COVID-19 Update: Board of Education

Carroll County Health Department

March 9, 2022

Sue Doyle, RN, Acting Health Officer

Due to a statewide network security incident, data access is still limited. Please note all data is subject to change.
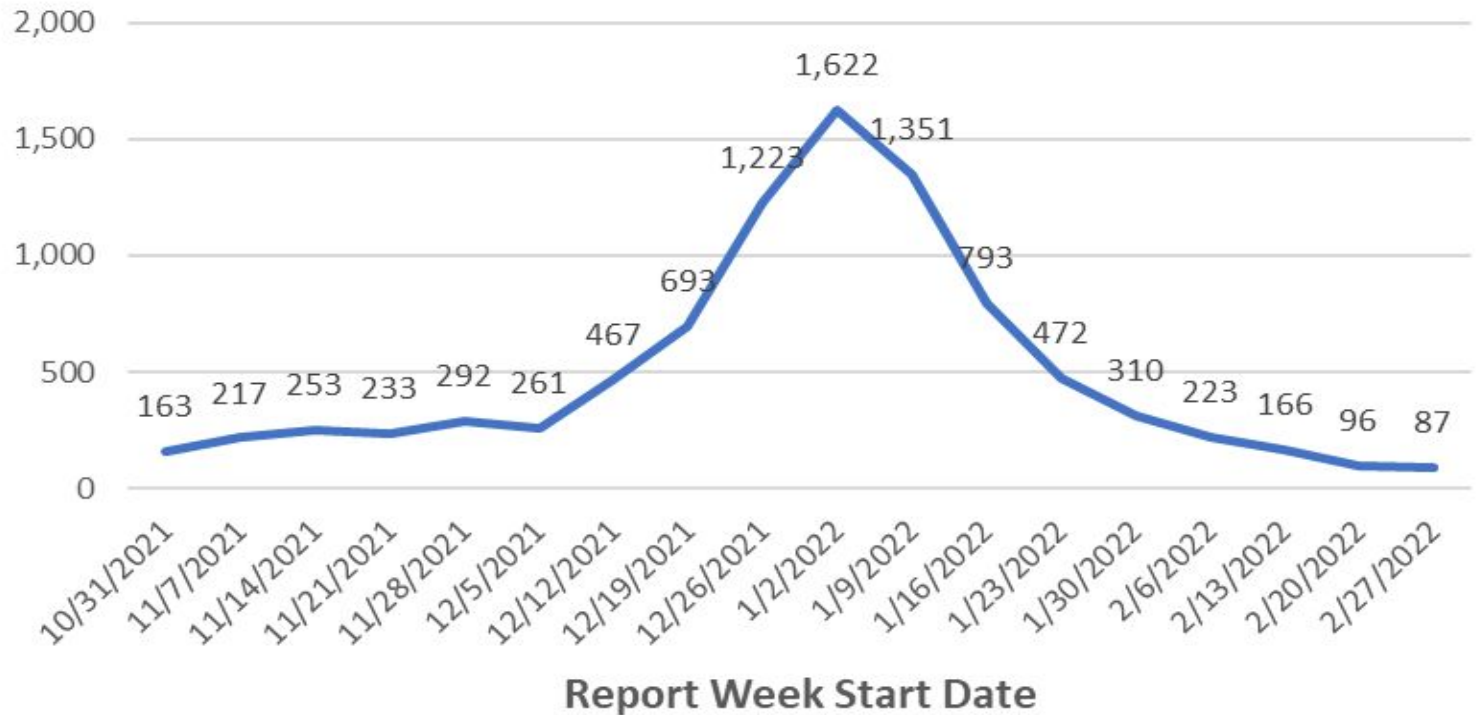
Carroll County Data through 3/5/22

- 21,094 confirmed cases

- Positivity 4.3% (as of 3/7, rising last few days)

