



CRIHB COVID-19 Updates December 21, 2021

*Please sign-in in the Group
Chat with your name and
Tribe or Indian Health
Program name*





COVID-19 cases in the United States

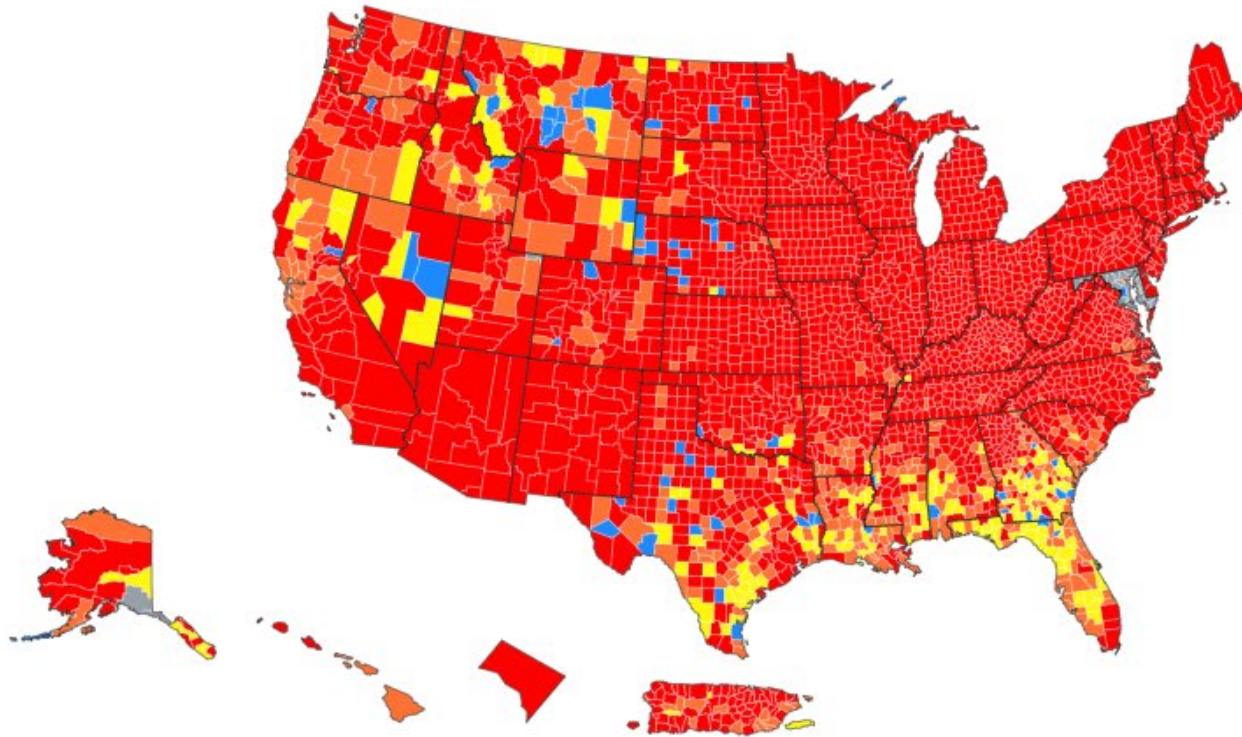
- Compared to a month ago, the pace of new cases nationally is up to 41%
- About three quarters of counties have high levels of transmission
- CDC expects a surge in COVID-19 cases in the coming days to weeks

Community transmission

Community Transmission in US by County

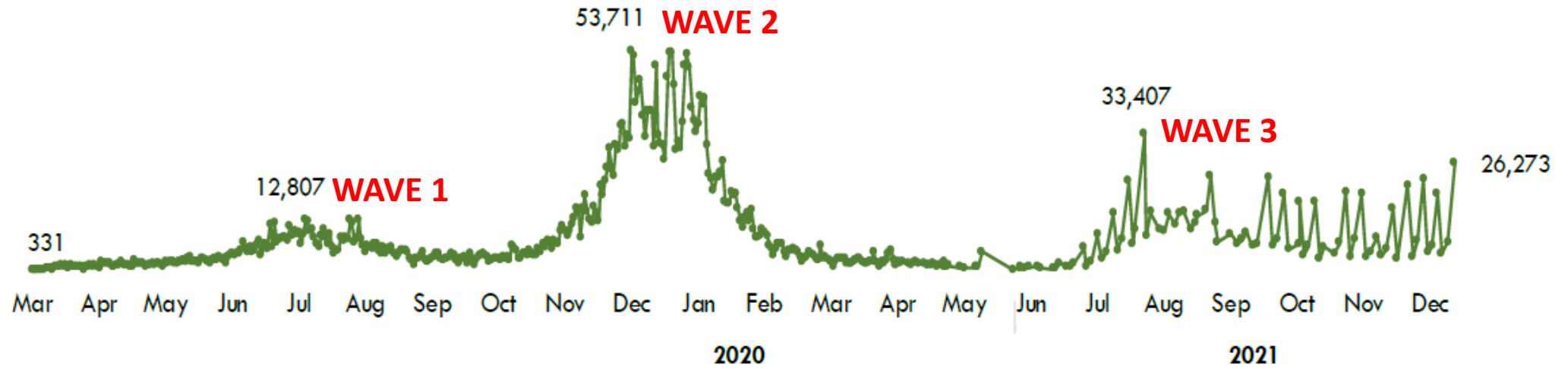
	Total	Percent	% Change
High	2541	78.86%	-1.06%
Substantial	392	12.17%	0.84%
Moderate	196	6.08%	-0.71%
Low	67	2.08%	0.25%

[How is community transmission calculated?](#)

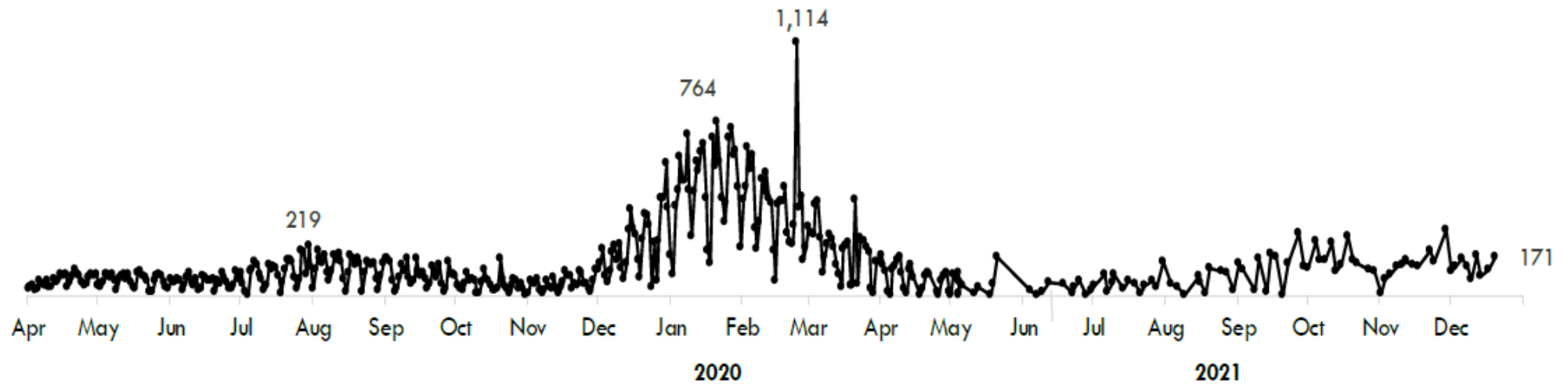




New Confirmed Cases in California by Date

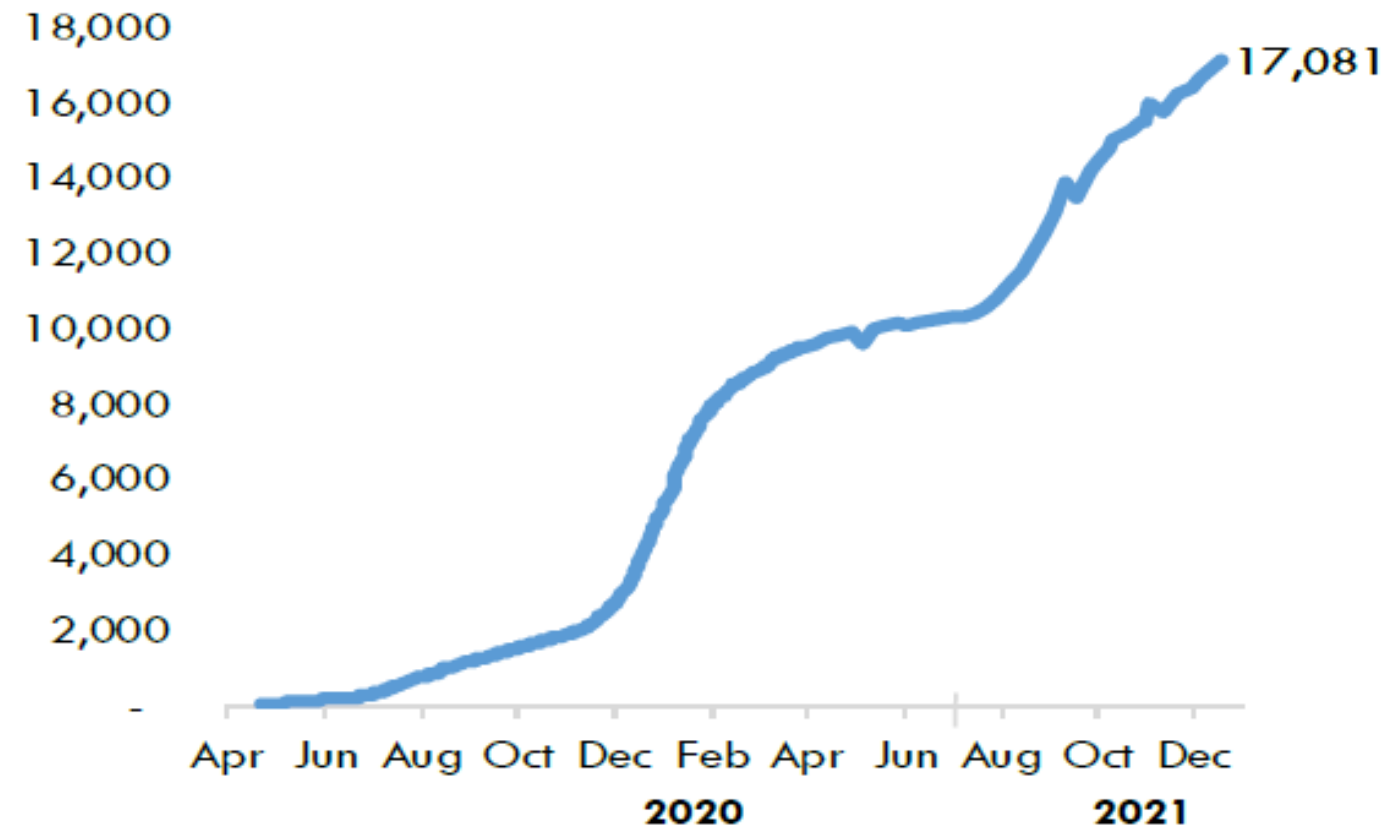
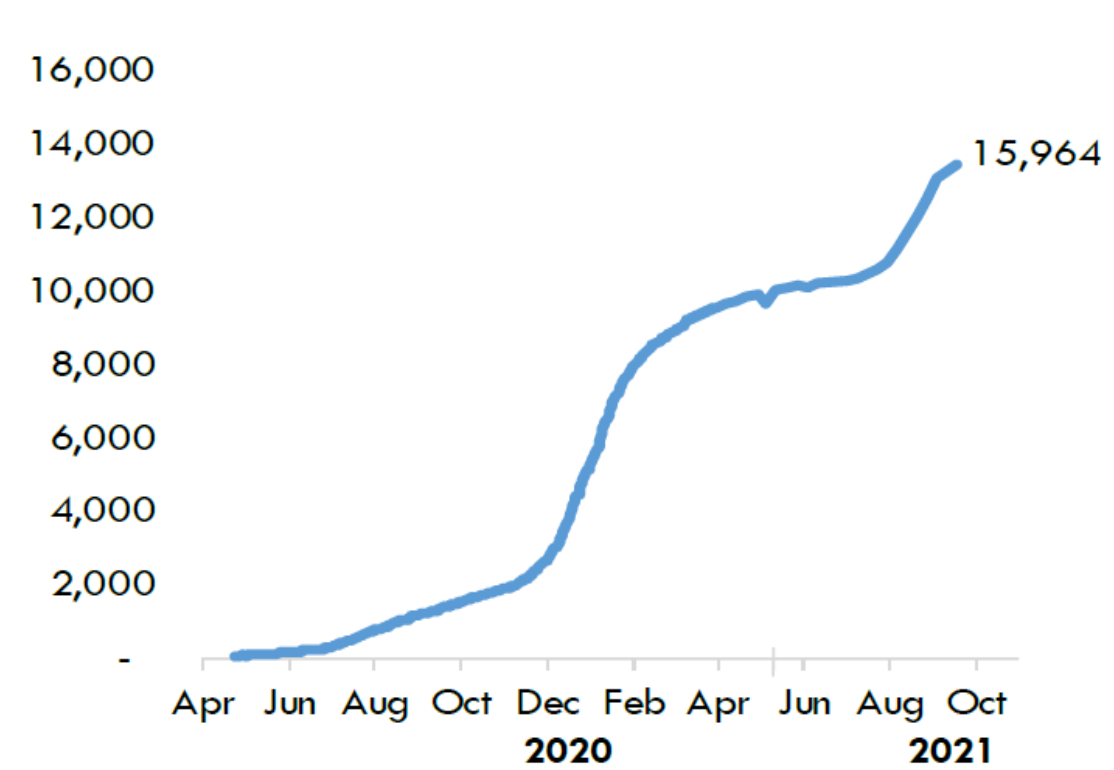


