

Briefing to Begin at 2pm



covid19.lacounty.gov

12/9/2021

What New Information Do We Have About Omicron?

- Omicron variant (B.1.1.529) first confirmed in South Africa on November 9th
- Concerning because large number of mutations raise the possibility of increased infectivity, potential immune evasion, resistance to treatment, and illness severity
- To date, 4 cases identified locally: 1 in a university student, 2 in returned international travelers, 1 resident with possible exposure to a traveler
 - All fully vaccinated (one with booster) and with mild illness
- As of this morning, 21 states have reported cases, 10 cases in California



Emerging Science on Omicron

- Early data suggests Omicron is spreading rapidly
- Testing is able to detect Omicron
- Early reports of hospitalized people with Omicron in SA: most are not severely ill, but too early to generalize
 - Need to see how it affects older and unvaccinated populations
- Preliminary results from SA and European labs: Omicron blunts neutralizing antibodies more than other variants, but does not completely knock them out
- Preliminary results from Pfizer and Denmark suggest booster doses of original vaccine formulation may be enough to counteract Omicron immune evasion

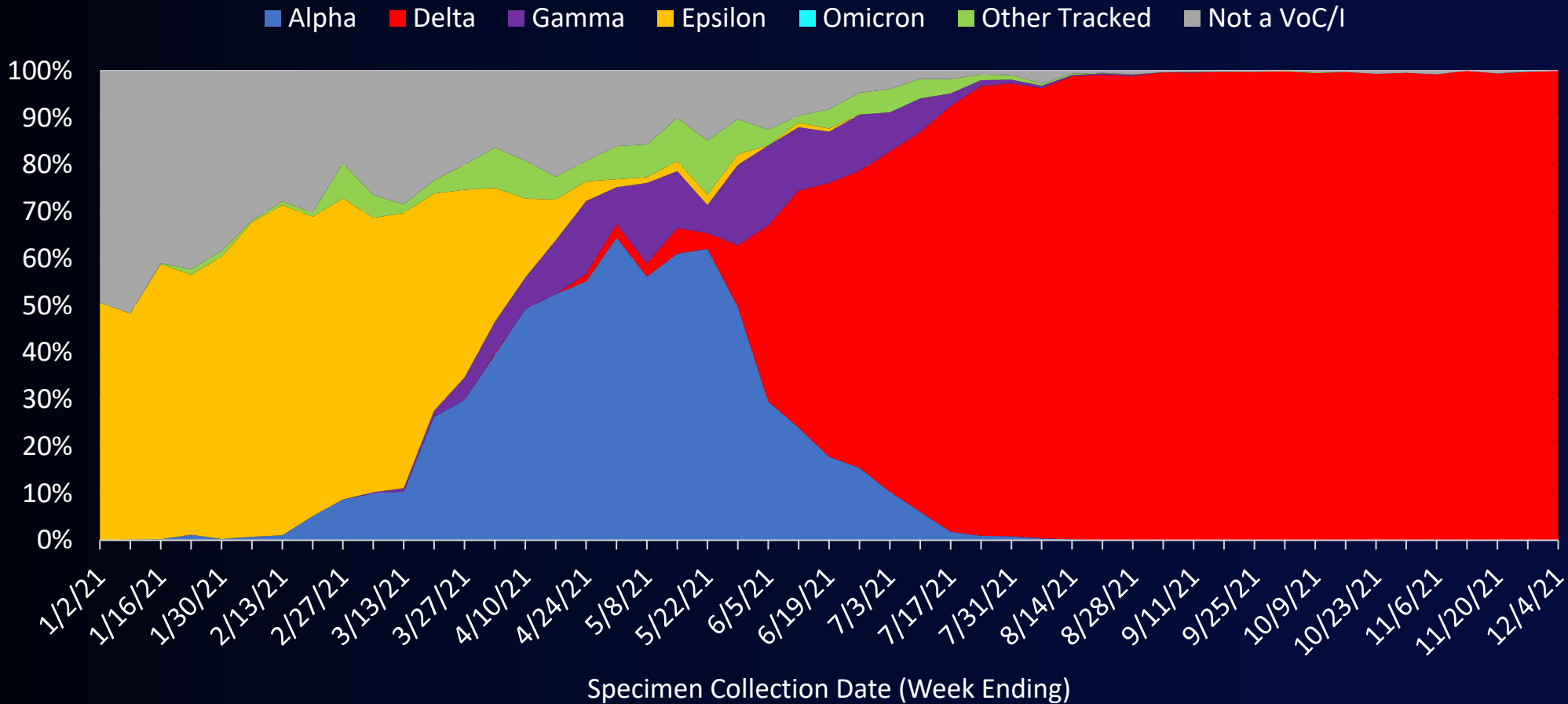


Steps LA County is Taking to Address the Omicron Threat

- Starting December 15th, new HOO requires:
 - Weekly testing for SNFs residents and staff
 - Negative PCR or rapid test within 72 hrs of entry for visitors at SNFs
- Providing rapid testing resources to SNFs and PEH shelters
- Rapid testing (voluntary) for international travelers arriving at LAX
 - As of Wednesday, 12/8/21, 555 tests had been conducted with 1 confirmed positive case.
- Support for routine testing and vaccination at schools continues
- Expanded capacity for specimen sequencing and contact tracing



Most Commonly Identified Variants Among LAC Residents as a Percentage of Sequences Reported to Public Health as of December 4th, 2021



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Current Status

Deaths Reported Today	15
Total Deaths	27,288
Cases Reported Today	1,718
Total Cases	1,541,886
Total People Tested	9,550,794
Daily Test Positivity Rate	1.46%
7-Day Daily Average Case Rate*	13.1
7-Day Cumulative Case Rate (per CDC)	113
Currently Hospitalized	667

