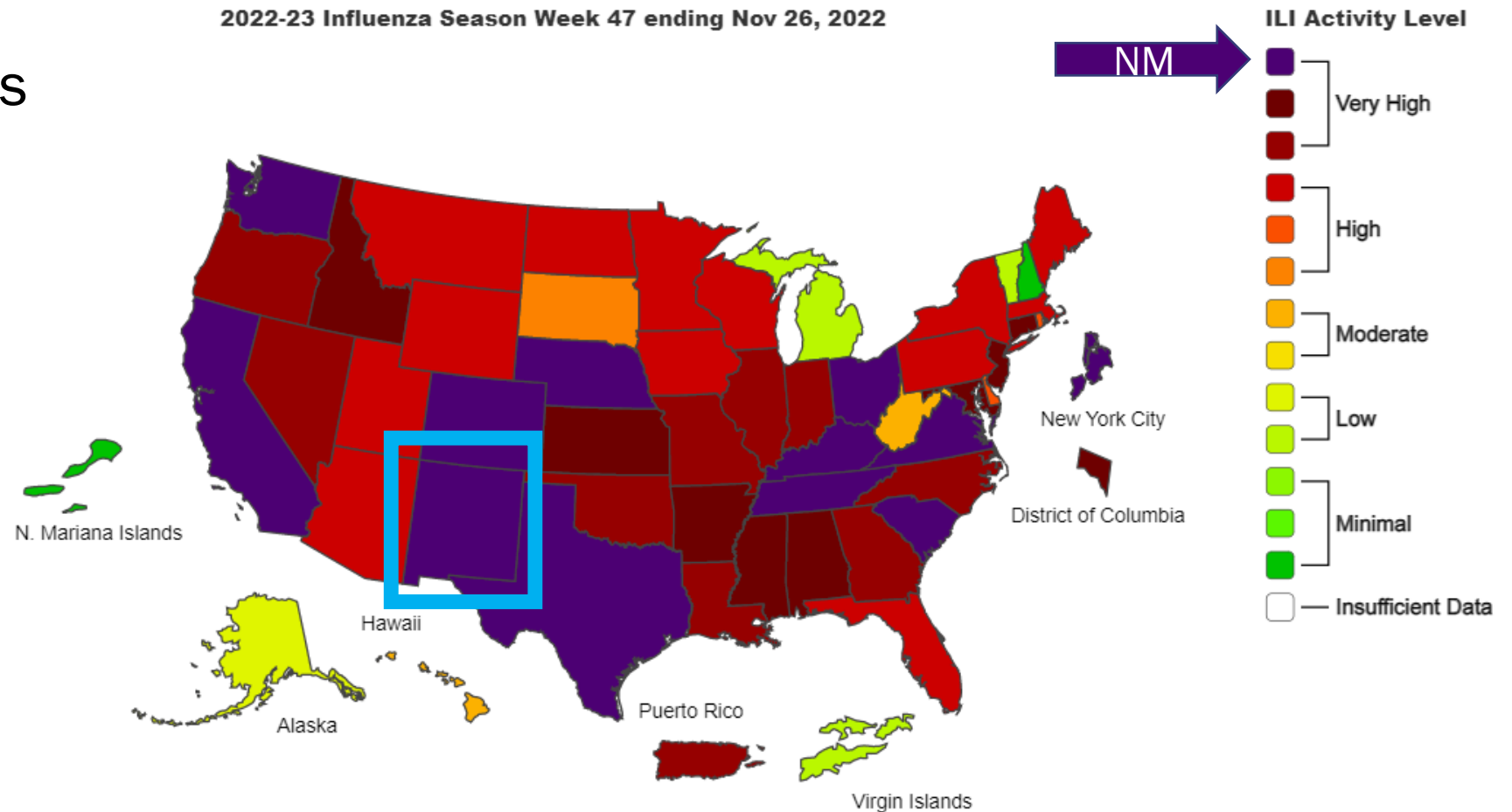
[DOWNLOAD THE LATEST WASTEWATER SURVEILLANCE REPORT](#)

The Wastewater Monitoring report will be updated once current data becomes available.