New Confirmed Deaths in California by Date

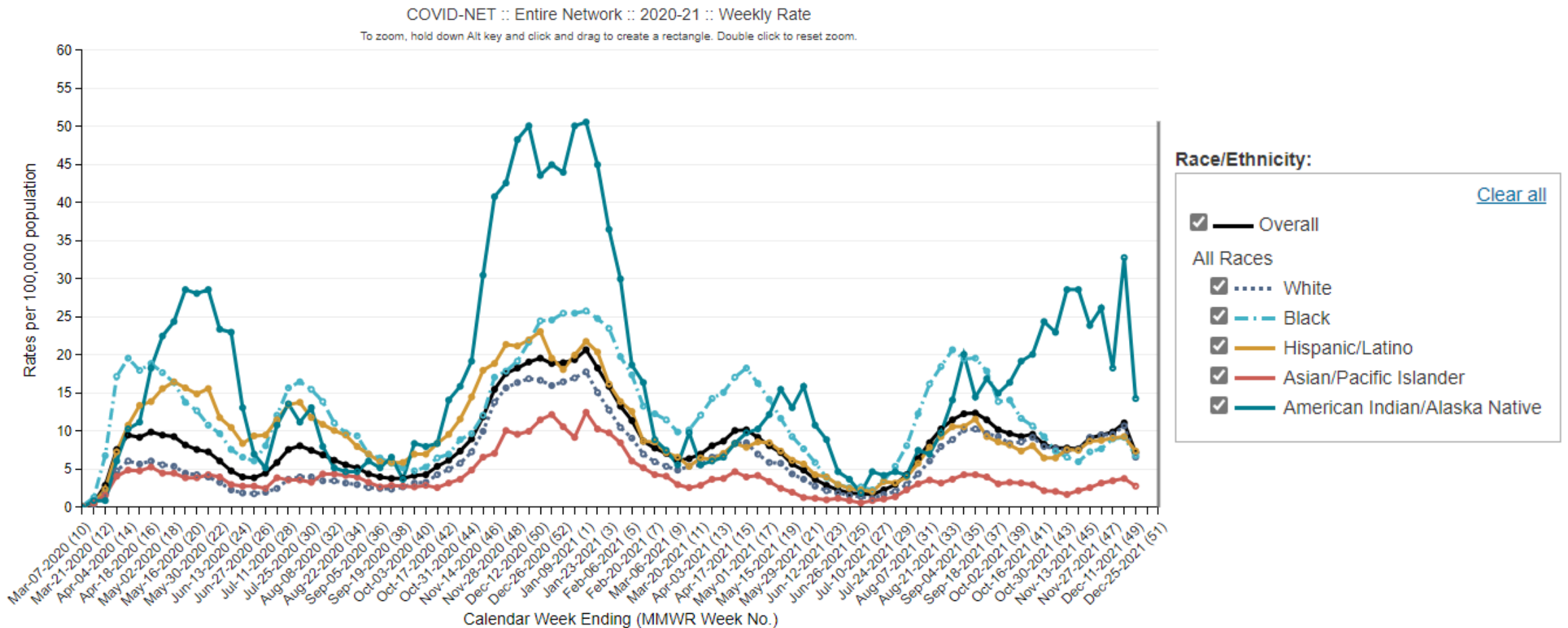


As of 12/20/2021. Source: CDPH

COVID-19 cases in AIAN, California

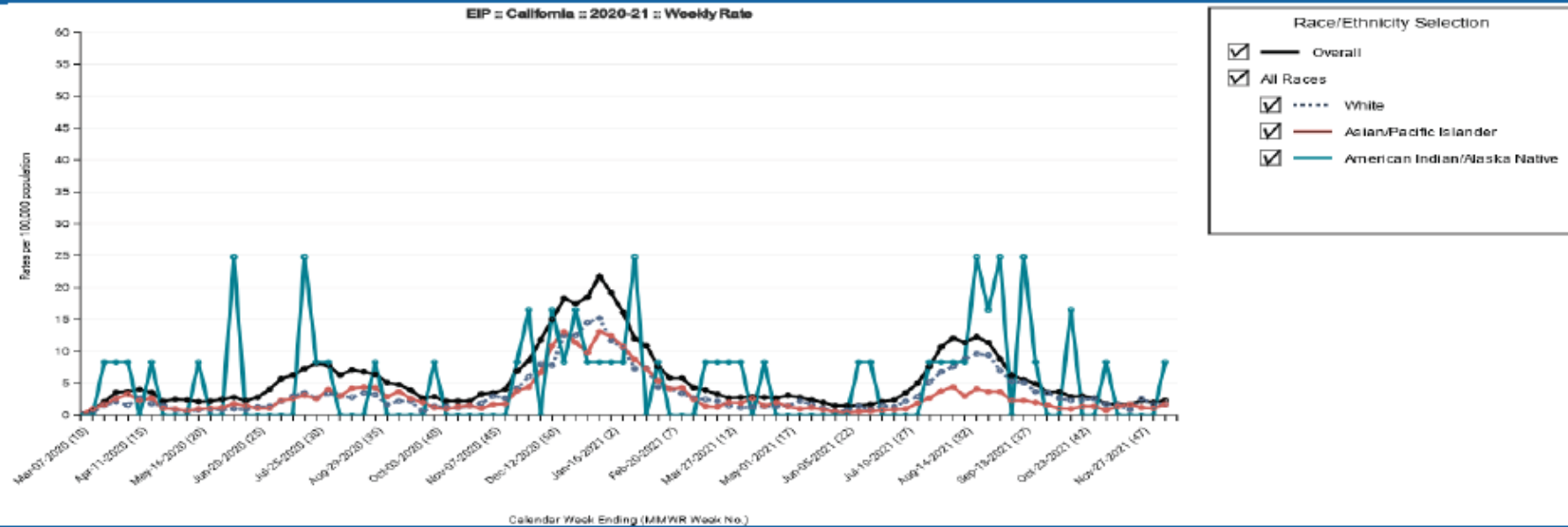


Hospitalization rates by race/ethnicity, United States



COVID-19 HOSPITALIZATION BY RACE/ETHNICITY, CA

For the week ending on December 11, 2021, the graph to the right shows that the hospitalization rate among AIAN statewide was 8.3 per 100,000 (vs. 1.7 per 100,000 among Whites).



