



COVID-19: Ending the Emergency

February 21, 2023



A Look Back...

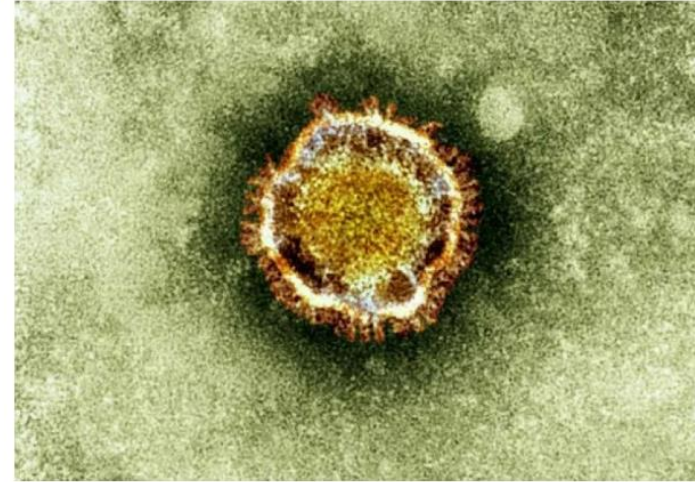
March 10, 2020

- First three cases of travel associated COVID-19 in Long Beach
- Long Beach declared a local health emergency

March 14, 2020

- First community spread COVID-19 case in Long Beach

Long Beach reports first three coronavirus cases



Long Beach reported its first cases of the novel coronavirus. (Health Protection Agency)

BY JACLYN COSGROVE | ASSISTANT EDITOR

MARCH 9, 2020 9 PM PT

Three people in Long Beach are believed to have contracted the coronavirus after testing positive for the respiratory disease, marking the first cases reported in the city.

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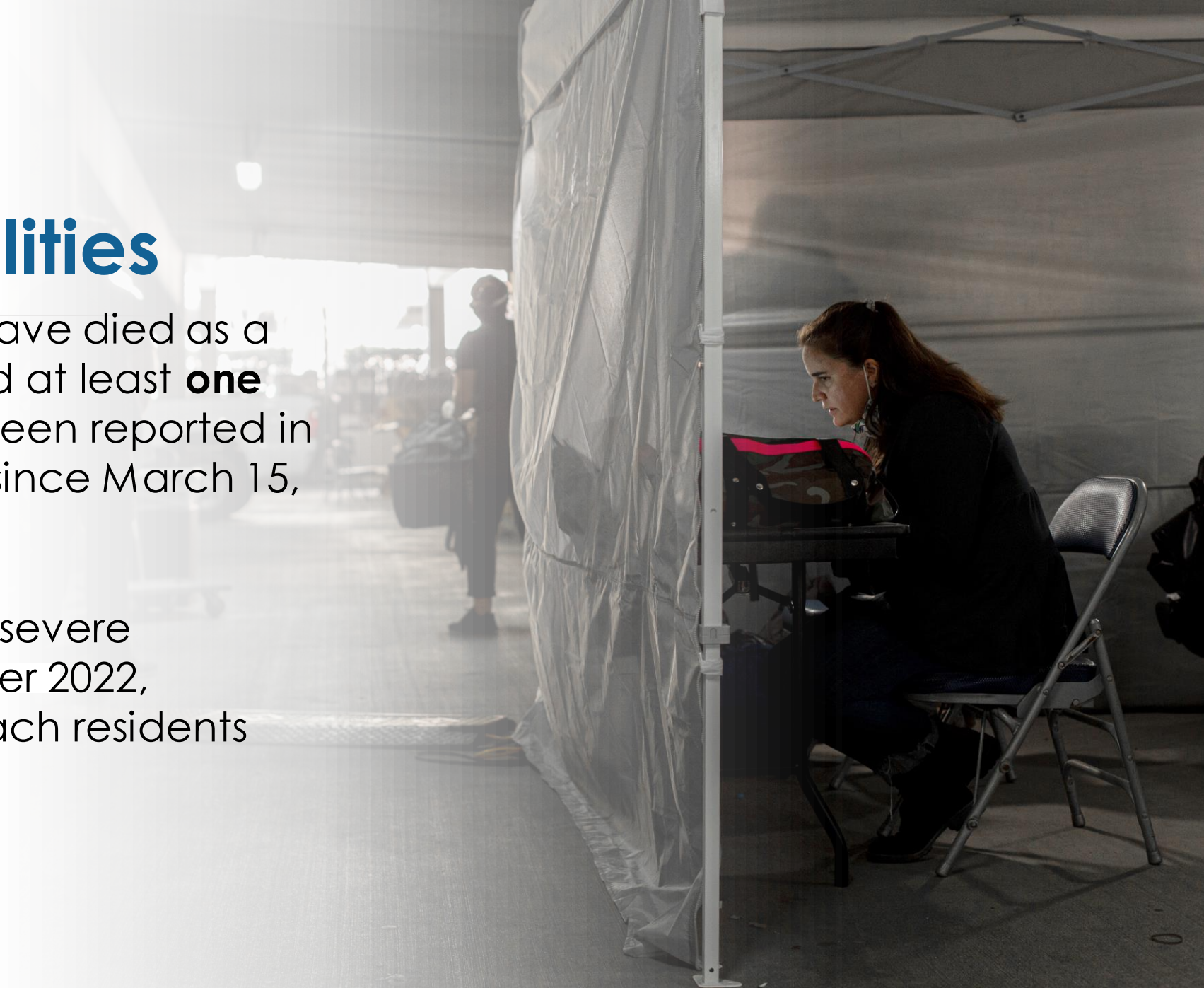
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COVID-19 Realities

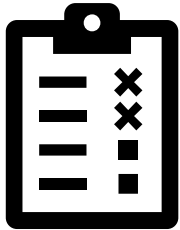
- To date, **1,380** people have died as a result of this disease, and at least **one case** of COVID-19 has been reported in Long Beach **every day** since March 15, 2020.
- COVID-19 is still causing severe disease. Since November 2022, more than **350** Long Beach residents were hospitalized.



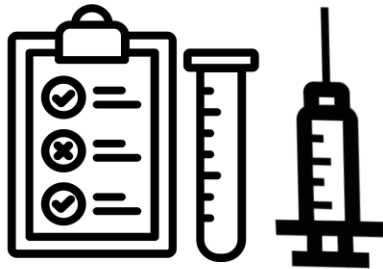
**In the three years (1,071 days)
since our first case...**



COVID-19 Response



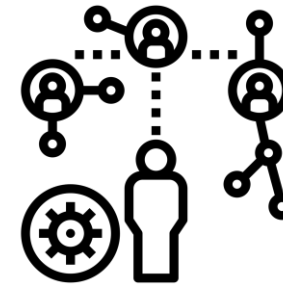
Testing capacity grew from **30** to **10,000** people per day.



Provided **1,114,453** tests and **352,255** vaccines through City-run sites.



Fixed and mobile vaccine access, including a mega site with the ability to vaccinate **6,000** people per day.

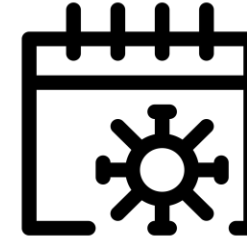


Provided guidance and assisted in over **300** businesses outbreaks, **300** long-term care facility outbreaks, and **380** school/daycare outbreaks.

COVID-19 Response



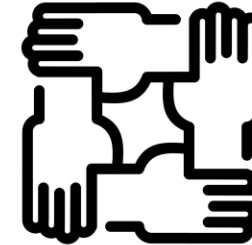
Established **data dashboards** that provided real-time data.



Monitored and detected emerging variants.



Published in the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality weekly Report (MMWR).



Environmental Health Specialists and support staff **partnered** with Code Enforcement and Business Licensing staff and formed the **Venue Task Force** to help businesses comply with Health Orders.

COVID-19 Response

Established:

- **75,000** square foot Local Distribution Site
- **5** temporary and permanent shelters for people experiencing homelessness, serving hundreds of people
- **2** isolation and quarantine sites

Provided surge support to local hospitals:

- **6** mobile hospital modules deployed to hospitals
- **5** mass fatality trailers deployed to hospitals
- Distributed **350,000** pieces of PPE to healthcare entities

The Venue Task Force achieved compliance with the Health Order:

- Approximately **2,500** hours were dedicated to respond to complaints
- **2,400** door-to-door visits were made to meet with food establishments, public pools and health fitness centers to educate people on safe operation practices under the Health Order



Workforce & Staffing



Workforce & Staffing

Engaged employees from across the City in response to the pandemic and shifted practices to meet the need and safety protocols.

