DANE COUNTY COVID-19 DATA

July 21, 2022 *Data from July 4—July 17*

Takeaway Messages

- Cases were stable during this 14-day period with an average of 223 cases per day. The number of people hospitalized with COVID in Dane County hospitals was stable with an average of 66 people hospitalized each day. Percent positivity during this 14-day period was 14.5% and an average of 1,537 PCR tests were conducted per day.

- Over the past four weeks, cases were stable among all age groups. Ages 30-39 currently have the highest case rate at 55.5 per 100,000 per day, and ages 23-29 have the highest percent positivity at 18.2%.

- The BA.5 Omicron subvariant is the dominant virus strain in the US, making up 77.9% of new cases. The BA.5 subvariant is also likely now the dominant virus strain in Dane County and Wisconsin.

- Dane County is at the High community level for the first time since CDC implemented the community level metrics in March 2022. Additional precautions are recommended, such as wearing masks indoors in public and providing added protection to populations at high risk.

Domain	Measure	Dane County Status
Epidemiology: We monitor metrics related to disease burden, severity, and transmission in the community.	2-week average daily case count and trend	**223** →
	2-week average daily percent positivity	**14.5%**
	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.	**66** →
	4-week total number of deaths and trend	**4** →
	Current infection rate (R) On average, each person with COVID is infecting 1.02 other people.	**1.02**

|		
Variants: We monitor whether COVID variants of interest, concern, or high consequence are becoming the dominant strain of virus in our community, which may have impacts on transmissibility, disease severity, and/or impact of diagnostics, treatments, or vaccines.	**Variant strains as the predominant version of virus in our community.** On November 26th, 2021 the World Health Organization (WHO) designated the Omicron variant as a Variant of Concern (VOC). Omicron spreads more easily than previous COVID strains and can more easily infect people who have existing immunity from prior infection or from vaccination. We have seen several different strains of Omicron over the past seven months. BA.1 was responsible for the initial Omicron wave from December '21-March '22, then BA.2 and BA.2.12.1 became dominant in April '22 through June. Now, we are mostly seeing BA.5 (and some BA.4). While BA.5 is better able to infect people than previous variants by evading immunity from vaccines or prior infection, a recent preprint study from Qatar found that effectiveness of a previous Omicron infection against a BA.4/BA.5 reinfection was 79.7% (while only 28.3% for a pre-Omicron infection). BA.5 has been driving increases in COVID cases across the globe. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently recommended that vaccine manufacturers create "bivalent" vaccines to prepare for fall/winter boosters; this means that the vaccines would target both the original strain of the virus and the BA.4 and BA.5 Omicron subvariants.	**The BA.5 Omicron subvariant is likely now the dominant virus strain in Dane County and Wisconsin.** **The CDC estimates that the BA.5 subvariant is the dominant virus strain in the US, making up 77.9% of new cases.**

publichealthmdc.com/coronavirus
Data is current as of July 21, 2022 at 7:30 am

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Age Trends

The below chart shows the difference in the number of confirmed and probable cases by age group from June 20 to July 3 (gray bars) compared to the most recent 14-day period of **July 4 to July 17 (purple bars).** Cases were stable among all age groups.