DAILY NEW CASES

 **15.3** PER 100K

COVID NOT CONTAINED, BUT DAILY NEW CASES ARE AT MEDIUM LEVELS

INFECTION RATE

 **0.99**

COVID IS STILL SPREADING, BUT AT MEDIUM LEVELS

POSITIVE TEST RATE

 **2.7%**

INDICATES LOW TESTING POSITIVITY

Lab tests reported statewide*: 105,713,064

7-day test positivity rate*: 2.4%

*as of 11/10/21

California COVID-19 threat level: **High**

DAILY NEW CASES

 **18.1** PER 100K

COVID NOT CONTAINED, BUT DAILY NEW CASES ARE AT MEDIUM LEVELS

INFECTION RATE

 **1.00**

COVID IS STILL SPREADING, BUT AT MEDIUM LEVELS

POSITIVE TEST RATE

 **2.3%**

INDICATES LOW TESTING POSITIVITY

Lab tests reported statewide*: 117,483,254

7-day test positivity rate*: 2.8%

*as of 12/19/21

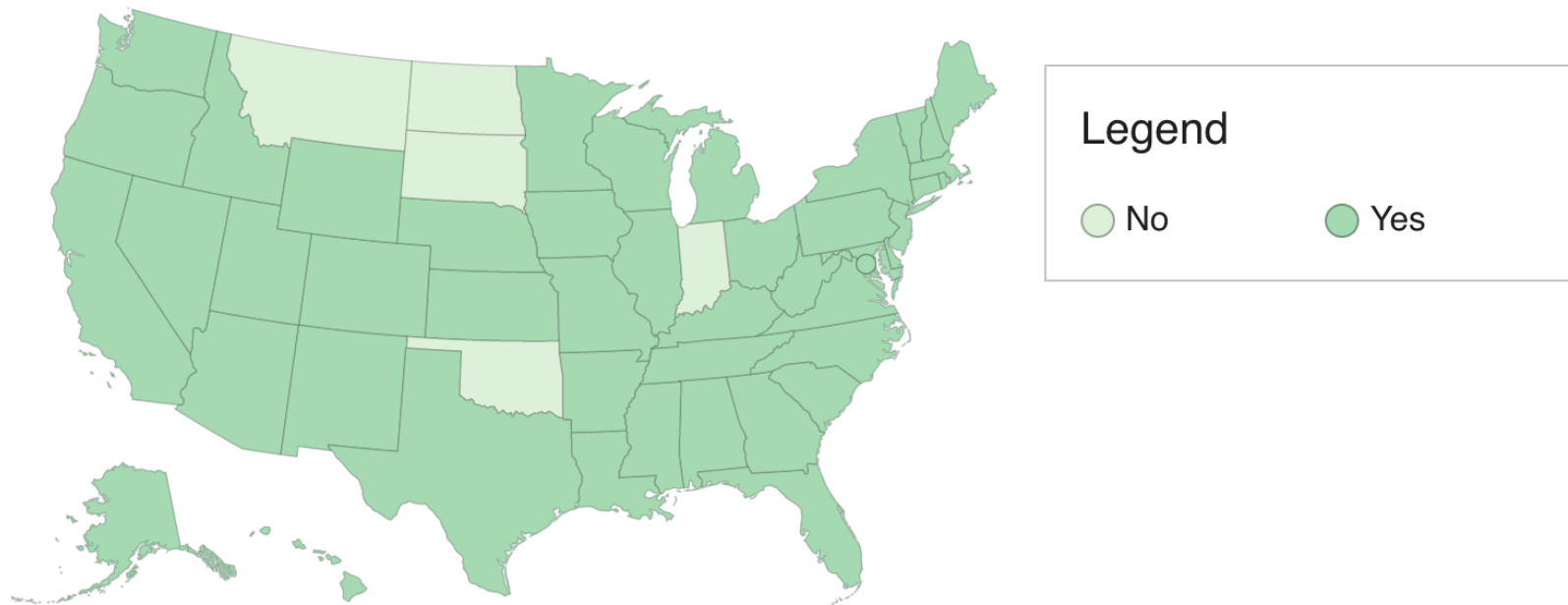


Omicron variant

- November 9 – First confirmed case in South Africa
- December 1 – First case detected in the United States (California)
- Spreads more easily

Where has Omicron been Detected in the United States

CDC is working with state and local public health officials to monitor the spread of Omicron. This map shows the states that have detected at least one case of COVID-19 illness caused by the Omicron variant. More Omicron variant surveillance data on CDC's [COVID Data Tracker](#).





Variants in California

As of December 15, 299,708 samples have been sequenced in California. In August 2021, 16% of cases in California have been sequenced so far. In July 2021, 23% of cases in California were sequenced. The table below shows the percent of specimens sequenced that are variants of concern or variants of interest statewide.

Specimen Collection Month	Alpha	Beta	Gamma	Delta	Epsilon	Zeta	Eta	Iota	Kappa	Mu	Omicron
21-Dec	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	98.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.4%

49 cases caused by Omicron in California

Data from [California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\)](#) does not include vaccines administered by Federal entities such as **Indian Health Service**, Department of Defense, U.S. Federal Bureau of Prisons, and Veterans Affairs.

62,762,797

Doses administered

3,055,332

People partially vaccinated

26,478,495

People fully vaccinated

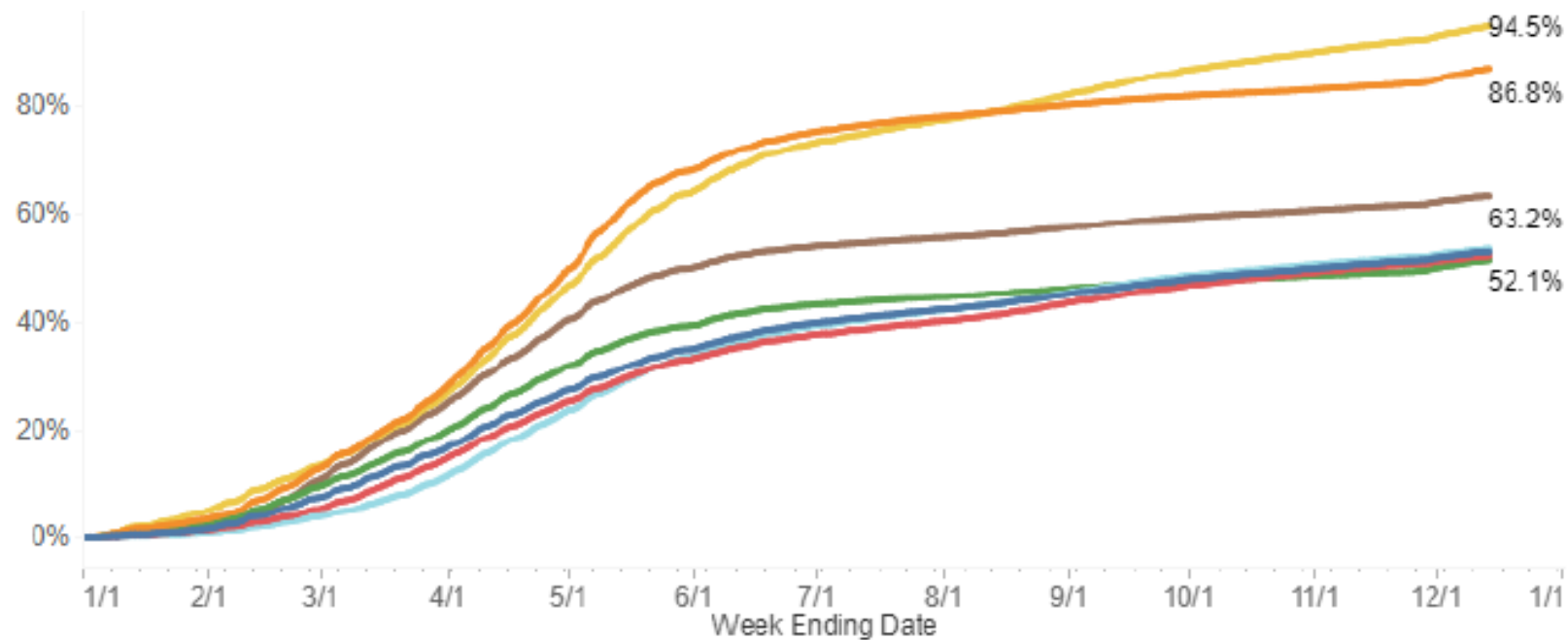


Doses administered by county of residence

Los Angeles	16,177,639
San Diego	5,610,346
Orange	5,172,338
Santa Clara	3,774,773
Alameda	3,044,546

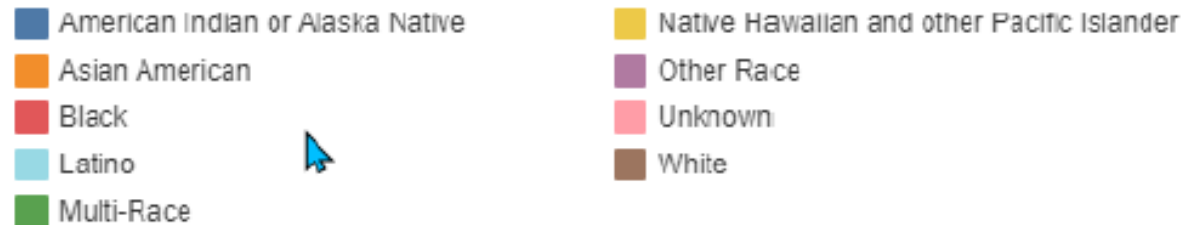
As of 12/20/2021. Source: CDPH

Fully vaccinated by race/ethnicity, California



AIAN = 52.8%

Note: Population estimates do not include "other" or "unknown" race and ethnicity categories, therefore their percentage of state population is not available. Some race/ethnicity groups in this county may have small populations. Where the county of residence was not reported, the county where vaccinated is used. Data is not shown where there are fewer than 11 records in a group.





New guidance in California

- As of December 15, 2021, the California Department of Public Health requires masks to be worn in all indoor public settings irrespective of vaccine status through January 15, 2022
- New travel advisory, all travelers arriving in California must test for COVID-19 within three to five days after arrival, regardless of vaccination status
- Mega events (concerts, sports) require proof of vaccination, or a negative COVID-19 test



Submit CTEC TA online request:

<https://crihb.org/technical-assistance-request-form/>

How to reach us for questions:

Clinical-related assistance:

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Medical Director/Epidemiologist

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Community or grant-related assistance:

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Deputy Director, Research and Public Health

kjack@crihb.org

Epidemiologic or data-related assistance:

Aurimar Ayala, MPH

Epidemiology Manager

aayala@crihb.org

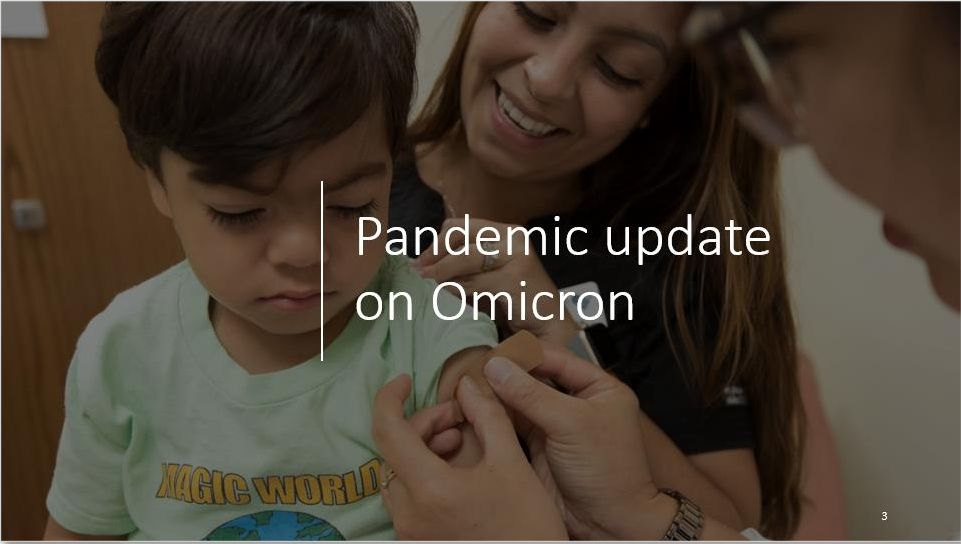
Omicron and the Covid-19 Vaccine in an Ever-Evolving Pandemic

Thomas J. Kim, MD, MPH



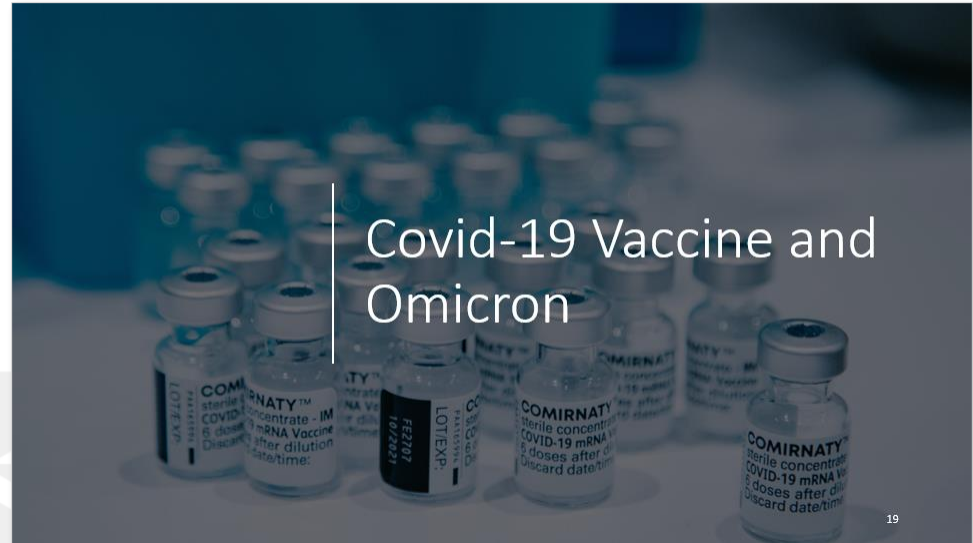
CRIHB

The California Rural Indian Health Board, Inc.



