

**IHE Trustee Convening February 24, 2022**

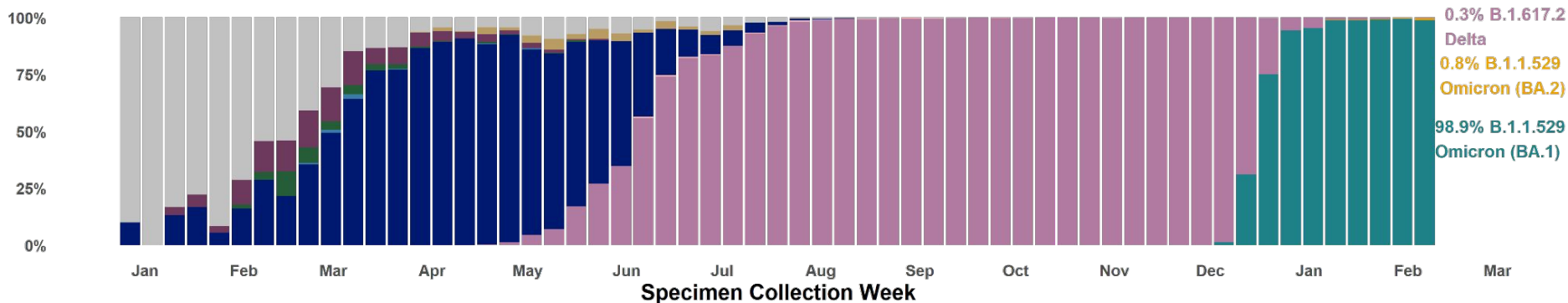
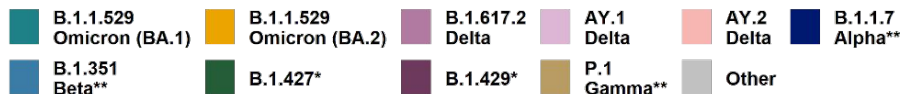
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**State Epidemiologist**

**Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment**



# COVID-19 Variants of Concern Surveillance

## Percent of Sequenced Specimens



Updated Feb 23, 2022

\*As of June 28, 2021, B.1.427 and B.1.429 are no longer variants of concern and will not be included in Variants of concern after 7/6/2021.

\*\*As of September 21, 2021, B.1.1.7, B.1.351, and P.1 are no longer variants of concern and will not be included in variants of concern after 10/5/2021.

# Latest information on Omicron subvariant BA.2

If you want to read just one thing, read this:

<https://www.who.int/news/item/22-02-2022-statement-on-omicron-sublineage-ba.2>

This more technical article is also a good summary but new data has come out since it was released

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-022-00471-2>

Growing consensus that BA.2 is more transmissible than BA.1.

Proliferation of mostly laboratory and animal studies last week with conflicting findings

