COVID-19 Day 715 Press Update

February 23, 2022

DOH Acting Secretary David R. Scrase, M.D., M.H.S.A.
DOH Communications Director Jodi McGinnis Porter

NMDOH
NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Investing for tomorrow, delivering today.
1190 S. St. Francis Drive • Santa Fe, NM 87505 • Phone: 505-827-2613 • Fax: 505-827-2530 • nmhealth.org

New Leadership at NMDOH



José A. Acosta, MD, MBA
Chief Medical Officer

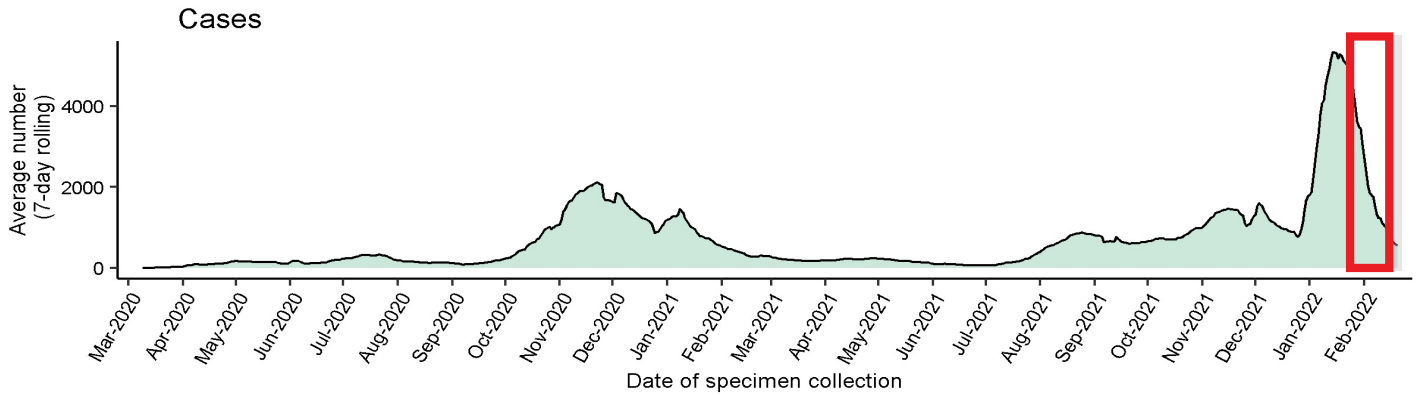