Pandemic update on Omicron

3



Covid-19 Vaccine and Omicron

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Pandemic update on Omicron

Omicron Variant





Iceland

Sweden

Norway

Estonia

Britain

Poland

Ireland

From the New York Times Covid-19 Variant Tracker



Iceland

Sweden

Norway

Estonia

Britain

Ireland

Poland

France

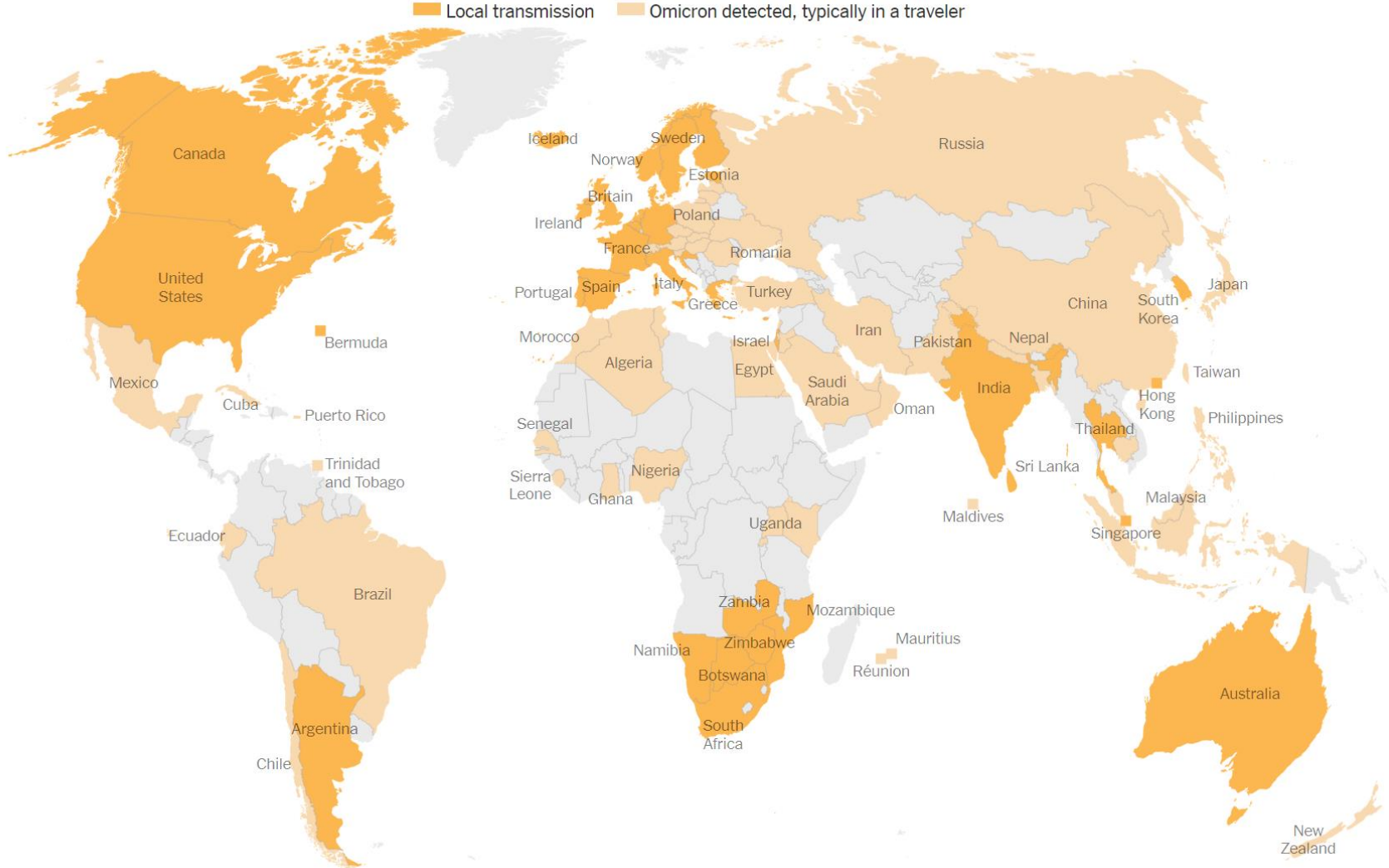
Ro

Portugal

Spain

Italy

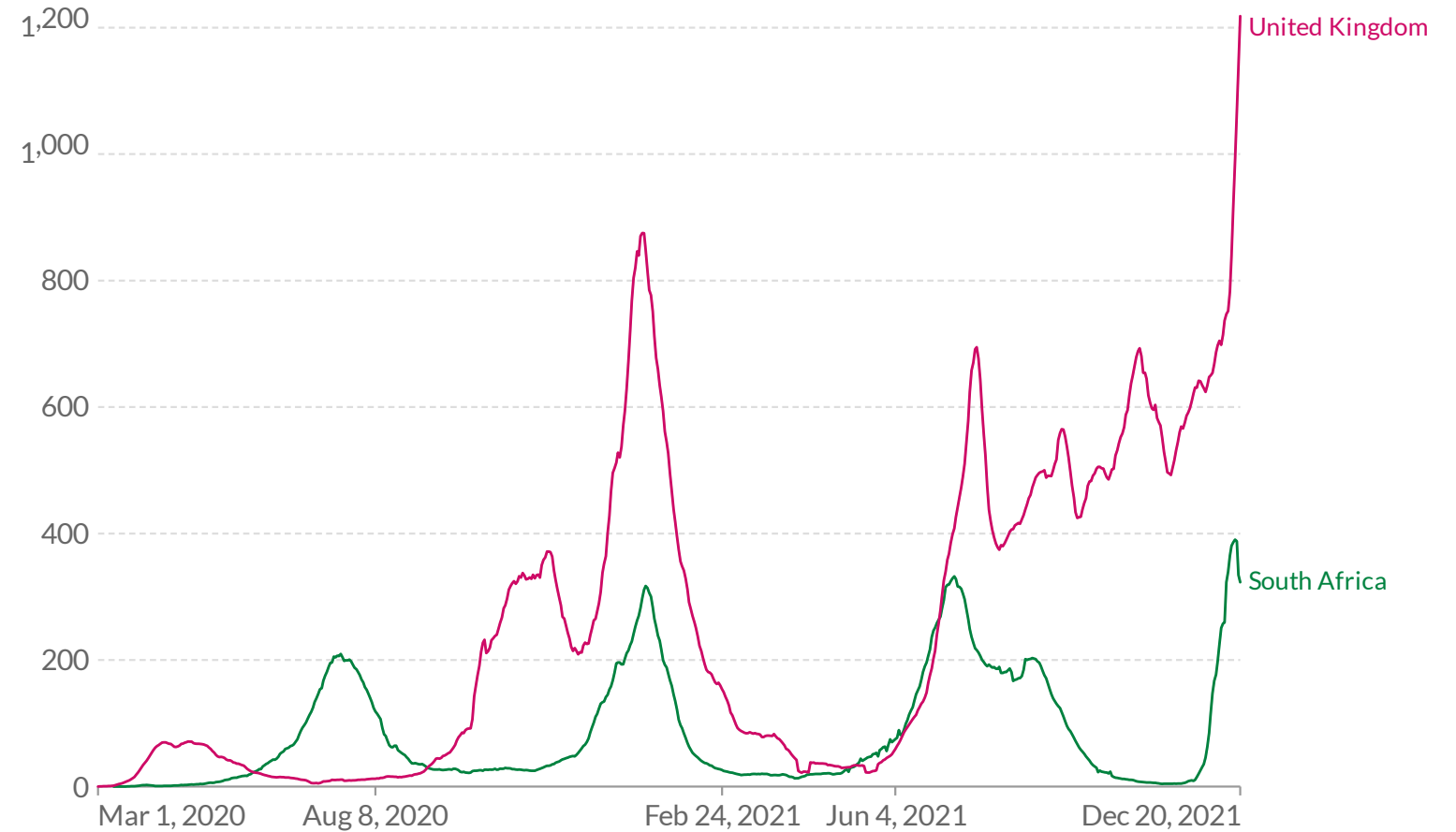
Omicron Variant



Contagiousness

Daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases per million people

7-day rolling average. Due to limited testing, the number of confirmed cases is lower than the true number of infections.

