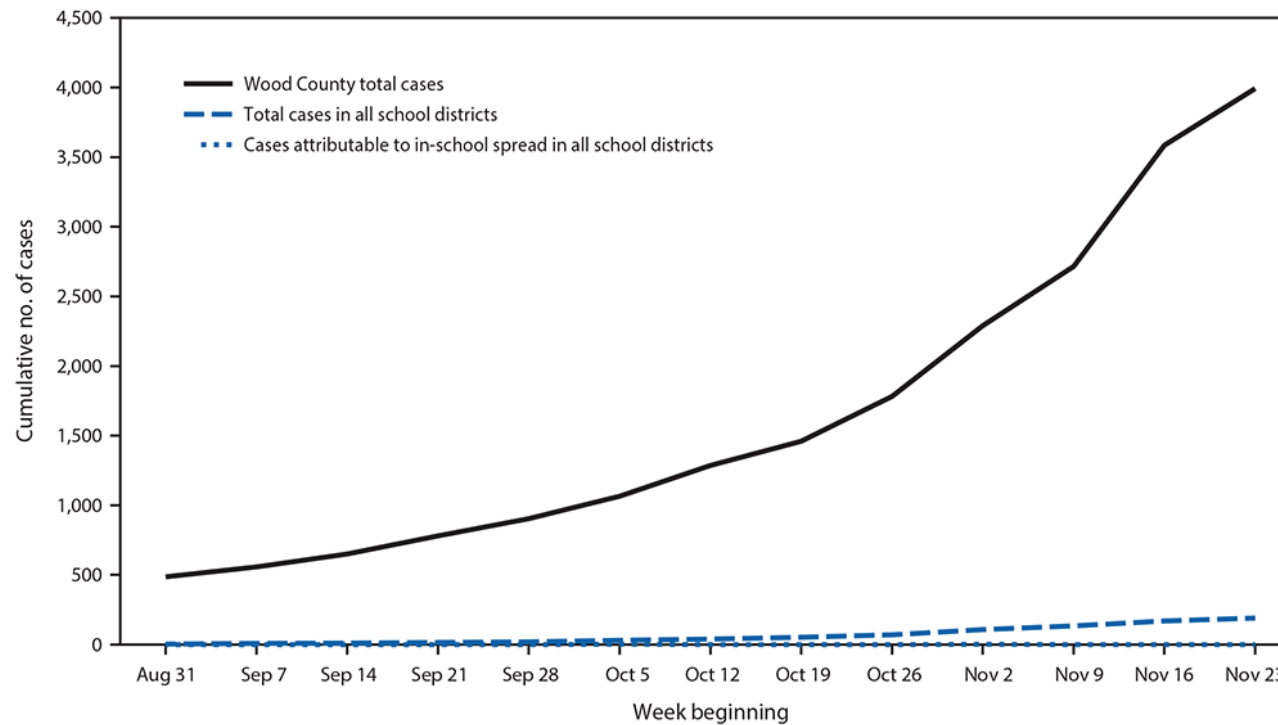




# COVID RV Fall Update

# BRAVO!

**FIGURE 1. Cumulative number of community and school-associated\* COVID-19 cases and in-school transmission,<sup>†</sup> by week — Wood County, Wisconsin, August 31–November 29, 2020**



**Abbreviation:** COVID-19 = coronavirus disease 2019.

\* Cases occurring in students or school staff members.

<sup>†</sup> Cases attributed to virus transmission occurring during students' attendance at schools.





# Topics Covered

- ▶ Delta Variant
- ▶ Review of current district area COVID rates
- ▶ Review of current district area Vaccination rates
- ▶ Review of current CDC and other guidelines
- ▶ Discussion about mitigation measures
- ▶ Testing Options
- ▶ Discussion

# Variants

- B117      Alpha      UK
- B1351    Beta      South Africa
- P.1       Gamma    Brazil
- B1427    Epsilon   California
- B1429    Epsilon   California
- B1617    Delta      India



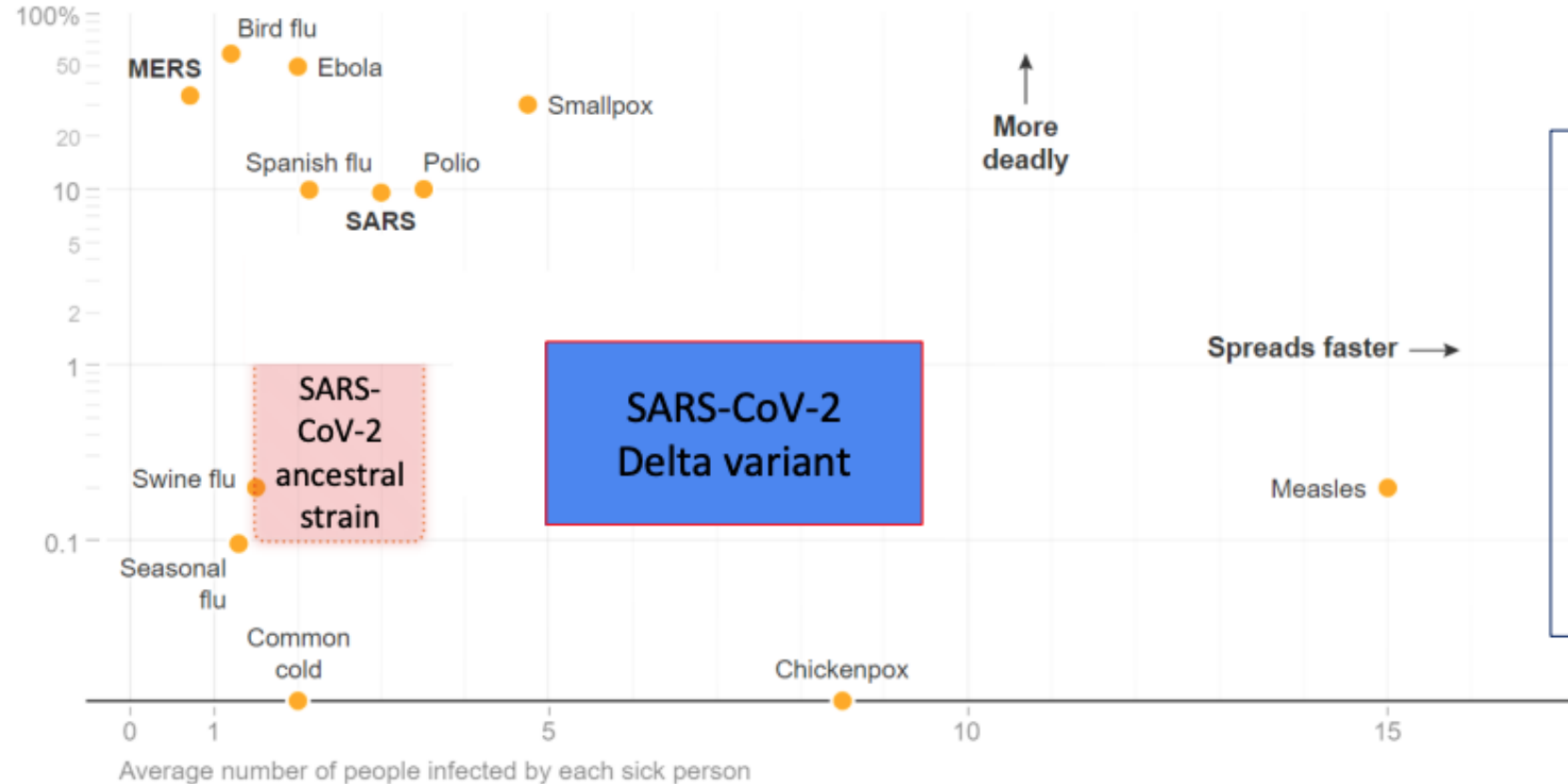
## Delta

- 85 countries
- Most common variant in India, UK and USA
- WHO –encourages fully vaccinated people to wear masks indoors
- CDC – no change

**Human behavior during the pandemic  
more important than any COVID variant**

# Transmission of Delta variant vs. ancestral strain and other infectious diseases

Fatality rate  
(log scale)



Delta variant is **more** transmissible than:

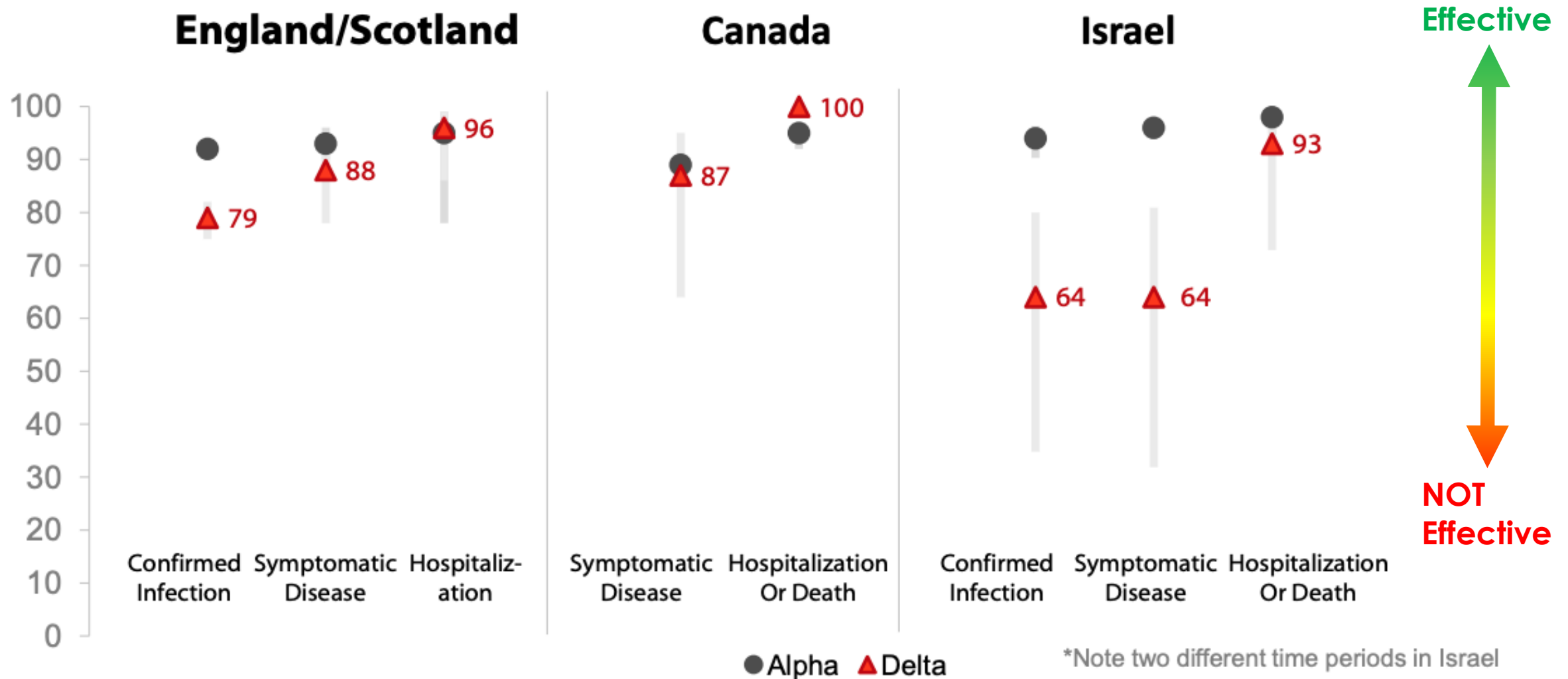
- MERS & SARS
- Ebola
- Common cold
- Seasonal flu & 1918 ("Spanish") flu
- Smallpox