- Declared City employees disaster services workers
- Reassigned 230 City staff
- Provided regular testing to City Employees
- Ensured frontline workers were vaccinated early to ensure continuity of operations
- Enacted Emergency Teleworking/Hybrid Work Policy
- Provided technology and supports to allow for large-scale telecommuting



Workforce & Staffing

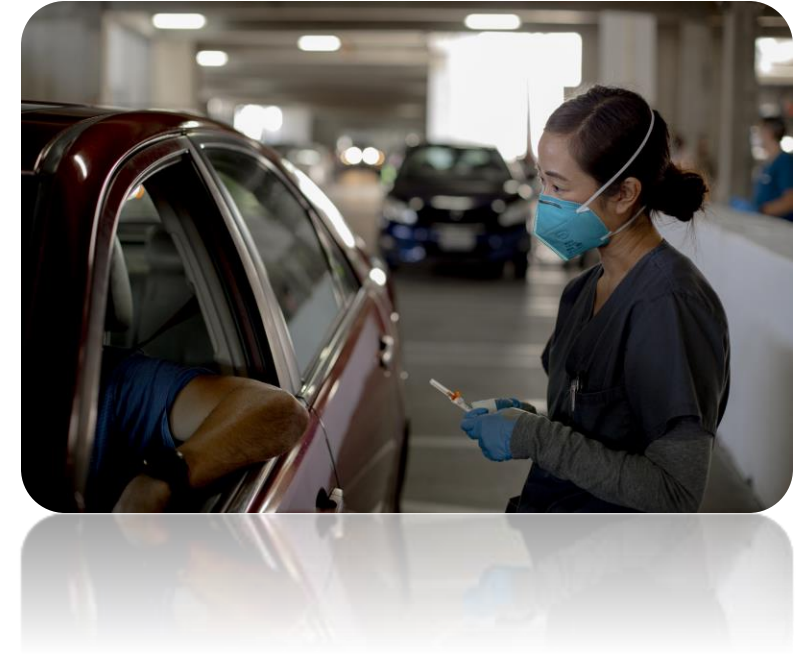
Managed Surge Staffing

- **50** All Hazards Incident Management Team
- **145** Travel Nurses
- **110** California National Guard personnel
- **50** LBFD Lifeguards (rotating)
- **235** Reassigned City staff

Managed Volunteer Efforts

- **1,400** Medical Reserve Corp (MRC)
- **60** CERT Volunteers
- **345** Nursing students (CSULB & LBCC)
- **800** West Coast University nursing students (MRC)

125 HEROs (Healthcare & Emergency Response Opportunities) work experience participants were employed since the beginning of pandemic (more than **18,000** hours of service)





Resources Provided



Resources Provided

Provided resources and supports to businesses

- Provided PPE to more than **1,200** businesses
- Provided education on health orders and safety protocols to nearly **10,000** businesses
- Provided **5,647,000** pieces of PPE citywide, including masks, gowns, wipes, and hand sanitizer.

Opened food facilities to overcome economic hardship;

- Amended the Health Order to allow bars to open and safely serve alcohol and catered food
- Waived the annual health permit and plan check fees of food facilities that were not able to stay open for business

Resources Provided

Provided resources to families with young children

- Nearly **70,000** packs of diapers
- More than **42,000** packs of wipes
- Nearly **16,000** cans of formula
- **18,400** books and educational supplies
- **\$273,000** in funding to **157** early childhood providers to help them stay open

Provided resources specific to older adults and homebound individuals

- Supported more than **6,000** callers through the LB Resource Line
- Delivered nearly **80,552** meals and **20,578** grocery bags/boxes
- Provided supports to more than **21,000** households through the CARES Act
- Initiated Neighbor to Neighbor program to support older adults

Resources Provided

Provided direct relief and support to communities through CARES Act programs and, more recently, with the Long Beach Recovery Act. The Health Department has directed investments to:

- **110** older adults were provided intensive case management services with a public health nurse or licensed clinical social worker through the Healthy Aging Center Senior Links program
- **1,582** older adults received referrals and Supportive Services through the Healthy Aging Center
- **600** basic needs supply kits were provided to older adults at Senior Centers in LB
 - An additional \$20,000 went towards the purchase of leisure & recreation items (puzzles, playing cards, soft-grip hand weights, craft kits, etc.) distributed directly to older adults at Senior Centers in Long Beach during facility/program closures
- **268** Black-identifying Long Beach residents were connected to affirming mental health services



Business Support



Resources Provided

Implemented four small business grant programs:

- Small Business Transition & Technology Small Grant Programs
- Outdoor Dining Grant
- Commercial Rental Assistance Grant
- Business License Tax and Fee Grant for Full-Service Restaurants
 - Total grant funding issued: **\$5,042,428**
 - Total grants issued: **1,053**
 - Total unique businesses supported: **1,006**



Business Support


Implemented citywide temporary parklets with a focus on safety.

- Citywide effort to support the economic recovery for businesses amid social-distancing Health Order
- First temporary parklets were installed in May 2020
- At the program's peak:
 - **124** temporary parklet locations citywide
 - **136** participating business citywide

Currently:

- **8** permanent parklets constructed as a result of the program
- **24** in the permanent parklet permit application process
- Ensured proper installation of barricades and safe pedestrian passage, reviewed structural and stormwater drainage elements and utility conflicts
- The temporary parklet program expired on January 30, 2023.





Leading the way: COVID-19 Response Efforts



Leading The Way: COVID-19 Response Efforts

The City's COVID-19 response was at the forefront in:

- Vaccinating first responders
- Identifying and messaging residents eligible for vaccine and expanding vaccine eligibility
- Establishing VaxLB, which registered 140,000 total community members
- Mass testing and vaccination
- Mobile and in-home vaccination and testing for high-risk populations
- Vaccine verification and testing mandates for City employees
- Vaccine verification and testing mandates for educational institutions
- Implementation of the indoor masking requirement and masking at outdoor mega events

The New York Times

CALIFORNIA TODAY

Why Long Beach Is a Model for the Vaccine Rollout

Wednesday: The state's vaccine system continues to be fraught with problems. Here's what to know.