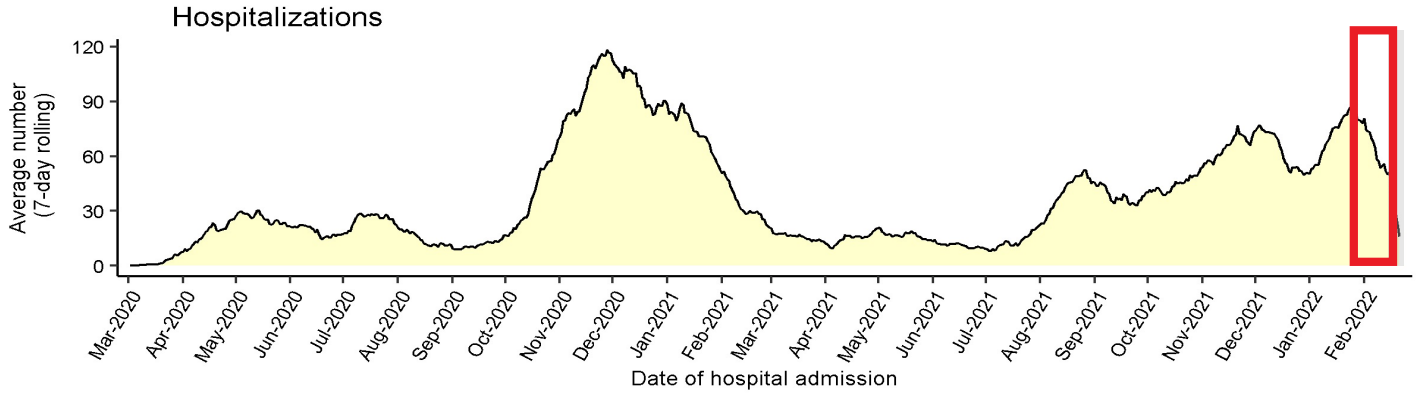
Andrea Lawrence
Director of Marketing

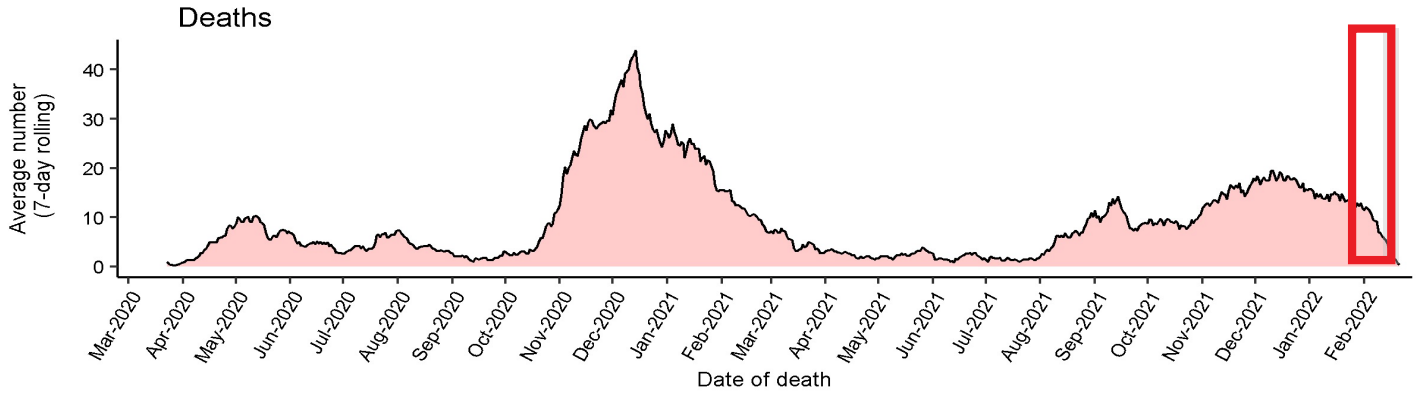


Jodi McGinnis Porter
Director of Communications

COVID-19 Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths







Total Cases	Last 7 Days	Total Cases % of NM
508,863	4,656	24.2%

7-day case rate on 2/9/22: 13,432

Total Hospitalizations	Last 7 Days	Total Hosp. % of Cases
25,659	172	5.0%

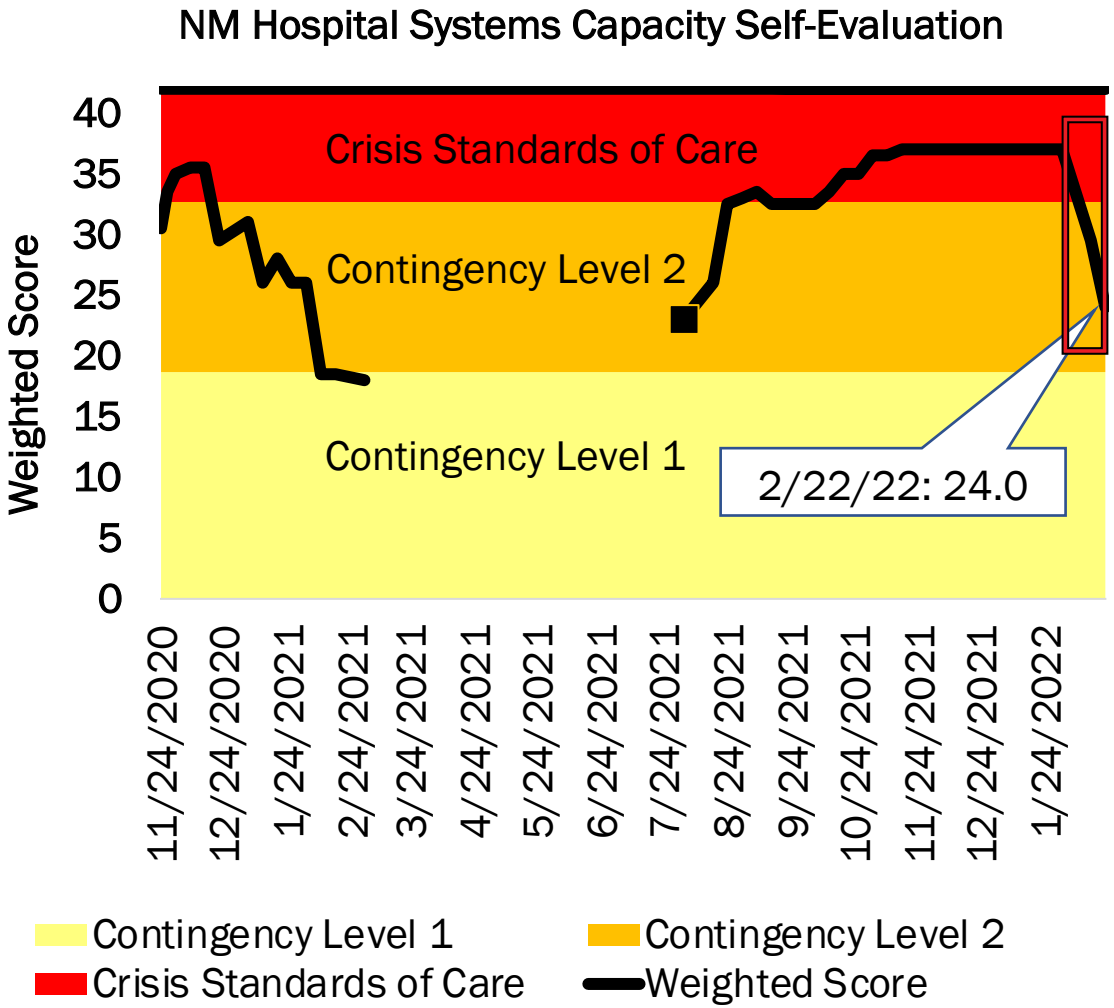
7-day hospitalization rate on 2/9/22: 370