Delta variant is **as** transmissible as:

- Chicken Pox

Note: Average case-fatality rates and transmission numbers are shown. Estimates of case-fatality rates can vary, and numbers for the new coronavirus are preliminary estimates.

# Pfizer 2-Dose Vaccine Effectiveness for Alpha vs. Delta



Sheikh et al. Lancet (2021): [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(21\)01358-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(21)01358-1); Lopez Bernal et al. medRxiv preprint; <https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.05.22.21257658>; Stowe et al. PHE preprint: [https://khub.net/web/phe-national/public-library/-/document\\_library/v2WsRK3ZIEig/view/479607266](https://khub.net/web/phe-national/public-library/-/document_library/v2WsRK3ZIEig/view/479607266); Nasreen et al. medRxiv preprint: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.06.28.21259420>; <https://www.gov.il/en/departments/news/06072021-04>



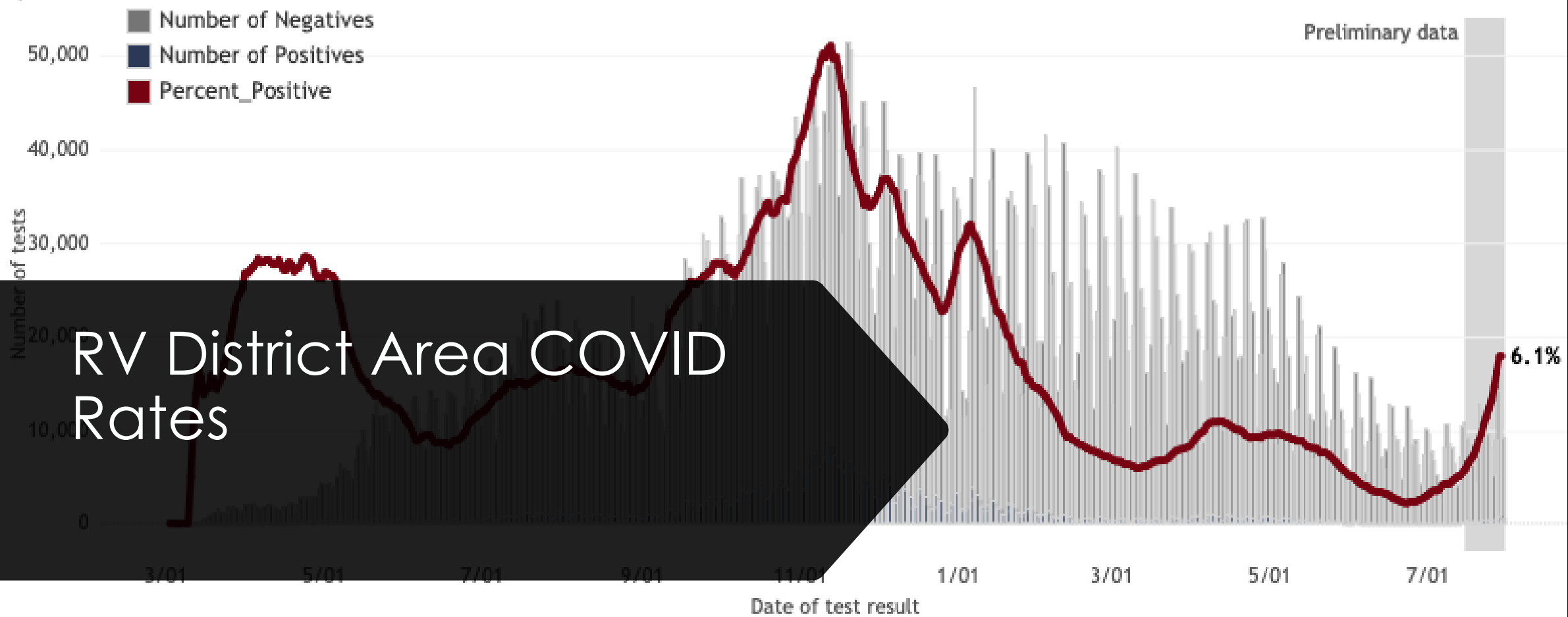


# Delta Variant Summary

- Delta is different from previous strains
  - Highly contagious
  - Likely more severe
  - Breakthrough infections may be as transmissible as unvaccinated cases
- Vaccines prevent >90% of severe disease with Delta
- Vaccines may be **less effective** at preventing infection or transmission

# 7-day percent positive by test, total tests by day

Updated: 7/30/2021



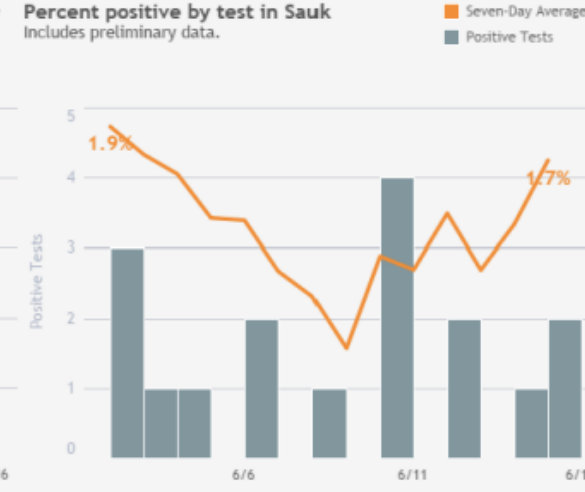
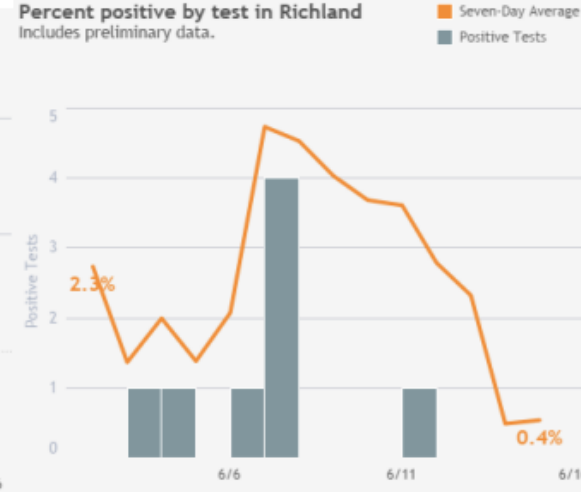
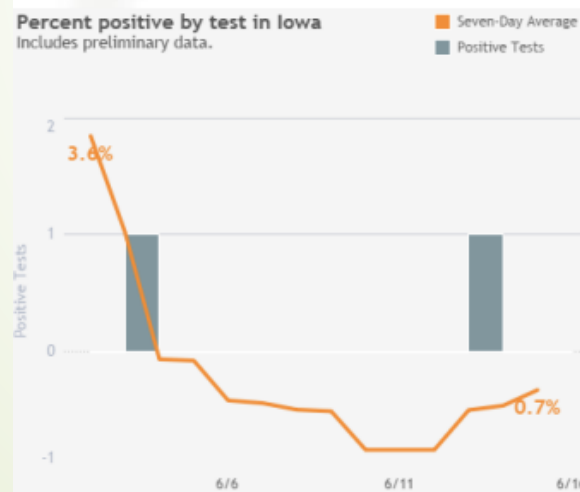
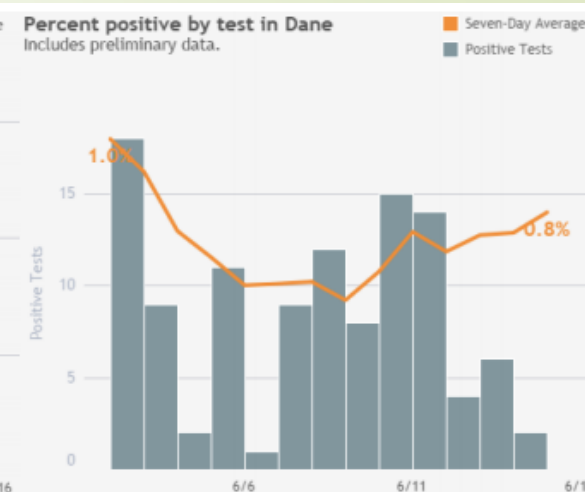
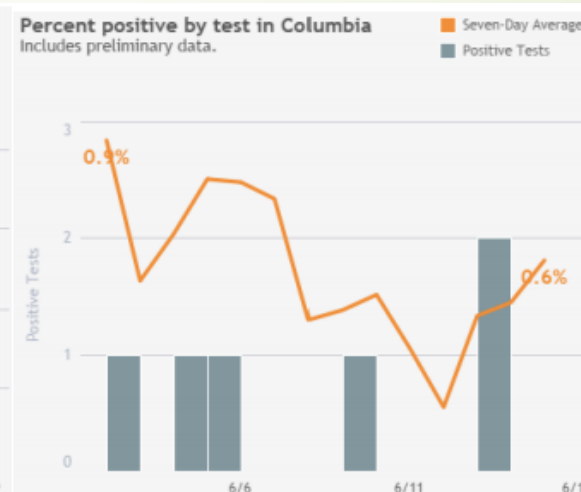
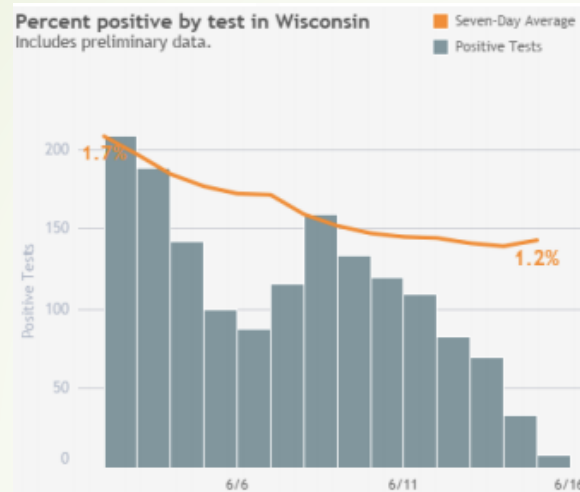