*As of 12/6/21

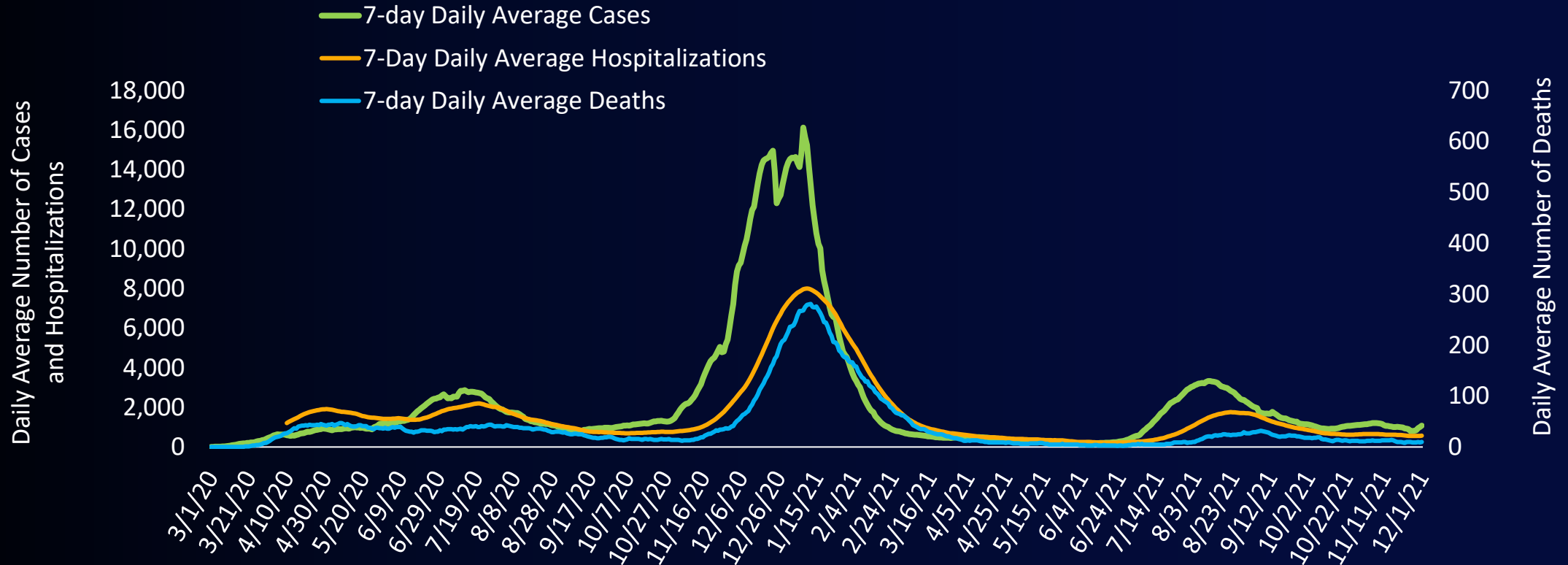


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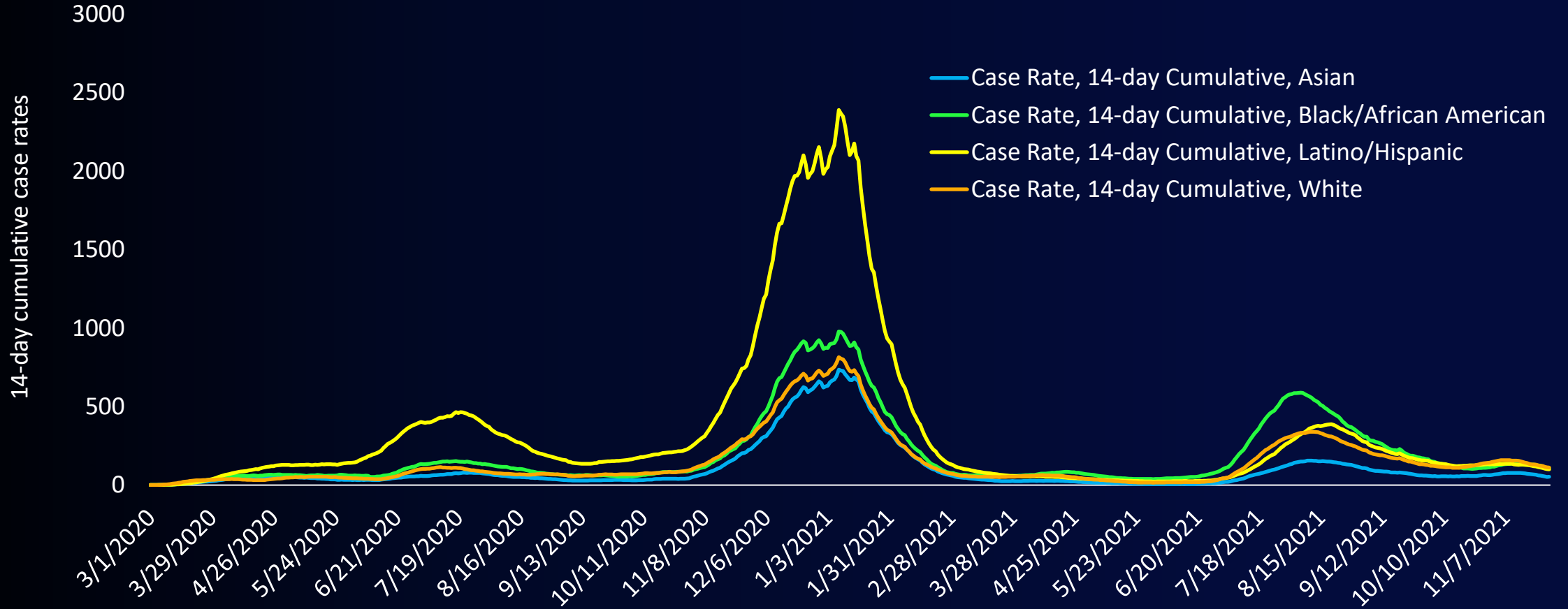
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Daily Average COVID-19 Cases by Episode Date, Hospitalizations, and Deaths by Date of Death

