

OKALOOSA COUNTY COVID-19 KEY METRICS

Week 40

The information in this report is collected and monitored daily and updated weekly to the community. As of October 4, 2020, 5,181 COVID-19 cases are reported for Okaloosa County, an increase of 210 cases since September 27, 2020.

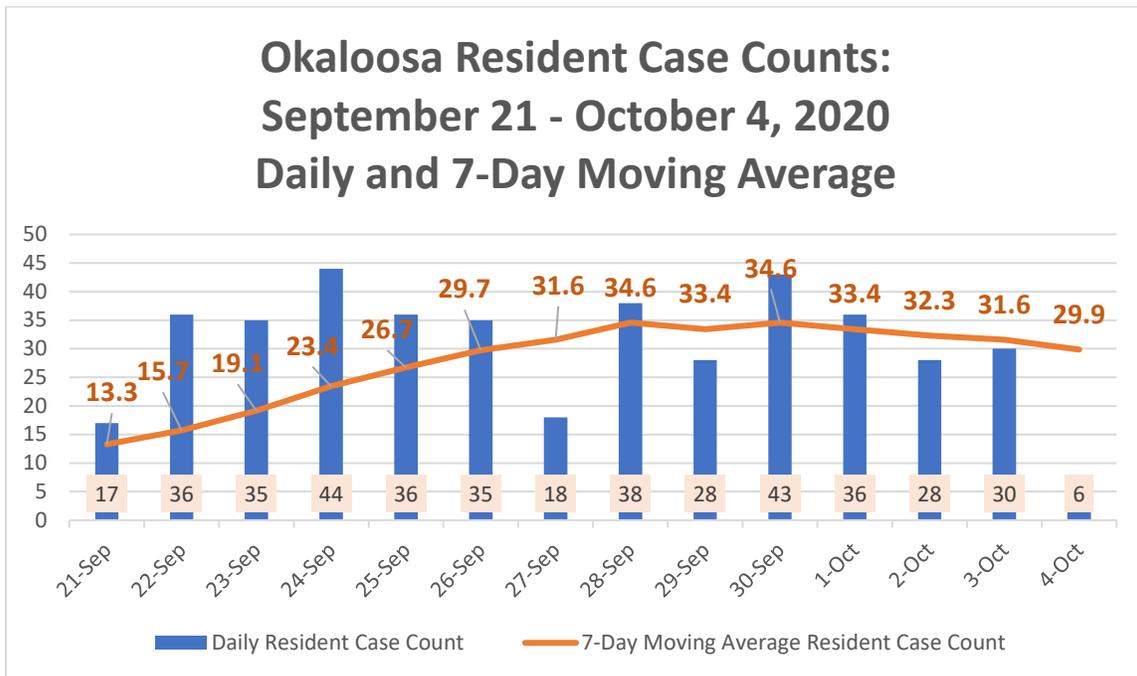
New Confirmed or Probable COVID-19+ Resident Cases over past 14 days:

Reports daily number and 7-day moving average of confirmed (PCR+) or probable (Antigen+) cases.

RATIONALE: Daily new cases reflect the proportion of the outbreak captured by surveillance systems. Number of new cases gives a sense of the size of the epidemic/outbreak in Okaloosa County.

TARGET: Decreasing case count over 14 days or at a low level (as defined by CDC* as below 10 cases per 100,000 population over 2 weeks).

*CDC Activities and Initiatives Supporting the COVID-19 Response and the President’s Plan for Opening Up America Again. May 2020. Low incidence plateau defined as a very low number of new cases (below 10 cases per 100,000 population over 2 weeks with only minimal change in daily cases).



Since September 21, 2020, daily case count has averaged 30 cases per day.