# COVID Rates in RV District

June 22, 2021

## ➤ Positivity Rates

- Wisconsin 1.2%
- Dane 0.8%
- Iowa 0.7%
- Richland 0.4%
- Sauk 1.7%



# COVID Rates in RV District

July 30, 2021

## ➤ Positivity Rates

➤ Wisconsin 1.2% → **5.4%**

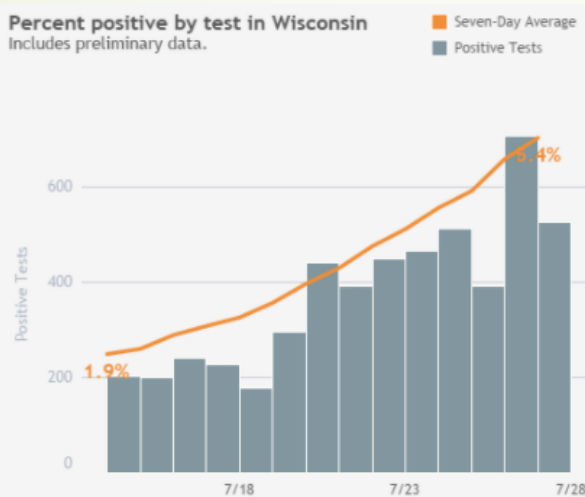
➤ Dane 0.8% → **3.3%**

➤ Iowa 0.7% → **3.7%**

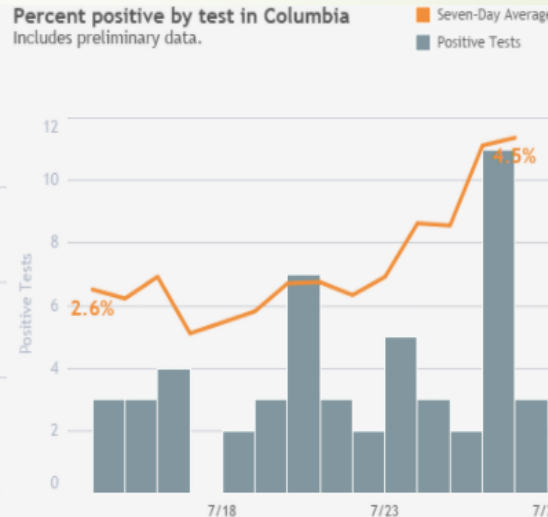
➤ Richland 0.4% → **4.5%**

➤ Sauk 1.7% → **4.2%**

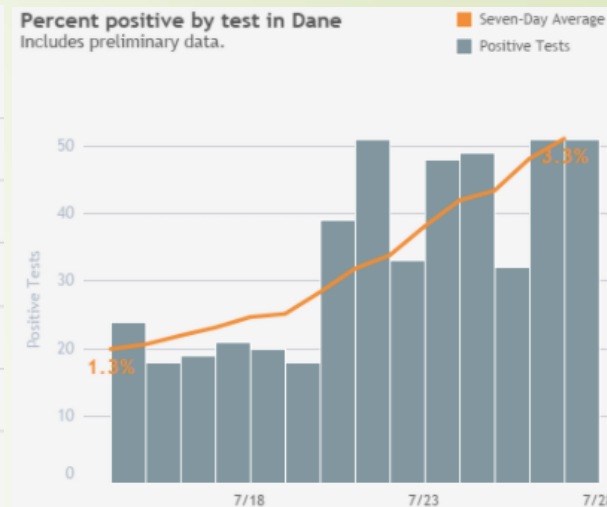
Percent positive by test in Wisconsin  
Includes preliminary data.



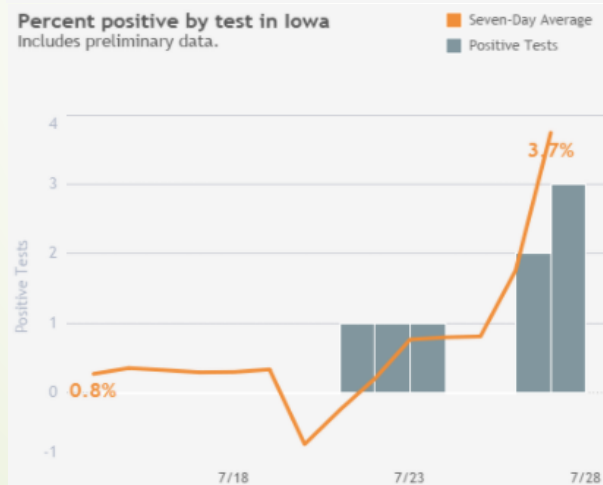
Percent positive by test in Columbia  
Includes preliminary data.



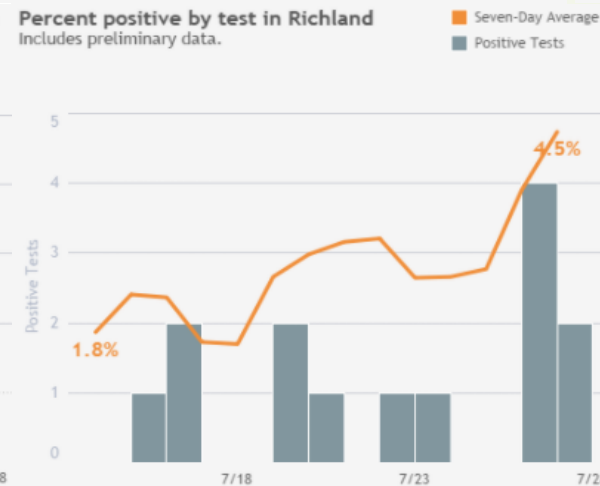
Percent positive by test in Dane  
Includes preliminary data.



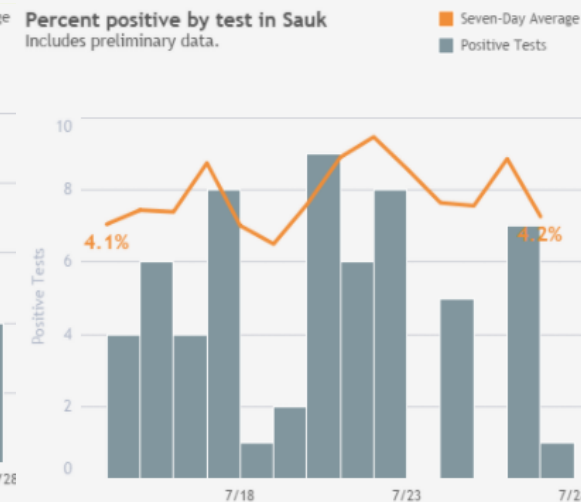
Percent positive by test in Iowa  
Includes preliminary data.



Percent positive by test in Richland  
Includes preliminary data.



Percent positive by test in Sauk  
Includes preliminary data.



# COVID-19 Disease Activity

	Case Activity	Percent Positive	CLI Activity	ILI Activity	
Wisconsin South Central	Medium	Low	Medium	Low	i
	Medium	Low	Medium	Low	

Updated: 7/28/2021

Hover over visuals and text to find more information.

Select Area

South Central ▼

Two Week Range

6/9/2021 - 6/22/2021

○ < >

Activity Indicator

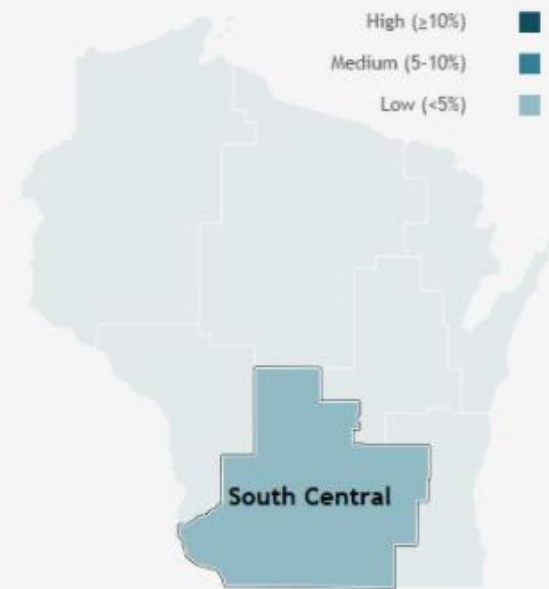
- ☐ Case Activity
- ☒ Percent Positive
- ☐ CLI Activity
- ☐ ILI Activity

View Type

- ☐ County View
- ☒ Region View

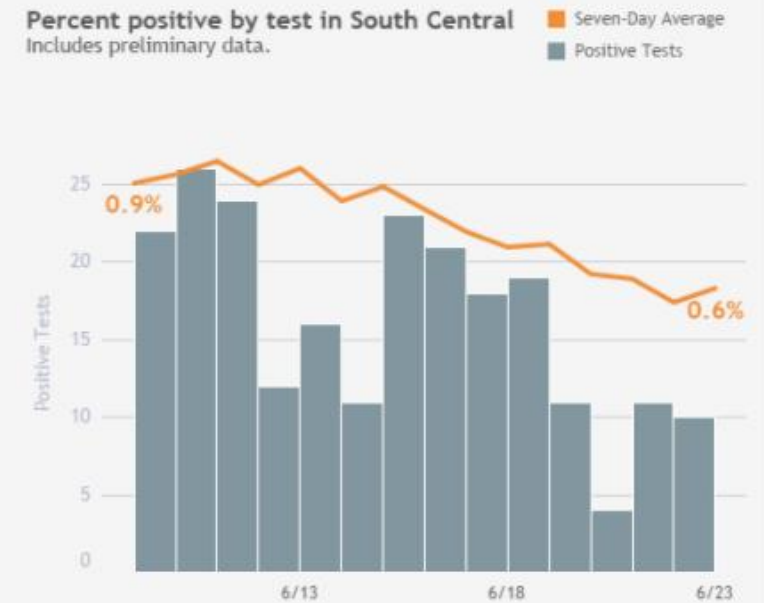
In South Central over the last seven days in the selected two week range the percent of tests returned positive was low.