Number of confirmed + probable cases in each age group from June 20 to July 3

compared to

Number of confirmed + probable cases in each age group from July 4 to July 17
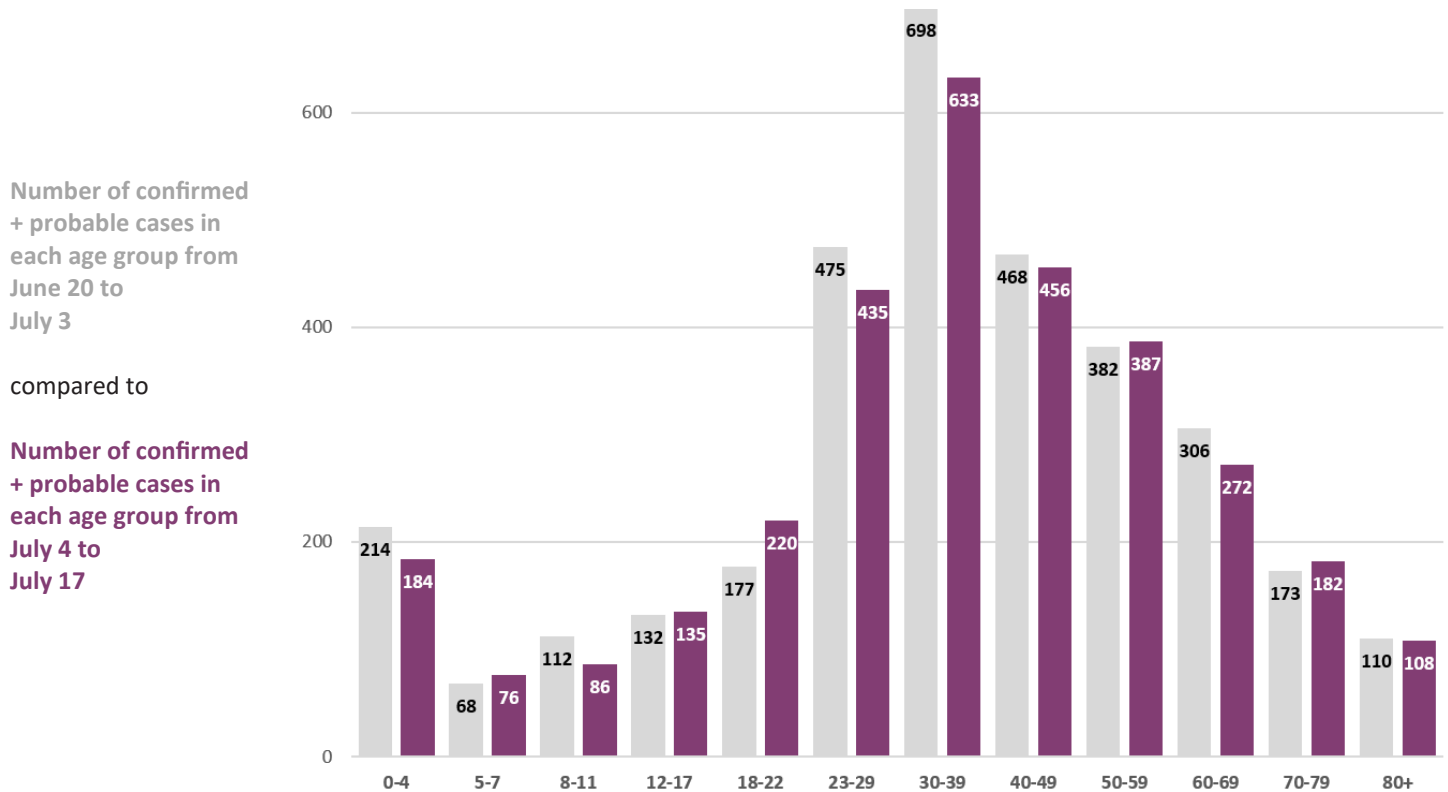
Summary Statistics for COVID-19 by Age Group

Data from 7/4/22-7/17/22 unless otherwise noted

	0-4	5-7	8-11	12-17	18-22	23-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80+
Number of Confirmed Cases	183	76	86	134	218	432	624	455	379	266	175	96
Average Daily Case Rate (per 100,000)	44.3	28.9	25.0	25.6	30.0	44.9	55.5	49.1	42.7	32.4	35.1	39.0
Cases Trend* (Increase, stable, or decrease)	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→
Number of PCR Tests	1,257	663	662	857	1,364	2,370	3,444	2,861	2,723	2,300	1,594	1,417
Percent Positive	14.6%	11.5%	13.0%	15.6%	16.0%	18.2%	18.1%	15.9%	13.9%	11.6%	11.0%	6.8%
Number Hospitalized for COVID-19*	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	9	6	15	30
Number of Deaths from COVID-19^	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2

*Of Dane County residents who tested positive in the past 28 days (6/20-7/17). Note that hospitalizations presented on this page are most likely *due to* COVID and not just incidentally positive for COVID. Staff review each hospitalization report to verify whether COVID-19 was the reason for or a contributor to the hospitalization. These data differ from the number of people hospitalized with COVID daily in Dane County hospitals on our dashboard, which is obtained from the EMResource data system.

^People who died from COVID in the past 28 days (6/20-7/17).

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Can Wastewater Data Predict Future COVID Surges?

When we released our data snapshot survey last month, many of you responded that you wanted to learn more about wastewater surveillance for COVID. We recently worked with the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to release a blog post taking a deep dive into this topic—check it out!