The First International Pharma Logistics Masterclass

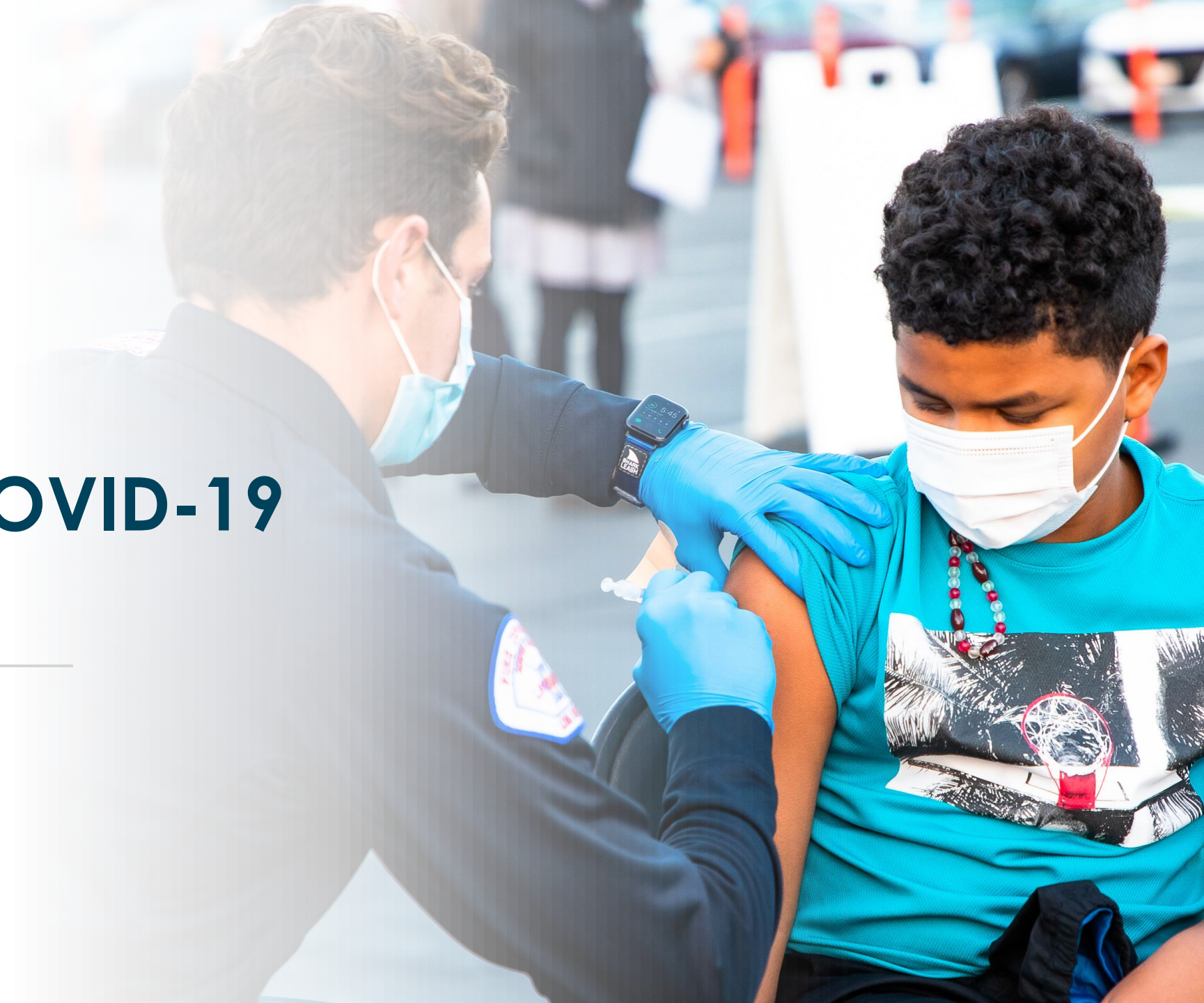
By CITT Staff • Oct 07, 2021

O'Brien hosted a session on September 9th centered on the COVID-19 vaccine rollout process in Long Beach, California. O'Brien was joined by public health experts Gabriela M. Hurtado, COVID-19 Vaccine Program Manager for the City of Long Beach, Alan Hendrickson, Population Health Specialist at the California Department of Public Health, and Matthew Bagic Franco, Local Distribution Site Supervisor at the Department of Health & Human Services in Long Beach. The session included a presentation by these Long Beach health experts about the rollout and the structure of the Long Beach Health Department, which was followed by a panel discussion moderated by Dr. O'Brien. The approach taken by Long Beach in vaccine distribution was of great interest to European partners facing similar challenges and served as an illustrative example of the broader issues at play with pharma logistics. The

illustrative example of the broader issues at play with pharma logistics. The



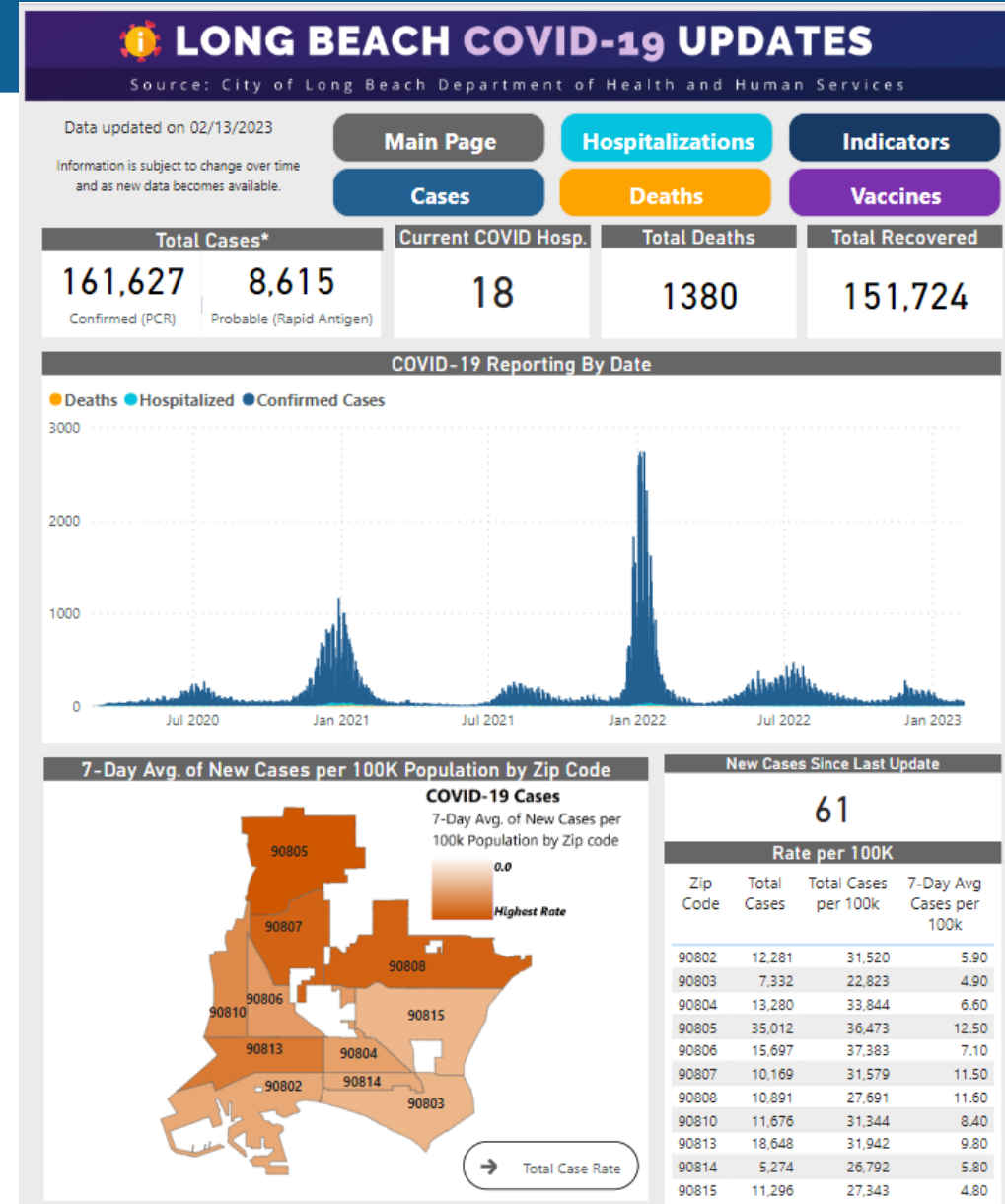
Addressing COVID-19 Disparities



COVID-19 Data Leading Our Way

Led with data to inform situational awareness, reopening measures, vaccination sites and public communications.

- Mobilized an 8-staff person data team to develop a public-facing **COVID-19 dashboard** to communicate community outcomes.
 - The dashboard **disaggregates data** by zip code, age, gender and race / ethnicity to convey disparate COVID-19 impacts.
 - Addition of 'Indicators' and 'vaccines' pages to guide reopening compared to State of CA measures and to track vaccine adoption rates across the City
- Developed internal reports for City leadership to track PPE distribution, compare to nearby jurisdictions, and identify impact to City staff



Addressing COVID-19 Disparities

- To address the digital divide, set up a **robust COVID-19 Information Line** in March 2020
 - Staffed with people equipped to handle calls in **multiple languages**
 - Assisted older adults, monolingual individuals and those with limited access to technology with making appointments for testing and vaccine

**LONG BEACH
COVID-19 HOTLINE**

CALL US!

- 📞 Schedule an appointment to receive your COVID-19 vaccine!
- 📞 Schedule a COVID-19 testing appointment!
- 📞 General questions about COVID-19

(562) 570-4636

Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**LÍNEA DIRECTA
DE COVID-19 DE
LONG BEACH**

¡LLAMANOS!

- 📞 ¡Programe una cita para recibir su vacuna contra el COVID-19!
- 📞 ¡Programe una cita para la prueba de COVID-19!
- 📞 Preguntas generales sobre COVID-19

(562) 570-4636

Lunes - Viernes, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

ទូរស័ព្ទខ្សែបន្ទាន់ COVID-19

ទូរស័ព្ទមកយើង!

