

# DANE COUNTY COVID-19 DATA

August 26, 2021 *Data from August 9—August 22*

## Takeaway Messages

- Cases were stable during this 14-day period with an average of 93 cases per day. Percent positivity was 3.9% and an average of 2,415 tests were conducted per day. The number of people hospitalized with COVID in Dane County hospitals has been increasing for the past four weeks. We are unable to discern county residency of people represented in this trend.
- Over the past four weeks, cases have been stable among fully vaccinated people but have increased by 24% among people who are not fully vaccinated.
- 72.0% of all Dane County residents have received at least one dose of vaccine and 69.0% have completed the vaccine series. 83.1% of the eligible population (ages 12+) have received at least one dose of vaccine and 79.7% have completed the series.
- Over the past four weeks, cases have been stable among children ages 0-4 and 12-17 and have increased among ages 5-11. At this time we have not seen an increase in severe cases in children. Ages 5-7 have a percent positivity of 5.8% and ages 8-11 have a percent positivity of 8.6%, indicating that more testing may be needed among these groups. Everyone should [get tested](#) as soon as possible when having symptoms. Kids often experience cough and fever, among other [symptoms](#) similar to adults.
- We had an average of 569 doses administered per day, which is up 19% from our low of 480 doses per day five weeks ago.

### Domain

### Measure

### Dane County Status

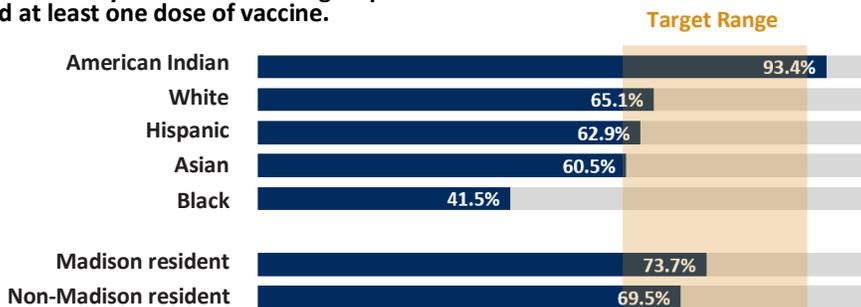
**Vaccination core measures:** These three core measures are all measures of herd immunity in Dane County. We do not yet know what level of vaccination leads to herd immunity for COVID-19, or how current or future variants might affect herd immunity. We know based on other diseases that herd immunity is likely at least 60%, and if more transmissible variants become more common, that threshold may become higher, so **our current target range is 60-90%**.



### Vaccination process measures:

Monitoring the level of vaccine protection for more vulnerable populations and people who may have more difficulty accessing the vaccine is important to ensure that we have equitable vaccine distribution in our community. Monitoring the rate of vaccination and the extent of variant virus strains in the community gives us information about transmission dynamics and how quickly we may reach our target range of vaccine coverage.

### Percent of Dane County residents in each group that have received at least one dose of vaccine.



**2-week average daily number of vaccine doses administered to Dane County residents.** This monitors the speed with which vaccination coverage is occurring.

**569**

**Variant strains** as predominant version of virus in community. This monitors whether variants of interest, concern, or high consequence are becoming the dominant strain, which may have impacts on transmissibility.

Some variants are **increasing in prevalence** and the Delta variant of concern is currently the most prevalent strain in Dane County.