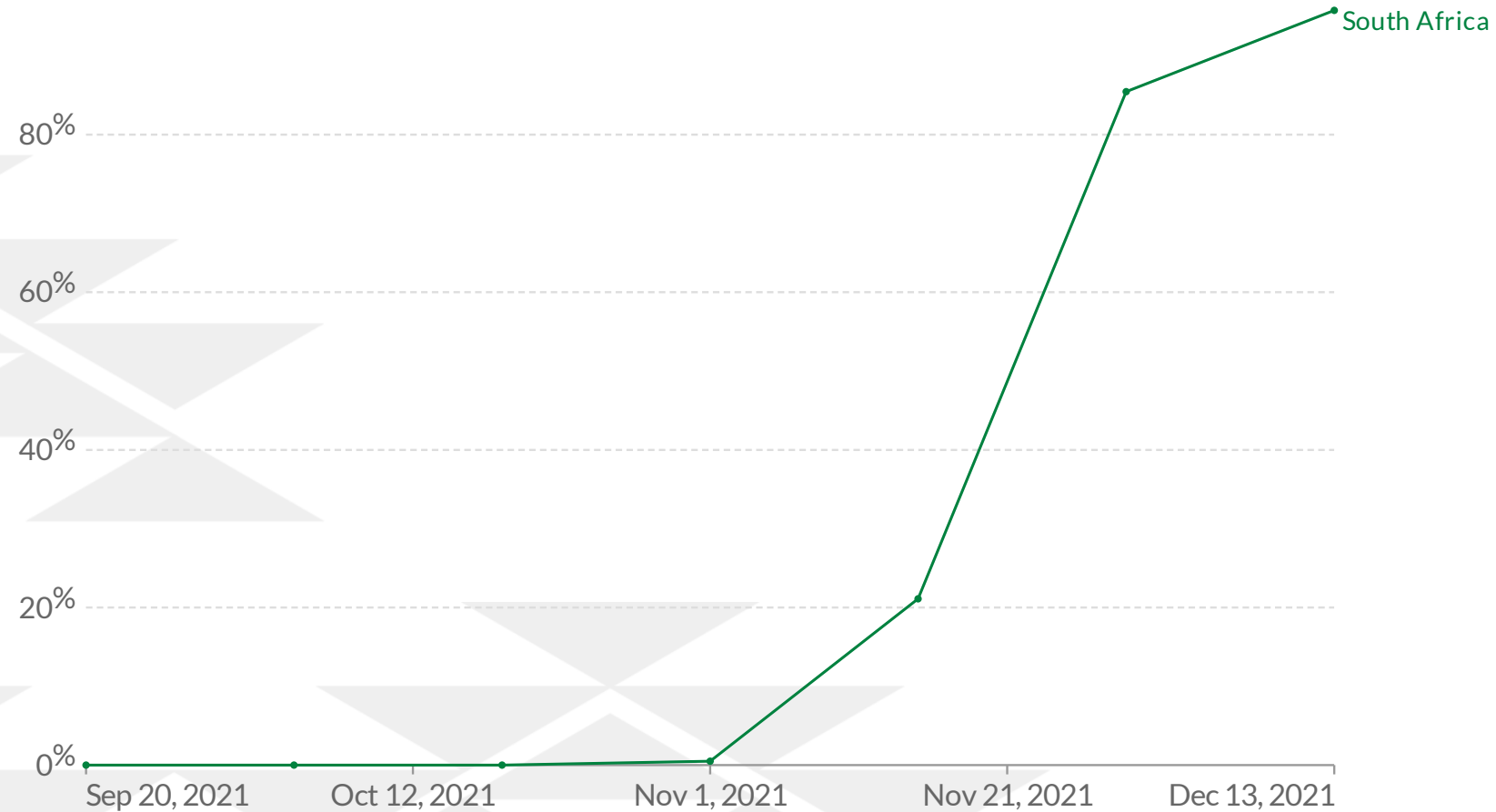


Source: Johns Hopkins University CSSE COVID-19 Data

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Share of SARS-CoV-2 sequences that are the omicron variant

Share of omicron variant in all analyzed sequences in the preceding two weeks.

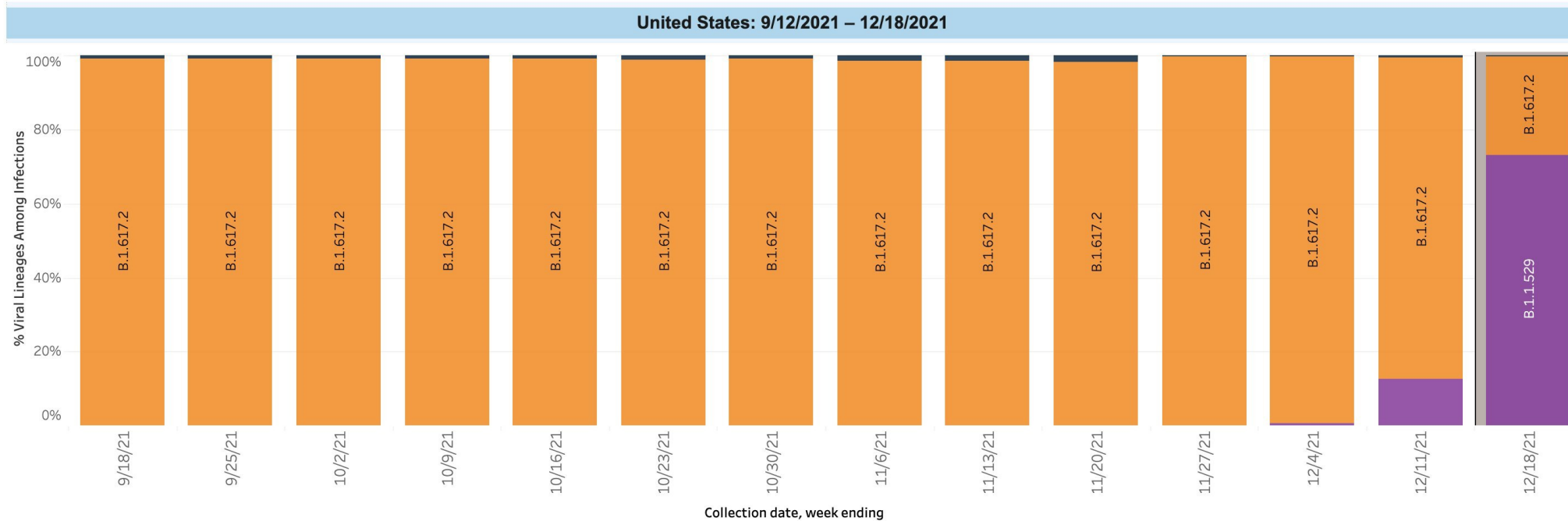


Source: CoVariants.org and GISAID

Note: This share may not reflect the complete breakdown of cases, since only a fraction of all cases are sequenced. Recently-discovered or actively-monitored variants may be overrepresented, as suspected cases of these variants are likely to be sequenced preferentially or faster than other cases.

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Dominance of Omicron Variant in US



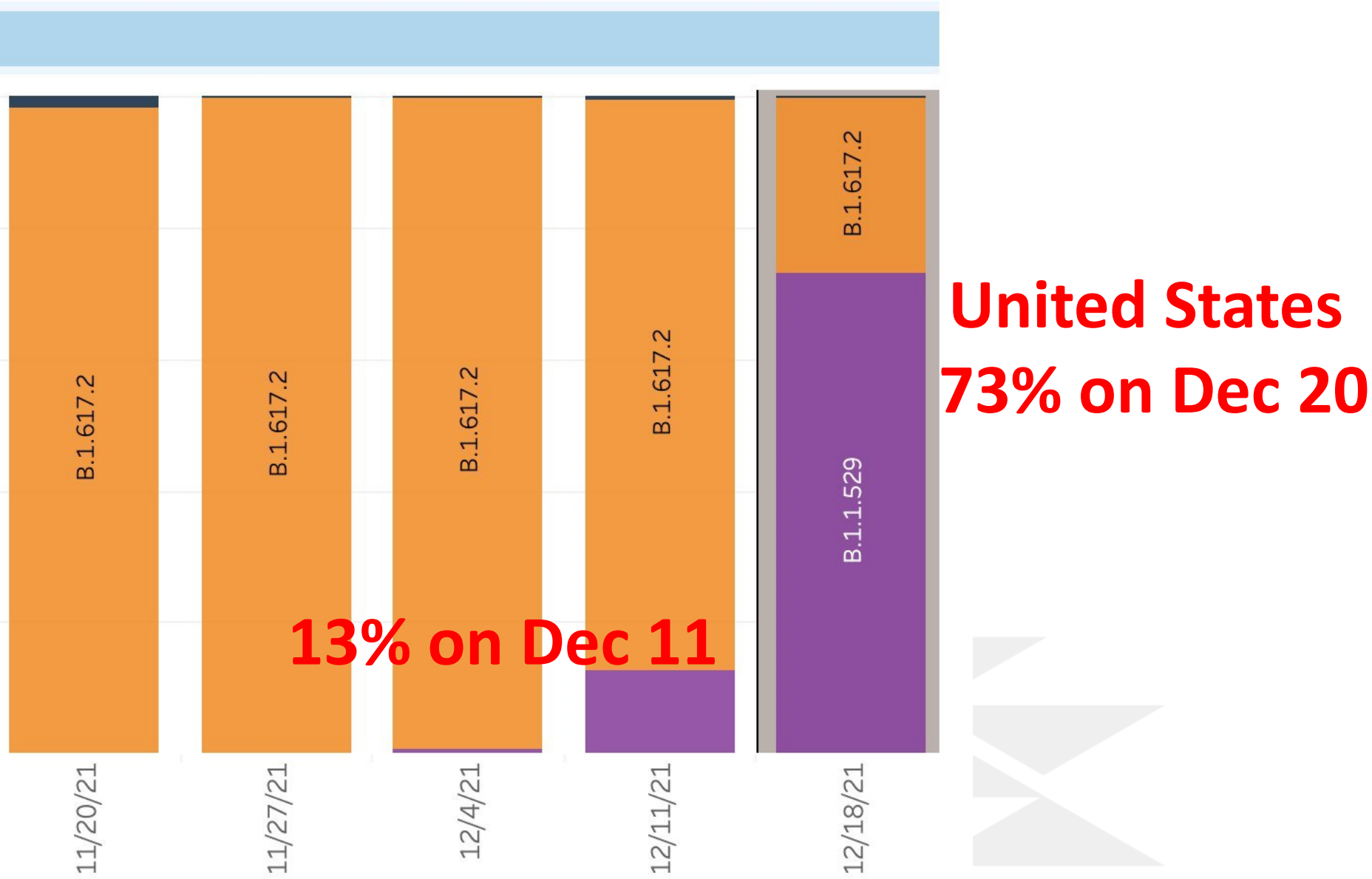
- Nowcast On
- Nowcast Off

United States: 12/12/2021 – 12/18/2021 NOWCAST

USA

WHO label	Lineage #	US Class	%Total	95%PI
Delta	B.1.617.2	VOC	26.6%	5.1-65.8%
Omicr..	B.1.1.529	VOC	73.2%	34.0-94.9%
Other	Other*		0.1%	0.0-0.4%