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- 📞 សំណួរទូទៅ អំពីជំងឺ COVID-19

(562) 570-4636

ថ្ងៃច័ន្ទ - ថ្ងៃសុក្រ, ម៉ោង 9 ព្រឹក - 5 ល្ងាច

Addressing COVID-19 Disparities

- Provided accommodations to families and those with **disabilities, access and functional needs** at the mass vaccination clinics
 - Designated **sensory-friendly spaces**
 - Implemented a **Vaccine Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS)** for individuals with access and functional needs
- Convened a **vaccine equity workgroup** with various stakeholders, including community-based organizations, healthcare providers and City departments
 - Utilized **data** to develop outreach and communication strategies for areas with high case rates and low vaccination rates
 - Utilized census tract-level data to deliver pop-up vaccination events to areas with high case rates and low vaccination rates, providing nearly **9,000** vaccines



Addressing COVID-19 Disparities

- Implemented mobile vaccination team to provide in-home vaccinations for those with disabilities, access and functional needs, mobility issues and those at high risk, providing nearly **7,000** in-home vaccinations
- Conducted nearly **23,000** COVID-19 tests through the mobile testing team
 - More than **600** of these were in-home testing appointments for those with disabilities, access and functional needs, mobility issues and those at high risk
 - Pop-up events in partnership with community-based organizations, pop-ups in areas with high case rates, businesses, congregate living facilities and at special events





Communicating with City Residents



Communicating with City Residents

From March 2020 to present:

General COVID-19 Line



**Total Calls:
70,553**

COVID-19 Vaccine Line



Total Calls: 21,459



Made available in English, Khmer, Spanish, Tagalog

Communicating with City Residents

From March 2020 to present:

**Press
Conferences**

 **90+**

**COVID-19 Press
Releases & Updates**

 **700 +**

**COVID-19
Internal Updates**

 **350**

Data Dashboard Updates

 **700 +**



Made available in English, Khmer, Spanish, Tagalog

The background image shows a busy port terminal. In the foreground, several workers wearing white hard hats and high-visibility yellow safety vests are walking on a metal walkway with railings. They are looking towards the port area. In the middle ground, there are several semi-trailers parked. One is white with 'PASHA HAWAII' written on it, another is white with 'seaco' and 'HORIZON LINES' logos, and a third is yellow. A yellow forklift is visible near the trailers. In the background, there are stacks of colorful shipping containers (blue, orange, green) and a large white gantry crane structure. The sky is overcast.

Port of Long Beach & Health Department Collaboration

Port of Long Beach & Health Department Collaboration

To maintain Port operations during the pandemic, the Health Department created a mobile team to test and vaccinate Port workers and international crews.

- More than **11,000** vaccines administered by the Port Vaccination Team on both the Long Beach and Los Angeles sides of the Port
- Provided more than **27,000** tests to Port workers

Ship Crews Receiving Vaccine at SoCal Ports

The vaccinations are administered without charge to international crews aboard ships visiting San Pedro Bay.

By Associated Press • Published May 28, 2021 • Updated on May 28, 2021 at 9:01 pm



Shipping containers are unloaded from ships at a container terminal at the Port of Long Beach-Port of Los Angeles complex, amid the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, in Los Angeles, California, April 7, 2021.

VISITING SAILORS VACCINATED FOR COVID-19 AT PORT OF LONG BEACH

May 28, 2021

NEWS • News

Free coronavirus vaccines for visiting seafarers to end after 2022



COVID-19 Present Day



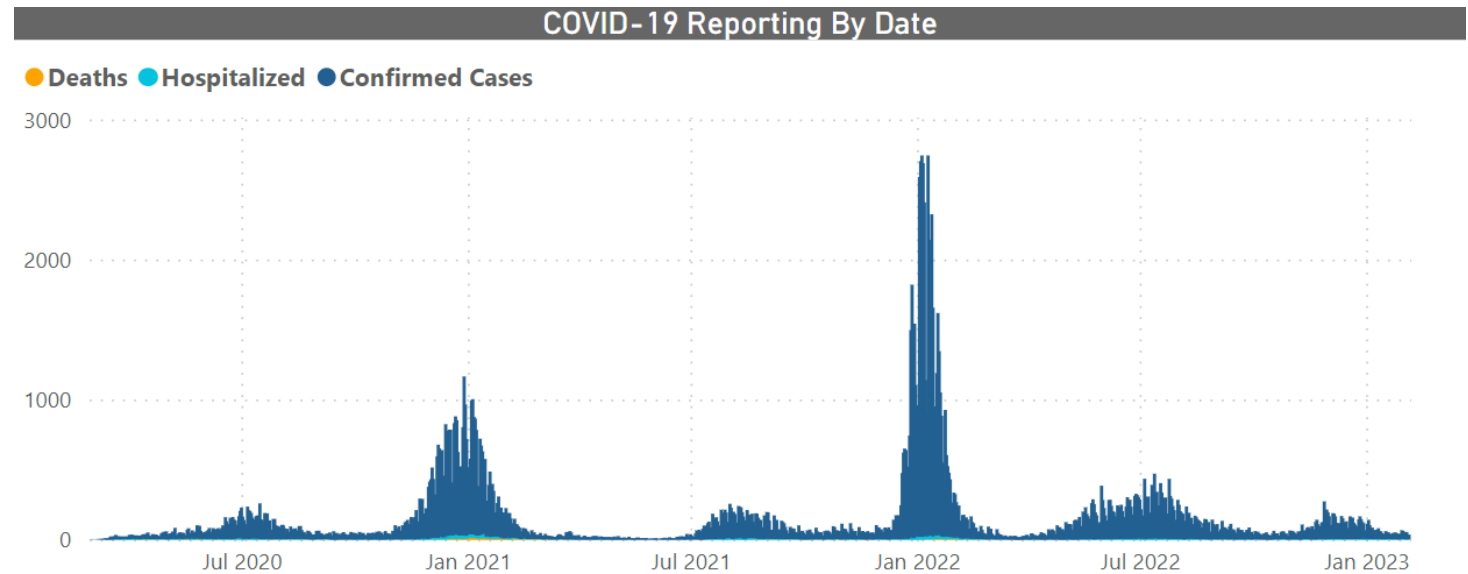
COVID-19 Present Day

As of February 10, 2023

- 161,880 Cases
- 5,976 Hospitalized
- 1,387 Deaths

In 2021, COVID-19 was the third leading cause of death in the U.S. after heart disease and all cancers.

Year	Cases	Hospitalizations	Deaths
2020	36,564	1,786	439
2021	44,526	1,864	643
2022	78,633	2,169	288
2023	2,157	157	17



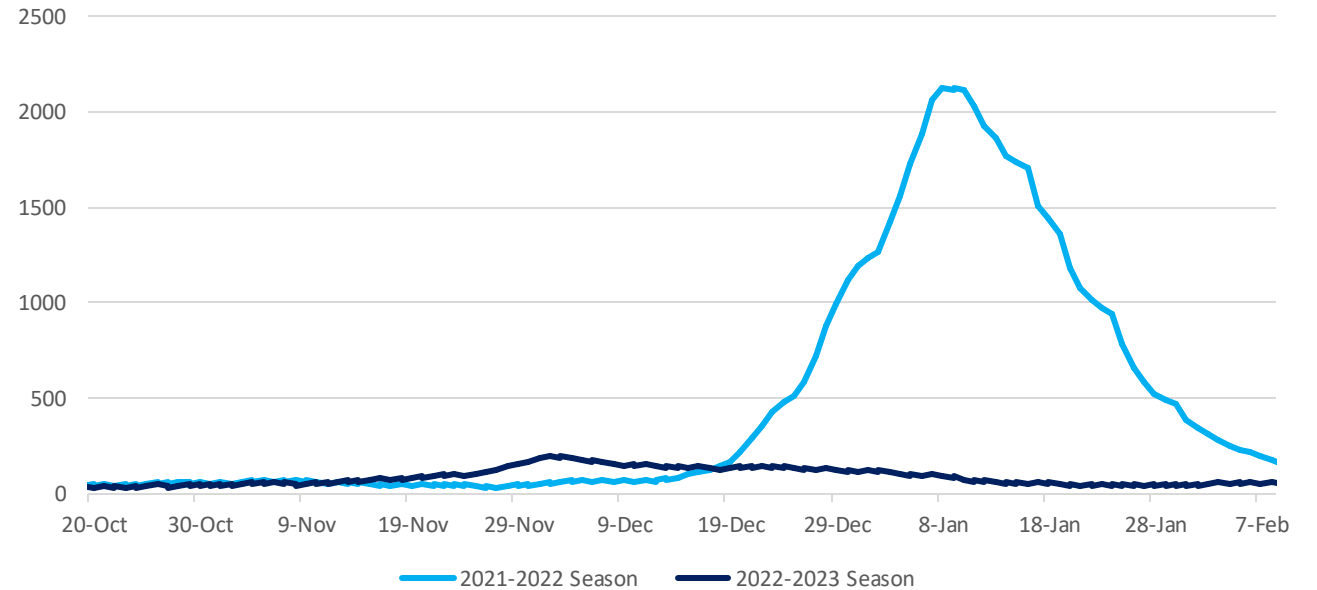
COVID-19 by the Numbers

Winter 2022-2023 (Data as of 2/10/23)

- Case Rate: 12.7/100,000
- Positivity Rate: 7.4%
- Current Hospitalizations: 16
- Area hospitals: 44
- 2023 Deaths: 17

COVID-19 activity in Long Beach has remain low this winter season. Cases increased the first week of December 2022. Since then, cases have been steadily declining.