Percent positive for Wisconsin residents tested in- and out-of-state is calculated as the number of positive COVID-19 tests divided by the total number of tests administered in the last seven days for the selected two week range. If people tested positive or negative more than once, they are included and counted each time, on the date the testing lab reports their test result. If a person is tested more than once on a single date, they are only counted once per day. Tests are limited to diagnostic, confirmatory polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests or nucleic acid amplification tests (NAT) that detect the genetic material of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. No antigen or antibody test results are included in this figure.



## Percent positive by test in South Central

Includes preliminary data.



## South Central Region data

Percent Positive  
past seven days

0.6%

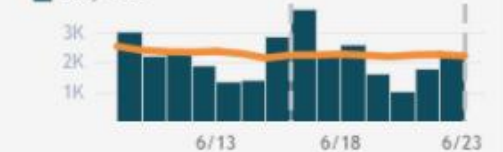
Tests Administered  
past fourteen days

30,573

## Tests Over Time

Average Daily Tests

Daily Tests



# COVID-19 Disease Activity

Wisconsin South Central	Case Activity	Percent Positive	CLI Activity	ILI Activity	i
	High	Medium	Medium	Low	
	High	Low	Medium	Low	

Updated: 7/28/2021

Hover over visuals and text to find more information.

Select Area

South Central

Two Week Range

7/14/2021 - 7/27/2021

◁ ▷

Activity Indicator

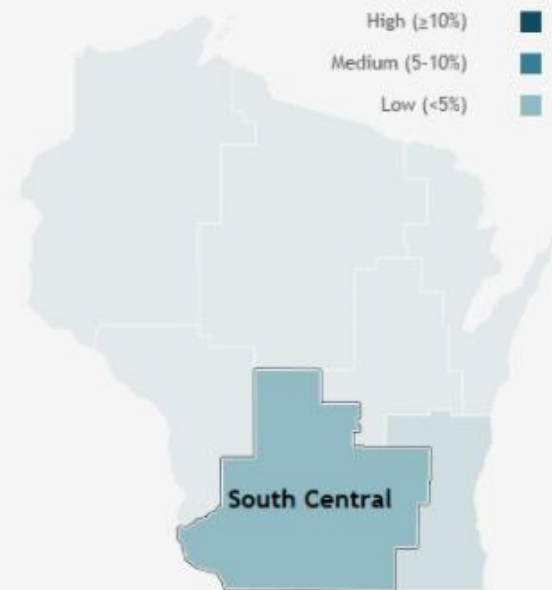
- ☐ Case Activity
- ☒ Percent Positive
- ☐ CLI Activity
- ☐ ILI Activity

View Type

- ☐ County View
- ☒ Region View

In South Central over the last seven days in the selected two week range the percent of tests returned positive was low.

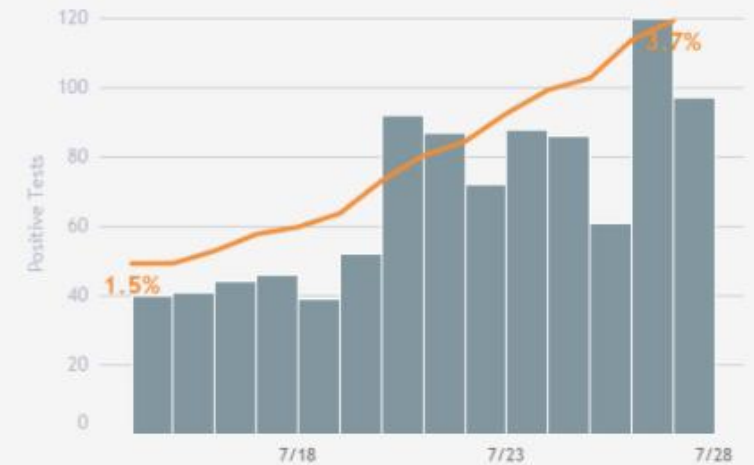
Percent positive for Wisconsin residents tested in- and out-of-state is calculated as the number of positive COVID-19 tests divided by the total number of tests administered in the last seven days for the selected two week range. If people tested positive or negative more than once, they are included and counted each time, on the date the testing lab reports their test result. If a person is tested more than once on a single date, they are only counted once per day. Tests are limited to diagnostic, confirmatory polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests or nucleic acid amplification tests (NAT) that detect the genetic material of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. No antigen or antibody test results are included in this figure.



## Percent positive by test in South Central

Includes preliminary data.

Seven-Day Average  
Positive Tests



## South Central Region data

Percent Positive  
past seven days

3.7%

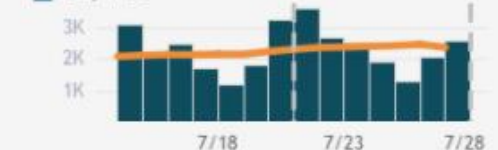
Tests Administered  
past fourteen days

32,278

## Tests Over Time

Average Daily Tests

Daily Tests





# Penn State football team blown out by Wisconsin, 45-7

Updated Jan 03, 2019; Posted Nov 26, 2011



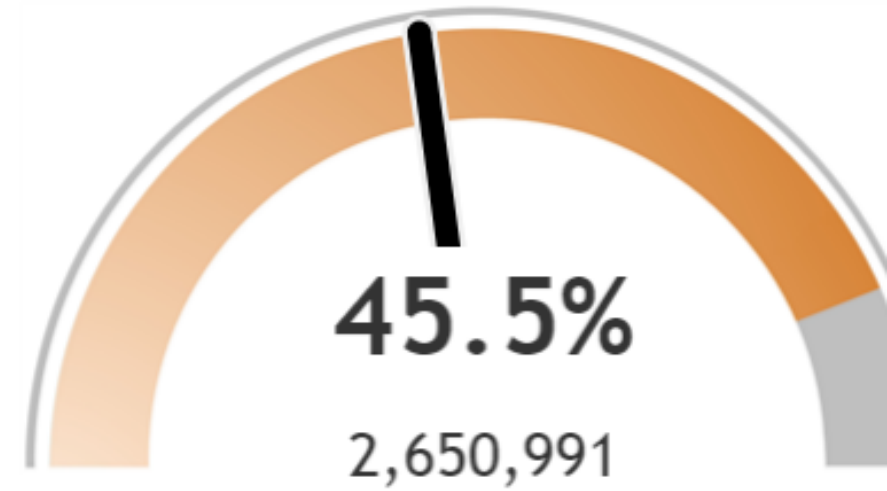
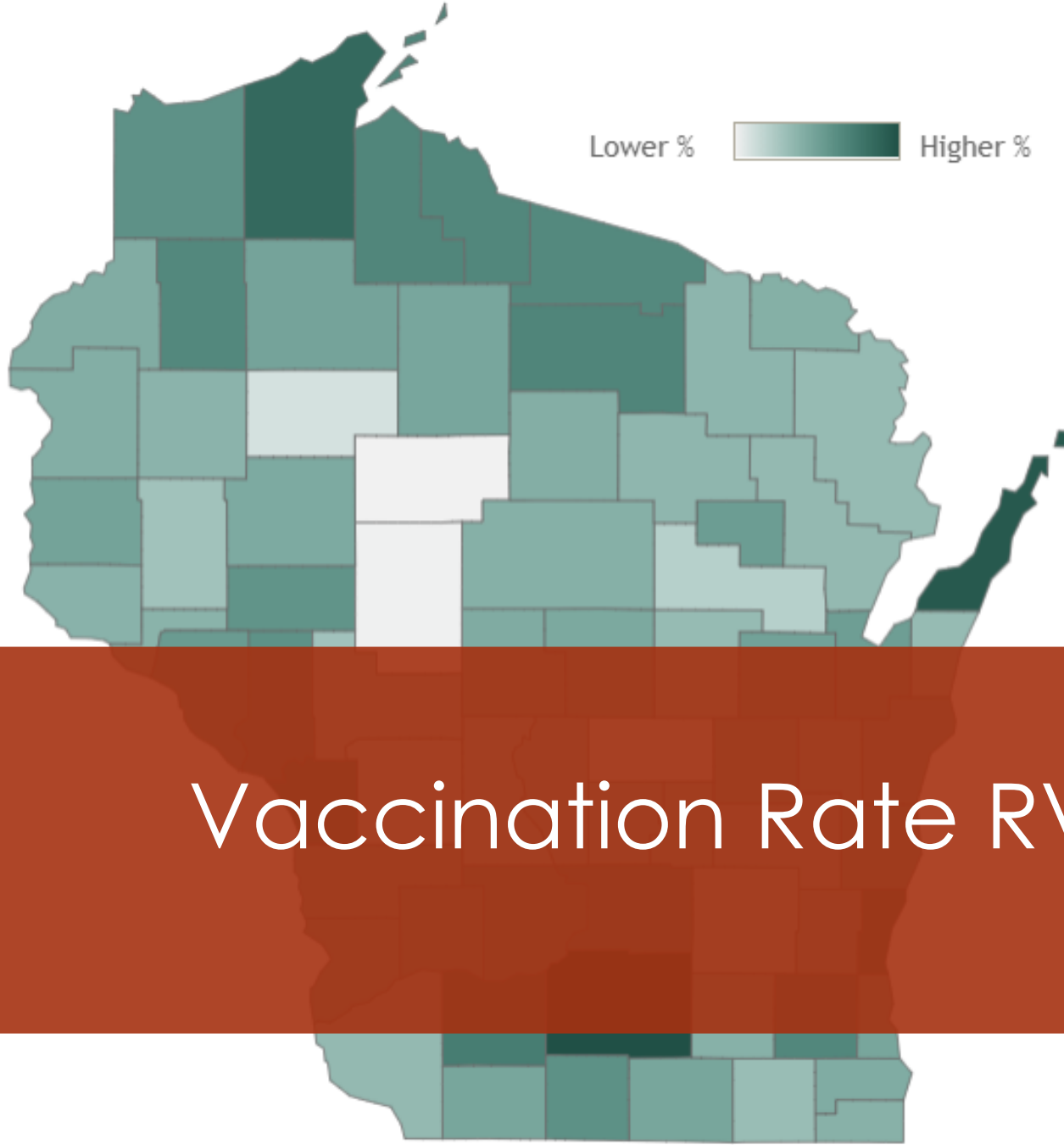
By [Associated Press](#)



