COVID-19 Day 722
Press Update
March 2, 2022

DOH Acting Secretary David R. Scrase, M.D., M.H.S.A.
DOH Communications Director Jodi McGinnis Porter
COVID-19 Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths

**Total Cases**
- Last 7 Days: 2,322
- % of NM: 24.3%

**Total Hospitalizations**
- Last 7 Days: 111
- % of Cases: 5.0%

**Total Deaths**
- Last 14 Days: 70
- % of Cases: 1.3%

7-day case rate on 2/16/22: 8,119
7-day hospitalization rate on 2/16/22: 249
14-day mortality rate on 2/16/22: 88
Dramatic Improvements in Hospital Capacity Evaluation

- Some NM hospitals are still operating at >100% capacity, particularly in Albuquerque, but availability of ICU (36) and non-ICU (79) beds are increased this week.
- Transfers and triage allocation has continued to improve, and facility capacities have increased.
- Workforce remains the key issue.
The current state of the pandemic requires a refined approach to monitoring COVID-19

- Community transmission levels were developed in fall 2020 (prior to availability of vaccines) and reflect goal of limiting transmission in anticipation of vaccines being available.
- Neither of the community transmission indicators reflects medically significant disease or healthcare strain.
- Community transmission levels are largely driven by case incidence, which does not differentiate mild and severe disease.

[Image: Community Transmission in the US by County, 3/1/22]

https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list_select_state=all_states&list_select_county=all_counties&data-type=Risk

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CDC’s COVID-19 Community Levels and Indicators

The new CDC COVID-19 Community Level map is a new tool to help communities decide what prevention measures to take based on:

- How many people with COVID-19 have been admitted into local hospitals in the last week.
- How many local hospital beds are filled with COVID-19 patients.
- How many new COVID-19 cases the county has had in the last week.

Find your community at: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html

COVID-19 Community Levels

- **Low**: Limited impact on healthcare system, low levels of severe illness
- **Medium**: Some impact on healthcare system, more people with severe illness
- **High**: High potential for healthcare system strain; high level of severe illness

[Image of CDC's COVID-19 Community Levels]

[Link to CDC’s COVID-19 Community Levels]

[Link to COVID Data for COVID-19]
## CDC’s COVID-19 Community Levels and Indicators

New CDC COVID-19 Community Levels are a combination of:

1. **New COVID-19 hospital admissions per 100,000 population in the past 7 days.**
2. **The 7-day average percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients.**
3. **Total new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in the past 7 days.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Cases (per 100,000 population in the last 7 days)</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Low</th>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>High</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Fewer than 200  
NM: <4,200/wk or <600/day | New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total) | <10.0  
NM: <210/wk or <30/day | 10.0-19.9  
NM: <210-419/wk or <30-59/day | ≥20.0  
NM: ≥420/wk or ≥60/day |
| 200 or more  
NM: ≥4,200/wk or ≥600/day | New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total) | N/A | <10.0  
NM: <210/wk or <30/day | ≥10.0  
NM: ≥210/wk or ≥30/day |
|  | Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day total) | <10.0% | 10.0-14.9 | ≥15.0% |


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The changing pandemic requires a refined approach to monitoring COVID-19.

Community Transmission in the US by County, 3/1/22

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>2248</td>
<td>69.77%</td>
<td>-20.92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substantial</td>
<td>686</td>
<td>21.29%</td>
<td>14.84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>2.08%</td>
<td>0.65%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

U.S. COVID-19 Community Levels by County

Data provided by CDC
Updated: Feb. 24, 2022

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Looking backward isn’t that informative, but here it is...

New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total) by New CDC Metrics

- **Low**
- **Medium**
- **High**

**New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)**

![Graph showing COVID-19 admissions by CDC metrics](image)
CDC’s COVID-19 Community Levels and Indicators

- CDC recommends certain measures when COVID-19 Community Levels are **high** and will strain the healthcare system and when needed to protect those at increased risk of severe illness:
  - Get vaccinated if you’re eligible (everyone 5+ is eligible). If you aren’t up to date on your vaccinations, find a vaccine at VaccineNM.org or Vaccines.gov.
  - Wear a mask indoors in areas where the COVID-19 Community Level is high.
  - Increase ventilation in indoor spaces.
  - Stay home when sick.

CDC’s COVID-19 Community Levels and Indicators

- New Mexico community levels of 2/24/22:
  - 7 counties in low level
  - 16 counties in medium level
  - 10 counties in high level
- NMDOH supports anyone living in a county with high community levels following CDC recommendations.

Epidemiology Report of the Week

Weekly COVID-19 epidemiology reports are posted at the end of the day on Tuesdays at:

- [https://cv.nmhealth.org/epidemiology-reports/](https://cv.nmhealth.org/epidemiology-reports/)

Today, we’ll walk through the Variant of Concern Report.
Takeaway Messages

• As we enter a new stage of the pandemic, we must adapt in the way we respond as a state.

• Most hospitals are now finally seeing the relief in volumes, but some still are > 100% capacity. Please respect requirements to wear a mask.

• Be kind in your discussions with others about learning to live with COVID-19 in your community.