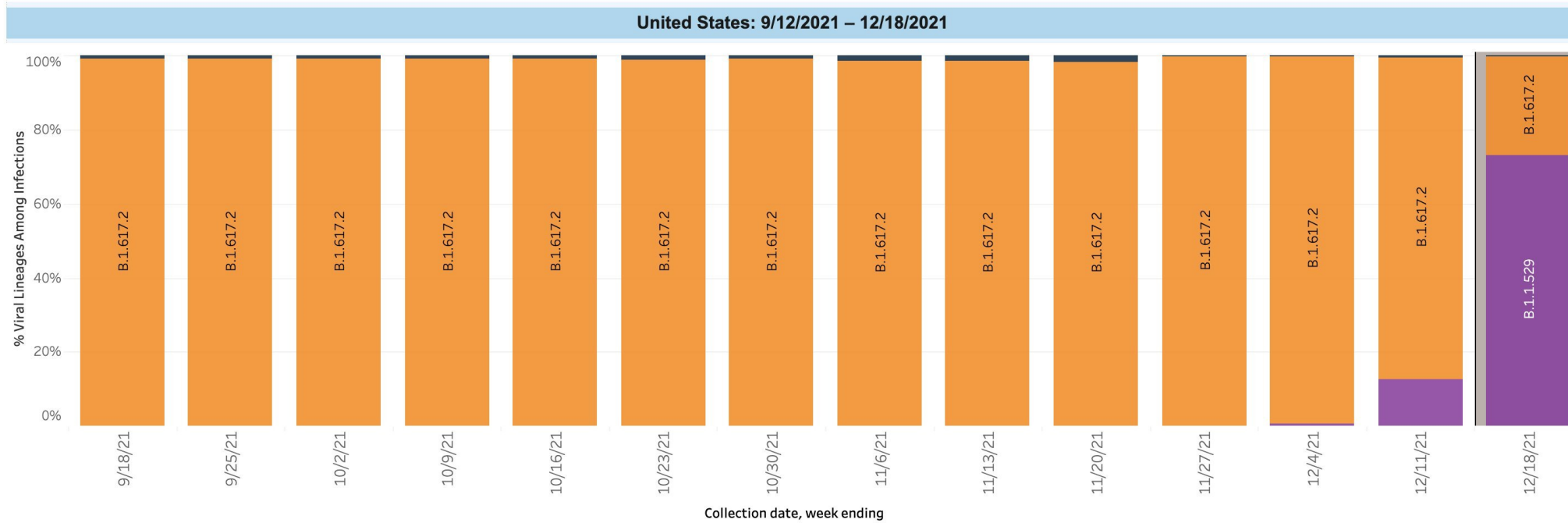
Dominance of Omicron Variant



**United States
73% on Dec 20**

13% on Dec 11

Dominance of Omicron Variant in US



- Nowcast On
- Nowcast Off

United States: 12/12/2021 – 12/18/2021 NOWCAST

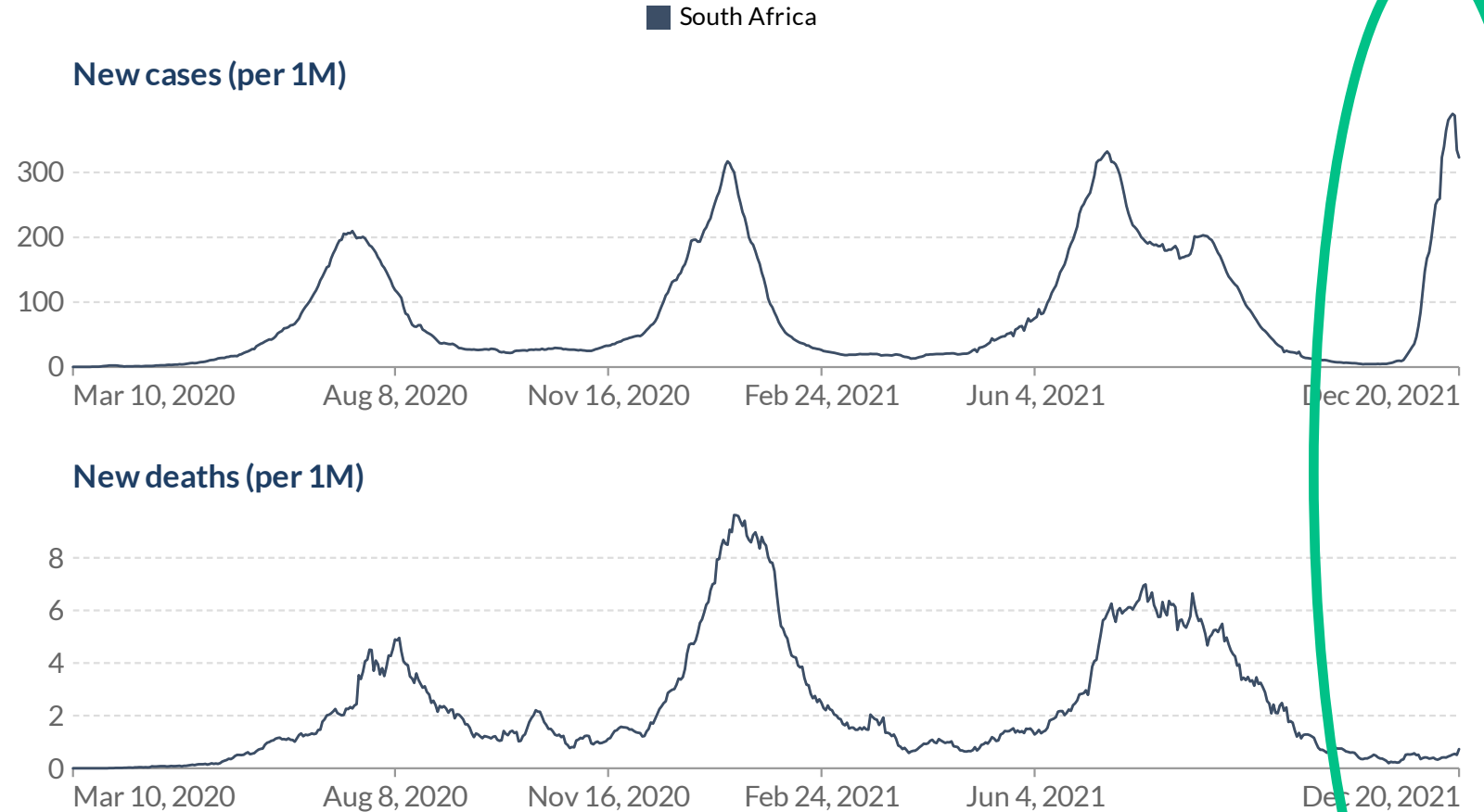
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Severity

Daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases & deaths per million people

7-day rolling average. Limited testing and challenges in the attribution of cause of death means the cases and deaths counts may not be accurate.



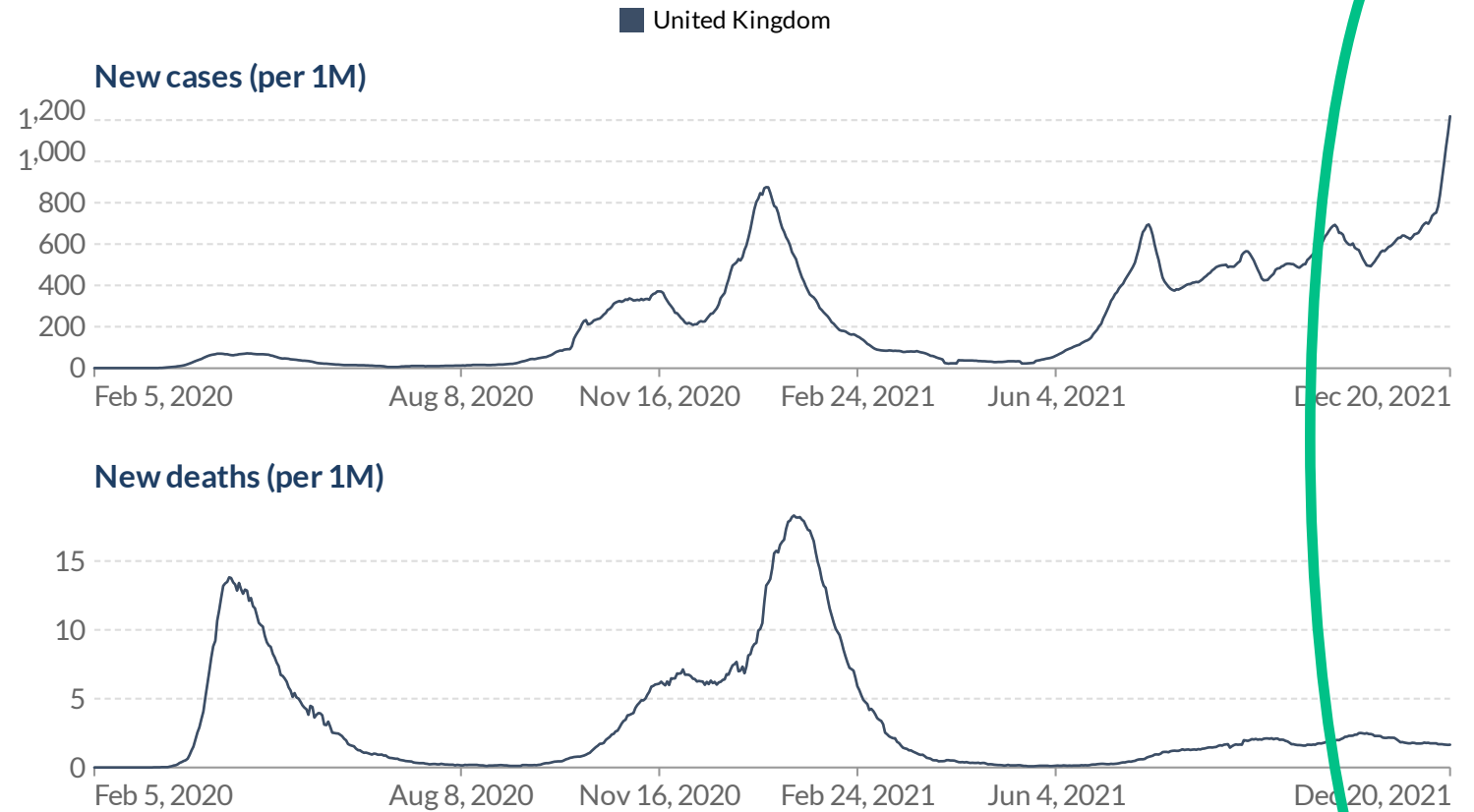
Source: Johns Hopkins University CSSE COVID-19 Data

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Severity

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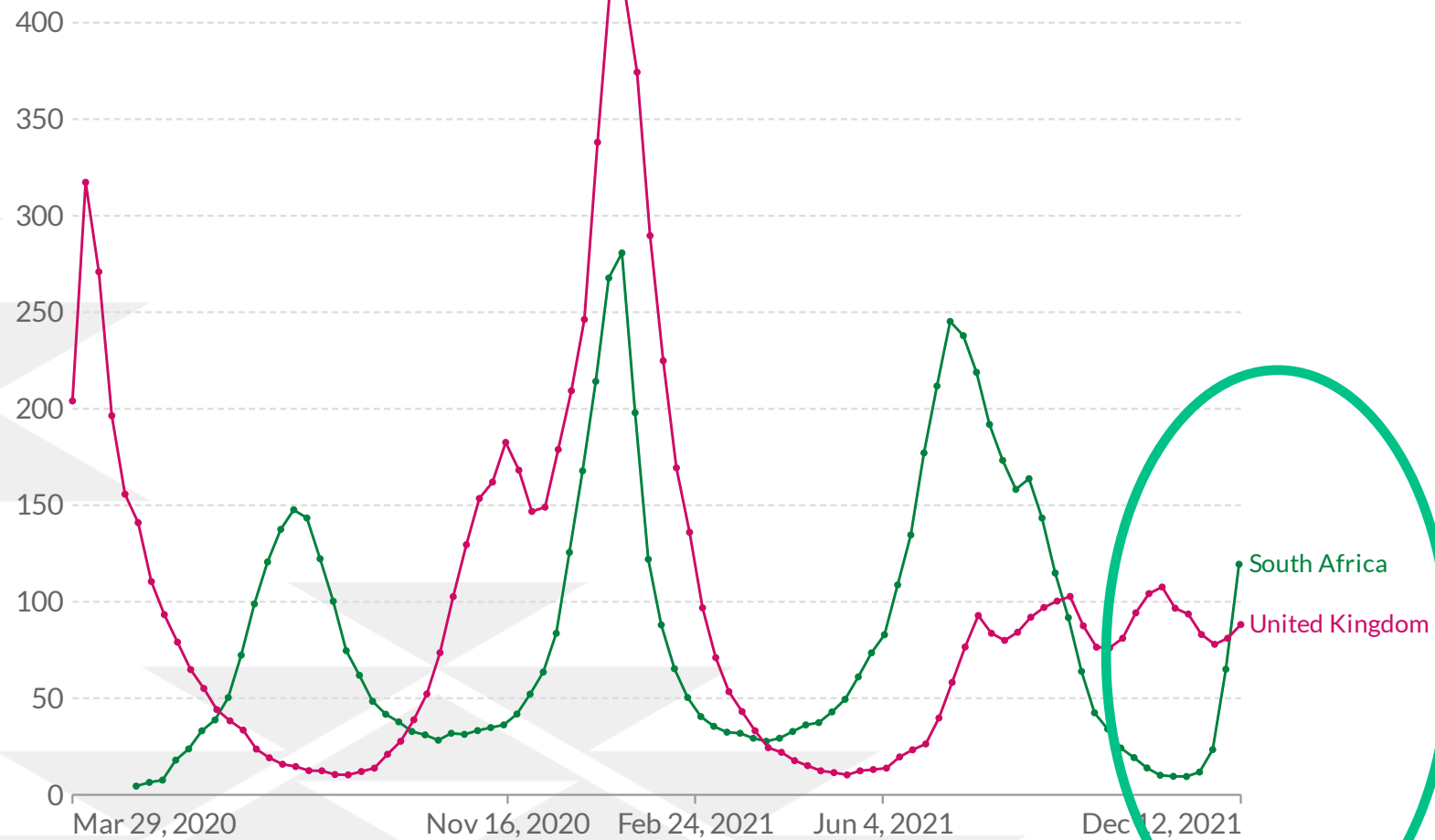
7-day rolling average. Limited testing and challenges in the attribution of cause of death means the cases and deaths counts may not be accurate.