Total Deaths	Last 14 Days	Total Deaths % of Cases
6,794	75	1.3%

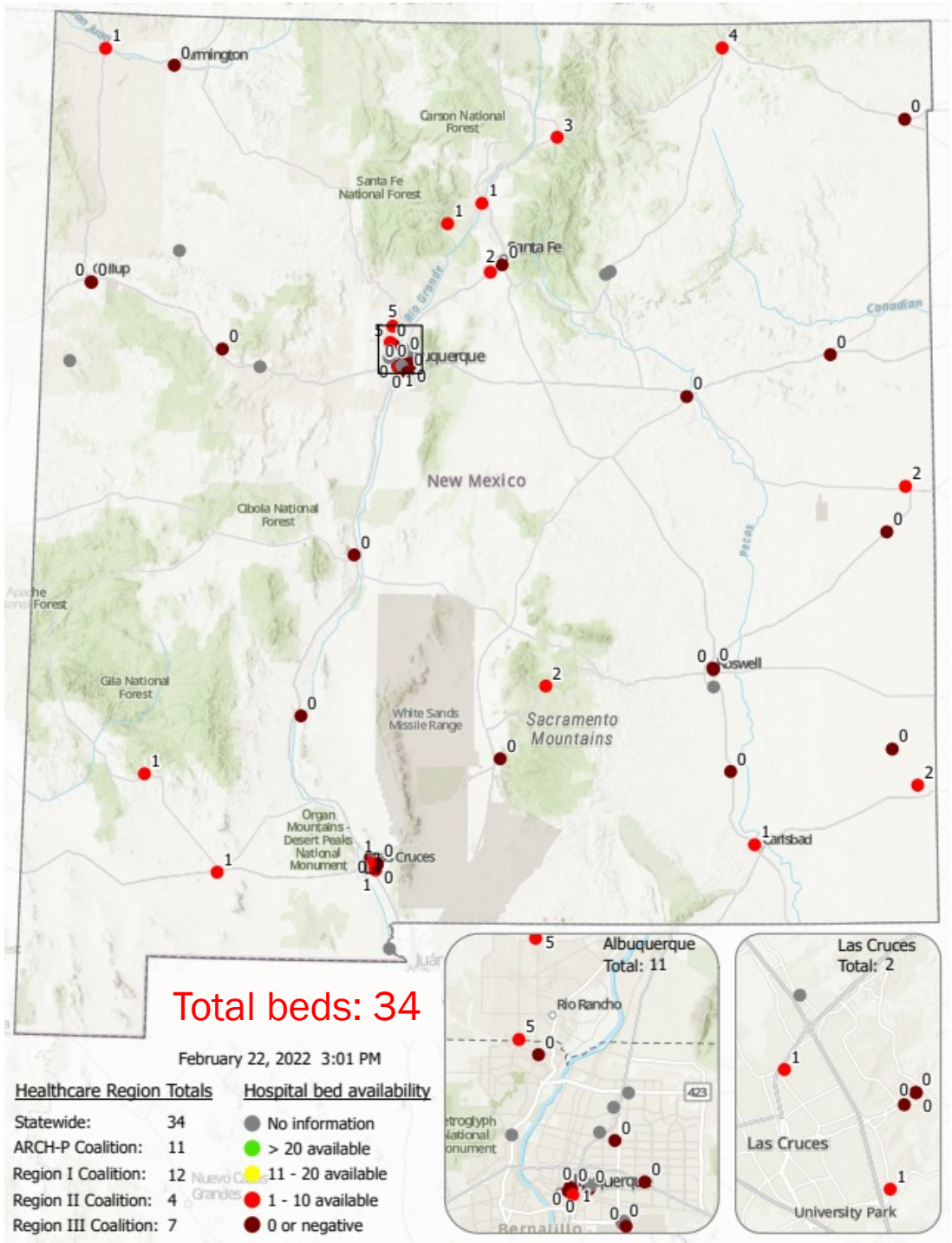
14-day mortality rate on 2/9/22: 78

Dramatic Improvements in Hospital Capacity Evaluation

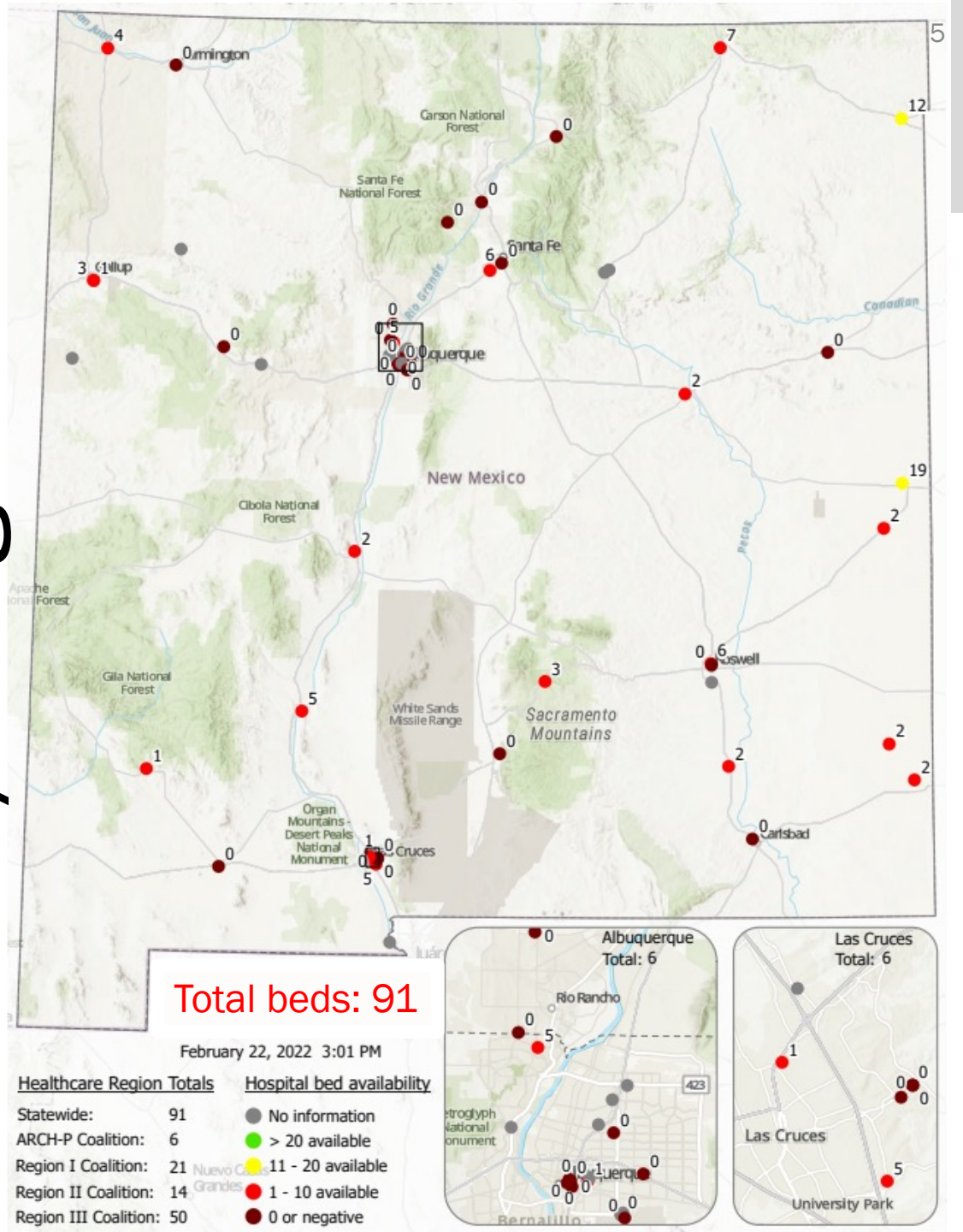
- NM hospitals are still operating at >100% capacity, particularly in Albuquerque, but availability of ICU and non-ICU beds are increased this week.
- Transfers and triage allocation has eased up into contingency level 2.
- Workforce remains the key issue.