COVID Winter Surge Comparison (Seven-day average case counts) in Long Beach



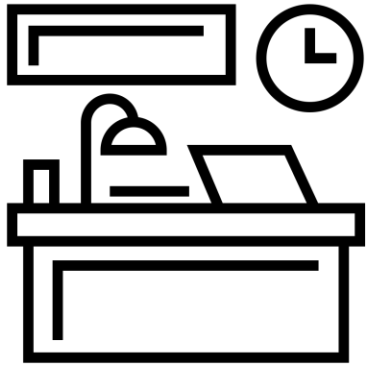
COVID by the Numbers

Indictors during the peak of each surge

	2020-2021 Winter Surge	2021 Summer Surge (Delta)	2021-2022 Winter Surge (Omicron)	2022 Summer	2022-2023 Winter
Case Rate (per 100,000)	163.3	37.9	475.4	65.3	38.4
Positivity Rate	17.4%	8.7%	29.5%	18.2%	15.4%
Area hospitalizations	598	143	367	106	108
Hospitalization Rate (per 100,000)	35.6	11.4	25.1	13.1	11.2
Weekly Deaths	84	11	40	7	9

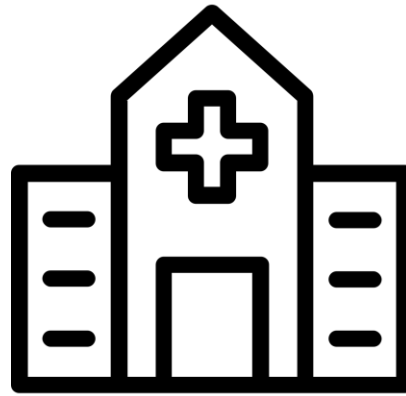
COVID-19 by the Numbers

The Number of outbreaks have significantly decreased since the Winter 2021-2022 season and continue to remain low.



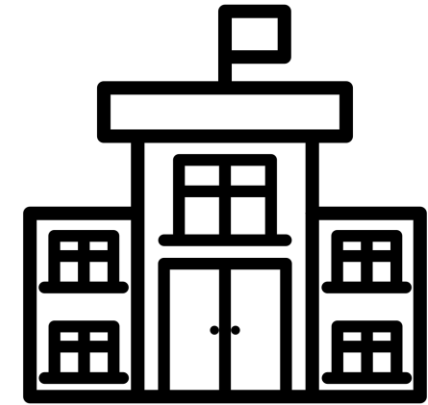
Workplace Outbreaks

- Winter Season 2021-2022: 77
- Winter Season 2022-2023: 25



Long Term Care and Assisted Living Facility Outbreaks

- Winter Season 2021-2022: 65
- Winter Season 2022-2023: 32

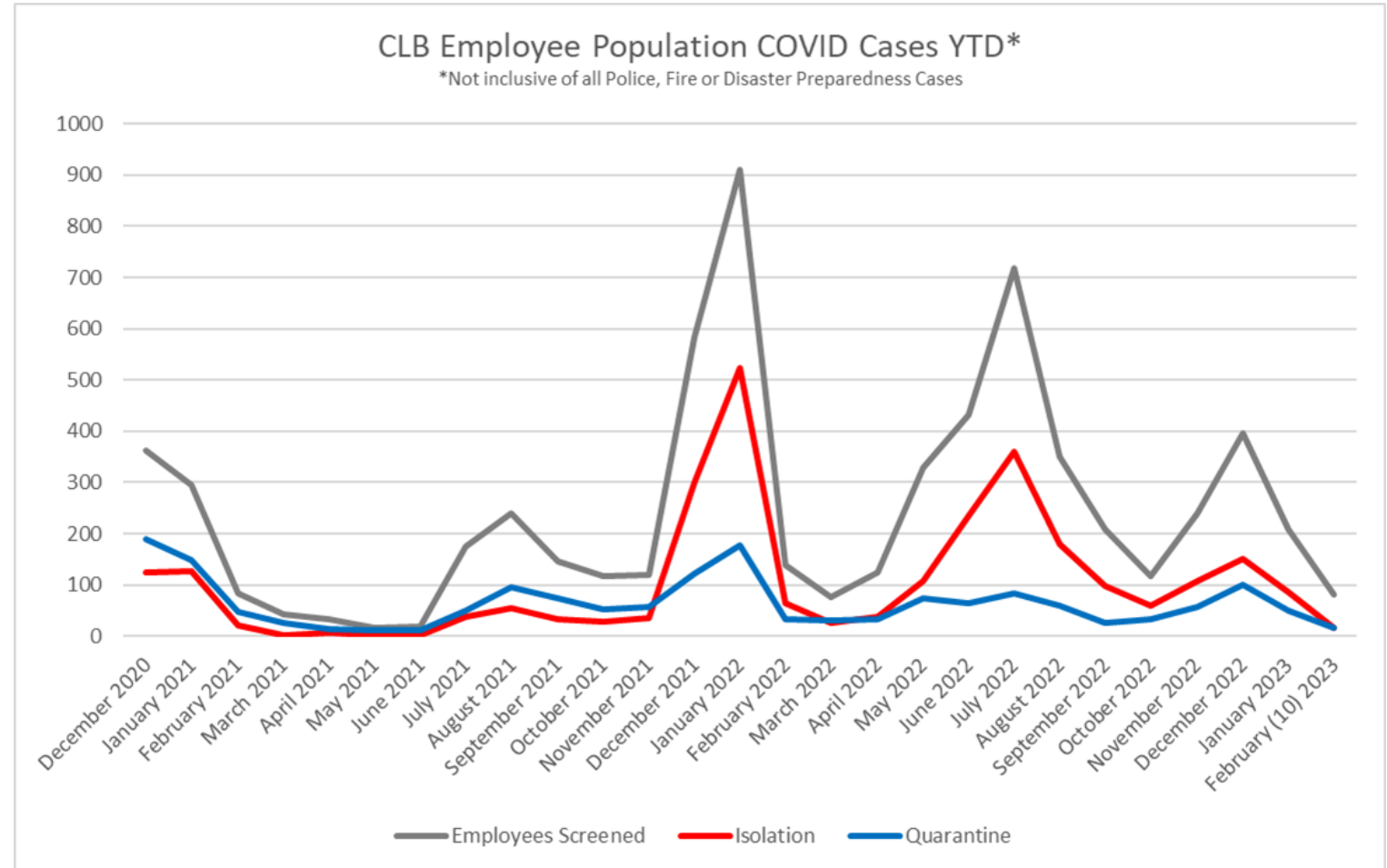


School Outbreaks (K-12 & ECE)

- Winter Season 2021-2022: 238
- Winter Season 2022-2023: 30

COVID-19 by the numbers

- As of February 10, 2023, the City of Long Beach Employee Occupational Health Clinic has:
 - Contact traced (screened) - **7,626 employees for COVID symptoms or exposures**
 - 2,967 isolation
 - 2,126 quarantine
- The City Safety and Risk Management teams continue to manage the online employee COVID-19 contact tracing intake portal which allows for streamlining case management.