- Total Cases in 2 weeks (September 21- October 4) = 430 (up 96 cases compared to previous two-week period)
- Rate: **205 cases/100,000 population 2-week period**
- Okaloosa Population = 210,000

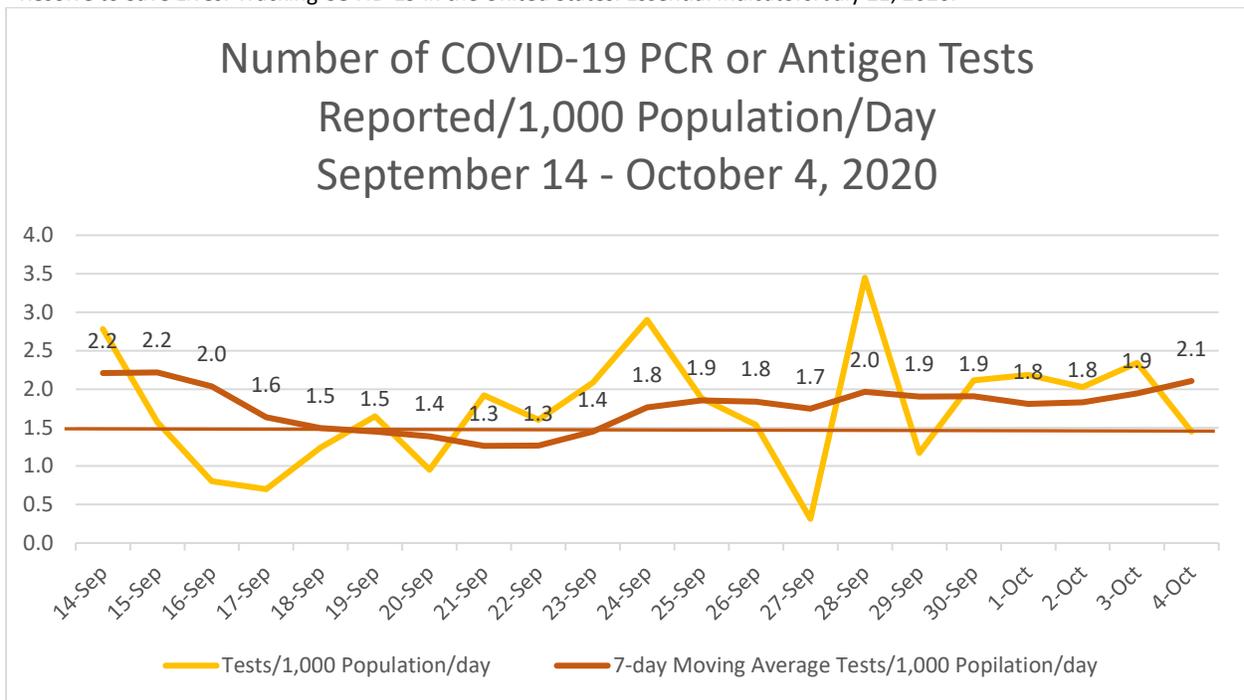
The current daily case count has returned to a level consistent with Weeks 36 and 37 and the cases per 100,000 population is also consistent with that time period. This reaffirms that the case count drop during Hurricane Sally was a result of the lack of testing during the period of the storm rather than a decline in disease. COVID-19 disease transmission continues in Okaloosa County.

COVID-19 Diagnostic (PCR) and Screening (Antigen) Testing Per Capita
 Reports daily and 7-day moving average total test results received / 1,000
 population / day.

RATIONALE: The number of cases and percent of positive tests can be interpreted only with comprehensive surveillance and testing of suspect cases in the order of 1.5 /1,000 population/day.

TARGET: 1.5 tests / 1,000 population / day*

*Resolve to Save Lives. Tracking COVID-19 in the United States. Essential Indicators. July 21, 2020.



Testing and returning test results is adequate testing (PCR or antigen) to interpret the burden of disease in the County based on the case count and the percentage of positive COVID-19 diagnostic tests received.