Source: Johns Hopkins University CSSE COVID-19 Data

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Weekly new hospital admissions for COVID-19 per million people



Source: Official data collated by Our World in Data

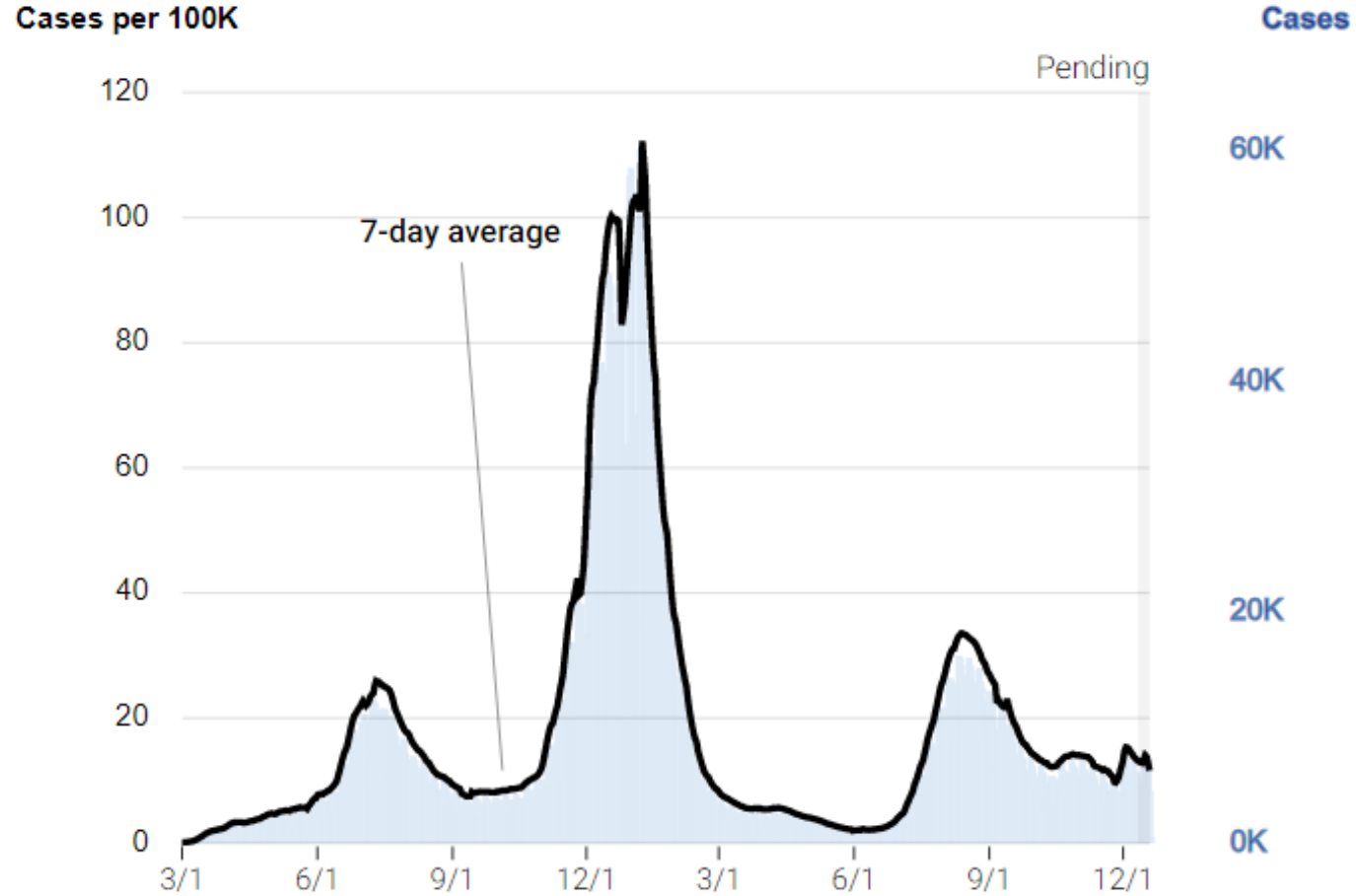
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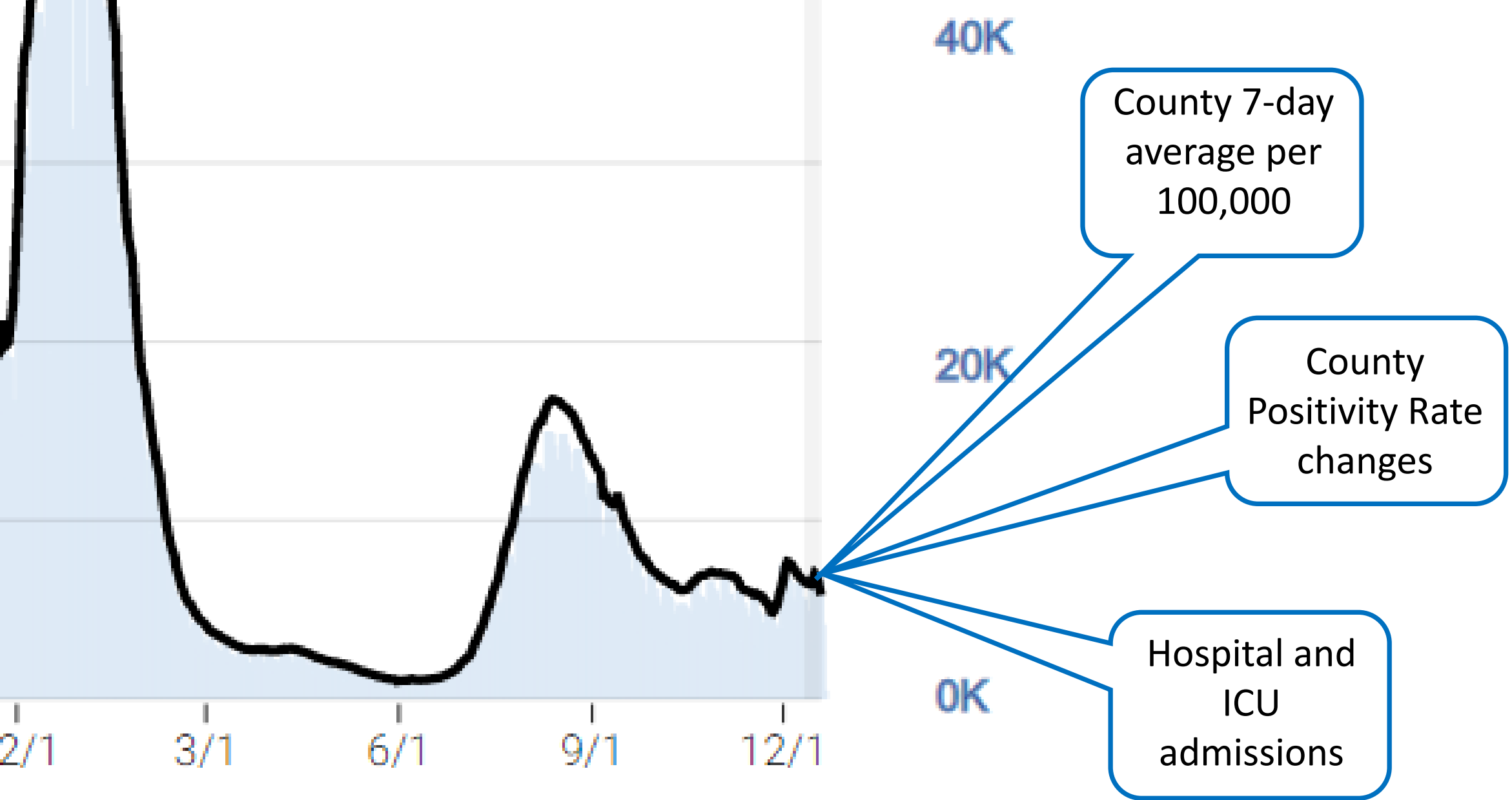
4,935,461 total confirmed cases

26,273 new cases (0.5% increase)

13.0 cases per 100K (7-day average)

