

OKALOOSA COUNTY COVID-19 KEY METRICS

Week 41

The information in this report is collected and monitored daily and updated weekly to the community. As of October 11, 2020, 5,411 COVID-19 cases are reported for Okaloosa County, an increase of 230 cases since October 4, 2020.

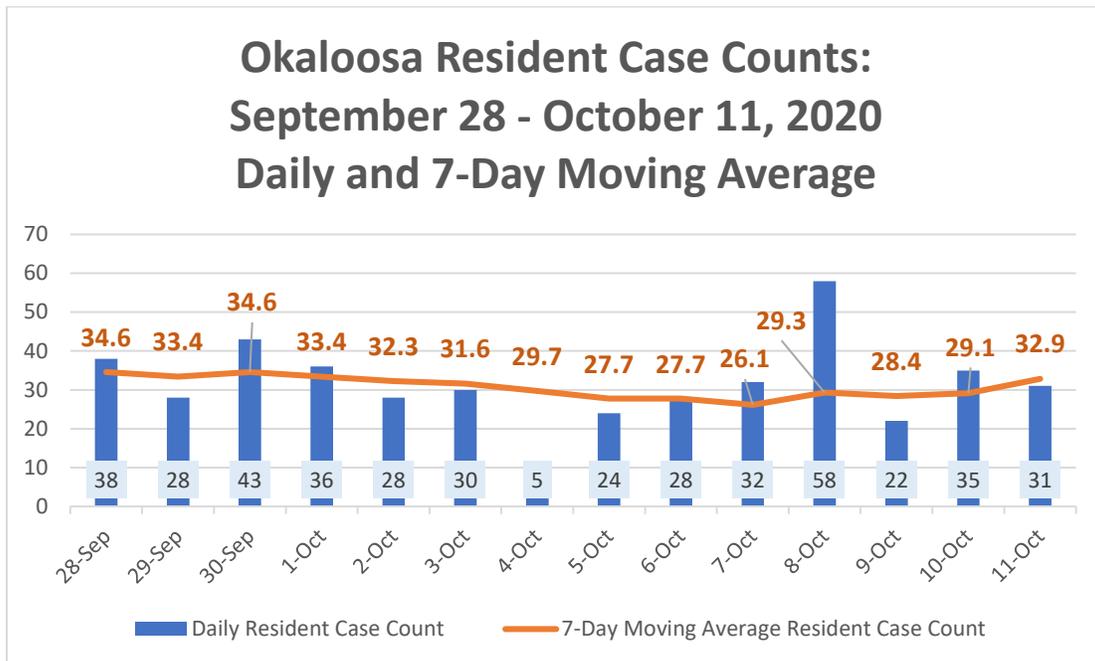
New Confirmed or Probable COVID-19+ Resident Cases over past 14 days:

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 28, 2020, daily case count has averaged 31 cases per day. To be below 10 cases per 100,000 in a 2-week period, Okaloosa should have 21 or fewer cases occur in every 14-day period. In the last 14-day period Okaloosa had 438 cases. For a population estimated at 210,000, that means we at 208 cases/100,000 in a 2-week period.

