DANE COUNTY COVID-19 DATA

August 4, 2022 *Data from July 18—July 31*

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 63 people hospitalized each day. Percent positivity during this 14-day period was 14.0% and an average of 1,588 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 50.5 per 100,000 per day, and ages 23-29 have the highest percent positivity at 17.3%.

- The BA.5 Omicron subvariant is the dominant virus strain in the US, making up 85.5% of new cases. The BA.5 subvariant is also likely the dominant virus strain in Dane County and Wisconsin. A lineage of BA.4—BA.4.6—is slowly increasing in prevalence in the US, making up 4.1% of new cases (up from 3.6% last week and 2.9% the week before that).

- The percent of Dane County cases that are reinfections has increased over the past year, from 1-2% in fall of 2021 to currently at least 13%.

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	**14.0%**
	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.	**63** →
	4-week total number of deaths and trend	**9** →
	Current infection rate (R) On average, each person with COVID is infecting 0.96 other people.	**0.96**

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 eight 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).

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. These bivalent boosters are likely to become available in September.

The BA.5 Omicron subvariant is likely 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 85.5% of new cases. A lineage of BA.4—BA.4.6—is slowly increasing in prevalence in the US, making up 4.1% of new cases (up from 3.6% last week and 2.9% the week before that).

publichealthmdc.com/coronavirus
Data is current as of August 4, 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 July 4 to July 17 (gray bars) compared to the most recent 14-day period of **July 18 to July 31 (purple bars).** Cases were stable among all age groups.

Number of confirmed + probable cases in each age group from July 4 to July 17

compared to

Number of confirmed + probable cases in each age group from July 18 to July 31
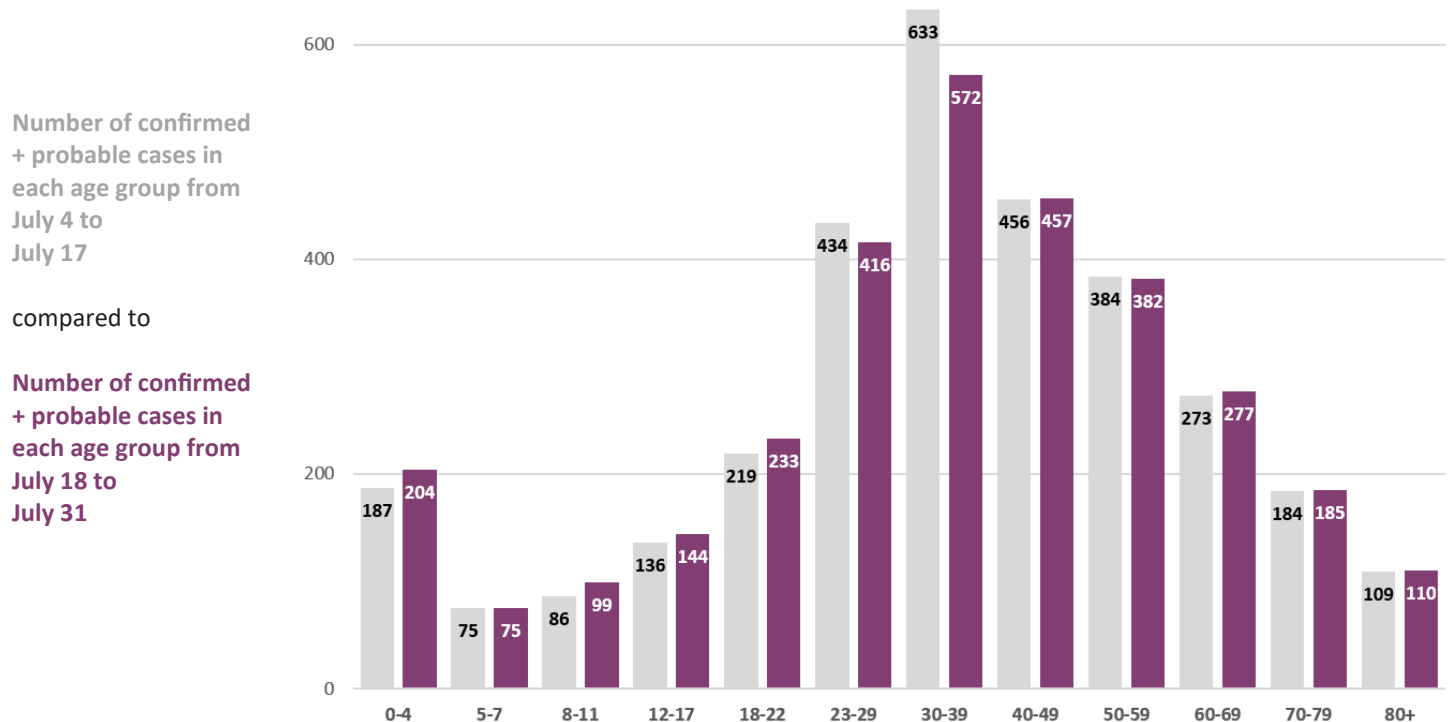
Summary Statistics for COVID-19 by Age Group
Data from 7/18/22-7/31/22 unless otherwise noted

	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	203	74	97	142	232	414	568	454	378	274	182	104
Average Daily Case Rate (per 100,000)	49.2	28.1	28.1	27.2	32.0	43.0	50.5	49.0	42.6	33.4	36.5	42.3
Cases Trend* (Increase, stable, or decrease)	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→	→
Number of PCR Tests	1,414	657	743	959	1,518	2,394	3,573	2,931	2,809	2,400	1,650	1,189
Percent Positive	14.4%	11.3%	13.1%	14.8%	15.3%	17.3%	15.9%	15.5%	13.5%	11.4%	11.0%	8.7%
Number Hospitalized for COVID-19*	2	0	0	0	0	0	5	4	6	6	18	24
Number of Deaths from COVID-19^	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	4

*Of Dane County residents who tested positive in the past 28 days (7/4-7/31). 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 (7/4-7/31).

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Reinfections

The Omicron variant is much better than previous variants at reinfecting people who already had a COVID infection from a previous virus strain. A reinfection is defined as an individual with two positive COVID test results where the tests were performed at least 90 days apart. The number of reinfections in Dane County increased dramatically toward the end of 2021 when Omicron became the dominant virus strain. During October and November of 2021, around 1-2% of cases were reinfections. This increased to around 5-9% during the initial Omicron wave, to now around 10 to nearly 14% over the past month.

The percent of cases that are reinfections has increased over the past year, from 1-2% in fall of 2021 to currently at least 13%.

Out of 5,807 people with known reinfections since the beginning of 2022, 22 have been hospitalized for COVID (0.4%), and six people have died (0.10%). People who are not fully vaccinated are overrepresented in reinfections; 35% of people who were reinfected in 2022 were not fully vaccinated, while just 20.5% of the Dane County population is not fully vaccinated.

The number of reinfections we know about is an underestimate. We're only able to include cases where both the original infection and the reinfection were in Dane County; we're not able to capture reinfections among people who have moved in or out of Dane County since their first infection. Identifying reinfections also depends on identifying first infections, and many people likely did not have their first infection reported because they were asymptomatic or did not receive a test. Additionally, we are not able to capture reinfections (or first infections) from unreported home tests, which account for an increasing proportion of overall tests. Finally, some reinfections have likely occurred less than 90 days after a previous infection, but we use the CDC definition to only count positive tests in that 90 day window as "new" cases.

> **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. **bit.ly/PHMDCSnapshotFeedback**