- 383 deaths

*Please note, data does NOT include at-home tests or any antigen tests (probable cases).
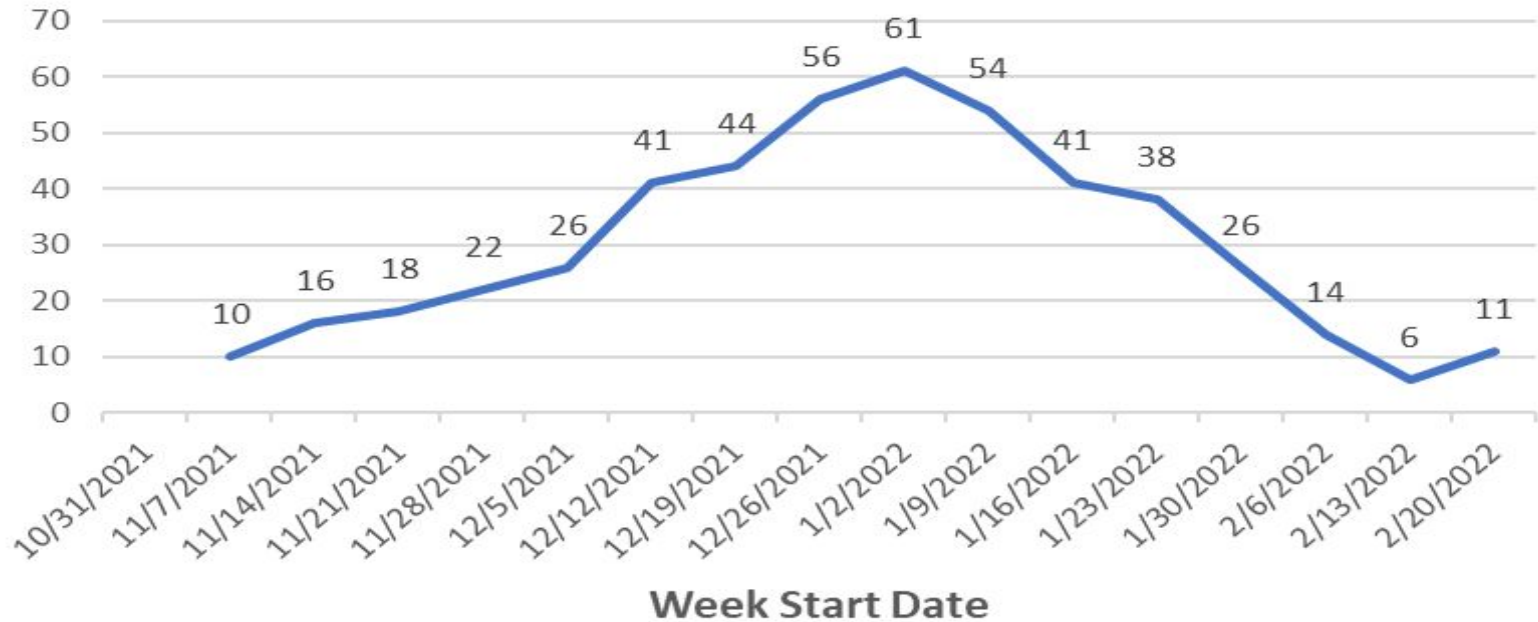
Please note:
- **87 cases last week**
- **Confirmed cases only.**
- **Positive antigen tests (probables) and at-home tests are not included in these totals.**