March 1st, 2020 – December 1st, 2021



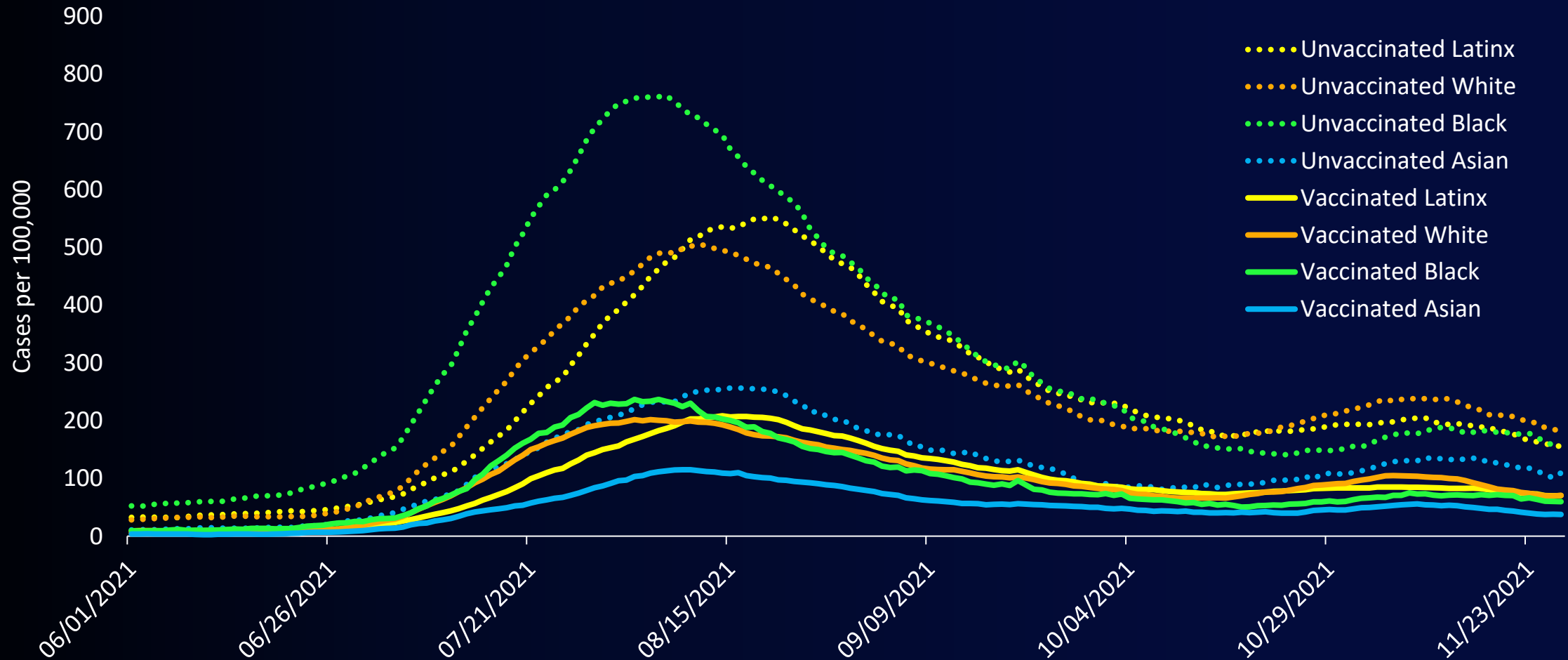
Age-Adjusted Rate of Cases per 100,000 by Race/Ethnicity Past 14-day Cumulative March 1st, 2020 - November 27th, 2021



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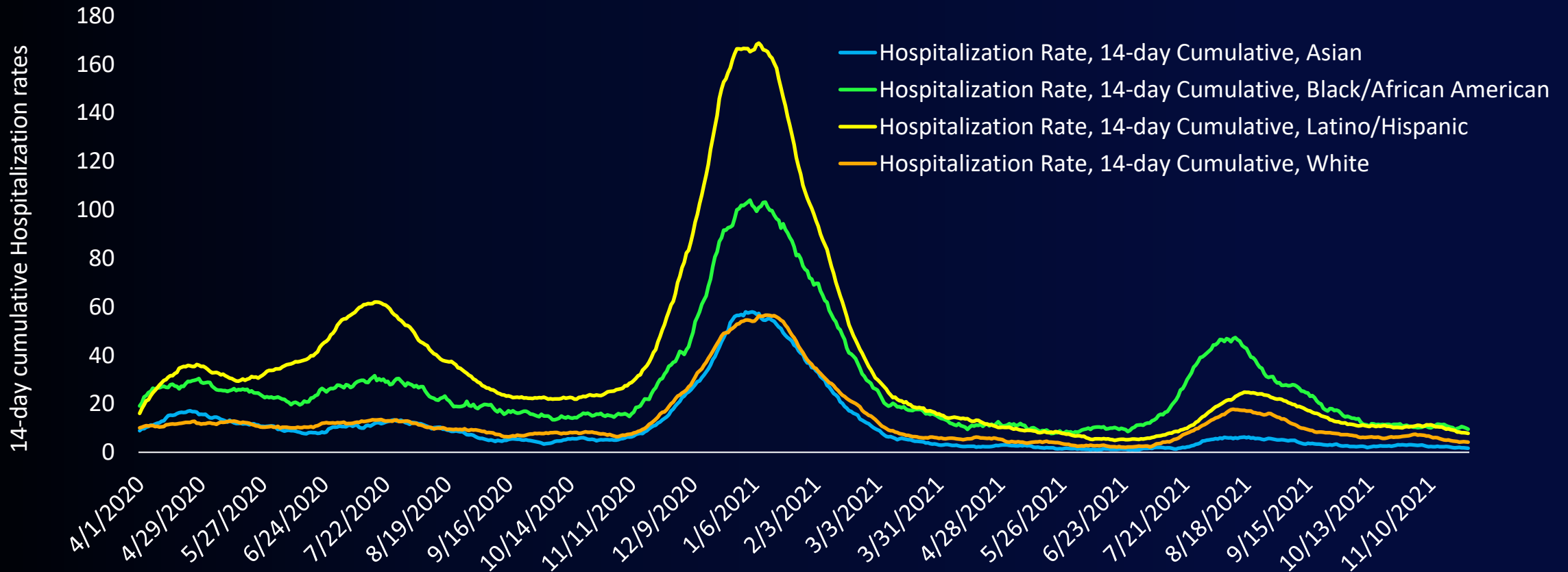
14-Day Age-Adjusted Case Rates by Race/Ethnicity and Vaccination Status June 1st – November 27th, 2021



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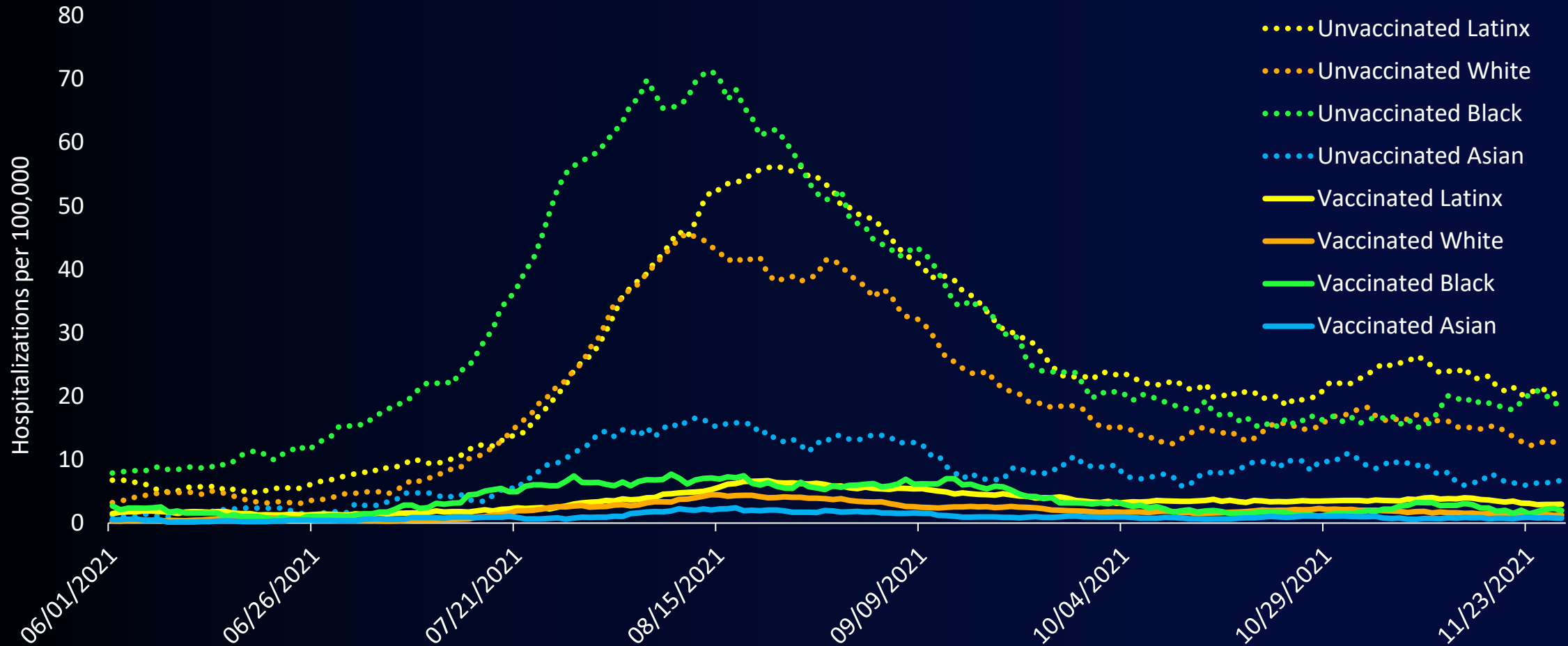