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Domain	Measure	Dane County Status
<b>Epidemiology:</b> In addition to looking at vaccine measures, we will continue to look at disease burden and transmission in the community. For more information on the role of these measures, see our updated <a href="#">Forward Dane plan</a> .	2-week average daily case count and trend The 2-week average daily case count among people who are not vaccinated was 53.	93 →
	2-week average daily percent positivity	3.9%
	2-week average daily COVID-19 inpatient hospitalizations and trend We are not able to discern whether these hospitalizations are among Dane County residents or among patients transferred to the Dane County hospitals from the surrounding areas.	64 ↗
	4-week total number of deaths and trend	2 ↗
	2-week lab and contact tracing capacity The percent of people who tested positive that were reached by a contact tracer within 48 hours of when their test specimen was collected.	45%
	<b>Current infection rate (R)</b> On average, each person with COVID is infecting 1.06 other people.	1.06
<b>Public Health:</b> Monitoring both the lab timeliness component and the contact tracing timeliness component of the lab and contact tracing capacity epidemiology core measure helps us understand what may be causing a delay in timely follow-up for positive cases. Monitoring the outcome of attempting to interview cases (e.g., successful contact, refusal, or unable to locate) tells us how many people we're able to speak with to help break the chain of COVID transmission.	2-week percent of positive tests reported within 24 hours of when the test specimen was collected.	88%
	2-week percent of people who tested positive that were interviewed within 24 hours of when their positive test was reported.	42%
	2-week percent of people who tested positive who successfully received isolation instructions.	65%
	2-week percent of people who tested positive who refused an interview with our contact tracers.	5%
	2-week percent of people who tested positive who were unable to be located for an interview by our contact tracers.	26%

## Delta Variant

On June 14, the CDC classified the Delta variant (B.1.617.2 Pango lineage) as a [variant of concern](#), and on June 16, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services announced they would be tracking this variant and providing current case counts on their [website](#). The Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene also provides regular updates on sequencing data, including the proportion of sequenced strains that are different types of variants, on their [genomic dashboard](#).

The Delta variant is concerning because it has increased transmissibility, and antibodies produced in response to COVID-19 infection or partial vaccination may be less effective in fighting the virus. The COVID-19 vaccines available in the U.S. have shown to still provide protection against the Delta variant, particularly in preventing severe disease and death. We have very good vaccine coverage in Dane County, including a high percentage of people who have completed the series. The most effective way to protect yourself and our community from being impacted by this variant it to [get vaccinated](#).

**Delta is the dominant strain in Dane County at this time. Of 120 Dane County residents who have tested positive for COVID since July 1 whose test specimens were sequenced, 114 (95%) were Delta.**

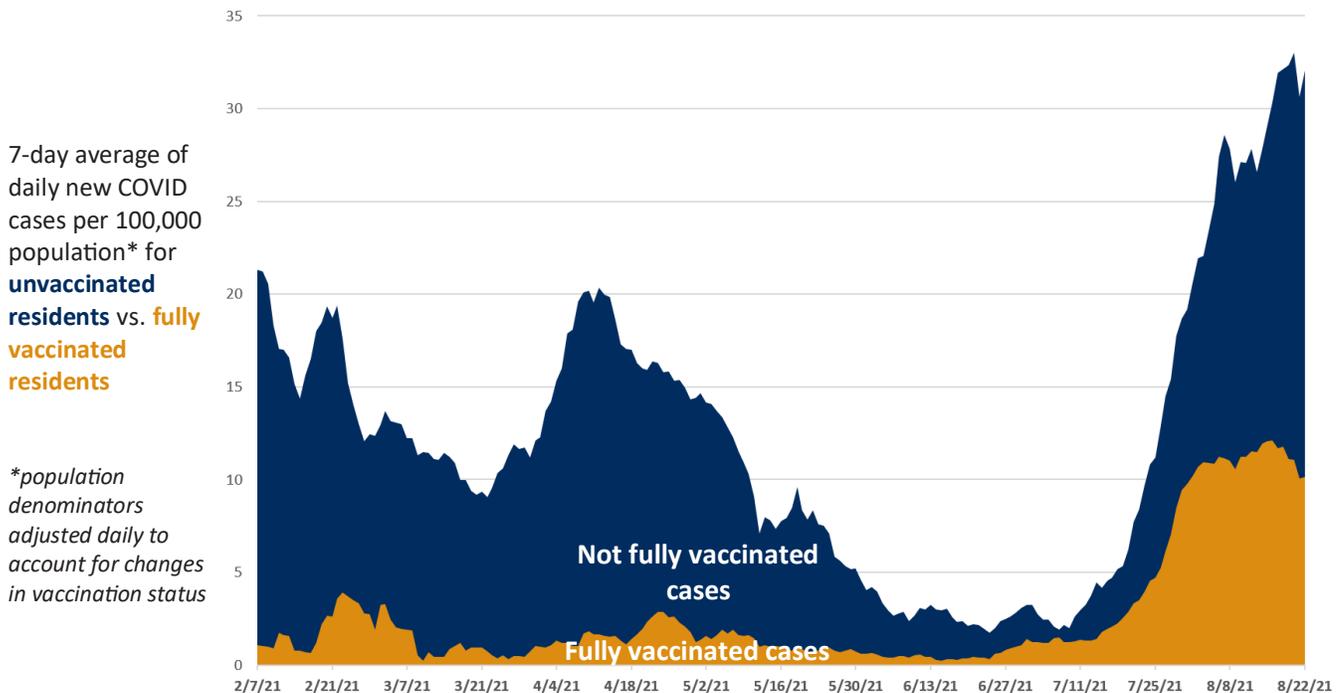
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## Case Trends by Vaccination Status