COVID-19 Confirmed Cases by Report Week

Report Week Start Date

Data points: 163 (10/31/2021), 217 (11/7/2021), 253 (11/14/2021), 233 (11/21/2021), 292 (11/28/2021), 261 (12/5/2021), 467 (12/12/2021), 693 (12/19/2021), 1,223 (12/26/2021), 1,622 (1/2/2022), 1,351 (1/9/2022), 793 (1/16/2022), 472 (1/23/2022), 310 (1/30/2022), 223 (2/6/2022), 166 (2/13/2022), 96 (2/20/2022), 87 (2/27/2022)
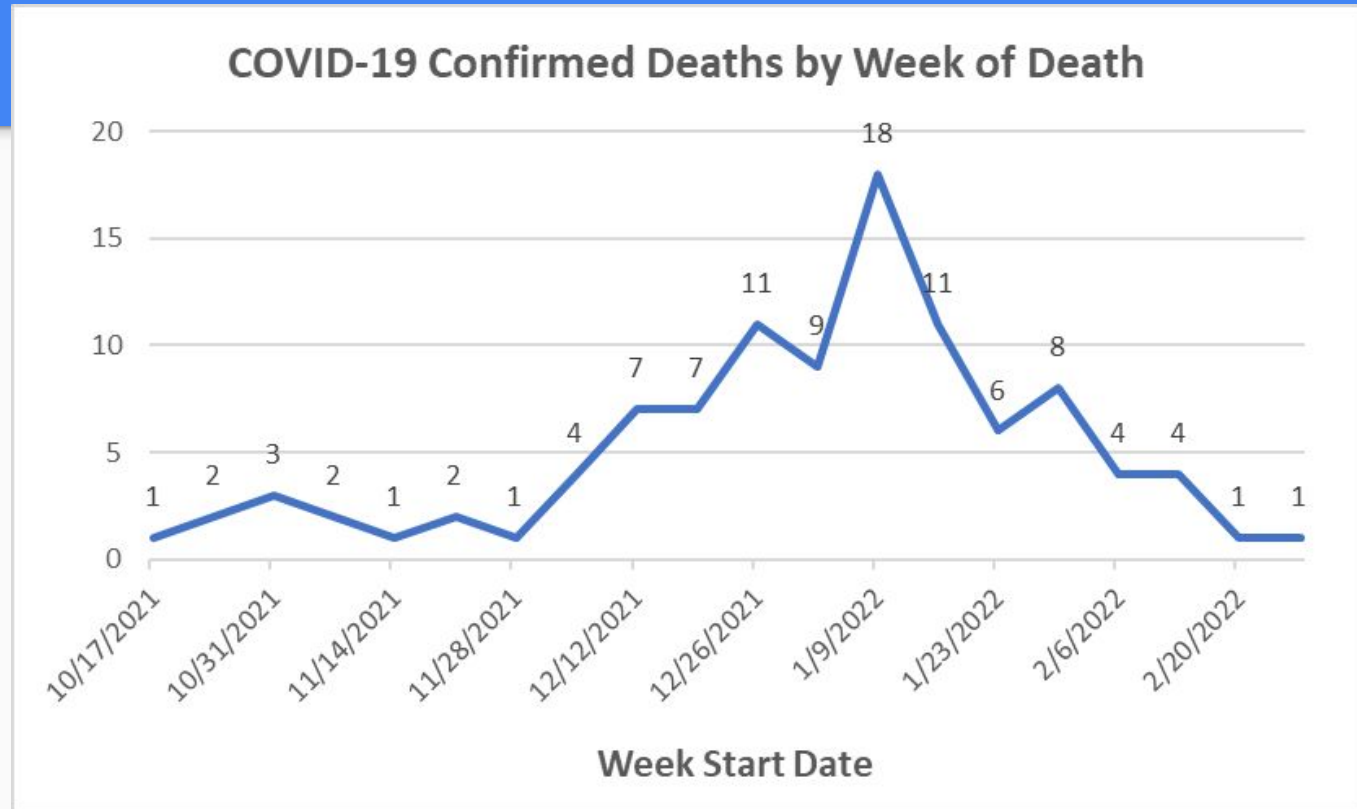
Hospitalization for COVID - New Data

COVID-19 Hospitalizations by Week of Admission

COVID-19 Deaths

Deaths lag cases and hospitalizations and data is not complete.

COVID-19 Confirmed Deaths by Week of Death

Vaccinations

	% Fully Vaccinated
Total Population	73.3%
Population ≥5 Years of Age	77.6%
Population ≥12 Years of Age	81.1%
Population ≥18 Years of Age	82.3%
Population ≥65 Years of Age	95.0%

	% with Booster
Fully Vaccinated Population	55.0%
Fully Vaccinated Population ≥12	57.6%
Fully Vaccinated Population ≥18	59.8%
Fully Vaccinated Population ≥65	77.2%

New CDC Guidance

- ❖ **Shifts focus from eliminating COVID to reducing severe illness and strain on the healthcare system**.
- ❖ Immunity is relatively high in U.S. population for now, due to vaccination, boosters, and infection-induced protection.
- ❖ Vaccines and testing in good supply, treatment availability is increasing.
- ❖ **Still critical to protect vulnerable populations and monitor cases, variants.**
- ❖ **Healthcare settings (such as hospitals and nursing homes) should continue to use previous guidance based on community transmission rates** and follow CDC's infection prevention and control recommendations for healthcare workers. (Carroll is still in substantial but close to moderate.)