Tracking Covid-19 in California and in your region



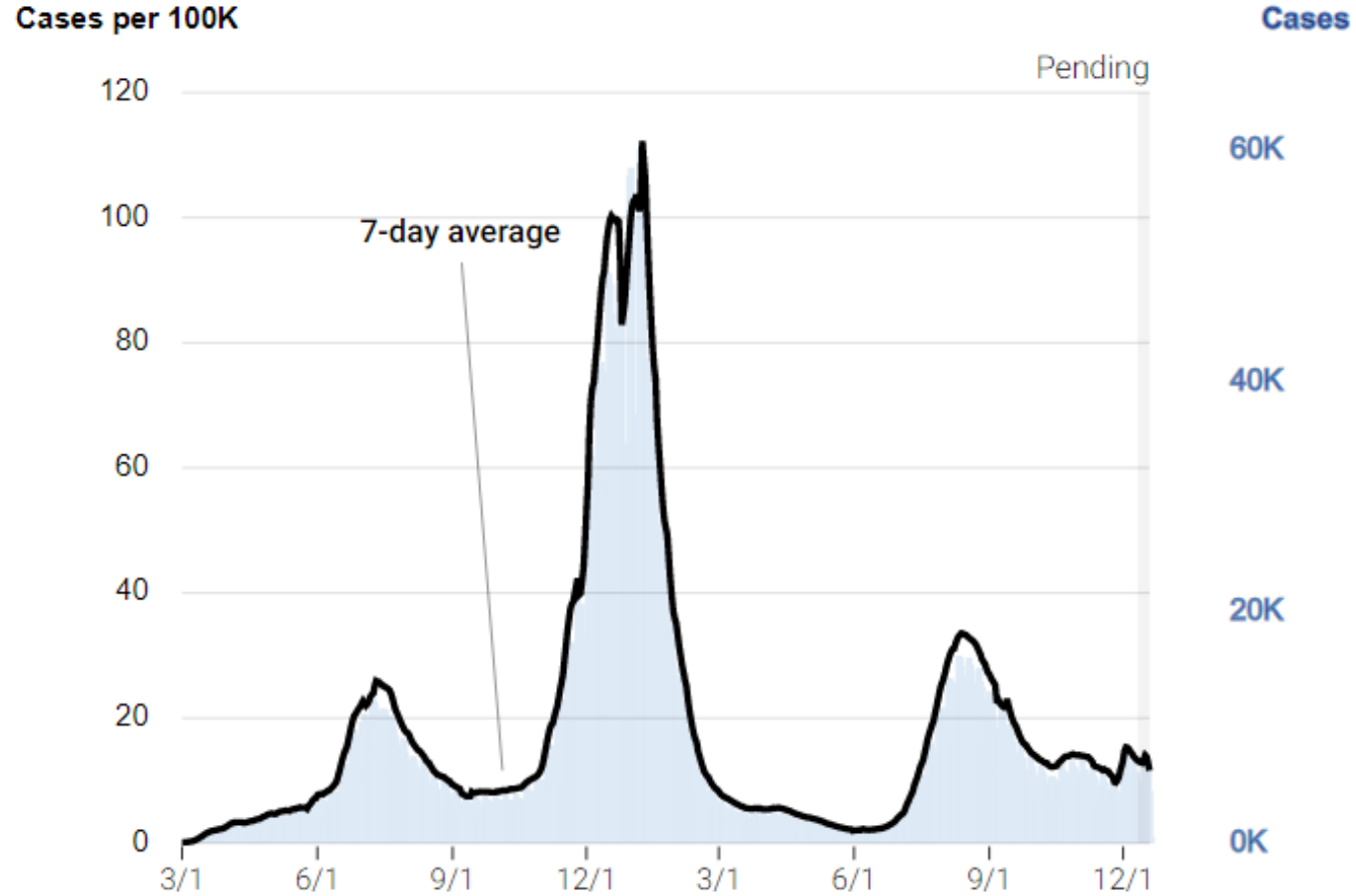


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Tracking Covid-19 in California and in your region





Covid-19 Vaccine and Omicron

Vaccine Evasion –Neutralizing Antibody Studies



Photo by [Julia Koblitz](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Early Study Take-Aways

- Omicron compromises effectiveness of vaccines
- But protection is not completely gone
- Result: more “breakthrough” infections



Adding Booster Doses



- Neutralizing antibody tests
- Antibodies from a person with a booster dose
- Neutralization to Omicron is 80-90%
- Result: presumed strengthened protection against infection, hospitalization and death

Current Understanding

- **Omicron is more transmissible (2-3x)**
 - Evidence of vaccine evasiveness
 - Inherent ability?
- **Unknown if Omicron causes more/less severe disease**
- **2 doses mRNA vaccine protection**
 - Modestly against infection
 - Still decent against hospitalization/deaths
- **3 doses mRNA vaccine protection**
 - Strongly presumed effective against infection
 - Strongly presumed effective in preventing hospitalization/deaths
- **Previously infected individuals**
 - Unknown though expected protection

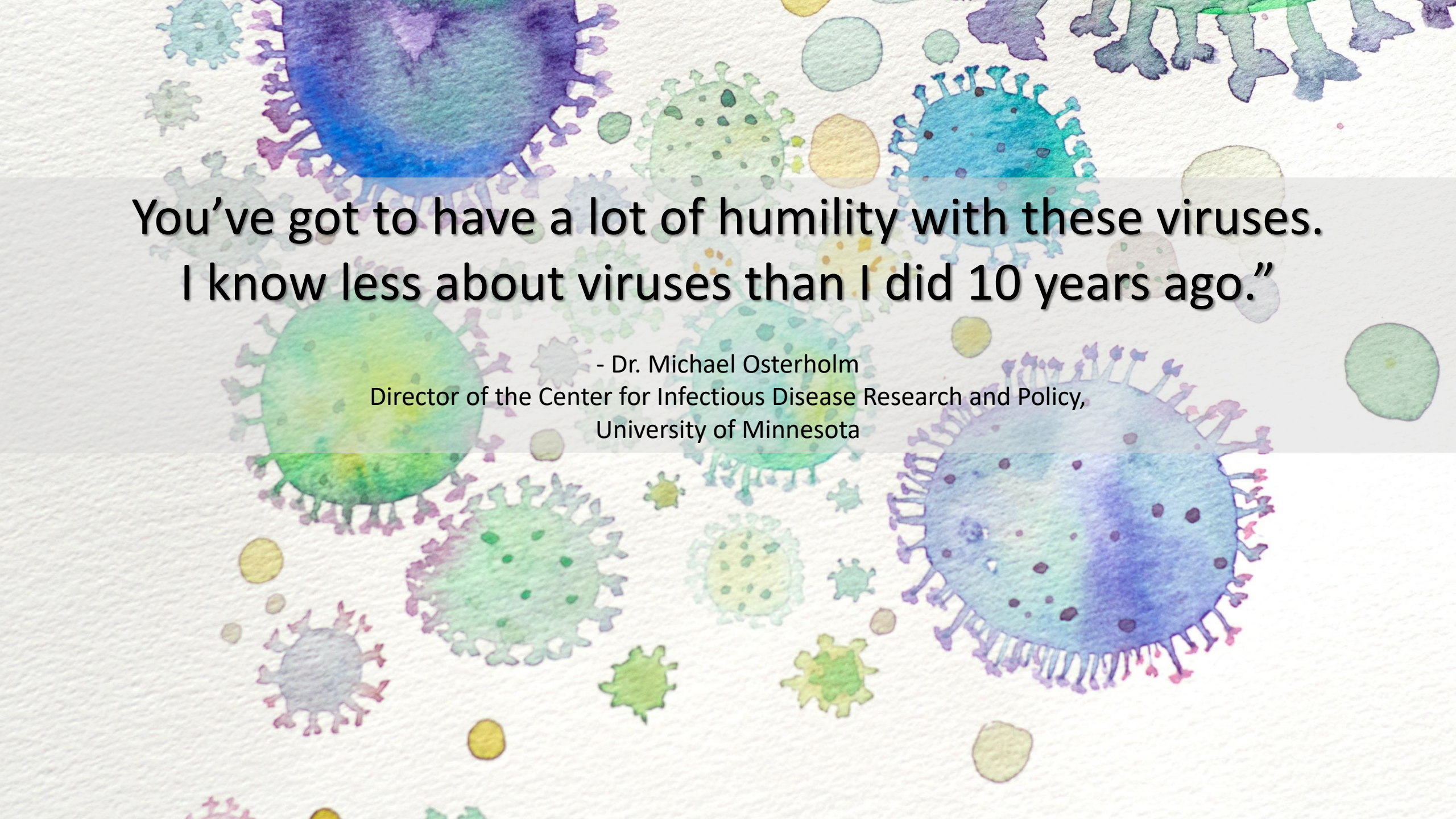
From Eric Topol MD, Scripps Research Translational Institute

	Good News	Bad News
Transmission/spread	We know how to reduce by mitigation measures (masks, especially, medical grade, distancing, ventilation, air filtration)	Cases doubling every 2-3 days 3-fold higher transmission than Delta for household contacts
Vaccine effectiveness (Pfizer)	Gets to ~75% with a booster (duration ?)	Drops to ~35% with only 2-doses Booster got to 95% with Delta
Illness severity/virulence	Markedly less hospitalizations than prior variants; cases mostly mild	A lot more cases, so even when less severe absolute numbers can be high
Immune escape	It's blunted by the 3 rd shot	Reduced vaccine effectiveness Monoclonal antibodies less effective Key driver of rapid spread
Reinfection	Prior Covid plus vaccination provides solid protection	At least 2.5X increased compared with prior variants (UK data: 3-8 X Delta)

We can do a lot

- Do all possible to encourage initial vaccination and booster doses
- Keep wearing masks indoors
- Distance when possible
- Use rapid tests as available
- Follow isolation/quarantine instructions
- Stay connected with people safely over the holidays





You've got to have a lot of humility with these viruses.
I know less about viruses than I did 10 years ago."

- Dr. Michael Osterholm
Director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy,
University of Minnesota

CRIHB COVID-19 Update Meeting Notes

CRIHB STAFF

ATTENDEES:

Aurimar Ayala
Dr. Thomas Kim
Kathleen Jack

DATE: Tuesday, December 21st, 2021 (3:30 PM-4:30 PM, PST)

HOST: CRIHB

MEETING RECORDING: https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/89D3AEANFBqzT5N-YcCErvwZc_x7qpNjnFy8WxQDrTPFbe-XfmlPV7vffyt1jB.evWlVwrUIb5dlixZ?startTime=1640129819000

Topics discussed:

- COVID-19 cases in the U.S.
- Current COVID-19 case trends in California
- COVID-19 Variant in California
- COVID-19 cases in American Indian/Alaska Native (AIAN) communities
- New guidance in California
- Omicron and the COVID-19 Vaccine

Case trends nationally:

- New cases are up 41% since compared to November
- COVID-19 surge expected as we approach the holidays

Case trends in California:

- As of 12/20/21, there are around 26,273 new confirmed cases
- Transmission persists
- Since last month, there are increases in daily new cases and infections rates
- Slight decrease in positive test rates

COVID-19 Variants:

- Omicron was first detected in the U.S. in California on December 1st, 2021
- Delta is still the most prevalent variant. However, only a small percent of cases are sequenced each month so Omicron rates may increase as sequencing occurs

COVID-19 Trends in AIAN:

- Compared with 15,964 cases in October, there are now 17,081 cases in December
- 52.8% of AIAN are vaccinated, which is much lower than other racial/ethnic groups
- As of December, AIAN are still experiencing higher rates of COVID-19 hospitalizations compared to other racial/ethnic groups in California

New Guidance in California:

- As of December 15th, 2021, the California Department of Public Health requires masks to be worn in all indoor public settings
- New travel advisory, all travelers arriving in California must test for COVID-19 within three-five days
- Mega events require proof of vaccination, or a negative COVID-19 test

Omicron and the COVID-19 Vaccine

- Omicron is 2-3 times more transmissible than Delta
- Omicron is 3-8 times more likely to cause breakthrough infections
- 73% of new cases in the U.S. are the Omicron variant
- The Omicron variant will become the dominant variant in the next few weeks
- Although protection is not completely gone, Omicron does compromise the effectiveness of vaccines
- Studies show that those with booster doses have a strengthened protection against infection, hospitalization, and death
- Three doses of the mRNA vaccine are recommended (i.e., two initial mRNA vaccines with the booster dose)
- Continue to wear mask and social distance, if possible