The vaccines available in the U.S. work incredibly well at preventing severe disease, hospitalization, and death from COVID. They are also effective, but less so, in preventing mild symptomatic infection from COVID. Breakthrough cases (when someone tests positive 14 or more days after their final vaccine dose) are expected, and with more than 68% of our population being fully vaccinated, we can expect an increasing proportion of our daily new cases to be among people who are fully vaccinated, especially with the highly transmissible Delta variant circulating. Unvaccinated people are still much more vulnerable, especially to severe COVID.

**In the past four weeks (7/26-8/22), cases have been stable among fully vaccinated people but have significantly increased by 24% among people who are not fully vaccinated.** Dane County’s current 7-day average of daily new COVID cases is 17.1 per 100,000 residents. The 7-day rate for **unvaccinated residents** is **32.0**, which is **3.2 times as high** as the rate for **fully vaccinated residents**, which is **10.1**.

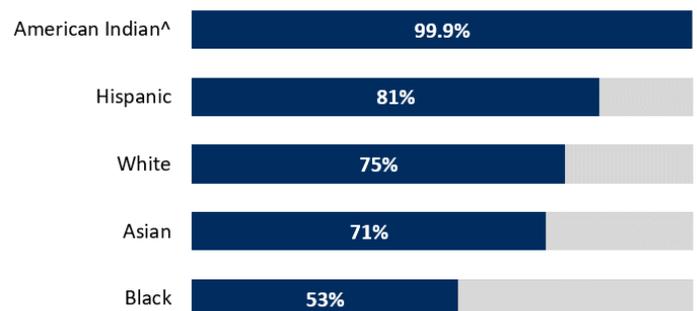


## Vaccine Equity

Our blog post titled [Herd Immunity and Vaccine Equity: How We Look at Vaccine Coverage in Different Ways](#) explains when and why we might look at vaccine coverage for the entire population vs. the eligible population.

Page 1 of this snapshot shows the percent of **all** Dane County residents by race and ethnicity that have received at least one dose of vaccine, while the graph to the right shows the percent of **currently eligible** (age 12+) Dane County residents by race and ethnicity that have received at least one dose of vaccine. A larger proportion of those under the age of 12 are people of color compared to those age 12 and older, so looking at the percent of eligible people in each group that has received vaccine can tell us more about the true disparities in vaccine access and uptake.

## Percent of currently eligible Dane County residents in each group who have received at least one dose of vaccine\*



\*11.9% have a race listed as Other/unknown, and 9.0% are missing ethnicity.