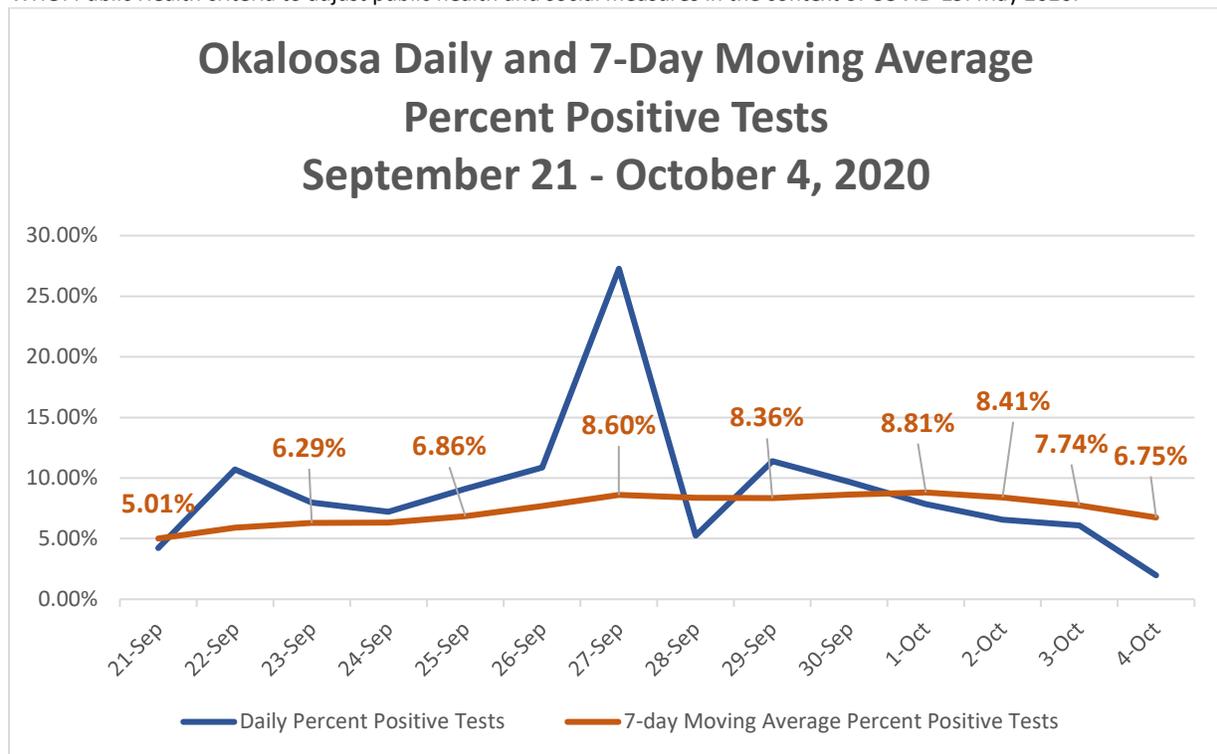
Percent Positive COVID-19 Tests:

Reports daily and 7-day moving average percentage of all positive COVID-19 diagnostic and screening tests (regardless of provider) for Okaloosa County residents.

RATIONALE: Test positivity is an important indicator of the burden of disease in the area (county). The percent of positive tests can be interpreted only with comprehensive surveillance and testing of suspect cases in the order of 1.5 /1,000 population/day, which Okaloosa County achieves (see above metric).

TARGET: 5% or less of tests for COVID-19 are positive for at least 2 weeks.

*WHO. Public Health criteria to adjust public health and social measures in the context of COVID-19. May 2020.



Sunday October 4, 2020 saw a low number of test results returned to Okaloosa. For the past four days we have seen a decline in percent positivity but as of yet, no sustained decline over a two-week period. Okaloosa remains above the <5% target.