[Epidemiology Reports | NMDOH - Coronavirus Updates \(nmhealth.org\)](https://www.nmhealth.org/epidemiology-reports)

# Influenza-like activity levels are very high in NM

- New Mexico influenza-like illness (ILI) activity is currently 14.3% of patient visits statewide and is above the NM ILI baseline of 3.9% in all five health regions.
- This is the highest activity in the past three years.



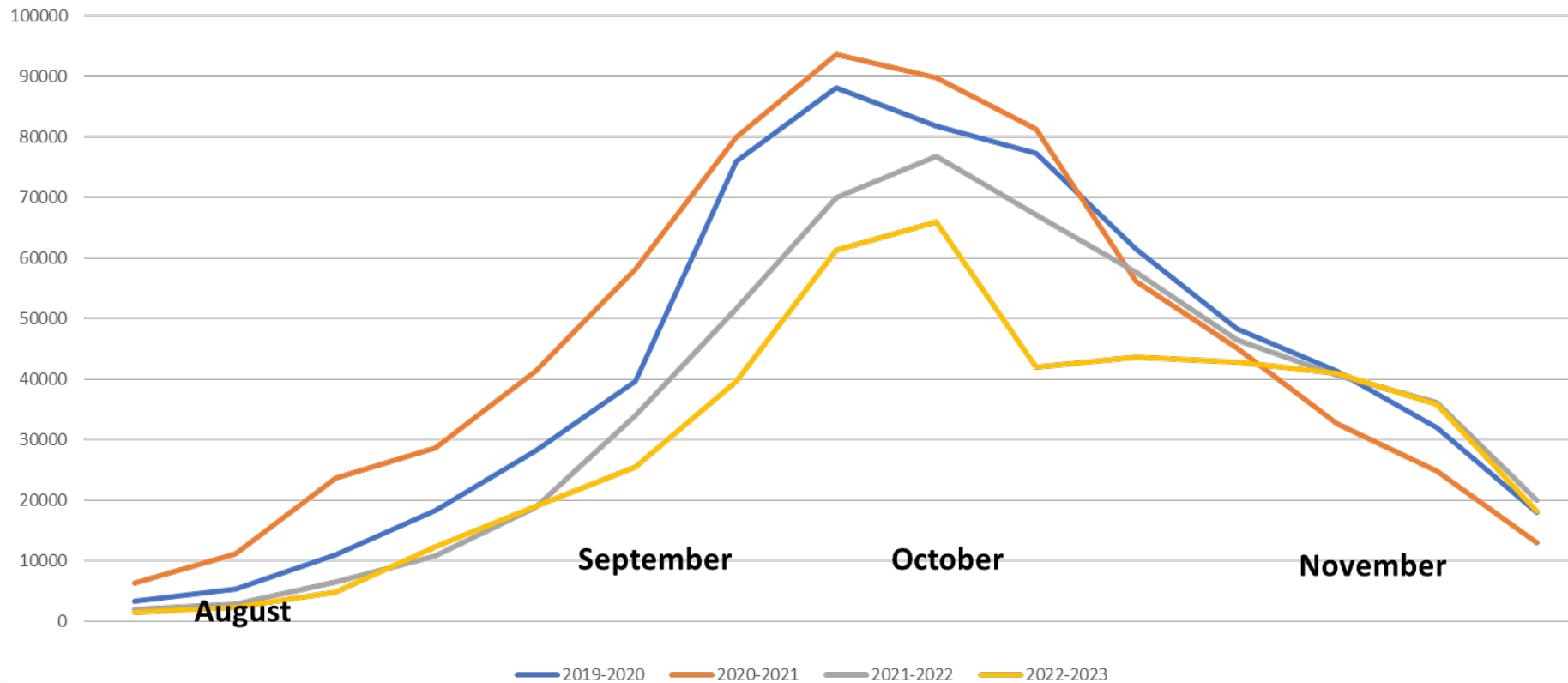
[New Mexico Department of Health Influenza & Respiratory Disease Report A Summary of Influenza and RSV Surveillance \(nmhealth.org\)](https://www.nmhealth.org/newsroom/2022-23-influenza-season-week-47-ending-nov-26-2022)