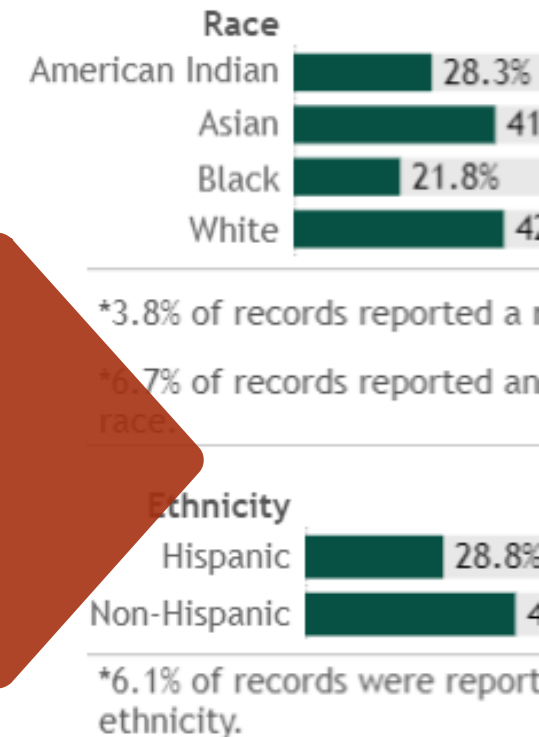
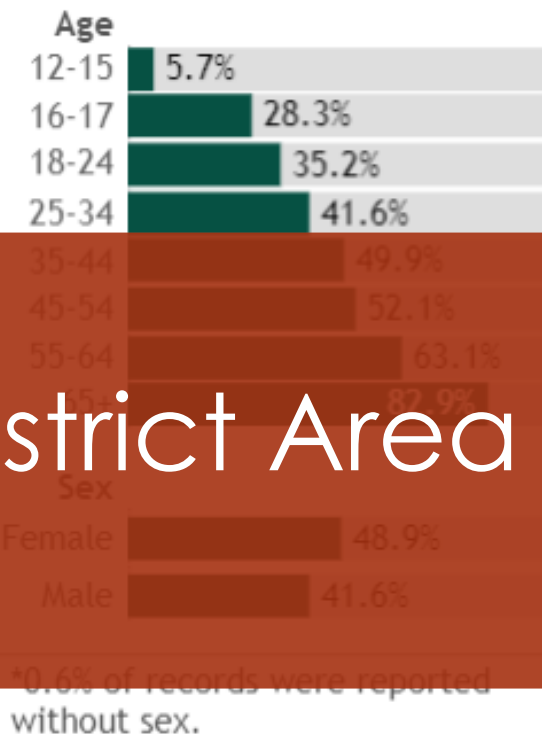
AP Photo | MORRY

**GASH** Penn State's Gerald Hodges, bottom right, is called for a horse-collar tackle on Wisconsin's Montee Ball (28) during the first half of an NCAA college football game today in Madison, Wis.





## Vaccination Rate RV District Area



[View more data on racial and ethnic disparities in W](#)

# RV District Vaccination Summary

May 2021



July 2021

Month	County % Vaccinated	% 12 - 15yo Vaccinated	% 16 - 17yo Vaccinated
May	47.5%	2.1%	27.7%
	↓	↓	↓
July	54.4%	35.2%	42.8%



# How about our most vulnerable?

Age Group	% Vaccinated	Remaining Unvaccinated	Risk compared to 18 yo	
			Hospitalization	Death
55 – 64	73%	4320	4x	35x
65+	86%	2904	6-15x	95 - 600x

\*Dane County not included

# Current Recommendations

Academy

CS



THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



CDC



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

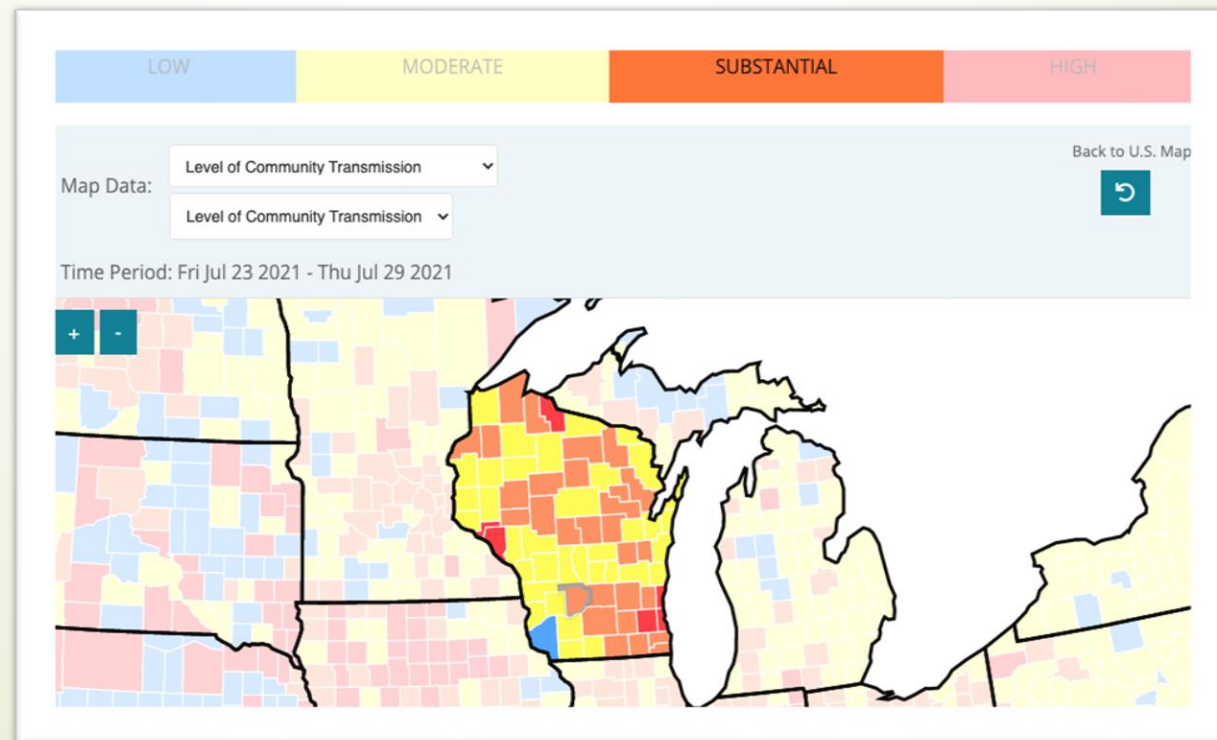
CDC 24/7: Saving Lives, Protecting People™

- Safe return to in-person instruction is highest priority
- Vaccination is leading prevention strategy
- **CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to schools, regardless of vaccination status.**
- Maintain 3 ft of distance + indoor masking
- Stay at home when ill
- Schools monitor community transmission, vaccine coverage, testing results and outbreaks



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
CDC 24/7: Saving Lives, Protecting People™

- Fully vaccinated people to wear a mask in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission.





American Academy  
of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



- In-person learning
- Vaccination
- Masks
- Layered approach with multiple mitigation strategies

***“Universal masking** is recommended because a significant portion of the student population is not yet eligible for vaccines and masking is proven to reduce transmission of the virus. This approach operationalizes the requirement for unvaccinated individuals to wear masks and overcomes issues of verifying who is vaccinated and having to monitor the activity of those who are unvaccinated”*