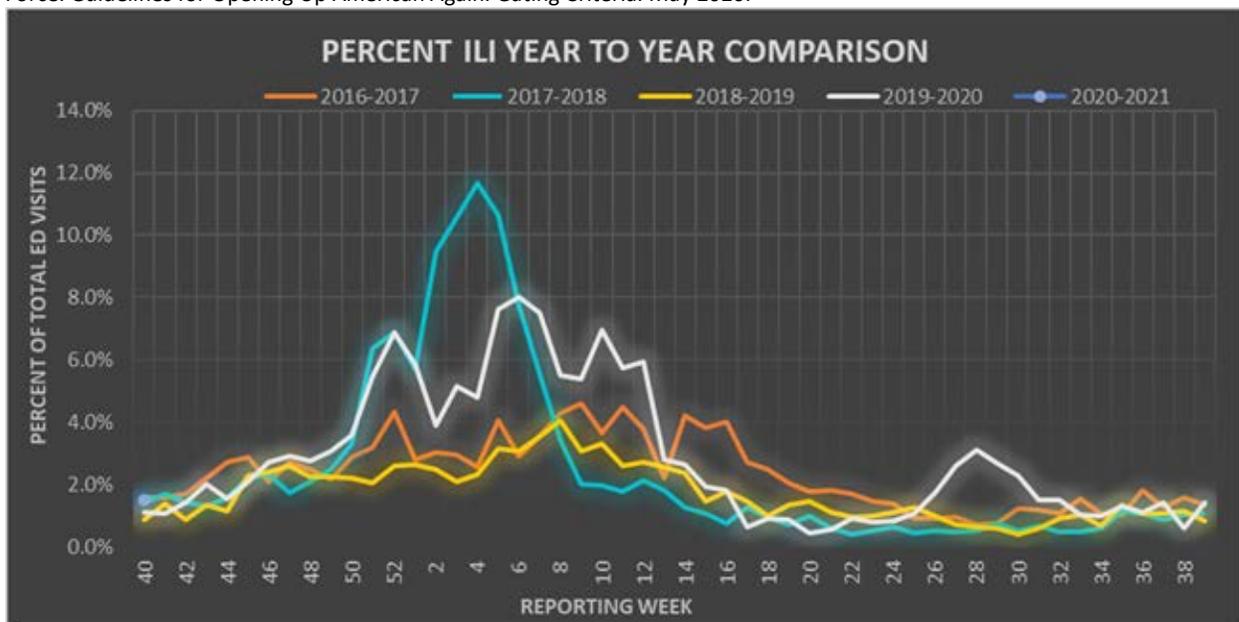
Influenza-Like Illness

Activity levels are based on the percent of emergency department visits due to influenza-like illness (ILI) compared with past year activity at the same time of the year.

RATIONALE: This type of syndromic surveillance* is used to monitor trends in emergency department visits and can be used to potentially detect a rise in COVID-19 cases before a rise in confirmed cases occurs. ILI is defined as fever (temperature of 100° F or greater with cough and/or sore throat without a known cause other than influenza).

TARGET: At or below baseline for the time of year based on past year trends for percent of ILI visits to emergency departments.

*Resolve to Save Lives. Tracking COVID-19 in the United States. Essential Indicators. July 21, 2020. White House Coronavirus Task Force. Guidelines for Opening Up American Again. Gating Criteria. May 2020.



In Week 40, percentage of emergency department visits for ILI remains below baseline for this time of year.

WEEK	VISITS ILI/Total	% ILI of Total ED Visits	WEEK	VISITS ILI/Total	% ILI of Total ED visits
Week 31	32/2117	1.51%	Week 36	22/1984	1.11%
Week 32	32/2107	1.52%	Week 37	30/2112	1.42%
Week 33	21/2015	1.04%	Week 38	12/1977	0.61%
Week 34	19/1918	0.99%	Week 39	28/1955	1.40%
Week 35	26/1974	1.32%	Week 40	30/2021	1.48%