ICU Beds



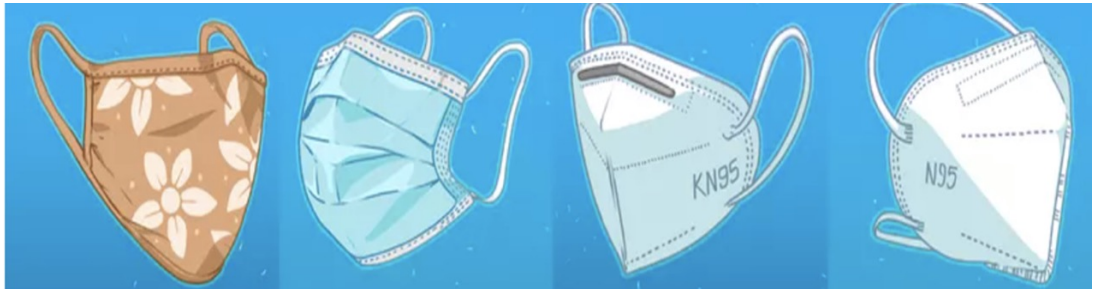
Med/Surgical Beds



Masks *still* play an important role in protecting us from COVID-19 and other illnesses.

- Masks are effective in reducing transmission of COVID-19.
- Healthcare facilities, schools, and other establishments may require masks to enter.
- If you are immunocompromised or are feeling sick, you will benefit from wearing a mask when around others outside of your home.
- You may also just feel safer wearing a mask, and that's ok!

- For the best protection, choose a high-quality mask like a KN95 or N95:
  - Make sure your mask fits snugly against your face while still being able to see and breathe easily.
  - Pick a mask with layers to keep your respiratory droplets in and others' out.



Lowest protection → Highest protection

NMDOH
NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Who is considered immunocompromised?