# What are your goals?

Keep  
Kids in  
School

Follow  
CDC  
Guidelines

Meet  
Community  
Expectations

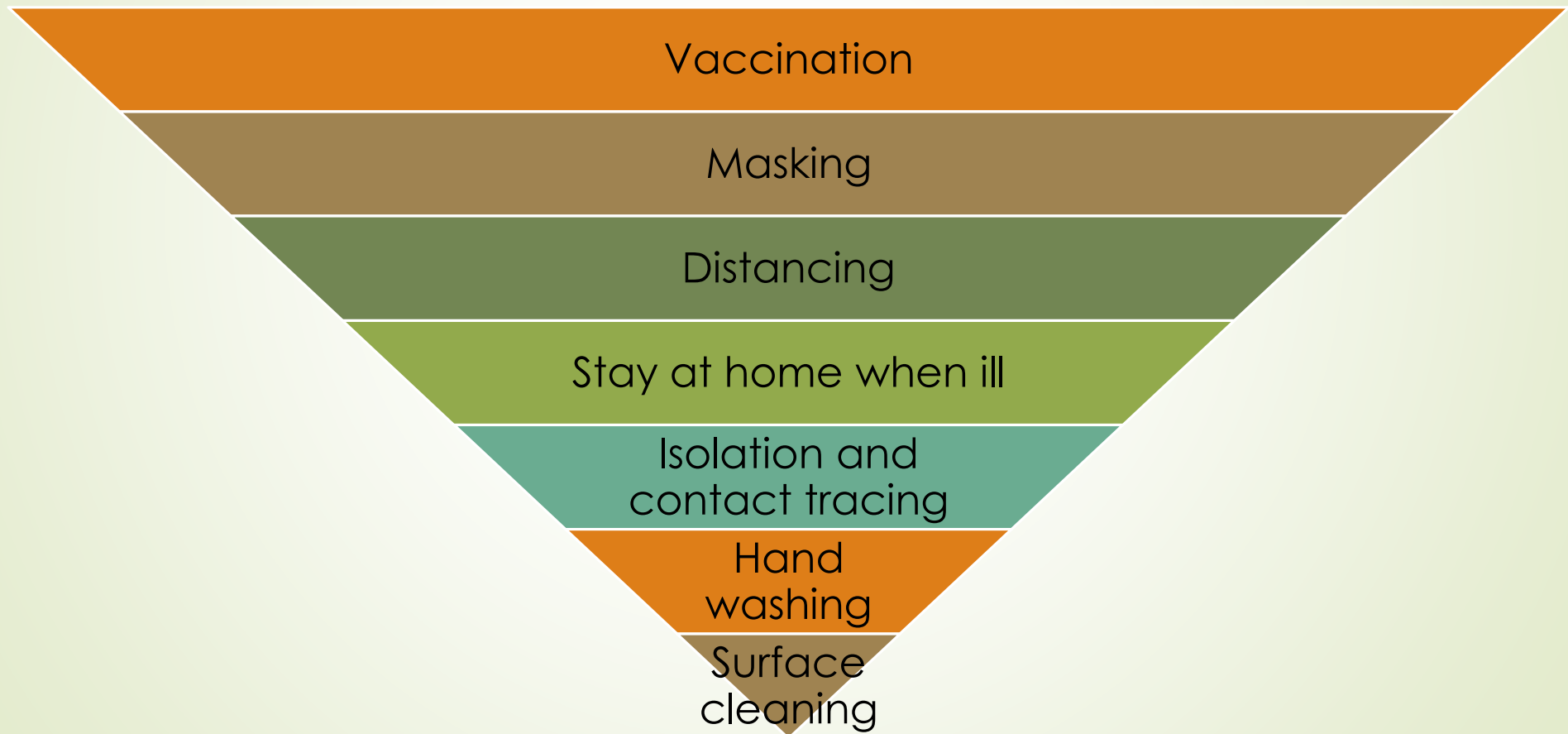
End this  
pandemic

Keep at risk  
in  
community  
safe

Keep  
kids safe  
from  
COVID



Let's take an inventory....  
of mitigation strategies to consider.





# Masks work for everything else...

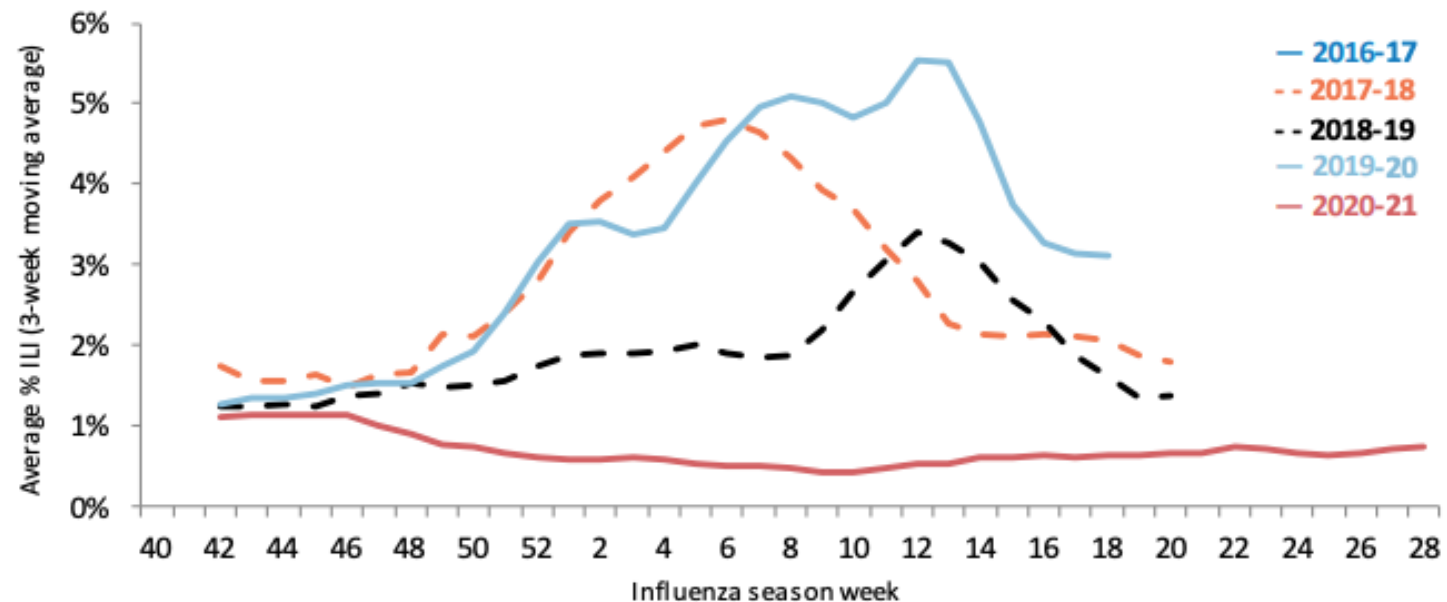
Division of Public Health

Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report

Week 28: Ending July 17, 2021

## WISCONSIN STATE SUMMARY

ILI activity trend analysis by influenza season, Wisconsin



Influenza-associated hospitalizations, Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System  
October 1, 2020 to present

It's already begun...

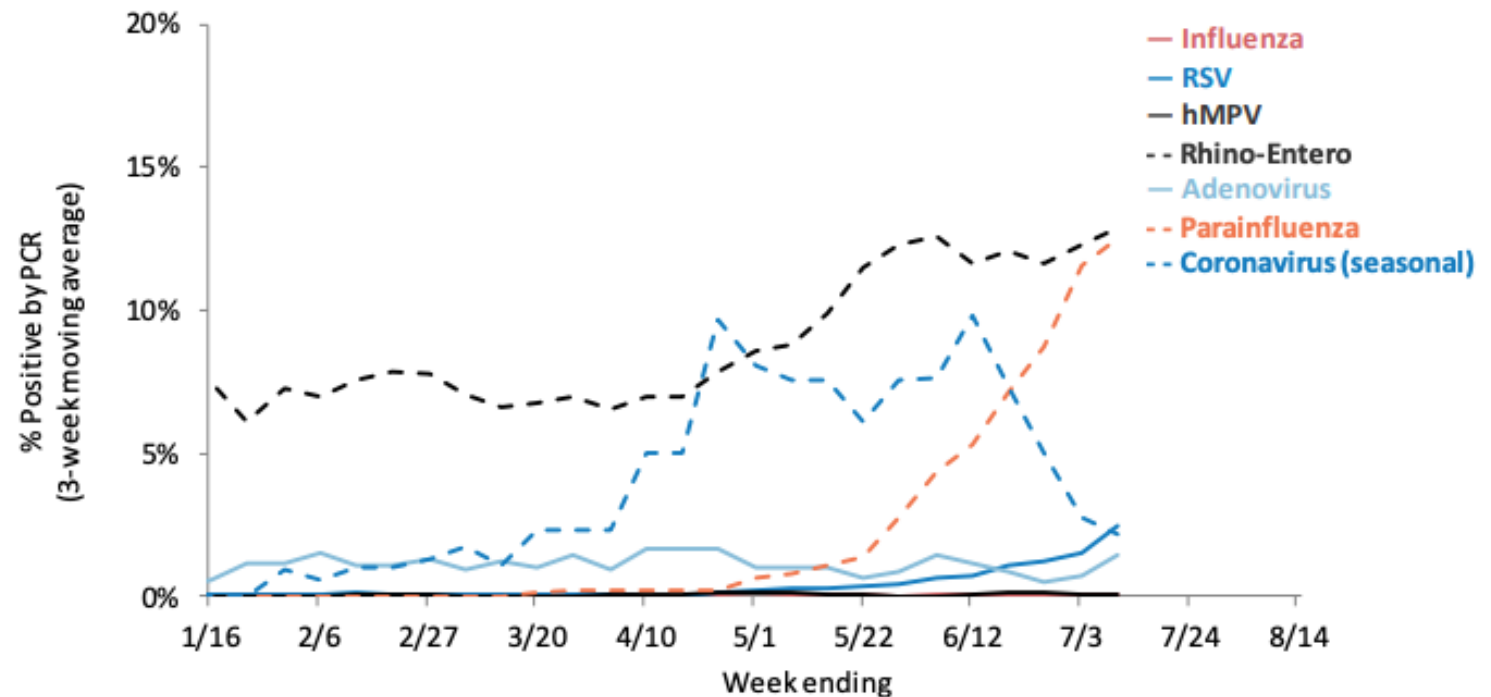
Division of Public Health

Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report

Week 28: Ending July 17, 2021

## WISCONSIN LABORATORY SURVEILLANCE FOR RESPIRATORY VIRUSES BY PCR

Trends in respiratory virus activity by PCR





## Operations

	Fully Masked	Mask Optional
	Least disruptive & costly from an operations standpoint.	Increased cost & complexity of operations.
	Testing capacity important but may be utilized less frequently than in a mask optional environment.	Increased need for nursing & staff support for testing, follow up phone calls due to absences and contact tracing.
	Lower administrative burden with respect to quarantine related tasks due to decreased transmission.	Will need robust testing capacity.
	Physical distancing does not impede daily operations – day can largely proceed normally (with the exception of lunch which requires modification/distancing given unmasked).	Operations will need to account for distancing, cohorting.