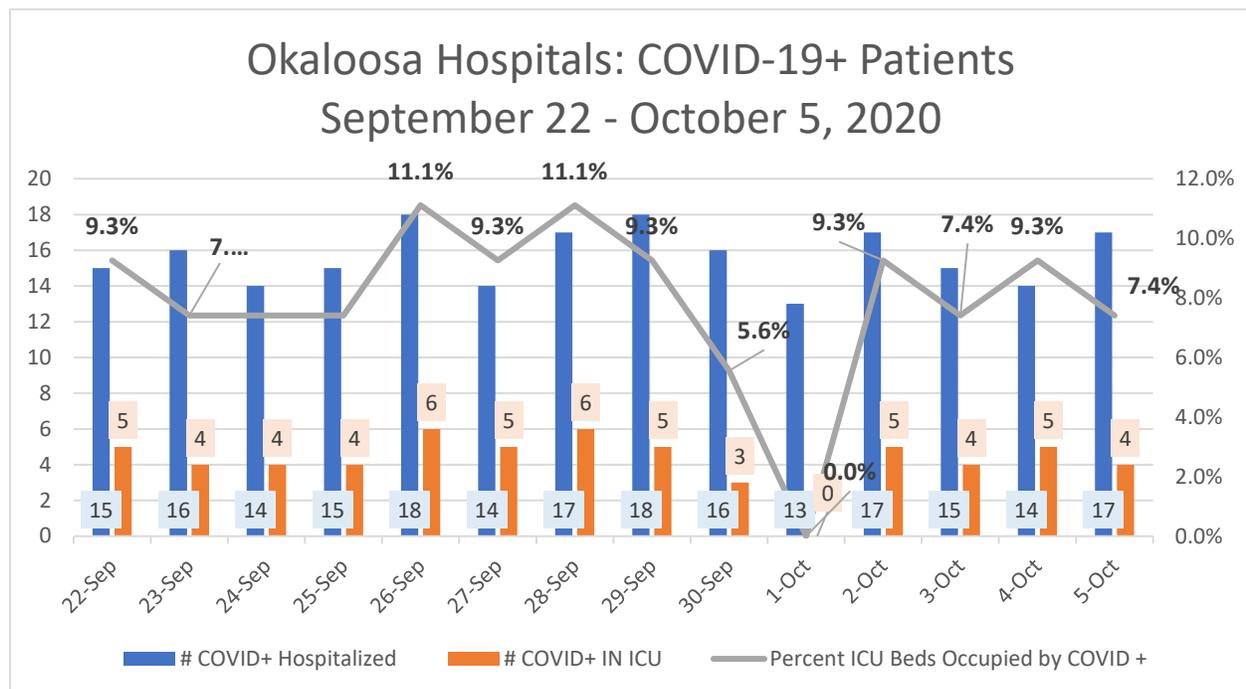
COVID-19 Hospital Admits

Number of COVID+ Hospitalized; Number of COVID+ in ICU; and percentage of ICU beds occupied by COVID+ patients.

RATIONALE*: Declining hospitalization and use of ICU beds indicates a decline in the number of cases in community, with an approximately ~1-week lag and providing that the criteria for hospitalization has not changed.

TARGET: Continuous decline in the number of hospitalized and ICU admissions of confirmed (PCR test) or probable (Antigen) COVID-19 cases for at least the past two weeks.

*WHO. Public Health criteria to adjust public health and social measures in the context of COVID-19. May 2020.



COVID-19 hospitalizations average 15 per day and ICU bed utilization has declined from an average of 10% to 7.9% of ICU beds. COVID-19 patients' occupancy of all staffed hospital beds remains just below 4%.

Deaths

As of October 3, 2020, Okaloosa County had 119 COVID-19 recorded deaths. However, on October 4, 2020, DOH-Okaloosa was notified that two deaths were removed from the total since the date of death was more than 30 days after the first COVID-19 positive test. Therefore, the total death count declined to 117. This is an increase of eight (8) deaths reported since Week 39. Five of the eight (62.5%) newly reported deaths occurred to persons 75 years and older.