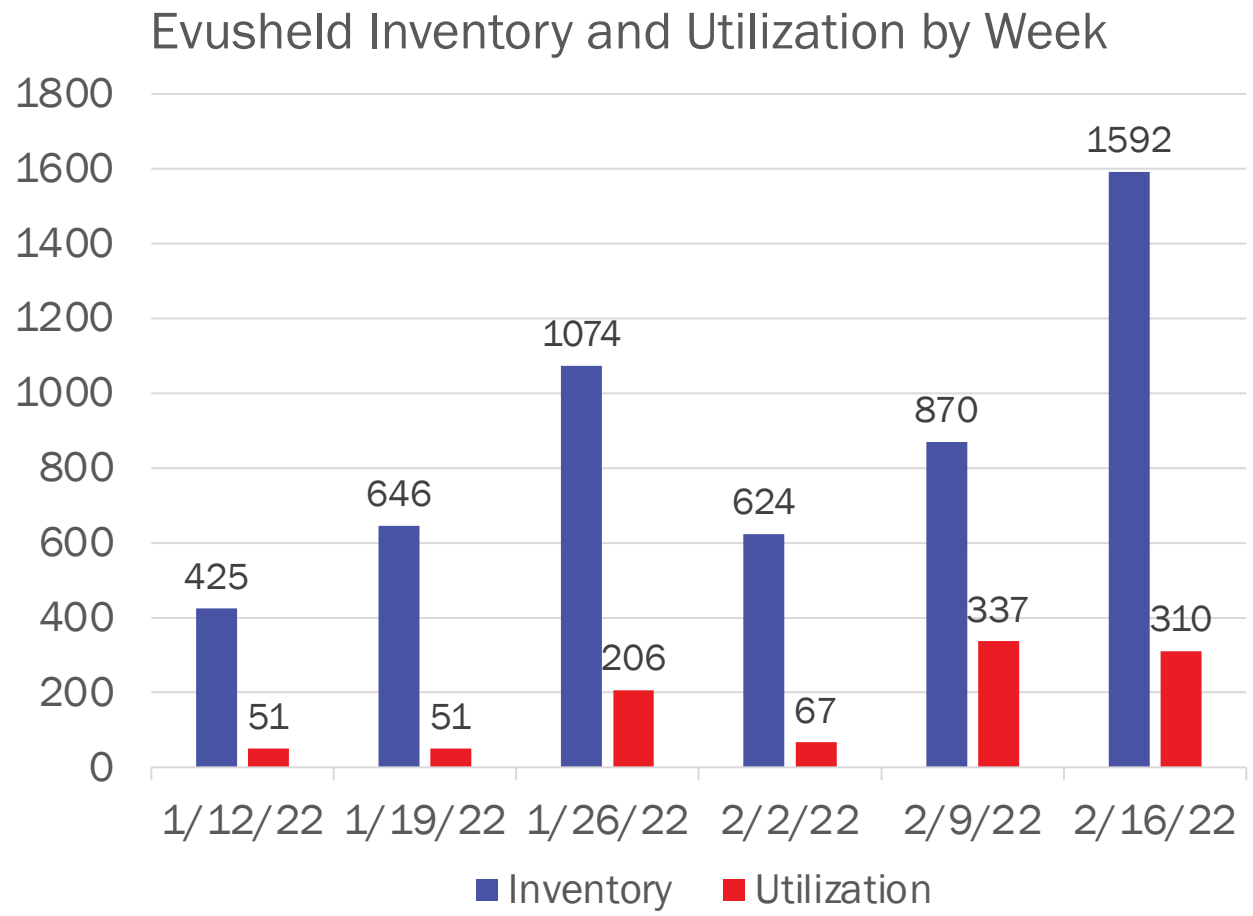
https://cv.nmhealth.org/extra-protection/

Immunocompromised individuals include people:
Receiving active chemotherapy or radiation for tumors or blood cancers.
Received an organ transplant and are taking anti-rejection medication.
Received a stem cell transplant within the last two years.
Have a primary immunodeficiency syndrome such as DiGeorge syndrome or Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome.
Have advanced or untreated HIV.
Taking high dose corticosteroids, e.g., more than 20 mg of prednisone each day or medicines like methotrexate for rheumatoid arthritis.
Some other immune-suppressing medications may qualify; individuals should talk to their doctor to confirm treatment and vaccine options.



Evusheld use can help further protect immunocompromised.

- COVID-19 treatments can offer substitute antibodies to restore, enhance or mimic the immune system's attack on pathogens.
- Evusheld is a new, long-acting monoclonal antibody therapy that is widely available for immunocompromised individuals.
- New Mexico has ample supply of Evusheld for our most vulnerable.



An additional vaccine dose is recommended for immunocompromised individuals.

- The CDC recommends that moderately to severely immunocompromised individuals receive:
  - A 3-dose, mRNA primary series for people ages 5 years and older who are moderately or severely immunocompromised at the time of vaccination (2-dose J&J primary series is ok for 18+).
  - A single booster dose at least 3 months after the third dose in the primary series, for a total of four doses, preferably with an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.