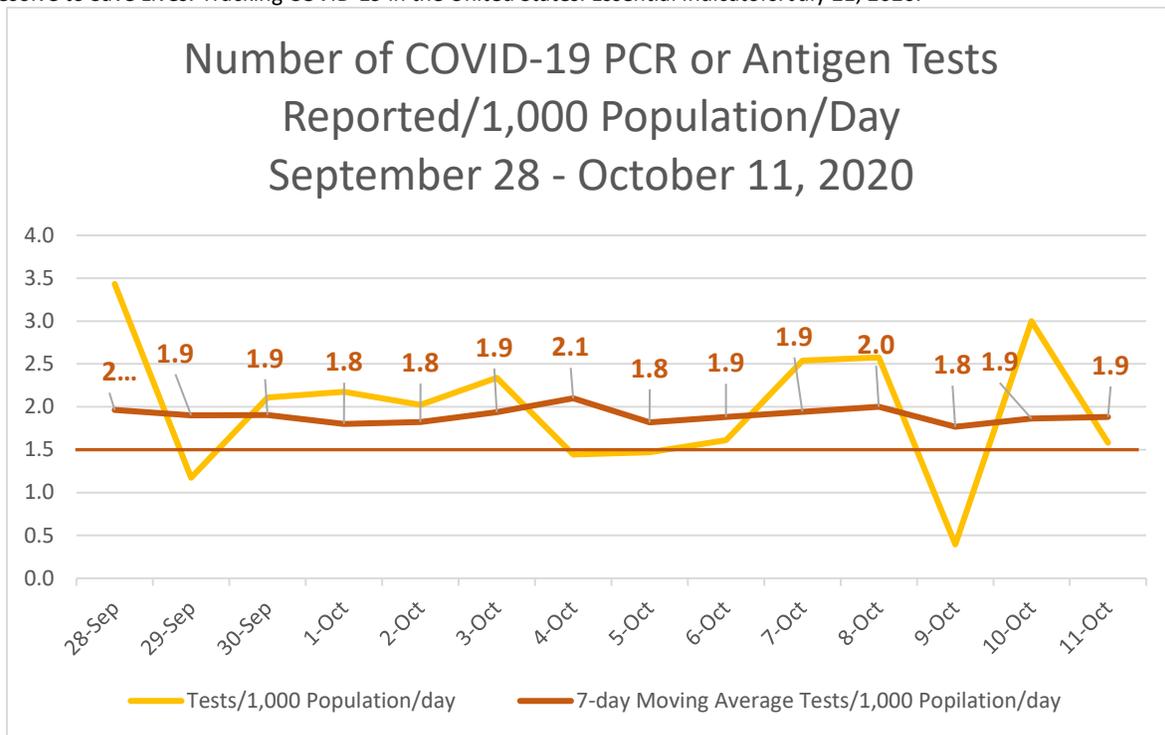
COVID-19 Diagnostic (PCR) and Screening (Antigen) Testing Per Capita

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 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.

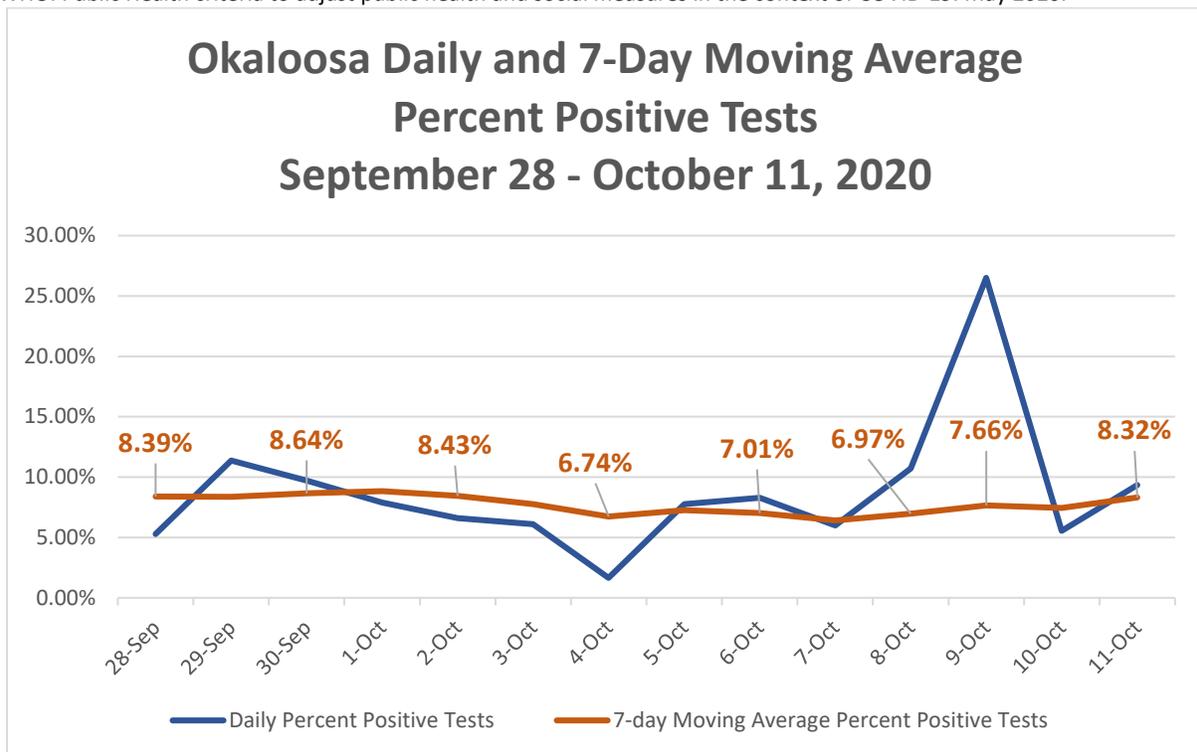
Percent Positive COVID-19 Tests:

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.



Last week's four-day decline in percent positivity did not persist. The 7-day moving percent positivity as of October 11, 2020 was 8.32%. Okaloosa remains above the <5% target.

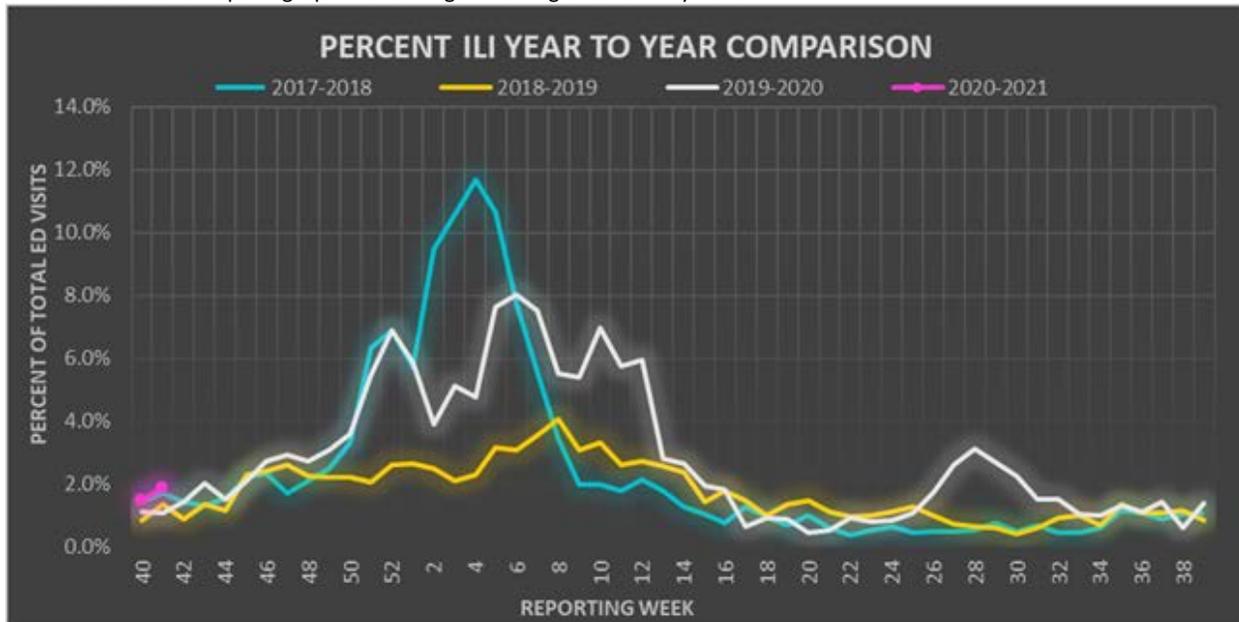
Influenza-Like Illness

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. Influenza monitoring is based on the season of peak influenza which in the northern hemisphere is monitored October 1 – September 30. Therefore, the graphic will show a new line (titled 2020-2021, fuchsia pink) this week.