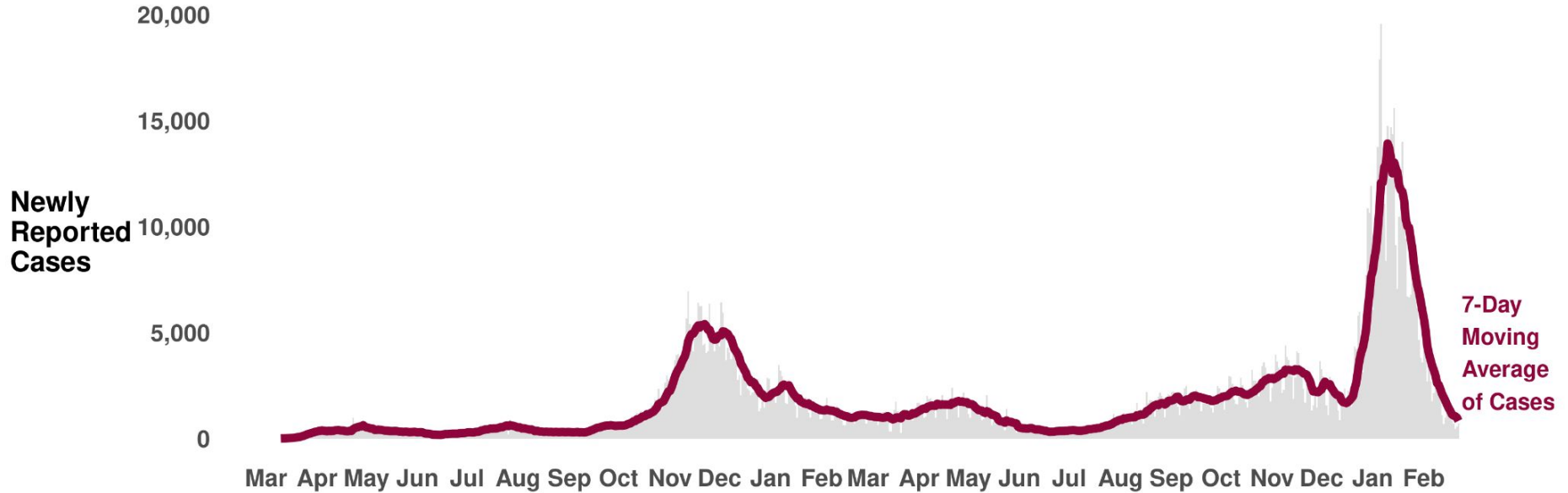
- Severity

- Immune evasion

- Treatment effectiveness

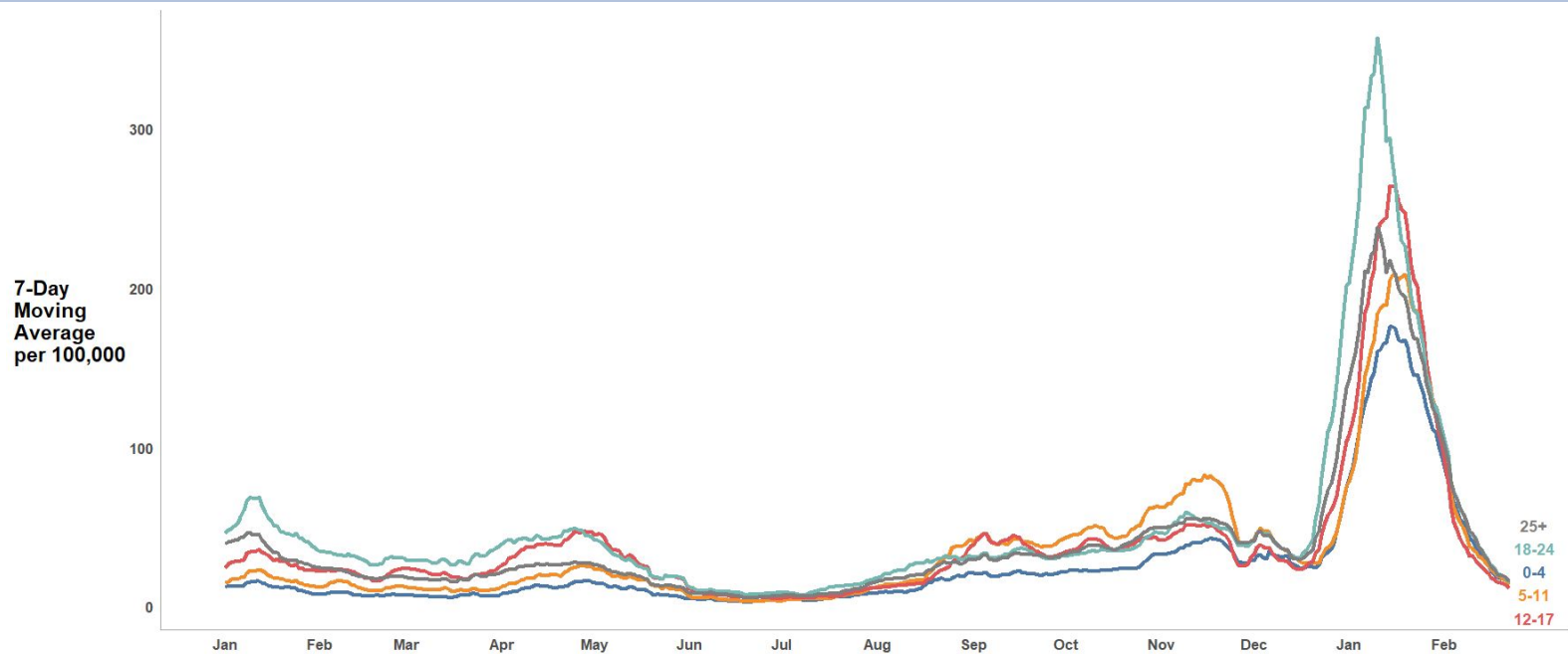
Could prolong surge and be more challenging to manage but seems unlikely to cause new surge.