[Weekly US Map: Influenza Summary Update | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/)

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# You're more likely to get sick if you didn't get your Flu vaccine

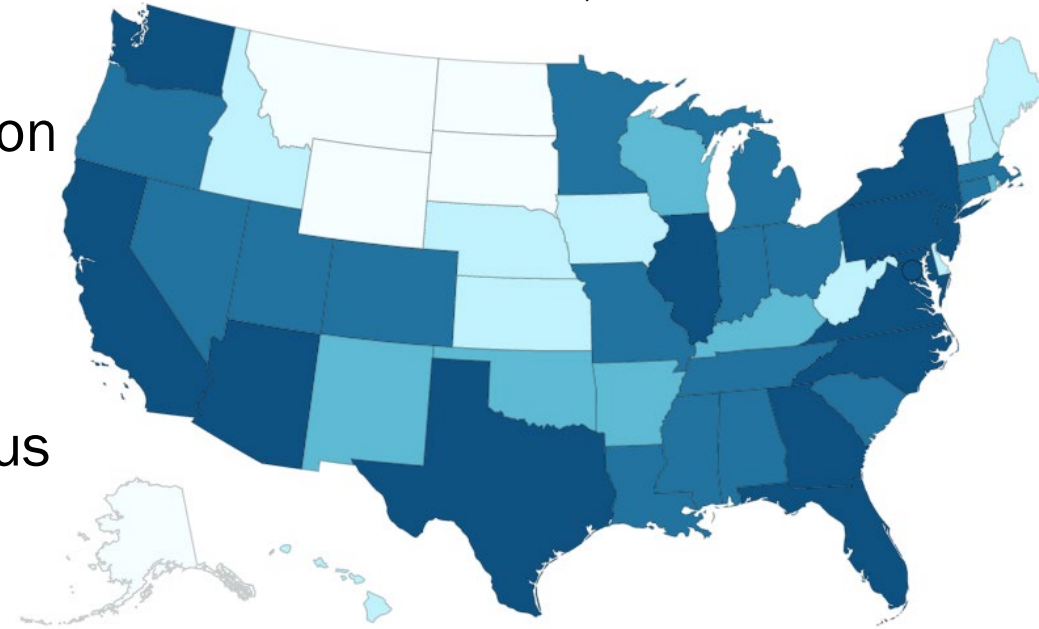
## N.M. Flu vaccines by week 2019-22 (August – November)



# Mpox

- DOH is updating materials with the term "mpox" to reduce stigma associated with prior terminology. Revision is aligned with recent changes by the [World Health Organization](#) and the [CDC](#).
- Prevention strategies turn the tide of the Mpox outbreak.
- National figures have shown more than a 95% reduction in cases since the peak this summer.
  - New Mexico has had 2 cases diagnosed in the last 6 weeks.
- Vaccine is still available for persons at risk.
- Persons who have only gotten the first dose of Jynneos vaccine are strongly encouraged to schedule their second shot to have full protection.

Total confirmed monkeypox/orthopoxvirus  
Cases Globally: 82,199  
Cases in the US: **29,711**  
Cases in New Mexico: **52**  
Deaths in the US: **20**  
Dec. 5, 2022



# UNM Hospital Update

Anna Duran, MD

Associate Chief Medical Officer, UNM Children's Hospital



# What are we seeing?

## Children's Hospital

- Mixed respiratory viruses, predominately RSV
- Seeing more COVID in younger populations
- Many kids needing higher level of care, high flow oxygen
- More ICU care, including increased need for breathing tubes (intubation).

## Adults

- Much more flu, pneumonia, RSV and COVID

# Impact on Capacity

- UNMH, SRMC, and UNM Children's Hospital are all significantly over 100 percent of their licensed capacity.
- At any given moment in the UNM Health System, there may be 90-100 adults and 10-20 children waiting in our emergency rooms for a bed.
- UNM Health System provides unique services in New Mexico, and we want to be sure New Mexicans continue to have access to those services that are only available at UNM.