COVID Cases Geography Over Time

Our dashboard shows the proportion of COVID cases among Dane County residents who live in Madison vs. those who live outside of Madison, but this data is only viewable for the past two weeks or cumulatively for the entire pandemic. One of our readers recently requested a look at this data over time, which is shown below (using 7-day case averages):
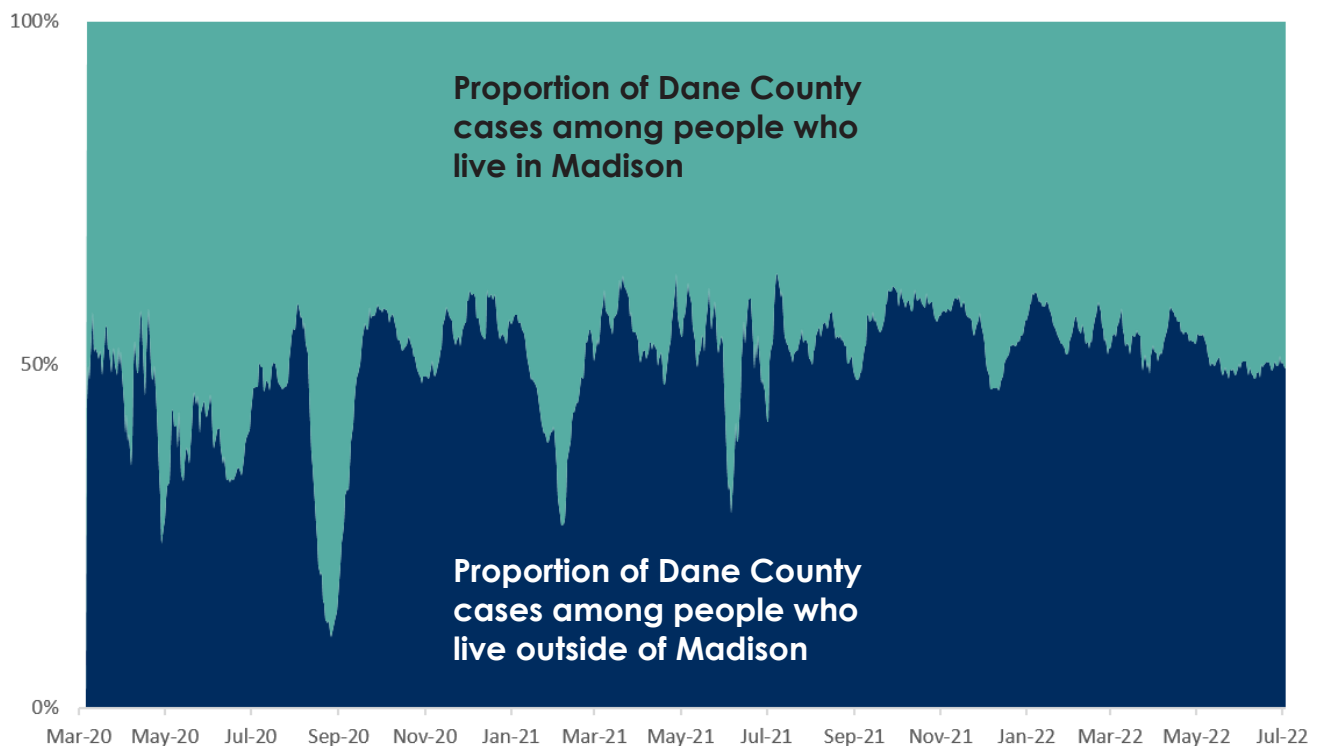
Overall, throughout the pandemic, 47.5% of Dane County cases have been among people who live in Madison while 52.5% have been among people who live outside of Madison. According to the 2020 Census, 47.6% of people in Dane County live in Madison while 52.4% live outside of Madison—so the proportion of cases almost exactly match the proportion of the population. The largest fluctuation occurred in early September 2020 when there was a major outbreak among UW-Madison students at the beginning of the fall semester—at its peak, 90% of cases in Dane County were occurring in Madison.