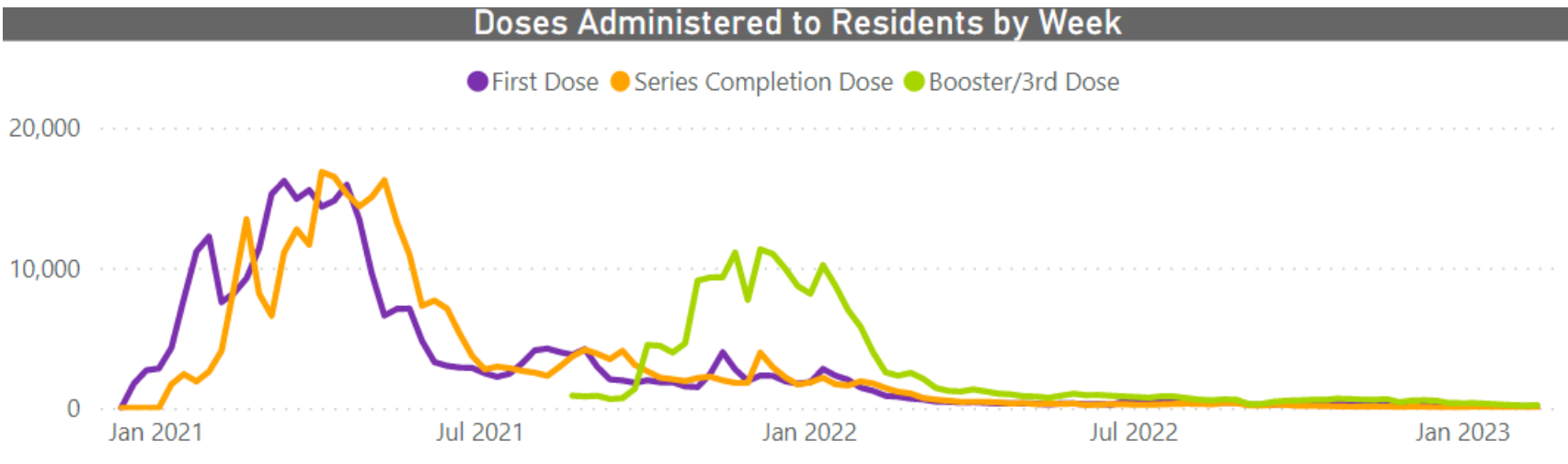




Vaccination Rates

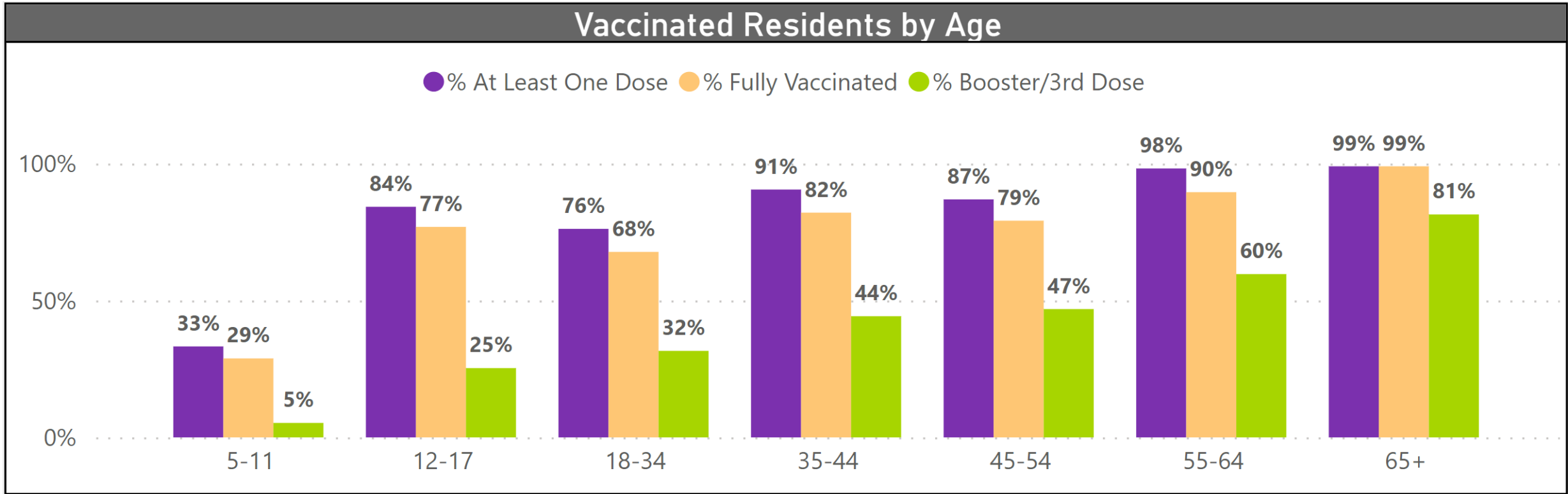
COVID-19 Vaccination Rates

	Vaccinated Residents	% Vaccinated Residents				
		18+	16+	12+ (**)	5+ (**)	All Ages
At Least One Dose	368,027	89.9%	89.5%	88.3%	83.8%	78.8%
Fully Vaccinated	331,536	81.2%	80.9%	79.9%	75.7%	71.0%
Booster/3rd Dose	183,485	47.9%	47.3%	45.6%	42.1%	39.3%
Bivalent Dose	80,373	20.9%	20.5%	19.7%	18.4%	17.2%