# What are we doing?

## Activated the Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

- Continue to identify and open additional bed spaces to maximize resources
- Working to make sure patients are in the hospital only as long as they need to be

# How you can help

## Assess: What level of care do you really need?

- Emergency Room
- Urgent Care or Primary Care Provider
- Home Care

## Preventative Measures

- Vaccinate against the Flu and get COVID boosters
- Wear a face mask
- If you are sick, stay home

## If you do go to a hospital, expect very long wait times.

Please be patient and understanding with your healthcare providers. They are there to assure you have outstanding care and everyone is working hard to meet the needs of all our patients.

## WHERE TO GO WHEN YOUR CHILD IS ILL

It's important to know what level of care your child needs.

### Emergency Care

- **Rapid Breathing:** difficulty breathing or working hard to breathe
- **Wheezing**
- **Dehydration:** no tears, dry mouth, urine is less in volume than normal
- **Infant fever:** less than 6 weeks old
- **Difficult to Wake Up**
- **Headache with Neck Pain and/or Vomiting**
- **Fever:** lasting 5+ days

### Urgent or Primary Care

- **Fever:** lasting 3+ days
- **Dehydration:** concern of not wanting to drink
- **Vomiting and Diarrhea:** with concern for dehydration
- **Cold:** symptoms that seem to be getting worse after 7 days or lasting longer than 10 days
- **Symptoms:** improving, then worsen with a new fever
- **Concern for Sinus Infection:** nasal drainage and 3 days in a row of fever

### Home Care

- **Fever/Fussiness/Pain:** Tylenol all ages or Ibuprofen if 6+ months
- **Sore Throat:** Tylenol all ages or Ibuprofen if 6+ months
- **Scratchy Throat:** Warm or cold liquids
- **Prevent Dehydration:**  
**Drink:** fluids - popsicles, Jello, broths, Pedialyte, Gatorade (dilute half with water)  
**Avoid:** caffeinated beverages
- **Runny Nose/Congestion:** Saline spray, humidifier, and suction (suction should be limited to 3x/day)
- **Cough:** Honey for children older than 1
- **Cold:** Cold formulas should not be used for children 4 years and under
- **Ear Pain:** Tylenol, warm or cool compress
- **Muscle Aches:** ibuprofen
- **Vomiting:** Fluids
- **Diarrhea:** **Drink:** Fluids  
**Avoid:** Juice, antidiarrheal medications, BRAT (Banana, Rice, Applesauce, Toast)  
Children should resume a normal, well-balanced diet appropriate for their age, within 24 hours of getting sick





# It's time for your Flu and Omicron Booster

- It is safe to receive both the Flu vaccine and Omicron booster at the same time.
- Public Health Offices and pharmacies will be offering the vaccines free of charge.
- Schedule your vaccine today:
  - At a pharmacy
  - With your provider
  - Visit [ItsTimeNM.org](https://ItsTimeNM.org) or [vaccines.gov](https://vaccines.gov)
- Call 1-855-600-3453 (option 3).



**GET BOOSTED TODAY**

COVID vaccines **lose power** like batteries.  
**Recharge your protection.**

Schedule your booster today at:  
[vaccinemn.org](https://vaccinemn.org)

**NMDOH**  
NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

# Our community is safer when we do our part

Know the [COVID-19 Community Level](#) where you live.

- Follow the CDC guidance for Low, Medium and High levels.

**Get vaccinated.**

- Stay up-to-date on vaccines and boosters visit [vaccinenm.org](http://vaccinenm.org)

**Get tested.**

- At the first sign of symptoms.
- You can still order tests through [FindATestNM.org](http://FindATestNM.org).

**Get treated.**

- Seek treatment right away, even if you have one risk factor.

**Get a well-fitting mask.**

- Masks are effective and provide an extra layer to safeguard.