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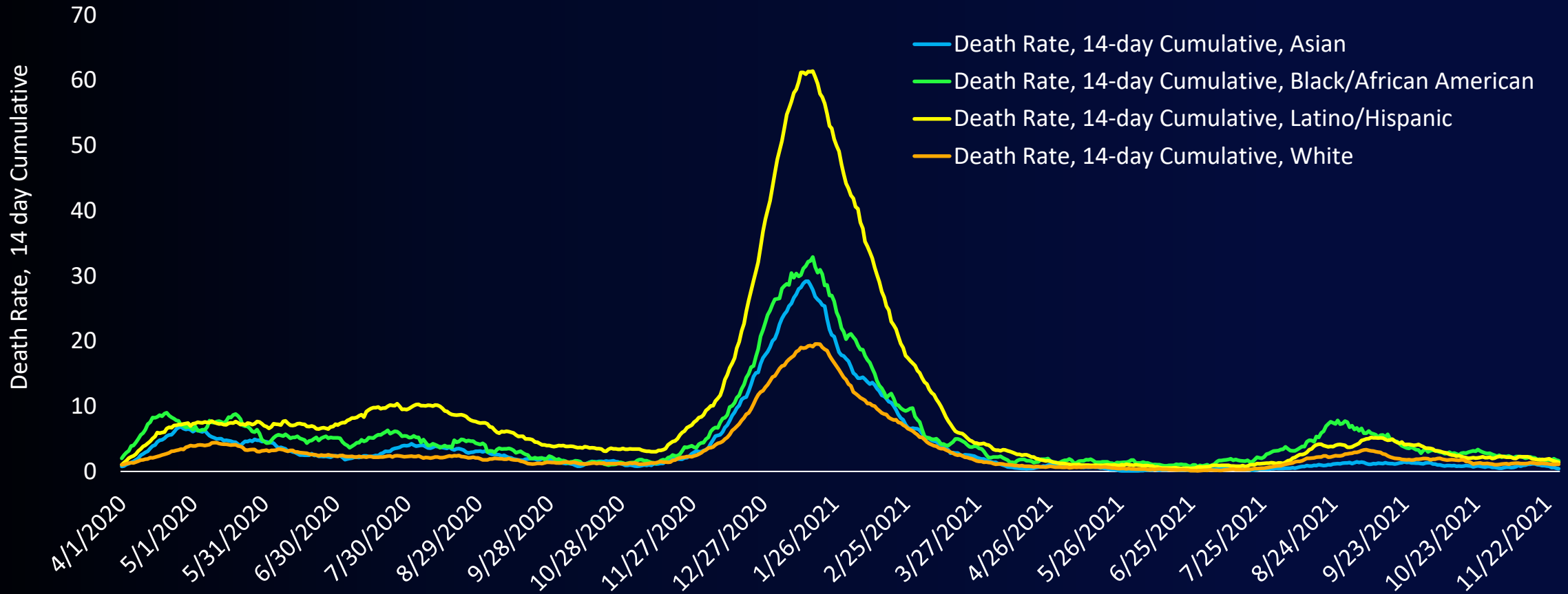
June 1st – November 27th, 2021



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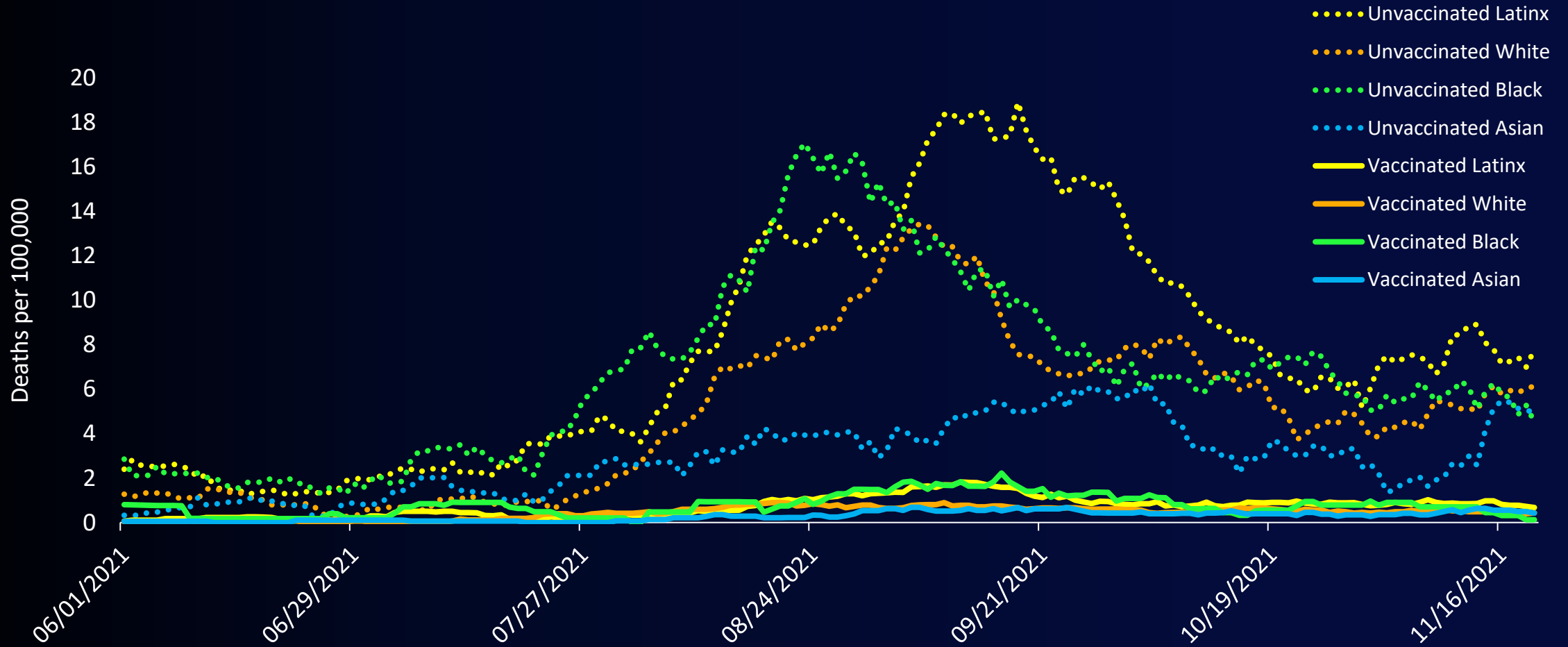
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14-Day Age-Adjusted Death Rates by Race/Ethnicity and Vaccination Status, June 1st – November 20th, 2021