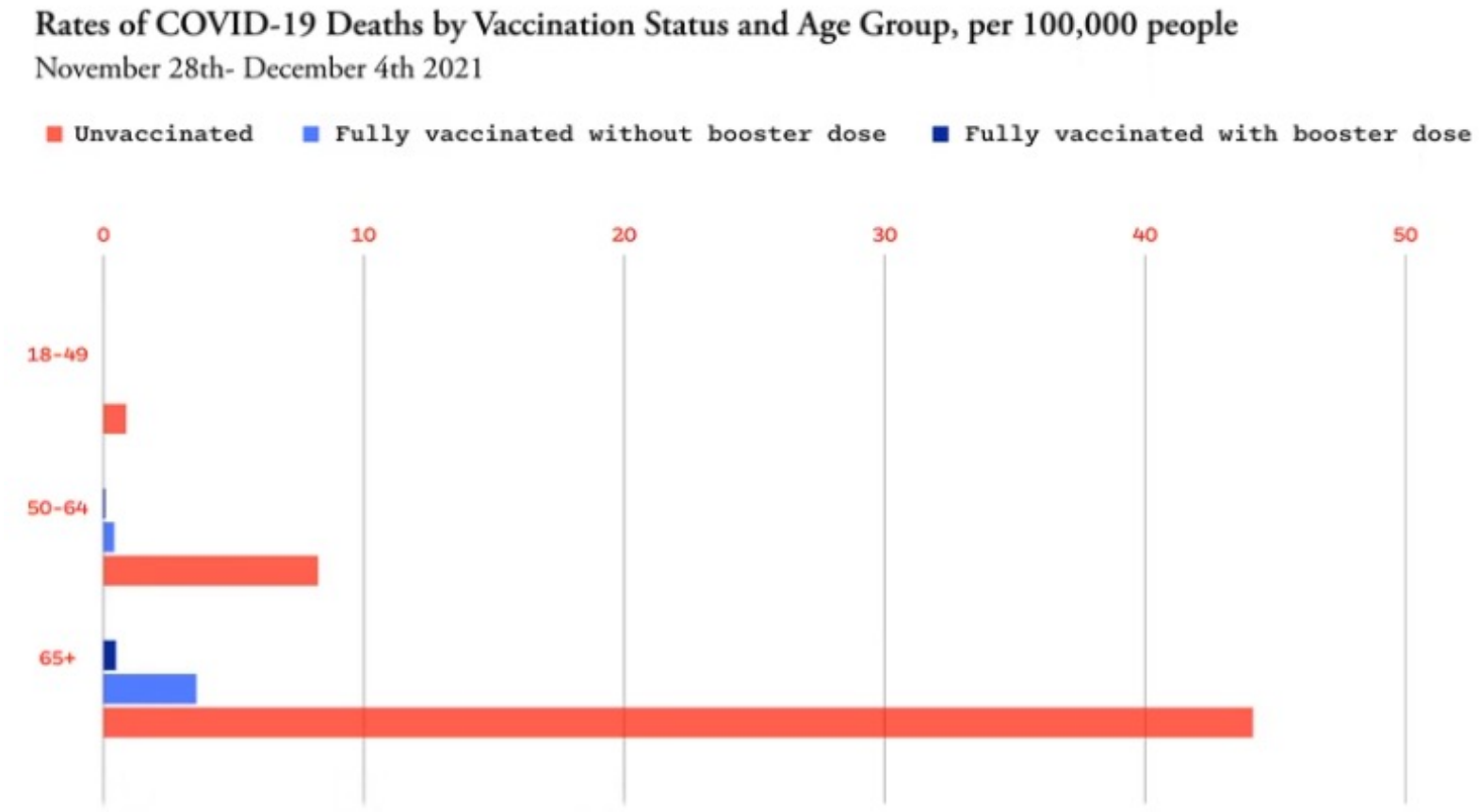


Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC

1190 S. St. Francis Drive • Santa Fe, NM 87505 • Phone: 505-827-2613 • Fax: 505-827-2530 • nmhealth.org

Risk of Severe COVID-19 Goes up with Age

- Compared with someone in their 20s, a person >65 years old is not slightly more likely to die of COVID-19, but *at least 65 times* more likely to die of COVID-19.
- >75, they become 140 times more likely to die. Over age 85, they are 340 times more likely to die.
- In 2022 so far, three-quarters of COVID-19 deaths in America have been in people >65, 93% in people >50 and older.



https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2022/02/vaccinate-old/622080/
Risk for COVID-19 Infection, Hospitalization, and Death By Age Group | CDC

1190 S. St. Francis Drive • Santa Fe, NM 87505 • Phone: 505-827-2613 • Fax: 505-827-2530 • nmhealth.org

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/

Today, we'll walk through the Vaccination Report.



Takeaway Messages

- Hospitals finally seeing the *start of* some relief in volumes, but many still are > 100% capacity, please respect requirements to wear a mask.
- Do not stigmatize mask use (wear a mask if it makes you feel more comfortable)!
- Visit FindaTestNM.org to locate a COVID-19 test.
- We are all at risk of COVID-19; Stay up to date on your vaccine at VaccineNM.org.
- Be kind in your discussions with others about learning to live with COVID-19 in your community.



Ricardo Caté is from Santo Domingo Pueblo and is the only Native American cartoonist whose work is carried by a daily mainstream newspaper.