# Cases rapidly decreasing



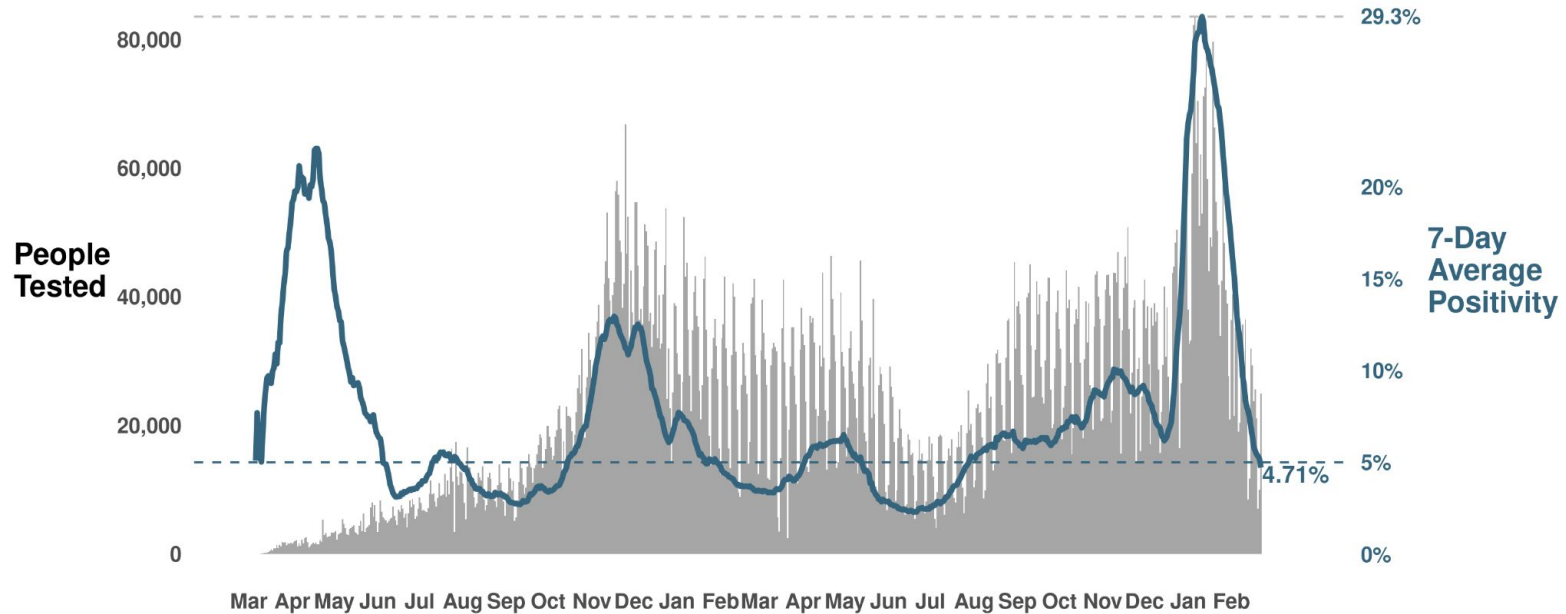
Updated Feb 23, 2022

# Decline among all age groups



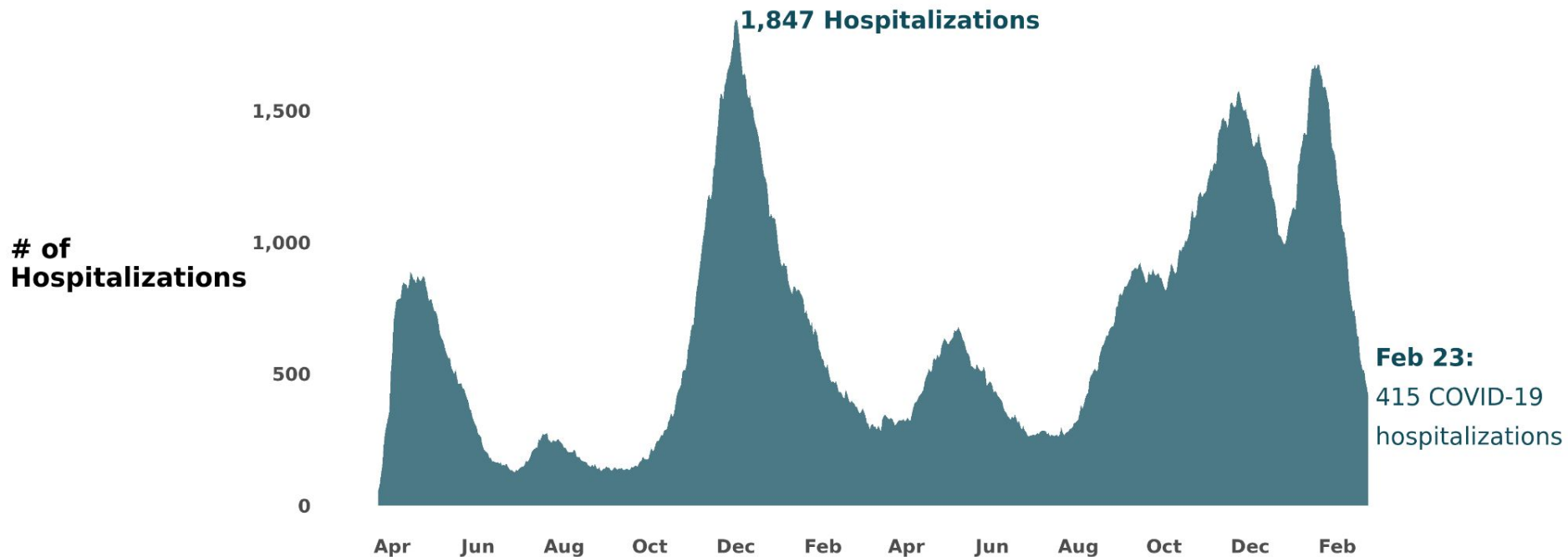
Updated Feb 24, 2022