AGE GROUP	DEATHS	PERCENT	CHANGE FROM 8/30
25-34 YEARS	4	3%	+0
35-44 YEARS	1	1%	+0
45-54 YEARS	6	5%	+0
55-64 YEARS	12	10%	+2
65-74 YEARS	14	12%	+1
75-84 YEARS	36	31%	+2
85+ YEARS	44	38%	+3
TOTAL	117		+8

Long-Term Care Facilities

As of October 4, 2020, Okaloosa has two long-term care facilities with 4 COVID-19+ residents under their care. This is down 3 cases from last week. As of October 4, 2020, no long-term care facilities had any COVID-19+ staff. Unfortunately, as of October 6, 2020, one long-term care facility is experiencing an outbreak of COVID-19.

K-12 Public Schools

Public schools include the Okaloosa County School District, Charter Schools, and Okaloosa Technical College. The report only applies to students or staff who are attending or working in or for a brick and mortar school facility.

It has been five weeks (8/31 – 9/27) since K-12 school has been open in Okaloosa County. During this period there have been 111 cases of COVID-19 in students and school staff. Those 111 cases resulted in 842 school-based contacts (both students and staff) who were required to go into quarantine. Please note some of the numbers have changed from last week due to ongoing updating of the database.

WEEK	Student Cases	Staff Cases	Student Contacts	Staff Contacts
8/31 – 9/6	13	5	65	7
9/7 – 9/13	8	10	156	10
9/14 – 9/20	14	8	183	5
9/21 – 9/27	22	10	162	8
9/28 – 10/4	22	8	338	13

As of October 6, at 1:45 PM, there are 23 individuals (14 students and 9 staff) who are isolated with COVID-19 infections and another 593 individuals (565 students and 28 staff) in quarantine. These numbers change daily.

SUMMARY

I know we have been in the pandemic for 7+ months and are tired of it and all the limitations it has imposed on our lives. Nevertheless, the virus has no respect for how we feel. Okaloosa residents must continue to push the COVID-19 outbreak curve downward through rigorous adherence to the practice of the following personal protective measures:

- **STAY HOME WHEN YOU ARE SICK!**
 - **If you have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 – stay home or leave work or school – get tested!**
 - **Stay at home until you get your test results!**
 - **Please don't risk exposing others!**
 - **If your results indicate you have COVID-19 – you will [ISOLATE](#) at home, unless you need hospital care.**
- **STAY HOME IF YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO COVID-19**
 - **If you have been told you are a close contact to someone with COVID-19, stay home, unless you have had COVID-19 in the past 3 months.**
 - **You are a close contact**
 - **If you were within 6 feet of someone with COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more – this is cumulative exposure not just continuous;**
 - **If you provide care at home to someone who is sick with COVID-19;**

- If you had direct physical contact with the person (hugged or kissed them);
- If you shared eating or drinking utensils;
- If someone who is sick sneezes, coughs, or somehow gets respiratory droplets on you.
- This is called [QUARANTINE](#).
- The Health Department puts people into quarantine and is the only entity that can release a person from quarantine.
- Washing hands for at least 20 seconds and washing hands often
- Avoid groups of people and close contact with others
- When outside the home practice physical distancing (at least 6 feet)
- Cover your mouth and nose with an appropriate face mask
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces
- Monitor your health daily, which includes staying home when you have COVID-like symptoms or are waiting for results of a COVID-19 test

Isolation is for people who are sick, and quarantine is for people who are well. It is important to know the difference. Many people mix up the terms or use them interchangeably. Timeframes for isolation and quarantine are different. For COVID-19, many times people who are cases and placed in isolation are back at work or school before their contacts. Examples of start and end times for quarantine for COVID-19 can be found at [CDC-Quarantine](#).

As we move into the upcoming holiday season, many people are already starting to plan for the celebrations. I strongly encourage you as you plan for fall and winter celebrations, to consider CDC guidance. Guidance can be found at [HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS](#).