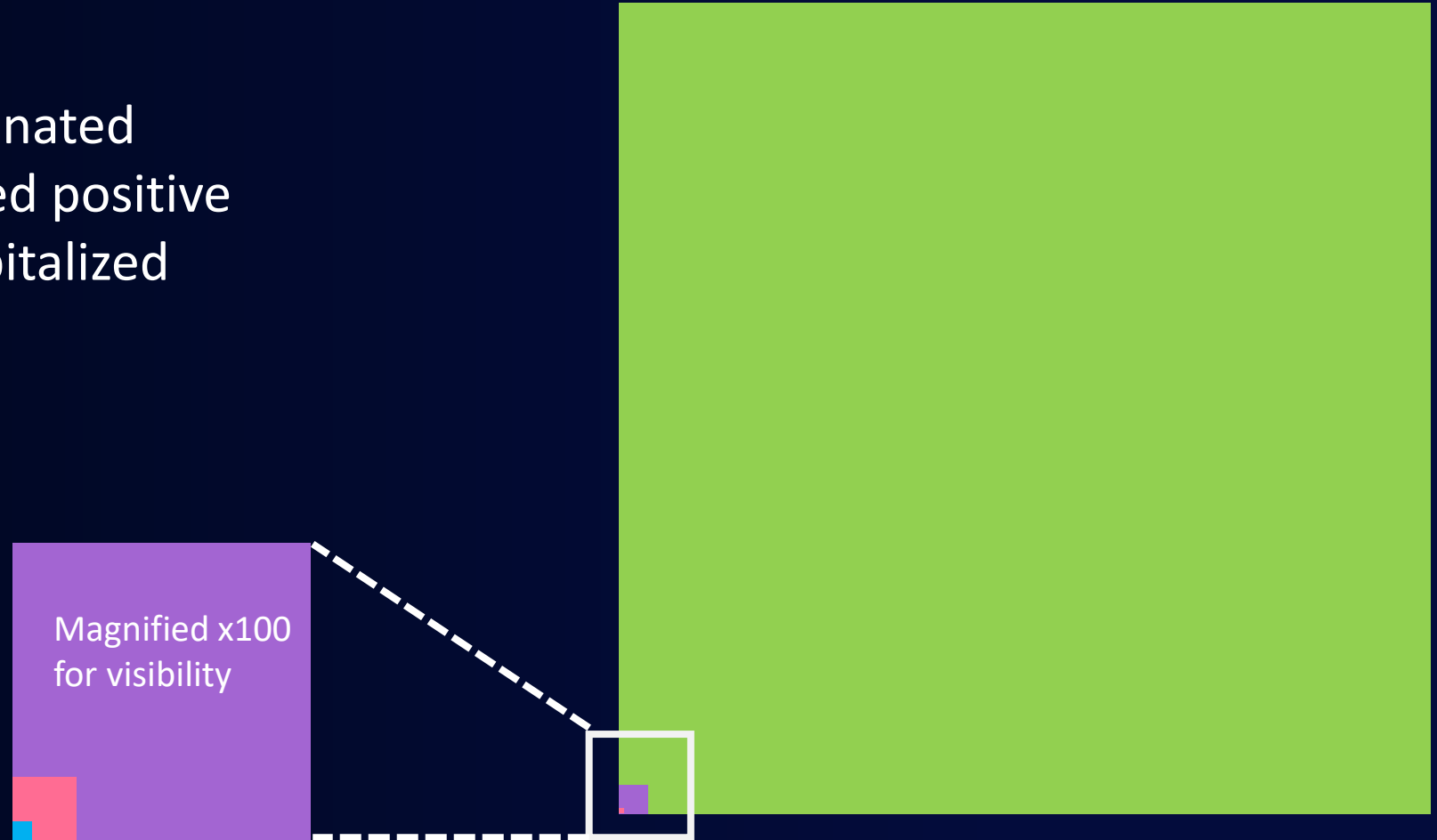


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Covid Among Fully Vaccinated People in LAC as of December 5th, 2021

- 6,150,706 fully vaccinated
- 84,931 (1.38%) tested positive
- 2,798 (0.046%) hospitalized
- 537 (0.009%) died



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Evidence for Booster Shots

November 23rd-29th, 2021

	Case Rate*
Unvaccinated	165
Primary vaccine series	43
Primary vaccine series + booster	7