New CDC Metrics

- ❖ Original metrics "Community Transmission Levels" were positivity and community transmission rate - **focused on cases**
- ❖ New "Community Levels"
  - ➤ **Include cases and 2 hospital metrics**: *New hospital admissions with confirmed COVID-19/100,000 people* and *percent of inpatient beds with COVID-19 patients*
  - ➤ Available at the county level in all counties and updated at least weekly
  - ➤ **Designed to show more severe illness and strain on healthcare systems**
  - ➤ Tested using historical COVID data and shown to predict previous case surges

- ❖ **Local conditions should also inform local actions**: Community vaccination coverage, local surveillance like wastewater data or emergency department visits for COVID-19

Based on the new CDC guidance, Carroll County is at a **LOW** community level.

COVID-19 Community Levels – Use the Highest Level that Applies to Your Community				
New COVID-19 Cases Per 100,000 people in the past 7 days	Indicators	Low	Medium	High
Fewer than 200	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	<10.0	10.0-19.9	≥20.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	<10.0%	10.0-14.9%	≥15.0%
200 or more	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	NA	<10.0	≥10.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	NA	<10.0%	≥10.0%

The COVID-19 community level is determined by the higher of the new admissions and inpatient beds metrics, based on the current level of new cases per 100,000 population in the past 7 days

At **LOW** community levels, CDC recommends that individuals:

➢ Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters
➢ Improve ventilation of indoor spaces
➢ Follow CDC quarantine guidance if you are exposed to COVID-19 or isolation guidance if you have symptoms
➢ If you test positive, follow isolation guidance, inform your close contacts, and contact your healthcare provider about treatments.
➢ Guidance may depend on vax status/infection in last 90 days and includes testing, staying home, masking, avoiding people who are high risk, and postponing travel.

Especially at medium levels:

➢ Take extra precautions around people who are at higher risk of serious illness
➢ If you are at higher risk, talk to your healthcare provider about prevention and treatment.

Take extra steps if you are at higher risk for severe illness:

➢ Older adults: over 80% of COVID-19 deaths occur in people over age 65.
➢ People with chronic health conditions including heart disease, cancer, diabetes, obesity, COPD, and some mental health conditions: the risk of severe illness increases with the number of underlying medical conditions
➢ Pregnant women
➢ People who live in congregate settings
➢ People with limited access to care
➢ https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/index.html

At **LOW** community levels, CDC recommends that communities:

- Ensure equitable access to vaccines and testing
- Encourage vaccination, boosters, and testing
- Ensure access to treatment and support for people at higher risk
- Businesses and organizations can still take steps to protect at-risk workers and consumers: encouraging vaccination, requiring/recommending masking, improving ventilation, offering virtual meeting and work options, providing sick leave for employees

Health Department Planning and Preparedness:

- We will continue to monitor cases, hospitalizations, and deaths. We will likely have lower levels of COVID for at least a few months, but new variants and surges are still possible.
- Contract tracing will focus on higher risk populations - nursing homes, correctional facilities, homeless shelters.
- COVID is still a reportable disease so cases must be reported to the Health Dept.
- We will continue to provide vaccinations and testing for now, as well as test kits and some masks.
- We will prepare and plan for future surges.
- Gradually resuming normal functions, catching up

COVID-19 Service Updates

Vaccinations
- Clinics for ages 5+ at the Westminster Senior Center, Wed and Fri 3:30 - 6:30pm

Testing
- At the Health Dept. Mondays-Thursdays 9 am - 1 pm
- Test kits through libraries, now available to other community groups and agencies to distribute
- Can order test kits online, can get reimbursement from insurance

Why people continue to wear masks social media campaign