Ask the Data Team! We loved hearing from so many of our readers through our snapshot survey, so we'd like to make it a more regular occurrence! If there are questions you have, analyses or metrics you'd like to see (such as the one above), or other feedback you want to give, let us know, and your question or request may be featured in a future data snapshot! Click on the link below or paste it into your web browser in order to reach us. We will keep this link open, so if you think of something later you can always come back and fill it out.
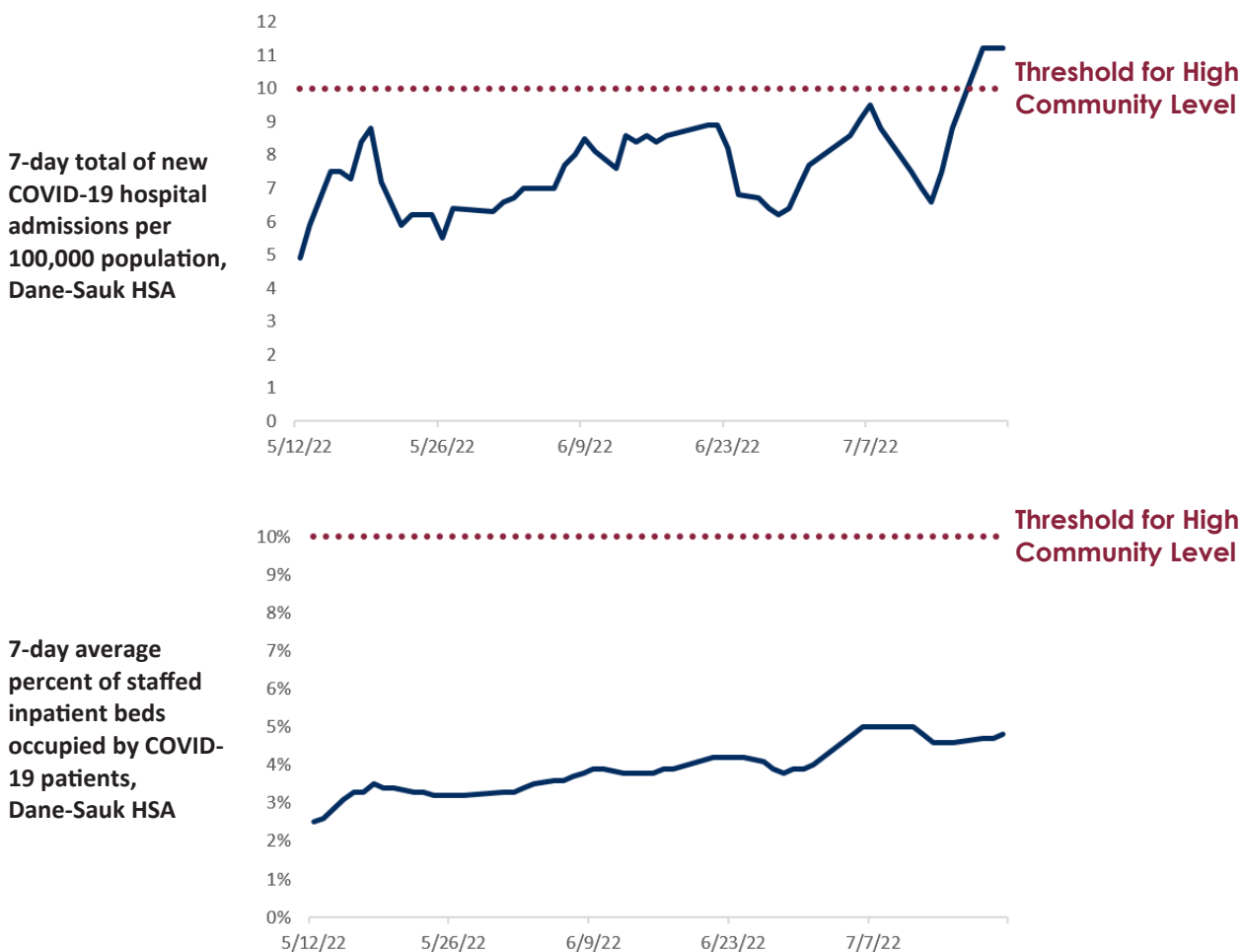**Link:** https://bit.ly/PHMDCSnapshotFeedback

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CDC Community Level Metrics

As of today (7/21), Dane County is at the High [community level](#) for the first time since CDC implemented the community level metrics in March 2022. This is due to having a weekly case rate of 200 or more new cases per 100,000 population in the last seven days (in Dane County, this translates to about 158 or more cases per day), and our region's hospitals having more than 10 new COVID hospital admissions per 100,000 population in the past seven days. The regional hospital metrics include people hospitalized in our entire Dane-Sauk Health Service Area (HSA), which is made up of seven counties: Dane, Sauk, Marquette, Columbia, Richland, Iowa, and Grant. Below, we show how both of the community level hospital metrics have trended over the past ten weeks.

7-day total of new COVID-19 hospital admissions per 100,000 population, Dane-Sauk HSA

Threshold for High Community Level

7-day average percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients, Dane-Sauk HSA

Threshold for High Community Level

Prevention Steps Recommended at the High Community Level:

- Wear a well-fitting [mask](#) indoors in public, regardless of vaccination status.
- Stay [up to date](#) with COVID-19 vaccines.
- [Get tested](#) if you have symptoms.
- Additional precautions may be needed for people [at high risk for severe illness](#) or those who live with them.