<sup>^</sup>In alignment with [CDC](#), we have capped the percent of population coverage at 99.9%. These metrics could be greater than 99.9% for multiple reasons, including census denominator data not including all individuals that currently reside in the jurisdiction (e.g., part time residents) or potential data reporting errors. The American Indian/Alaska Native population in particular is small, and therefore population estimates are unstable and coverage may be overestimated. See [DHS](#) for additional information on the limitations of demographic information for immunizations.

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## COVID-19 Burden Among Children

While the burden of severe COVID-19 disease has been lower for children throughout the pandemic than adults, children (under the age of 12) are among the most vulnerable to contracting COVID at this time because they are not yet eligible to be vaccinated, and the Delta variant is much more transmissible than previous circulating COVID strains.

While cases have increased among ages 5-11 over the past month, we have not seen an increase in severe cases in children. The below table gives the total number of confirmed cases, the average daily case rate per 100,000 population for kids who can't be vaccinated (ages 0-11) and for kids who can (ages 12-17), the number of breakthrough cases for ages 12-17, the number of polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests, and percent positivity for each different child age group during this 14-day period. It also shows the cases trend (increasing, stable, or decreasing) over the past 28 days, the number hospitalized for COVID of those who have had a positive test result in the past 28 days, and the number that have died from COVID-19 since the beginning of the pandemic.

## Summary Statistics for COVID-19 Among Dane County Children

*Data from 8/9/21-8/22/21 unless otherwise noted*

	Age 0-4	Age 5-7	Age 8-11	Age 12-17
Total Number of Confirmed Cases	67	55	91	64
Average Daily Case Rate (per 100,000)	19.1			12.0
Number of Breakthrough Cases	N/A	N/A	N/A	16
Cases Trend*	→	↗	↗	→
Number of PCR Tests Performed	1,902	948	1,056	1,361
Percent Positive	3.5%	5.8%	8.6%	4.7%
Number Hospitalized for COVID-19*	0	0	0	1
Number of Deaths from COVID-19^	0	0	0	1^

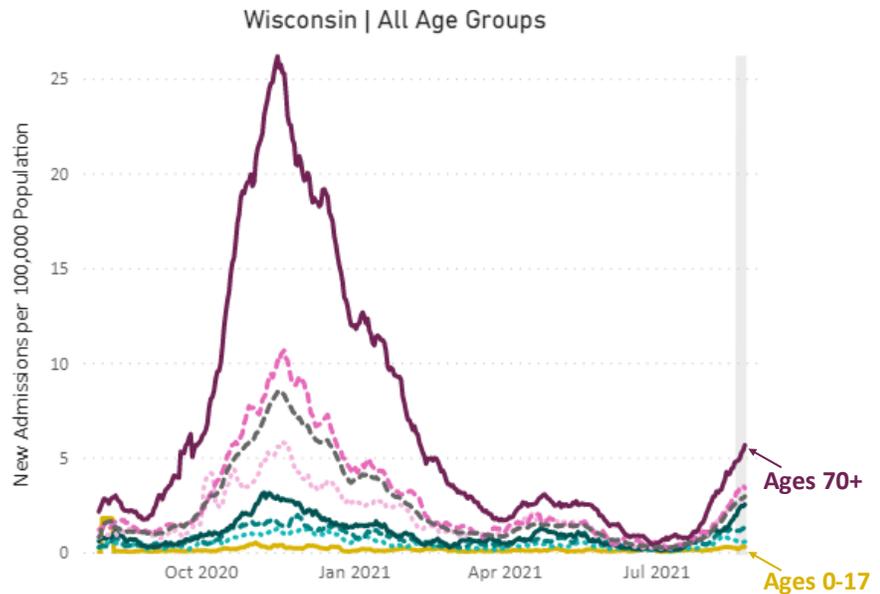
\*Of people who tested positive in the past 28 days (7/26-8/22)

^Throughout the entire COVID-19 pandemic

## COVID-19 Hospitalizations in Wisconsin

Hospitalizations of people with COVID-19 have been increasing over the past month in Dane County, in Wisconsin, and across the U.S., but we have not seen a large increase in Dane County or Wisconsin for children hospitalized with COVID-19.