# Close Contact Exclusion

“Modified Quarantine”

- Only works in majority masked environment
- If the POSITIVE case was UNMASKED
  - Normal quarantine (7 – 10 days) for ALL close contacts or cohort
- If the POSITIVE case was MASKED
  - **MASKED close contacts** and cohorts **can remain in school**
  - Normal quarantine (7 – 10 days) for all UNMASKED close contacts or cohort





**Missouri**  
DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY  
**EDUCATION**

**Missouri**  
**DHSS**  
Department of Health  
and Senior Services

## Wear a mask. Stay in school.

### COVID-19 School Scenarios

*with no documented transmission in the classroom setting*

EVERYONE MASKED	CLOSE CONTACTS MASKED
<p>When a masked person tests positive and those exposed are wearing masks</p> <p>COVID +      Close Contacts</p>  <p>ISOLATE      SELF-MONITOR AND QUARANTINE CAN ATTEND SCHOOL</p>	<p>When an unmasked person tests positive and those exposed are wearing masks</p> <p>COVID +      Close Contacts</p>  <p>ISOLATE      QUARANTINE CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL</p>
CLOSE CONTACTS UNMASKED	NO ONE MASKED
<p>When a masked person tests positive and those exposed are not wearing masks</p> <p>COVID +      Close Contacts</p>  <p>ISOLATE      SELF-MONITOR AND QUARANTINE CAN ATTEND SCHOOL      QUARANTINE CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL</p>	<p>When an unmasked person tests positive and those exposed are not wearing masks</p> <p>COVID +      Close Contacts</p>  <p>ISOLATE      QUARANTINE CANNOT ATTEND SCHOOL</p>

**CLOSE CONTACT:** Someone who was within 6 feet of a person diagnosed with COVID-19 for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more throughout a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection).

**SELF-MONITOR:** Perform a self-check or be monitored daily for symptoms of COVID-19 over a 14-day period. Contact your health care provider with questions about symptoms.

**QUARANTINE:** The practice of separating individuals who have had close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 to determine whether they develop symptoms or test positive for the disease.

**ISOLATION:** The practice of separating people diagnosed with COVID-19 from others who are not sick to prevent further exposures and/or spread of the disease.

<https://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/COVID-MD-K12-Reopening-Guidance.pdf>

November 24, 2020

Let's take an inventory....  
of mitigation strategies to consider.

K – 11 y.o.

Vaccination

Masking

Distancing

Stay at home when ill

Isolation and  
contact tracing

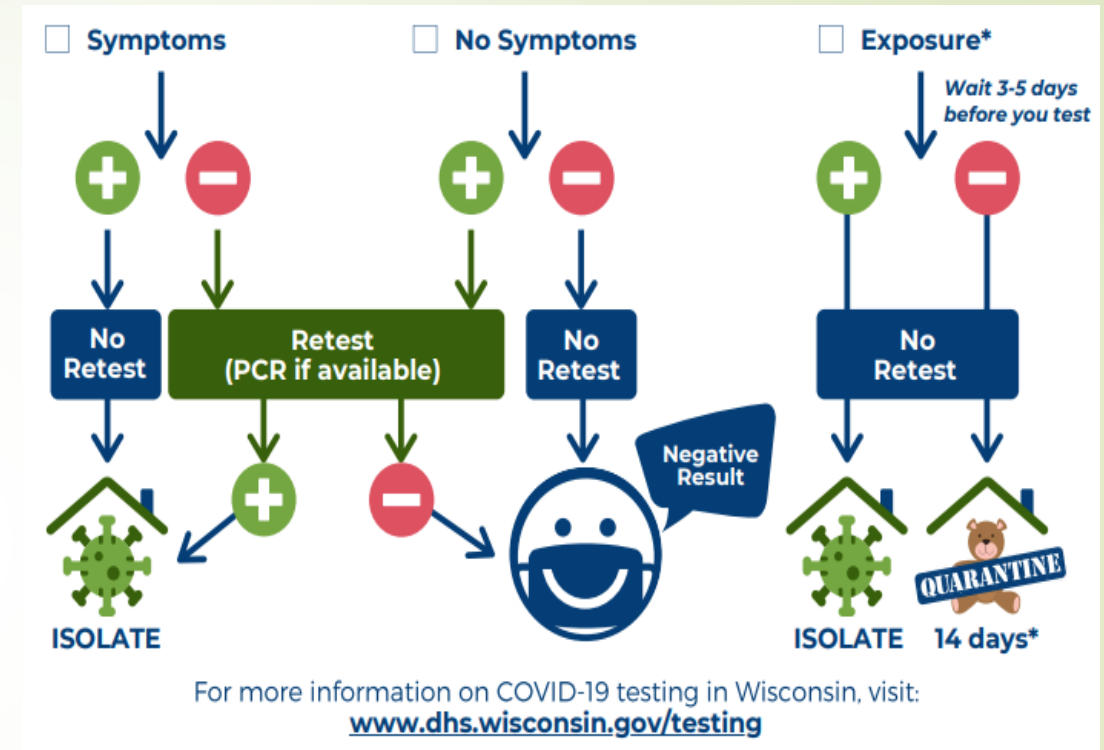
Hand  
washing

Surface  
cleaning



# Mask Optional Vision

- Distancing:
  - 6' distancing where possible.
  - Physical barriers
- Isolation: Positive cases – quarantine household
  - 10 days
- Quarantine: Close contacts
  - K – 11yo: Classroom or Cohort Quarantine
    - 10 days
  - 7 days with testing on day 5 or later (Free school antigen testing?)



# Testing



## Diagnostic

- Who: Suspected individual cases of COVID-19
- Good community support and access. Readily available home tests



## Outbreak testing

- Who: Pretty much everyone in a building
- When: 2 or more cases in the same building in 14-day period thought to be linked



## Screening / Pooled Testing

- Who: At least 10% of consenting unvaccinated teacher & student body
- When: Weekly to every other week



## Event Testing

- Who: Those participating in a school event
- When: 2 – 3 days prior to event





# Outbreak Testing

- ▶ When:

- ▶ 2 or more cases in the same building / classroom in 14-day period
- ▶ Public Health identifies as linked cases
- ▶ Deployed in 24 hours

- ▶ Who is tested:

- ▶ ALL students and teachers are tested EXCEPT:
  - ▶ Asymptomatic Fully vaccinated students and teachers
  - ▶ Asymptomatic had COVID in the last 90 days

- ▶ Who continues in-person learning

- ▶ Asymptomatic
- ▶ Negative Rapid test
- ▶ NOT close contact of a person who tests positive

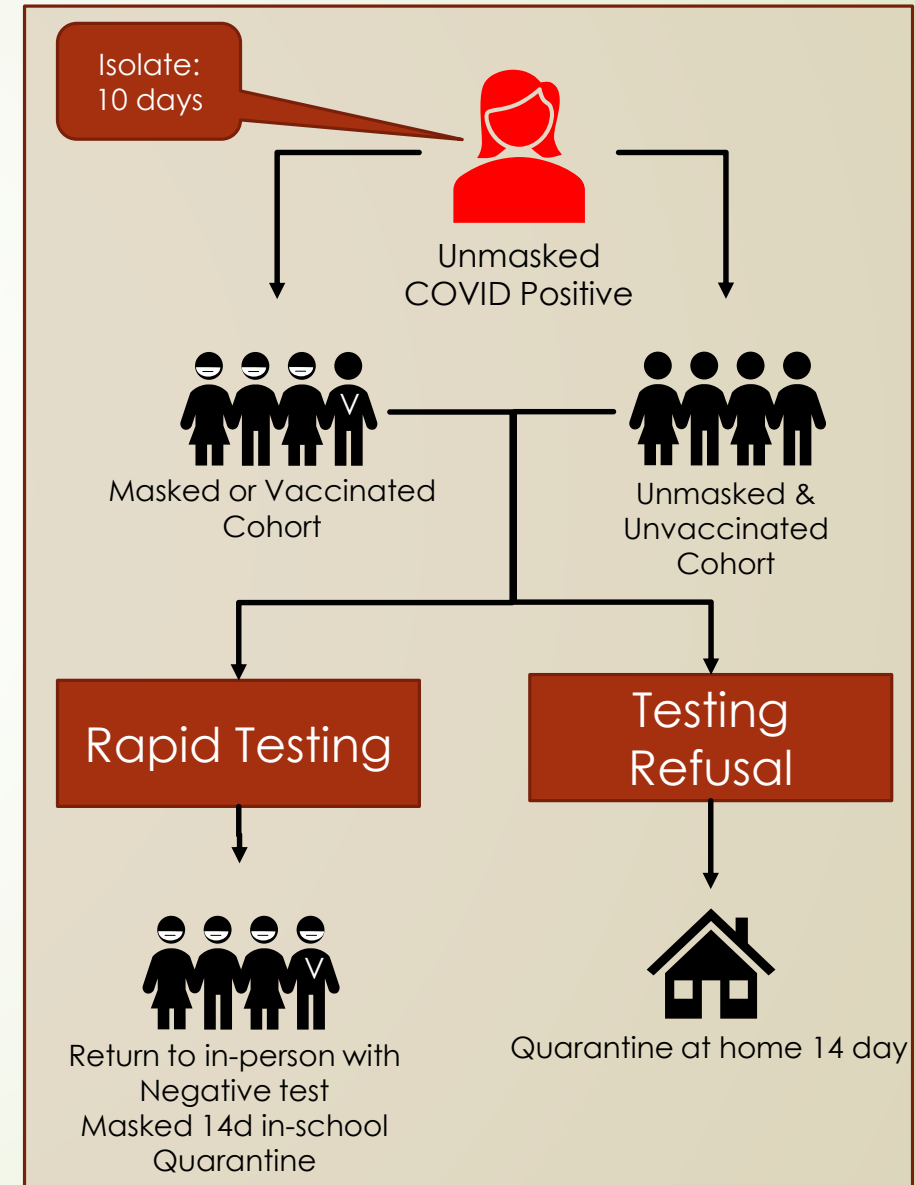
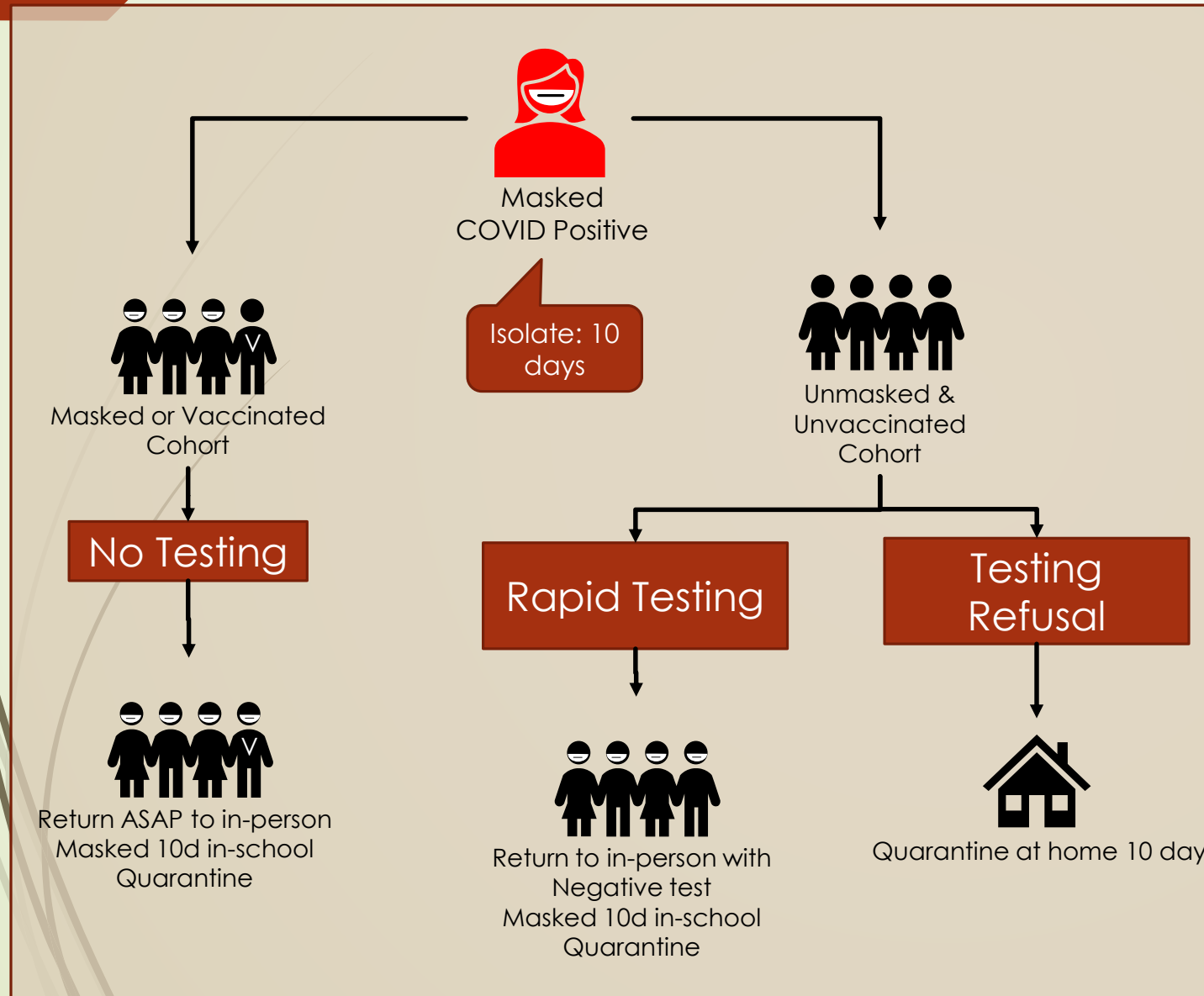
- ▶ Coordinated / Rapid / Access