# Percent positivity also trending down rapidly

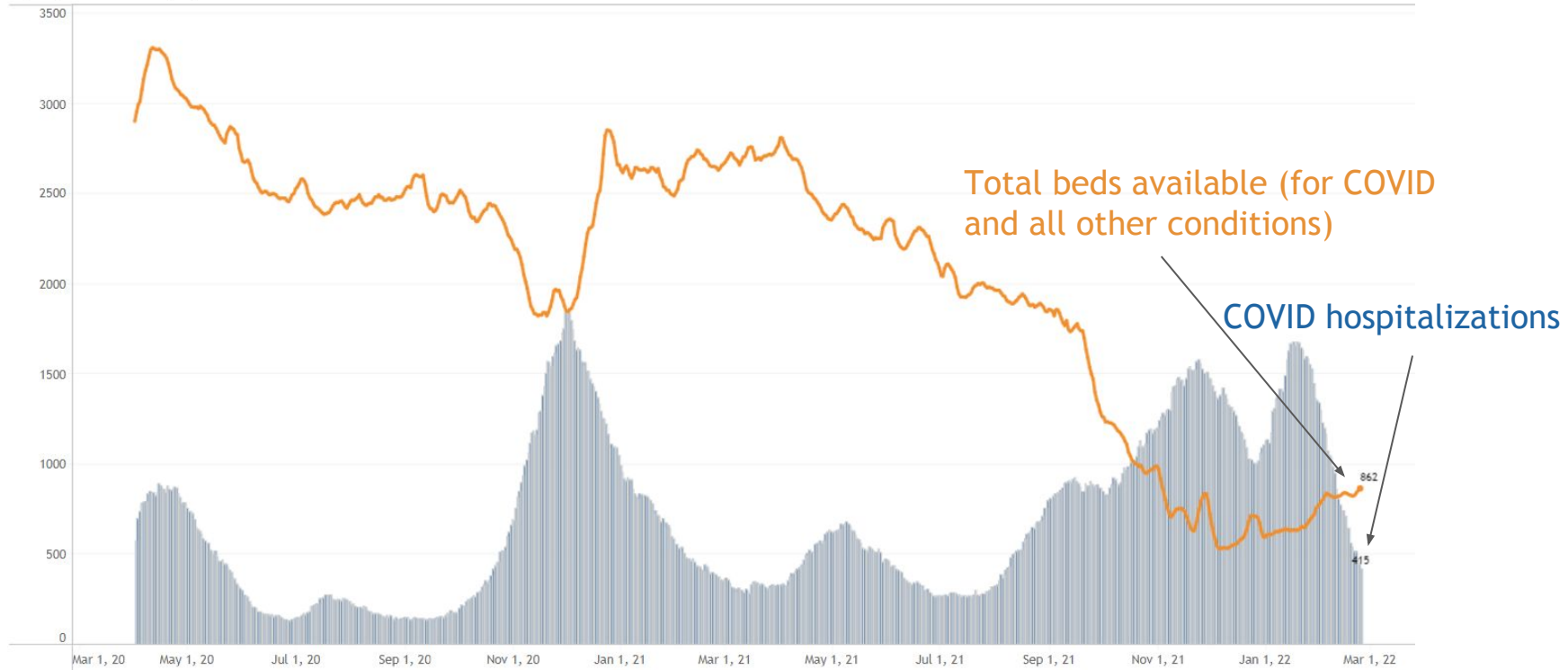


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# Hospitalizations decreasing rapidly



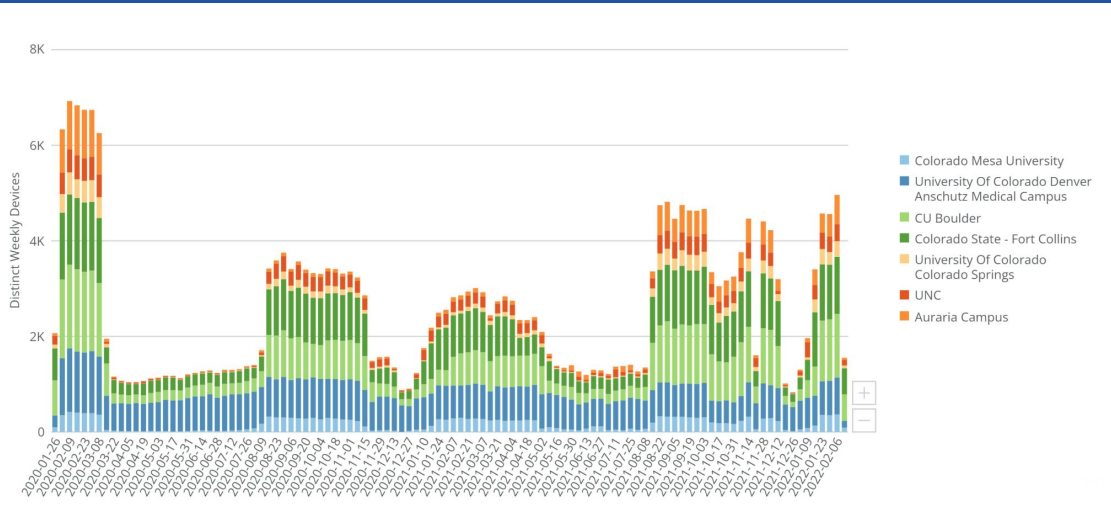
# Hospital capacity





# Mobility Trends

Comparing recent weekly visitation averages among the active campus group versus a pre-COVID baseline, we see most of the largest schools remain below the pre-COVID period.