The FDA today authorized boosters for youth 16-17 years old

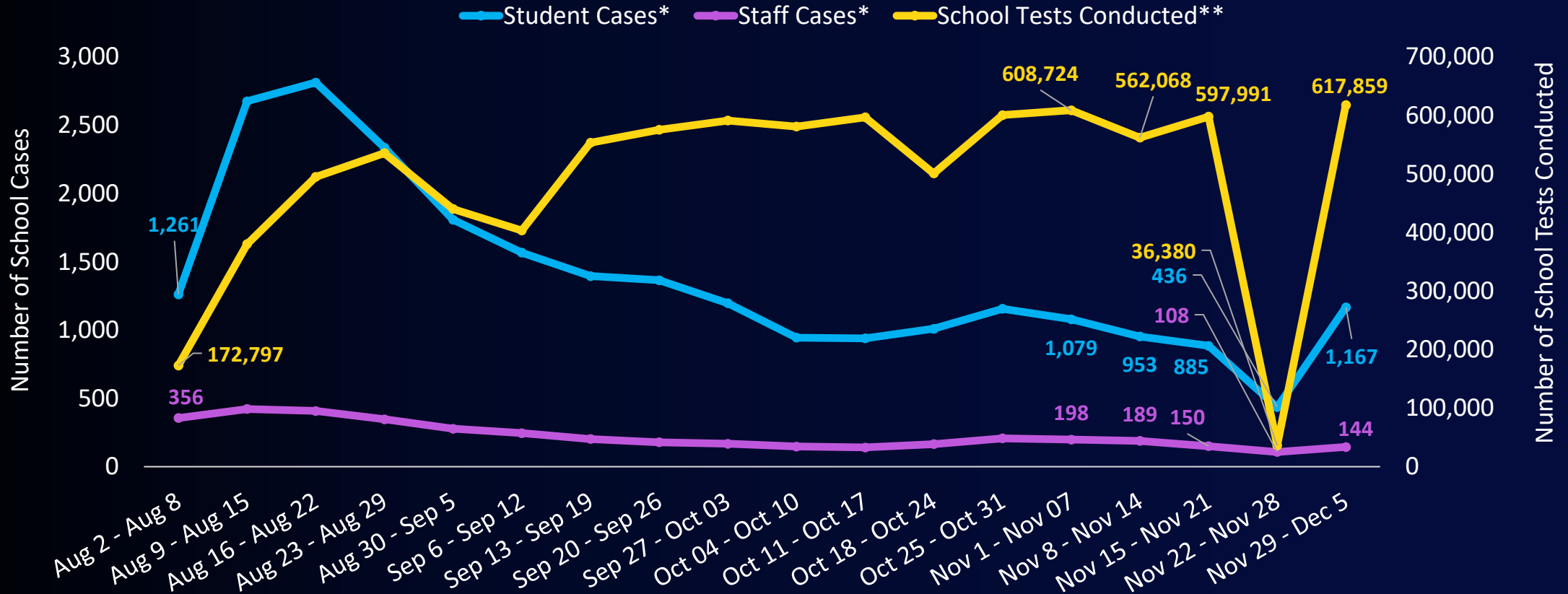
*7-day cumulative, age-adjusted case rates per 100,000



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TK-12 Cases and School Tests August 2, 2021 – December 5, 2021



*May include duplicate reports and includes external tests not conducted at schools. Most recent counts should be interpreted cautiously due to reporting delays.

**Most school tests are among asymptomatic, exposed persons identified by weekly screening testing, but could include ad-hoc response testing among symptomatic or exposed persons. School testing data may include duplicates. For the week of Nov 22, 2021, testing volume decrease was due to districts/schools being closed for the Thanksgiving break.

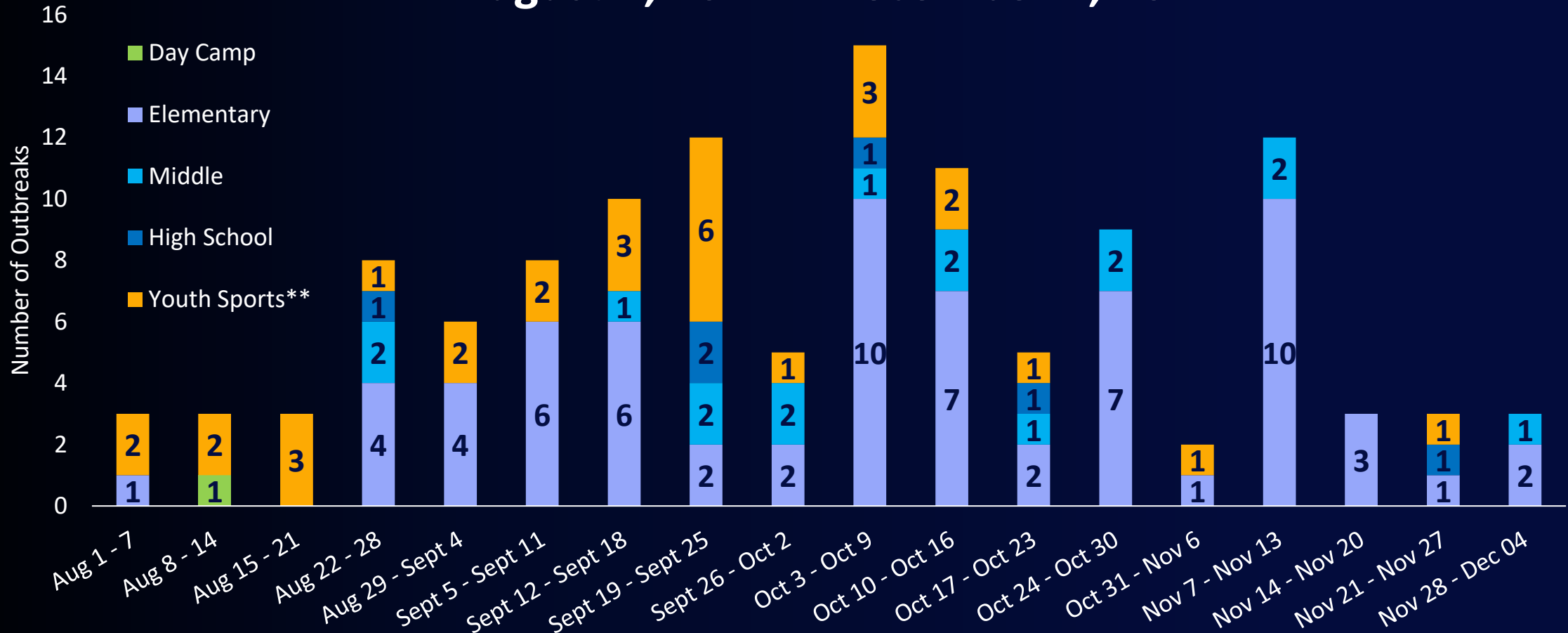


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Outbreaks in TK-12 Schools and Programs

August 1, 2021 – December 4, 2021*



* Outbreaks are reported by the date the outbreak investigation was opened. Outbreaks may still be open and under investigation

** All but one of the Youth Sports Outbreaks have been in a high-school setting.



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Proportion of LAC Residents Vaccinated by Age Group as of December 5th, 2021

	≥1 Dose	Fully Vaccinated
% LAC Residents 65+	96%	88%
% LAC Residents 5-11	16%	6%
% LAC Residents 12-17	79%	69%
% LAC Residents 12+	83%	75%
% LAC Residents 5+	77%	69%
% of 10.3 million LAC residents	73%	65%