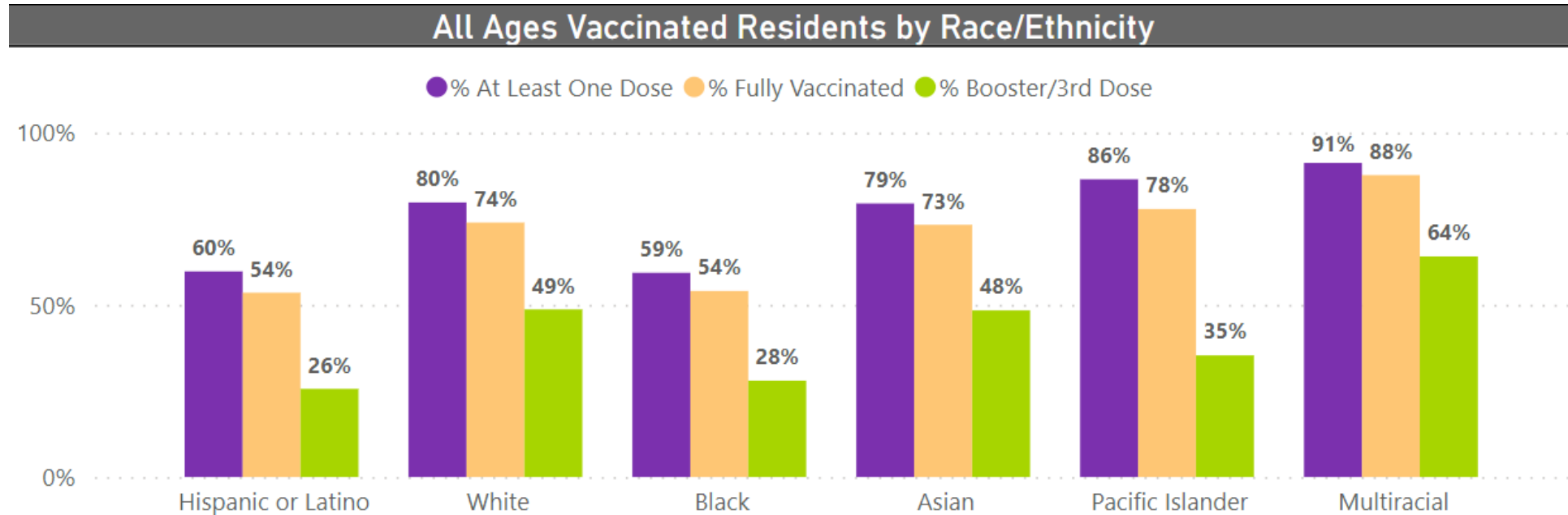
* Data as of February 10, 2023

COVID-19 Vaccination Status by Age



* Data as of February 10, 2023

COVID-19 Vaccination Status by Race/Ethnicity

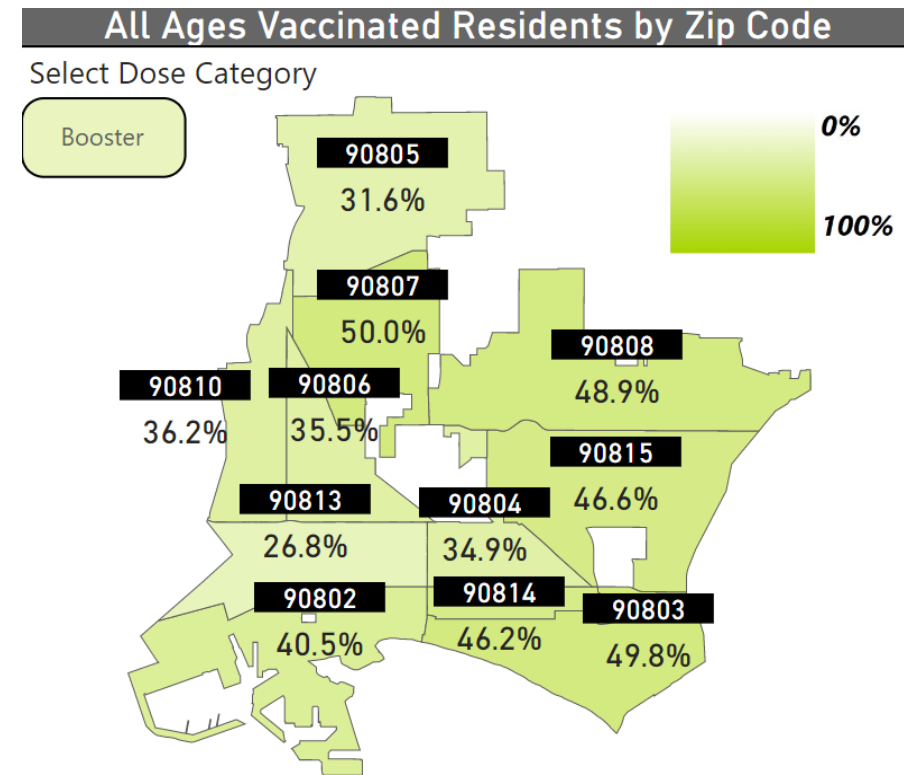
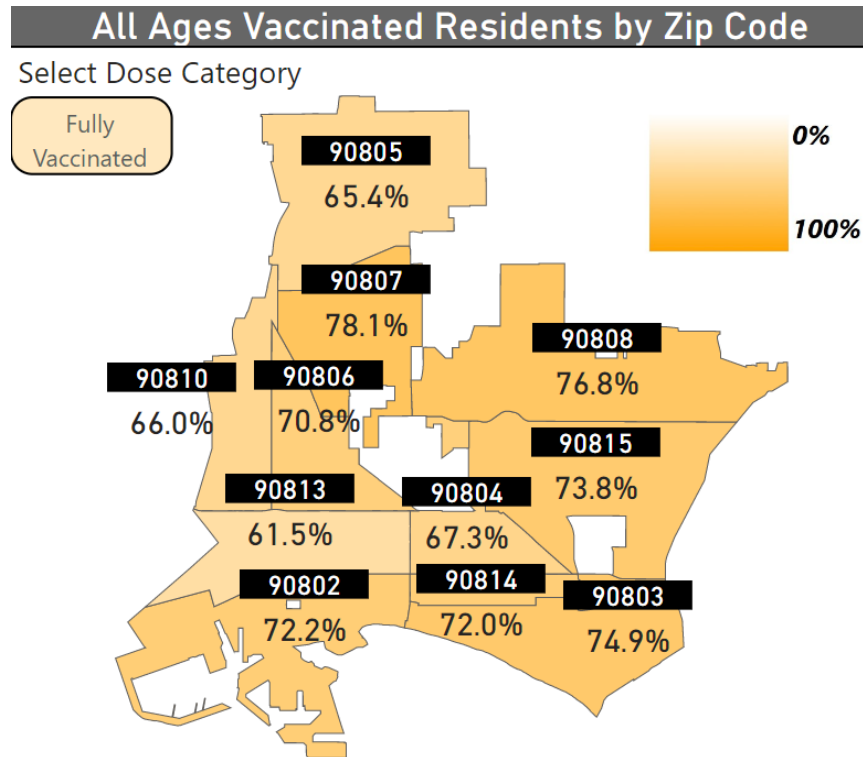


Black and Latinx residents in Long Beach have continued to have the lowest vaccination rates compared to other racial/ethnic groups and Black and Latinx males have lower rates than females.

* Data as of February 10, 2023

COVID-19 Vaccination Status in Long Beach by Zip Code

Zip codes 90813 and 90805 have the lowest rates of fully vaccinated and boosted individuals.



* Data as of February 10, 2023

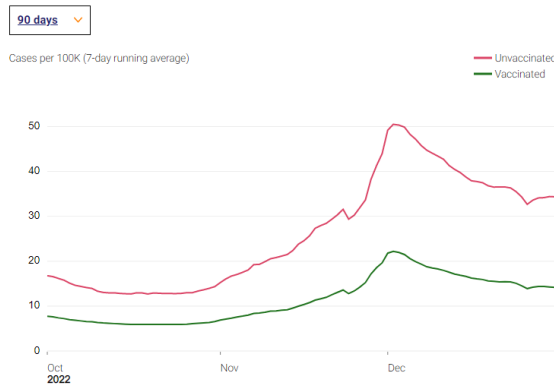
Overall Effectiveness of COVID-19 Vaccination in California

State-level data from December 1, 2022, to February 13, 2023, display the stark contrast for unvaccinated people compared with their vaccinated counterparts.

Data support vaccine effectiveness in preventing hospitalization and death.

Deaths Hospitalizations **Cases**

During December 2022, unvaccinated people were **2.4 times more likely** to get COVID-19 than people who were vaccinated with at least a primary series.

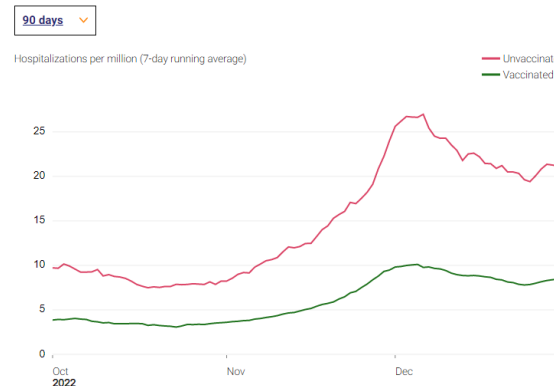


[Unvaccinated and vaccinated cases, hospitalizations, and death source data](#) Data is updated on the first week of every month.

Case rate comparison by vaccination status

Deaths **Hospitalizations** Cases

During December 2022, unvaccinated people were **2.6 times more likely** to be hospitalized with COVID-19 than people who were vaccinated with at least a primary series.

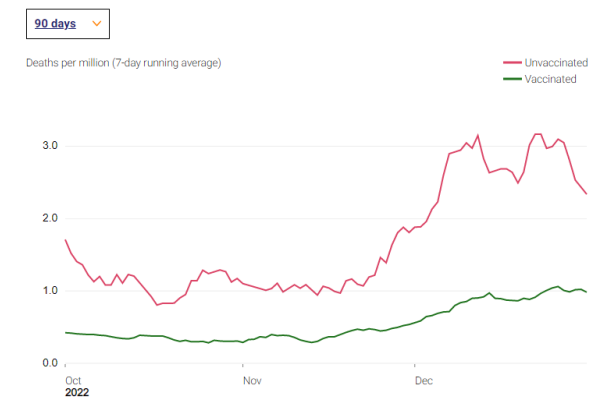


[Unvaccinated and vaccinated cases, hospitalizations, and death source data](#) Data is updated on the first week of every month.

Hospitalization rate comparison by vaccination status

Deaths Hospitalizations Cases

During December 2022, unvaccinated people were **3.0 times more likely** to die from COVID-19 than people who were vaccinated with at least a primary series.



[Unvaccinated and vaccinated cases, hospitalizations, and death source data](#) Data is updated on the first week of every month.