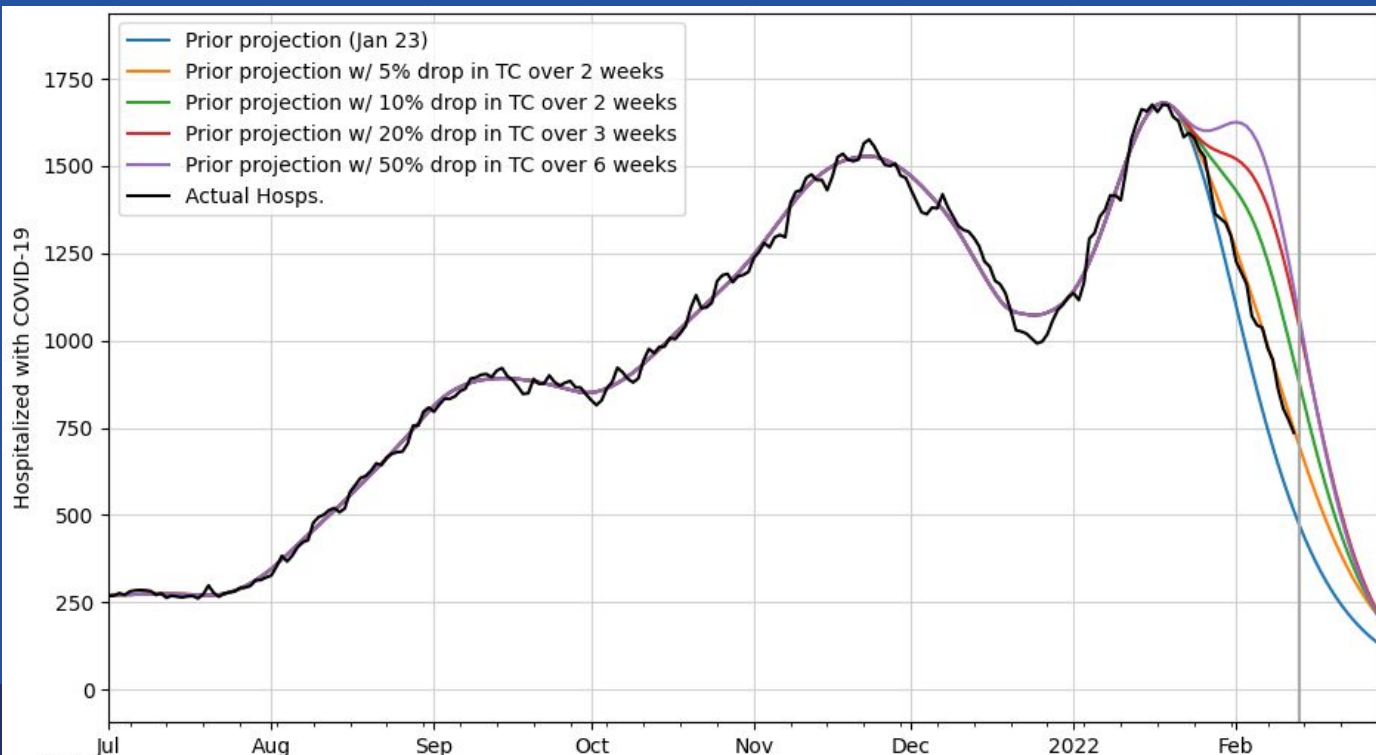
	Normalized Recent vs. pre-COVID Baseline
Auraria / Metro Campus	-39.32%
Colorado Mesa University	0.12%
Colorado State - Fort Collins	-5.17%
CU Boulder	-11.22%
UNC, Greeley	-12.07%
University Of Colorado Colorado Springs	-14.77%
University Of Colorado Denver Anschutz Medical Campus	-33.03%

5 week baseline:  
Feb 2, 2020 - Mar 8, 2020

5 week recent weekly periods:  
Sept. 26, 2021 - Oct. 10, 2021; Jan. 23, 2022 - Feb. 13, 2022



# Hospitalizations are projected to decline to summer 2021 low numbers by the end of February

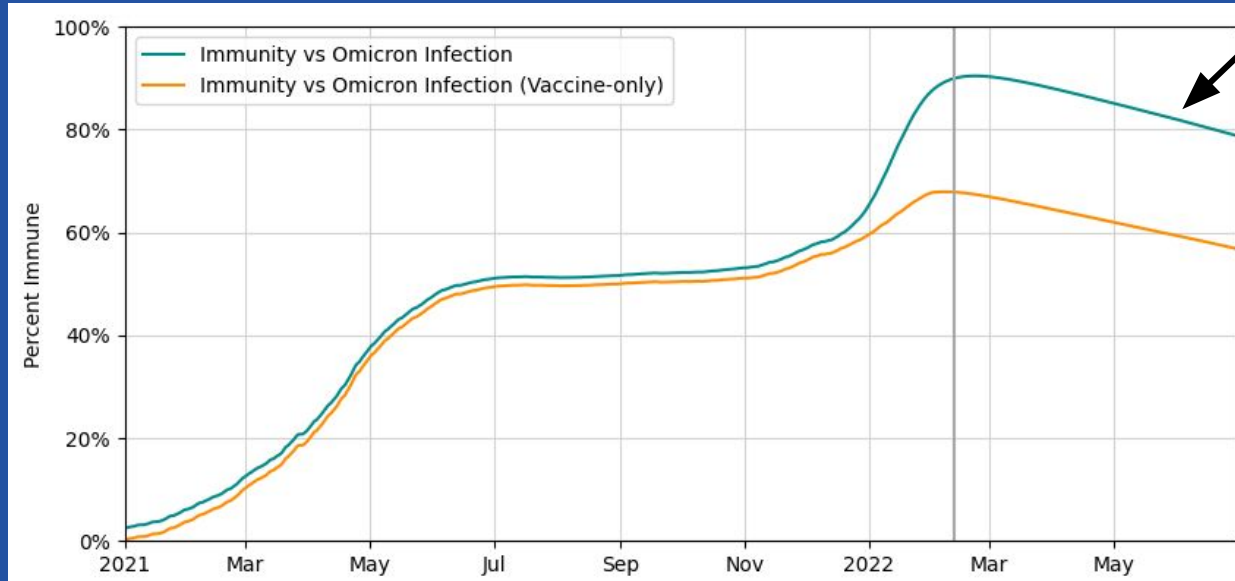


Our model indicates there were short-term reductions in contact rates during Omicron's peak, from mid-December to late January.