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 41 of the calendar year, percentage of emergency department visits for ILI is starting to increase and is above the Okaloosa baseline for this time of year. There is a notable rise in the number of emergency department visits and visits related to influenza-like illness in Week 41.

WEEK	VISITS ILI/Total	% ILI of Total ED Visits	WEEK	VISITS ILI/Total	% ILI of Total ED visits
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%
Week 36	22/1984	1.11%	Week 41	43/2264	1.90%

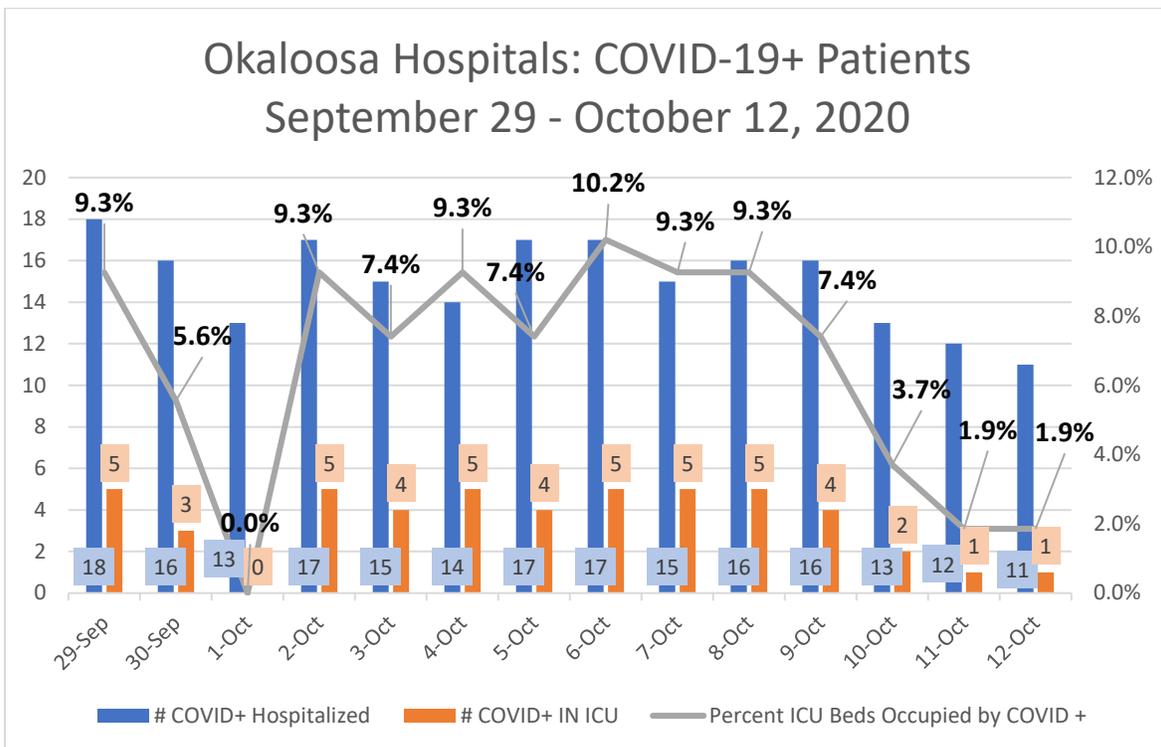
COVID-19 Hospital Admits

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 over the past two weeks are static at about 15 per day. ICU bed utilization has declined from an average of 7.9% from Week 40 to 3.8% of ICU beds in Week 41. COVID-19 patients' occupancy just under 4% of all staffed hospital beds.

Deaths

As of October 11, 2020, Okaloosa County has 122 COVID-19 recorded deaths. One death that had been excluded in last week's report was added back. DOH-Okaloosa worked with the hospital of the death and we were able to provide additional documentation which supported the immediate cause of death was due to a prior COVID-19 infection. The 122 deaths represent an increase of 4 newly reported deaths with 1 removed death being placed back in our death count. Only 1 of the 4 (25%) 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	13	11%	+1
65-74 YEARS	17	14%	+3
75-84 YEARS	36	30%	+0
85+ YEARS	45	38%	+1
TOTAL	122		+5

Long-Term Care Facilities

There was an outbreak of COVID-19 on Monday October 5 in a long-term care (LTC) facility. As of Sunday (10/4), there were nine (9) positive residents and 11 positive staff reported at this facility. Other than this facility, only one other LTC facility reported 1 positive staff member.