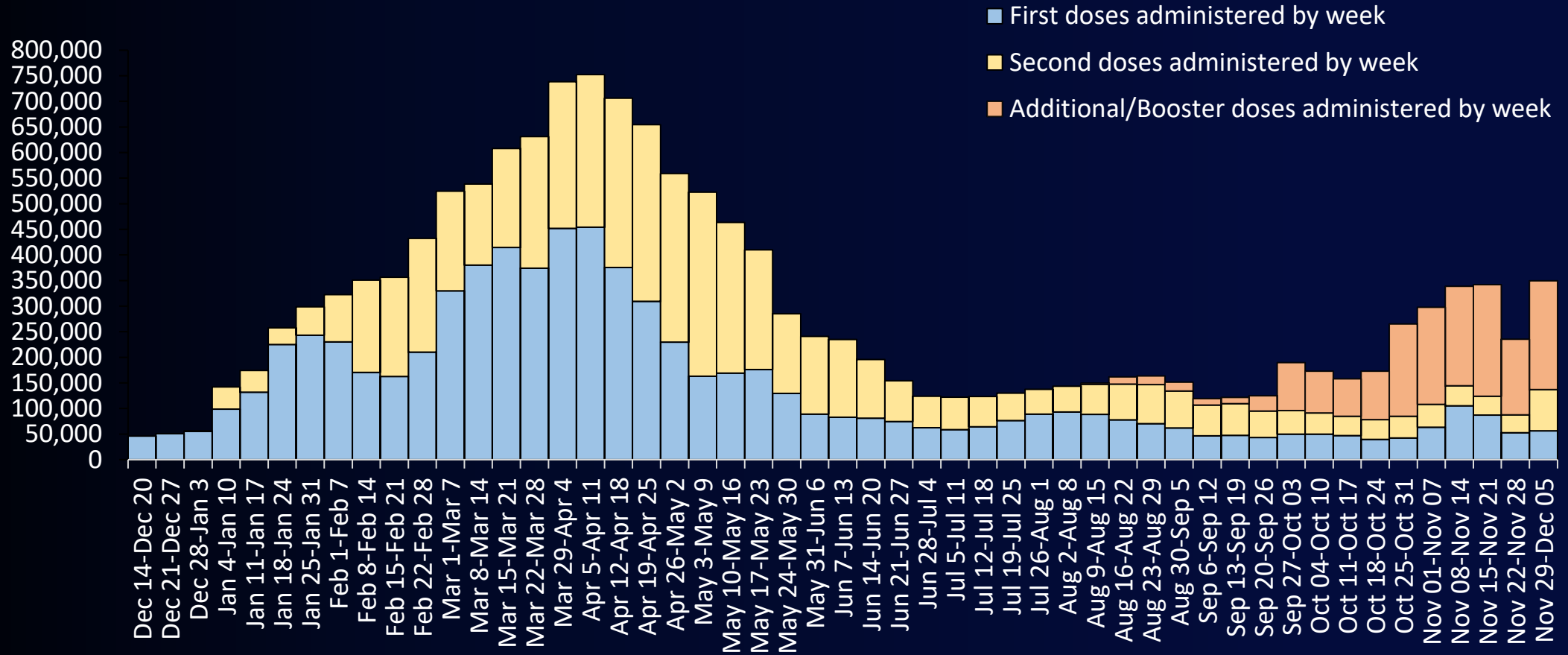
1,654,846 LAC residents have received additional/booster doses



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Vaccine Doses Administered Weekly Among All Eligible Persons

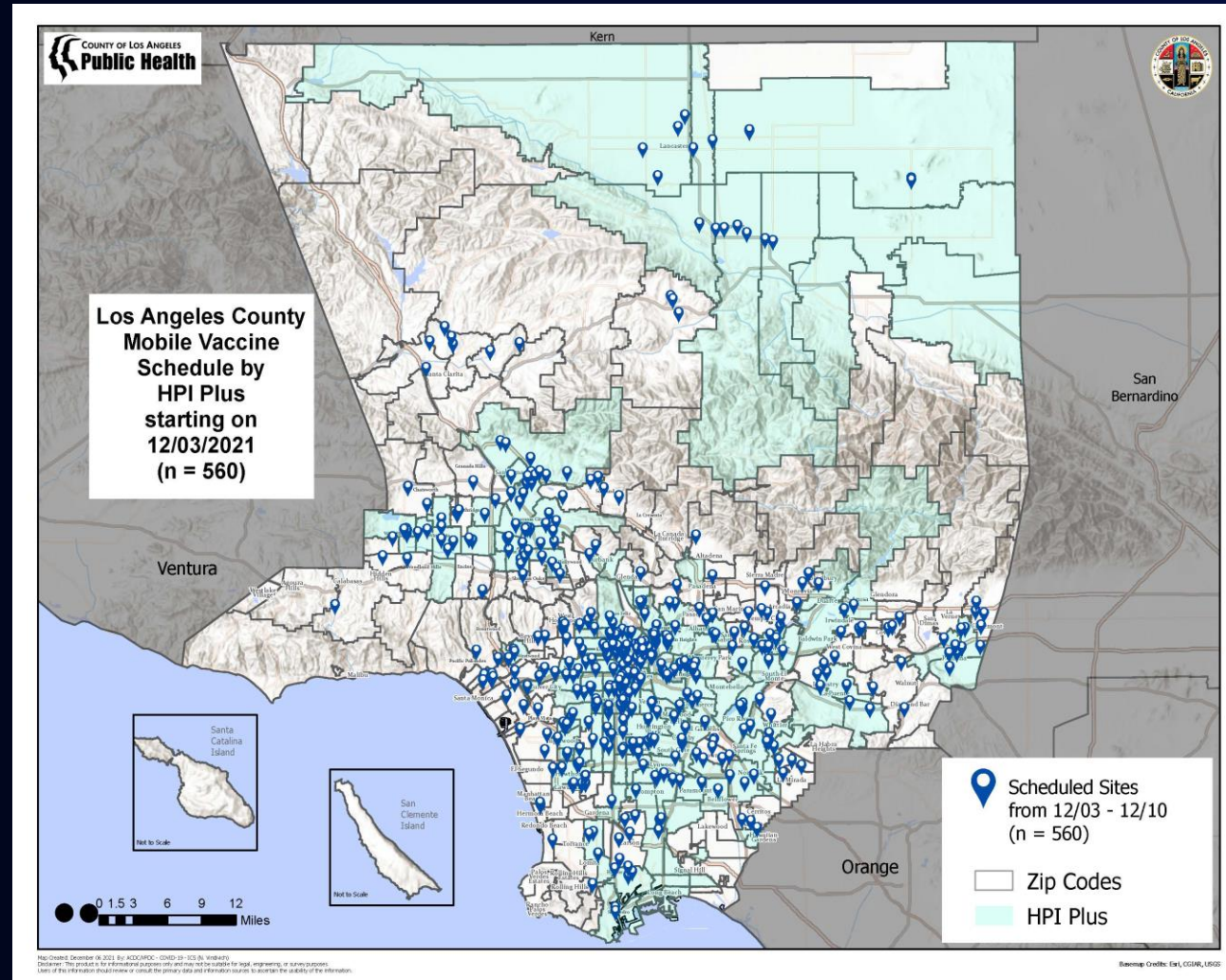


LAC Residents 5-to-11-year-old Vaccination by HPI Plus as of December 5th, 2021

	5-to-11-year-olds Vaccinated in LAC ZIP Codes	
	#	%
HPI+ ZIP Codes (Hardest Hit LAC Neighborhoods)	64,500	11
Other LAC ZIP Codes	81,736	28
All ZIP Codes	146,236	16