The graph to the right displays the number of new admissions of patients with COVID per 100,000 population by age group in Wisconsin since August 2020. Recent hospitalizations are highest among the oldest age group (age 70+), and rates decrease among each subsequent age group, with ages 0-17 having the lowest rate. The current 7-day statewide average of admissions for ages 0-17 is 4 per day (8/17-8/23), which is up slightly from last week's average of 3 per day (8/10-8/16), but lower than the fall peak of 6 per day in November 2020.



Data Source: [CDC COVID Data Tracker](#)

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## Characteristics of COVID-19 Cases

In this 14-day period there were 1,305 total confirmed cases and 18 probable cases. At least 132 (10%) of these cases were associated with a cluster and/or a facility investigation.

We define a **cluster** of cases as two or more cases associated with the same location or event around the same time. A **facility investigation** is initiated when there is evidence of a cluster of cases or a strong possibility for a cluster to emerge from a single facility or setting. To learn more about clusters and facility investigations, see our [blog post](#). Note that cluster data are an underrepresentation of all cases. One case in a long term care facility, correctional facility, childcare facility, or school results in an investigation, thus they are more straightforward to track and report. This data does not represent the full extent of likely transmission within all these facilities within the entire county.

### Risk Characteristics Among Confirmed Cases

<b>UW-Madison Students &amp; Staff</b>	
UW student	37 (3%)
UW faculty/staff	18 (1%)
<b>Most Likely Location of Exposure*</b>	
Client's own home (non-congregate)	221 (27%)
Other event or gathering venue	78 (9%)
Private home, other than client's home	74 (9%)
Work	60 (7%)
Daycare, adult or child (attendee)	19 (2%)
Sporting venue (participant/spectator)	17 (2%)
Restaurant or bar (patron)	14 (2%)
Retail location/store (patron)	14 (2%)
Camp, day or overnight (camper)	9 (1%)
Healthcare facility (patient or guest)	7 (1%)
Religious venue (guest)	5 (1%)
Hotel/motel (guest)	4 (<1%)
Gym/workout venue (guest)	2 (<1%)
Other	71 (9%)
Undetermined	229 (28%)

\*Calculated among 824 people fully interviewed so far  
*Most likely location of exposure is based on the case investigator's professional assessment of information collected during the client interview*

Category of Cluster/ Facility Investigation	Number of Unique Clusters^	Number of Associated Cases	Number of Facility Investigations (non-clusters)	Number of Associated Cases
Childcare Facility	8	28 (26 children, 2 adults)	16	17 (13 children, 4 adults)
School	1	1 (1 adult)	3	3 (1 child, 2 adults)
Assisted Living	1	2	1	1
Skilled Nursing	-	-	3	3
Correctional Facility	-	-	-	-
<b>Public-Facing Business**</b>				
Bar	1	5	-	-
Retail	1	2	-	-
<b>Other Workplace</b>				
Office	1	9	1	1
Other	2	3	-	-
<b>Other Setting</b>				
Large Event/Festival	3	14	-	-
Health Care Facility	3	11	1	1
Other Congregate Living Facility	1	6	2	4
Sports	2	5	5	8
Wedding	1	4	-	-
Youth Camp	1	1	3	3

\*\*While patrons of these businesses may be linked to these investigations, the majority of cases linked are **employees** due to limitations in being able to identify & link patrons.

### Cluster Spotlight: Large Events/Festivals

14 people during this two-week period reported that they attended a large public event/festival, either while infectious or where the event was their likely source of exposure. These events included the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in South Dakota, the CrossFit Games in Madison, and the Wisconsin State Fair in Milwaukee.