In the January 23 projections, we projected 5 scenarios in which we decreased TC starting on Jan 23 (gradually over 2-6 weeks) to represent people relaxing behavior as Omicron fades. The scenario we're following is the one with modest relaxation in behavior to-date.

# Immunity against omicron infection in Colorado

We estimate that 91% of Coloradans are immune to Omicron infection. In the absence of new COVID waves or vaccination initiatives, immunity would decline to 80% by June 2022.



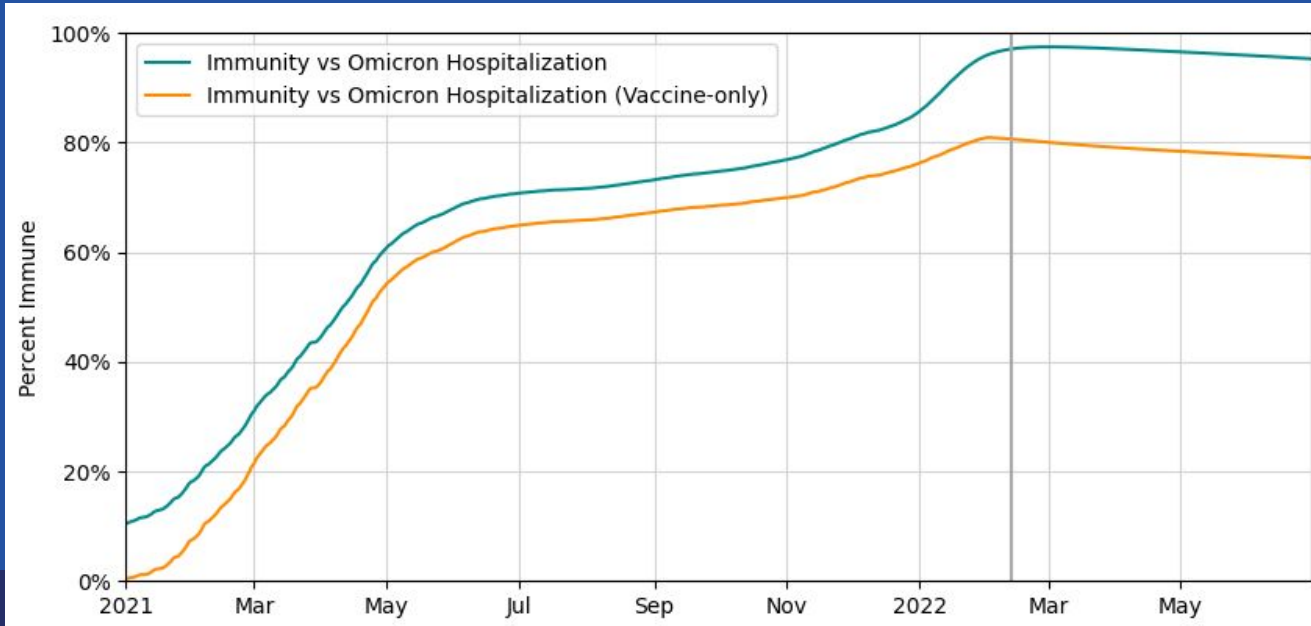
Due to unknowns about the rate of immune decay, there is high uncertainty about population immunity estimates more than a couple months in the future.

Note that a variant as infectious or more infectious than Omicron could spread rapidly even in a population that is 80% immune. New variants could reduce population immunity via increased vaccine breakthrough or weak cross-immunity from prior variant infections.



# Immunity against severe disease

We estimate that most Coloradans are now immune to severe disease. In the absence of new COVID waves or vaccination initiatives, immunity would decline slightly, but stay above 90% by June 2022.



Due to unknowns about the rate of immune decay, there is high uncertainty about population immunity estimates more than a couple months in the future.

Thank you!