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 six weeks (8/31 – 10/11) since K-12 school has been open in Okaloosa County. During this period there have been 197 cases of COVID-19 in students and

school staff. Those 197 cases have resulted in 1,728 school-based contacts (both students and staff) being placed into quarantine. Cases and contacts are below. Week 0 was added to reflect the students that had to be excluded from school in the first week due to cases diagnosed the week before school started. Please note numbers by cell may change from last week due to ongoing updating of the database.

WEEK	Student Cases	Staff Cases	Student Contacts	Staff Contacts
0: 8/24 – 9/31	1	1	16	2
1: 8/31 – 9/6	13	5	65	6
2: 9/7 – 13	8	10	157	10
3: 9/14 – 20	14	8	181	5
4: 9/21 – 27	23	10	217	9
5: 9/28 – 10/4	22	9	295	13
6: 10/5 – 11	45	18	705	38

DOH-Okaloosa and the Okaloosa County School District (OCSD) are coordinating all contact investigations. We have a strong, collaborative relationship and their assistance has been invaluable. The DOH-Okaloosa retains all oversight of all case investigation and contact tracing done in the schools. Based on this collaboration, the OCSD is now featuring [OCSD COVID Dashboard](#) on their website.

School-based transmission has been confirmed from 11 cases to 12 contacts since the start of school on August 31, 2020. Transmission of COVID-19 has been confirmed at three area high schools and four elementary schools. For the elementary schools: three teacher cases to three student contacts; one student case to a teacher contact; one student case to student contact. In our high schools: six student cases to seven student contacts. Transmission from a case to two or more contacts is classified as an outbreak.

As of October 13, at 12:30 PM, there are 65 individuals (46 students and 19 staff) who are isolated with COVID-19 infections and another 655 individuals (615 students and 40 staff) in quarantine. These numbers change daily.

SUMMARY

The COVID-19 disease caused by SARS-CoV-2 continues to spread in Okaloosa County. Not only have we hit a plateau of about 31 cases per day, but we persist at a high incidence of COVID-19 per 100,000 population. To be at a low incidence, in a two-week period, we should have no more than 21 cases per 100,000 population and Okaloosa is at 208 cases per 100,000 – nearly 10 times higher.

This high incidence is reflected in our public K-12 schools. Week 6 of school saw the most students (45) and staff (18) cases of COVID-19 since school started. These 63 cases resulted in 705 students and 38 teachers being placed in quarantine. Since school started, 1,644 students and 84 staff were placed in quarantine, some children more than once. We have also documented school-based transmission of COVID-19 from 11 cases to 12 of their contacts. For those contacts who developed symptoms (many of the symptoms were mild) onset began between 2 – 11 days after last contact with the case. Fortunately, with the contacts in quarantine when they started symptoms or were tested, no further contacts outside the household were impacted.

In Week 41, we saw our first outbreak in several weeks in a long-term care facility. And we are beginning to see a rise in influenza-like-illness cases from our emergency departments – elevating my concern that our hospitals are in for a potentially rough fall/winter if both SARS-CoV-2 and influenza viruses circulate freely this fall and winter.

Have you gotten your influenza vaccination yet? I would encourage you to get your vaccination by the end of this month. Everyone 6 months of age or older is recommended by the CDC to get an annual influenza vaccination. It won't protect you from COVID-19, so you will still need to practice personal protective measures.

While outdoor events are safer, the need to maintain physical distancing remains important. Outdoor events can turn into super spreader events when personal protective messages are not practiced. Any indoor event in which people gather and personal protective measures are not practiced, is high-risk for transmission.

COVID-19 is a serious viral infection with more than 215,439 people dead in the United States in 7.5 months. That is essentially equivalent to the entire population of Okaloosa County.