Mobile Vaccination Sites Currently Administering Adult and Pediatric Vaccines



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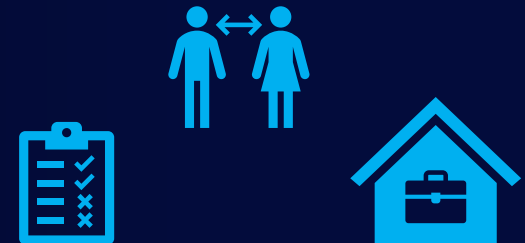
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Steps Residents and Workers Should Take

**GET VACCINATED
OR BOOSTED**

MASK UP INDOORS
OR AT LARGE
EVENTS

GET TESTED IF SICK OR
POTENTIALLY EXPOSED
ISOLATE IF POSITIVE
QUARANTINE IF YOU
ARE A CLOSE CONTACT



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Choosing a Covid-19 Test

Rapid tests (a.k.a. antigen & most self-tests)

Molecular tests (a.k.a. PCR, NAAT tests)

Turnaround time	15-30 minutes per test	1-2 days (except for rapid NAAT tests)
Sensitivity	Moderate to high <i>if</i> done at significant viral load	High for lab-based, moderate to high for home-based
When best to use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may have been exposed to COVID Before gathering indoors with others, especially those who are vulnerable Pre/post-travel (check travel requirements) After attending large events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have symptoms You have been exposed to a known Covid case in the past 14 days Pre/post-travel (check travel requirements) After attending large events
	If positive, need to confirm with PCR test	To confirm the results of a rapid test
Where to get tested	Free at LAC/community testing sites Test kits sold online, in pharmacies/retail stores	Free at LAC/community testing sites Some pharmacies sell rapid NAAT tests



Testing Requirements in LAC

**For whom is
routine testing
REQUIRED?**

Workers in healthcare, high-risk congregate settings, and K-12 schools who are not fully vaccinated (frequency varies)

SNF employees, contractors, residents, regardless of vaccination status (weekly)

All visitors to indoor portions of SNFs, regardless of vaccination status

International travelers, prior to boarding a U.S.-bound flight, regardless of vaccination status

Visitors who are not fully vaccinated, prior to entry into indoor and outdoor mega-events, intermediate care facilities, juvenile detention facilities, indoors and outdoors at adult correctional and detention centers, and as required by certain businesses and venues

Youth athletes/staff (all ages) playing moderate or high risk indoor sports if not fully vaccinated or if participating in/coaching indoor sports where masking is not practical

Unvaccinated youth athletes/staff 12+ playing moderate or high-risk outdoor sports



Testing Recommendations in LAC

**For whom is
routine testing
RECOMMENDED?**

Youth sports athletes <12yo playing outdoor moderate/high-risk sports

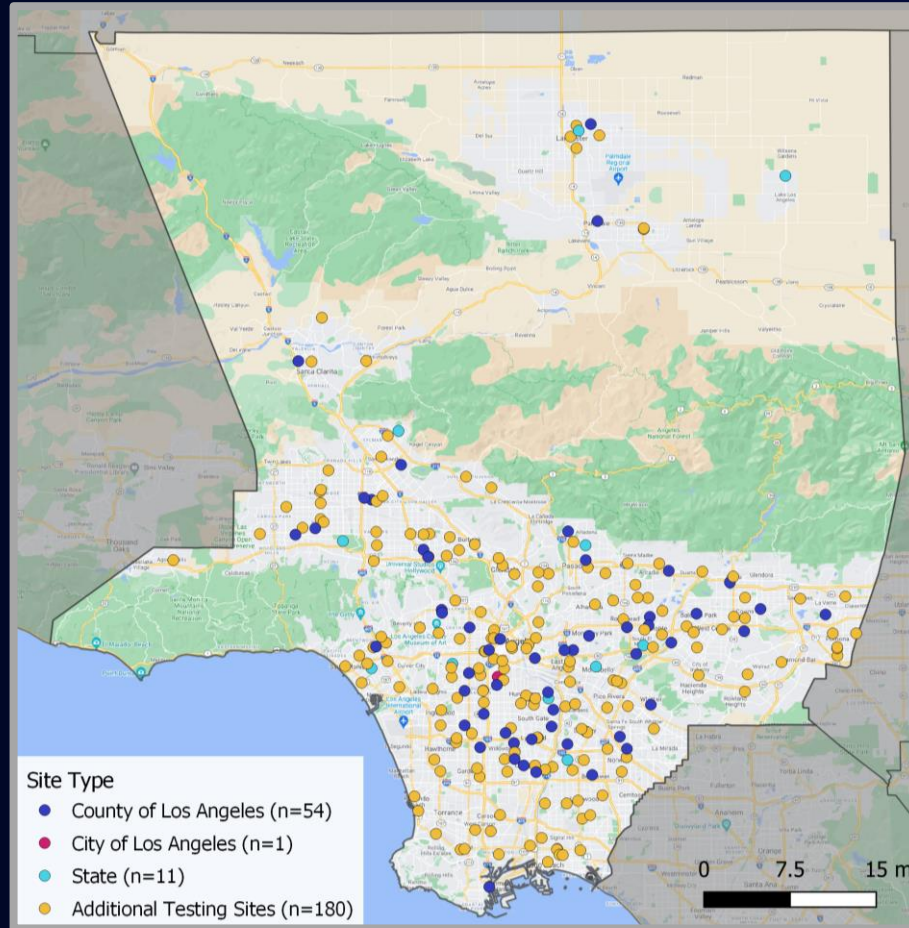
K-12 students and staff not fully vaccinated; with high/moderate community transmission, all students and staff regardless of vaccination status

Travelers, regardless of vaccination status (1-3 days prior to domestic travel and 3-5 days after return from travel)

Before and after gatherings or events



Community Testing Sites



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<https://covid19.lacounty.gov/testing/>

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