# Mask Optional Vision

- Positive Case Identified
- Classroom or cohort sent home for investigation (24 hrs)
  - If Positive Case was MASKED
    - All MASKED & Vaccinated classmates/Cohort allowed to return to in-person learning
      - No testing needed
    - All UNMASKED & Unvaccinated classmates/Cohort remain home for Quarantine
      - 10 days at home
      - +/- Rapid mass testing to return sooner
    - ALL returning students MASK upon return
    - Continue ALL MASKING for at least 14 days after POSITIVE case
  - If Positive Case was UNMASKED
    - All MASKED & UNMASKED & Vaccinated remain home for Quarantine
      - +/- Rapid mass testing to return sooner (Quickest potential return)
        - Negatives return with MASKS
      - 7 day with Negative test – Return as usual
      - 10 day – Return as usual

# Mask Optional

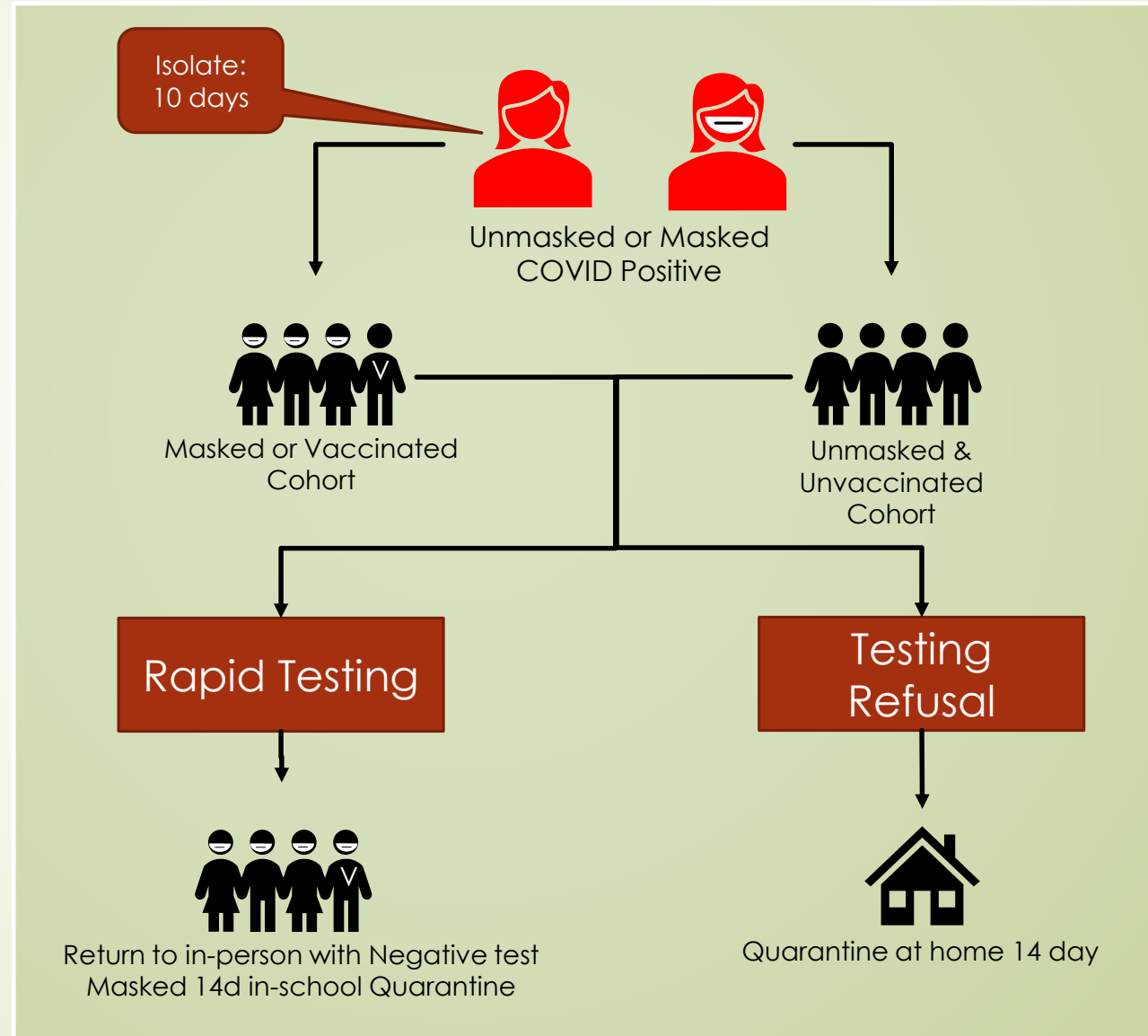




# Mask Optional Vision (simplified)

- Positive Case Identified
- Classroom or cohort sent home for investigation (24 hrs)
  - If Positive Case (Masked or Unmasked)
    - All classmates/Cohort sent home for Quarantine
    - +/- Rapid testing to return sooner
      - ALL NEGATIVE OUTBREAK TESTING students return MASKED ASAP
      - Those who refuse testing or refuse to mask, returns in 14 days after full home quarantine
    - Continue ALL MASKING for at least 10 days after POSITIVE case
    - Resume Mask Optional afterwards if no new cases present
- Rapid Testing
  - Accessible / Equitable / Rapid
  - Home test? Antigen vs PCR/NAAT

# Mask Optional (Simplified)





# Mask Optional Vision

- ▶ What are we going to do when a large % (30 – 50) have a mix of normal seasonal and COVID symptoms?
- ▶ Unmasked classroom has a much higher likelihood MULTIPLE POSITIVE COVID cases at one time
- ▶ Rapid prevention of FURTHER spread might be the lower bar we shoot for:
  - ▶ Aggressive “send home and testing” for symptomatic students
  - ▶ MASK symptomatic early and often
    - ▶ Test to return – Go for the gold ( get PCR testing at a community/clinc site)
    - ▶ Negative Antigen testing (Home) maybe acceptable when case rates are still low
      - ▶ Consider Return WITH mask while minimally symptomatic if antigen test is negative
      - ▶ Consider Return WITHOUT mask and asymptomatic if students gets PCR/NAAT testing
  - ▶ Outbreak testing
  - ▶ Reactive “Mask Back On” policy when there is a known POSITVE COVID CASE





# Discussion:

1. Do you think we should mask 4K – 11 y.o.?
  - ▀ Furukawa says “Yes”
2. Is there a path where we start without masks? ( Yes or No )
  - ▀ I don't like it but “Maybe...” but not without:
    - ▀ Aggressive send home and return with testing strategy
    - ▀ A robust testing strategy that is accessible and rapid
    - ▀ And a well defined and well communicated MASK BACK ON policy
  - ▀ Mask optional seems logistically complex when cold & flu season rolls in
3. What testing seems worthwhile?
  - ▀ Diagnostic: Probably community can take on
  - ▀ Outbreak testing: Use state resources for in-school testing





# Discussion:

4. Do you take Vaccine status into consideration? ( Yes or No )
  - ▶ YES
    - ▶ if vaccinated, students should be able to return to in-class learning even if they have to mask upon return
5. Is there a chance of going to mask optional by the winter?
  - ▶ YES
    - ▶ <1% positivity rate, Medium to low activity level. It's possible like June 2021
    - ▶ Vaccines available to K – 11 yo
    - ▶ Rest of the school vaccination was a little higher

# Summary

- It's a complex decision
- The potential for rapid spread is there
- It's a moving target