Death rate comparison by vaccination status



Looking Forward



COVID-19 Testing & Vaccinations

- Free testing and vaccinations will continue to be offered by the Health Department at the following locations through the end of 2023:
 - El Dorado Park
 - MLK Park
 - Pop-up Clinics at Ramona Park and Houghton Park
 - Cal State Long Beach (Open Mondays and Wednesdays)
 - Cabrillo High School (Vaccine available only on Fri/Sat)
 - The schedule is available on the website: www.longbeach.gov/vaxlb
- For those with insurance, they can access 8 test kits per month for free
 - <https://www.covid.gov/tests>; No co-pays for testing
- The Health Department has a cache of rapid antigen tests to distribute to CBO's, LTCFs, congregate settings, schools, etc.
- Eventually, testing kits will need to be bought or accessed via insurance

COVID-19 Vaccination

- COVID-19 Vaccines have been added to the regular immunization schedule for children and adults
- Moderna indicated they will continue to offer their vaccines free of charge
- The federal agencies are determining the future schedule of COVID-19 vaccines and transitioning future iterations of the vaccines to be bivalent (similar to flu vaccine compositions that include several strains)
- The federal government has purchased a large supply of Covid 19 vaccines; there is currently no funding for future purchases
- Eventually COVID-19 vaccination will be transitioned into routine vaccination processes, including in healthcare offices and pharmacies

Response Efforts

- Nationwide, statewide, and locally, transitioning from emergency operations to day-to-day duties
- Data dashboards will transition to being updated weekly instead of daily
- Surveillance of COVID-19 transitioning at the federal, state, and local level from emergency to routine communicable disease surveillance

Health Department Emergency and Communicable Disease Staffing

- Grant funding for COVID response, which funds 160 employees (44 FT, 116 PT), will be expiring by July, 2024. This will impact:
 - Testing and vaccine sites
 - Case investigators and health educators
 - Surveillance
 - School outbreak team
 - Healthcare associated infection team (hospitals and skilled nursing facilities)
 - Business outbreak team
 - ¾ mobile testing and vaccine teams
- Health will work to develop a staffing transition plan and additional funding opportunities



Reduction in benefits



Medi-Cal Continuous Coverage

- Before the pandemic, people on Medi-Cal had to renew their coverage every year, but the process has been frozen for the past two years because of the pandemic
- This flexibility ends April 1; Medi-Cal recipients will receive Renewal Applications by mail; failure to return the application can mean being disenrolled from Medi-Cal
- LBDHHS is working with recipients to complete paperwork
- Participating in Department of Health Services Coverage Ambassadors
- Medicaid requirement for no cost sharing for COVID-19 tests and treatments ends September 30, 2023

COVID-19 Uninsured Group Program

- The COVID-19 Uninsured Group program was implemented by the Department of Health Care Services in Aug 2020 and covers COVID-19 testing, vaccination, treatment and hospitalization at no cost to the individual
- The COVID-19 Uninsured Group Program **will end on the last day of the calendar month in which the federal COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) ends (May)**

Medicare Beneficiaries

- Medicare beneficiaries will continue to have access to COVID-19 vaccines, including boosters, at no cost under Part B.
- Medicare beneficiaries will face cost sharing requirements for most COVID-19 treatments, including monoclonal antibody treatments, when the PHE ends.
- Beneficiaries in traditional Medicare will face the full cost of at-home tests when the PHE ends.
- Beneficiaries in traditional Medicare will continue to receive clinical diagnostic testing for COVID-19 at no cost once the PHE ends, since Medicare covers their diagnostic lab testing under Part B, but they will face cost sharing for testing-related services.

Private Insurance

- Commercial out of network coverage will end Nov 11

CalFRESH

- During COVID, CalFRESH benefits were increased to help meet food needs.
- The final emergency allotments will be issued in March 2023 (for February 2023).

IMPORTANT! CalFresh Emergency Allotments are Ending!

What are CalFresh Emergency Allotments?

CalFresh Emergency Allotments are temporary increases to regular CalFresh benefit amounts. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress authorized Emergency Allotments to help meet food needs. This means that since March 2020, households received an increase of at least \$95 in CalFresh benefits per month.

What is the change?

CalFresh Emergency Allotments will end the month of February 2023. A final Emergency Allotment will be issued in March 2023.

Why the change?

CalFresh Emergency Allotments are ending because the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 ends the issuance of CalFresh Emergency Allotments to households in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

What happens next?

You will get less CalFresh beginning April 2023. While the regular CalFresh benefit you are eligible for is not changing, you will no longer get the additional CalFresh benefit you have been getting due to the Emergency Allotments ending. The regular CalFresh benefit you get is the CalFresh amount put onto your EBT card between the 1st and 10th of each month. Your regular benefit amount is based on your circumstances, including your household size, income, and deductions. As this is a required change, there are no hearing rights related to the loss of Emergency Allotment benefits. No further action is required.

Are the additional resources available?

You can get free food from your local food bank. Visit www.cafoodbanks.org/find-food/, scan the QR code, or dial 2-1-1 to find a food bank in your area.



Funded by USDA SNAP, an equal opportunity provider and employer. Visit [CalFreshFood.org](https://www.CalFreshFood.org) to learn more about CalFresh.

End of CalFresh Emergency Allotments FAQ

Updated: 4/8/2022

1. What are CalFresh Emergency Allotments?

CalFresh Emergency Allotments are temporary increases to regular CalFresh benefit amounts. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress authorized Emergency Allotments to help meet food needs. This means that since March 2020, households received an increase of at least \$95 in CalFresh benefits per month.

2. Why are CalFresh Emergency Allotments ending?

CalFresh Emergency Allotments will end the month of February 2023. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 ends the issuance of CalFresh Emergency Allotments to households in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. How will this impact my CalFresh benefits?

A final Emergency Allotment will be issued in March 2023. You will get less CalFresh beginning April 2023. The reduction in benefits may be significant for some families.

4. Will I still get CalFresh benefits after the CalFresh Emergency Allotments end?

You will continue to get your regular CalFresh benefits as long as you remain eligible. Your benefit amounts are based on your circumstances, including your household size, income, and deductions. Make sure you're getting all of the CalFresh benefits you are eligible for by ensuring the county has your most recent information such as:

- Housing costs
- Medical expenses (only if you are age 60+ or have a disability)
- Dependent or childcare costs

To update your information or circumstances, you may contact your local county social services office by calling 1-877-847-3663 or to visit your local county social services office in person, you can use our office locator map at www.CalFreshFood.org.

5. Can I request a fair hearing on this change?


This change is due to Federal regulations and is not considered a reduction to your regular CalFresh benefit amount. A state hearing judge cannot order payment of Emergency Allotments after they have stopped.

6. Where can I find additional food resources in my community?

You can get free food from your local food bank. There are food banks throughout California that give free food to people in their communities. To connect to a food bank, please visit <https://www.cafoodbanks.org/find-food/>.



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Common Misperceptions Regarding Ending the Emergency



Common Misperceptions

MISPERCEPTION: The emergency is ending because COVID-19 is no longer a problem

- Still killing 450 people per day in the US
- Vaccination, testing and treatment infrastructure now in place
- Layered prevention strategies remain important
- Important to make decisions based on you and your loved one's risk level and risk tolerance

SMARTER Steps Protective Layers

No single intervention is perfect at preventing the spread of COVID-19. However, the more "SMARTER Steps" you take, the safer you, your family, and your community are against COVID-19.

SHOTS
Get vaccinated and boosted when you are due.

MASKS
Wear a mask with good fit and filtration.

VENTILATION
Meeting outdoors is safest. Improve ventilation indoors by opening windows and using portable air cleaners.

TESTS
Take a COVID-19 test if you have symptoms or had an exposure.

ISOLATION
Stay home if you're sick or test positive for COVID-19.

TREATMENT
Talk to a health care provider about treatment options if you have symptoms.

COVID-19 Virus | Misinformation Mouse

<https://bit.ly/CASmarterSteps>

Common Misperceptions, cont.

MISPERCEPTION: Because the emergency is ending, I don't have to wear a mask

- All Californians must still follow the California Masking Guidelines
- Currently masking is required in healthcare settings

MISPERCEPTION: Because the emergency is over, there won't be any more health orders

- The Health Officer has authority to implement health orders irrespective of a declaration of an emergency
- § 120175: Each health officer knowing or having reason to believe that any case of the diseases made reportable by regulation of the department, or any other contagious, infectious or communicable disease exists, or has recently existed, within the territory under his or her jurisdiction, shall take measures as may be necessary to prevent the spread of the disease or occurrence of additional cases

Response Efforts: Vaccines Still Matter

AN UPDATED COVID-19 VACCINE HELPS SAVE LIVES



Vaccinated people* who received an updated COVID-19 vaccine were


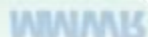
14X less likely to die compared with those who received no vaccine	3X less likely to die compared with those who received only the original COVID-19 vaccine(s)
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People ages 12+ who got their last COVID-19 vaccine dose before September 2022 should get an updated vaccine

* Completed the original COVID-19 vaccine primary series and/or original booster(s)

bit.ly/mm7206a3
FEBRUARY 10, 2023
FEBRUARY 10, 2023

A young girl with a unicorn headband and a grey face mask is blowing bubbles. She is wearing a purple shirt and has a colorful beaded bracelet on her wrist. The background is bright and out of focus, showing other people and more bubbles.

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