

OKALOOSA COUNTY COVID-19 KEY METRICS

Ending March 21, 2021

This report covers the period of March 1 – 21, 2021. Since March 1, 2020, Okaloosa County has had 19,062 resident cases of COVID-19. Approximately 9% of residents have been diagnosed with COVID-19 since the pandemic started.

COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRESS

Over 60,000 doses of vaccine have been given in Okaloosa County in the past three months. As of March 20, 22.4% of the population 16 years and older in Okaloosa County has received one or more doses of the vaccine and 15% are fully vaccinated.

For the Okaloosa population 65 years and older, 71% have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine and 55% are fully vaccinated. Based on current information, approximately, 30% of persons age 60-64; 15% of persons age 55-59; and 13% of persons age 50-54 have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Vaccine eligibility will open by age groups in Florida. As of March 22, 2021, all persons 50 years of age or older are eligible to receive the vaccine. Healthcare workers, including long-term care staff, and persons deemed medically eligible by a physician may also continue to receive vaccination. Current vaccines are authorized for individuals 16 years and older (Pfizer) or 18 years and older (Moderna; J&J). The vaccine is currently not available for younger children, but clinical trials are underway in the United States and around the world.

All the COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective in preventing severe disease, hospitalization, and death – the most serious outcomes of this infection. They are safe, effective, and supply is increasing. So, when it is your turn, even if you have had COVID-19 in the past year, sign up to get the first COVID-19 vaccine offered to you. The DOH-Okaloosa currently has the Pfizer vaccine.

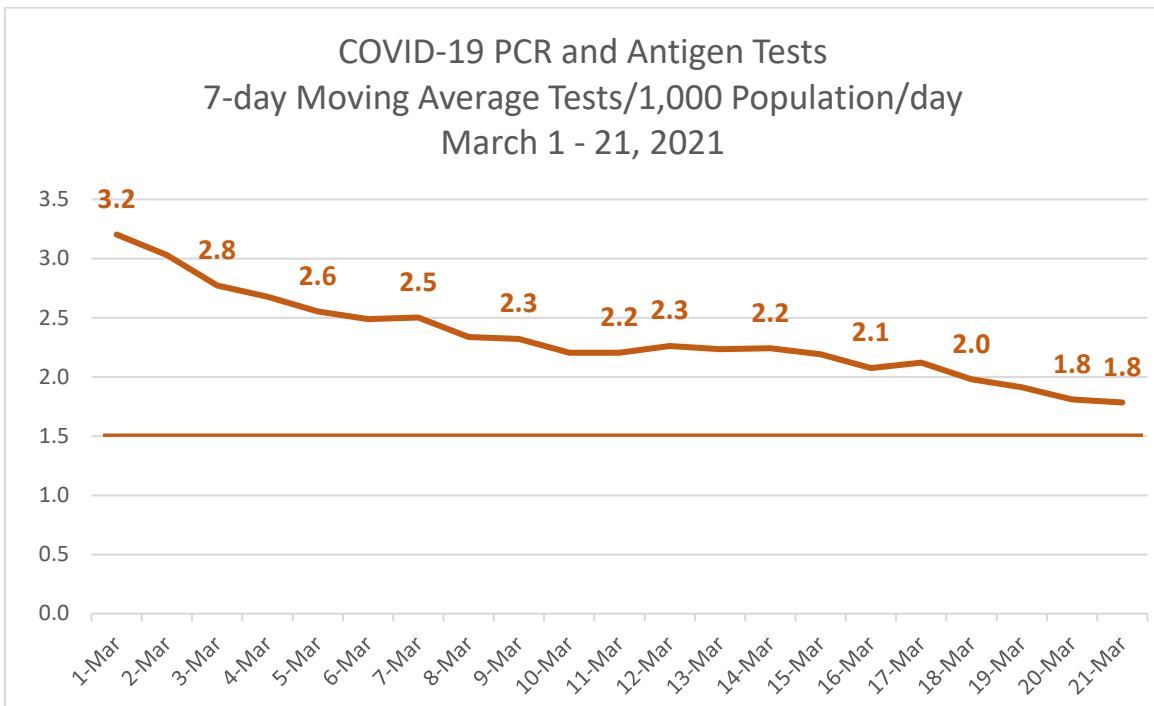
COVID-19 Diagnostic (PCR) and Screening (Antigen) Testing Per Capita

Reports daily and 7-day moving average total test results received / 1,000 population / day. This is a key indicator to assess trends in numbers of new cases and percent positivity of COVID-19 tests.

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.



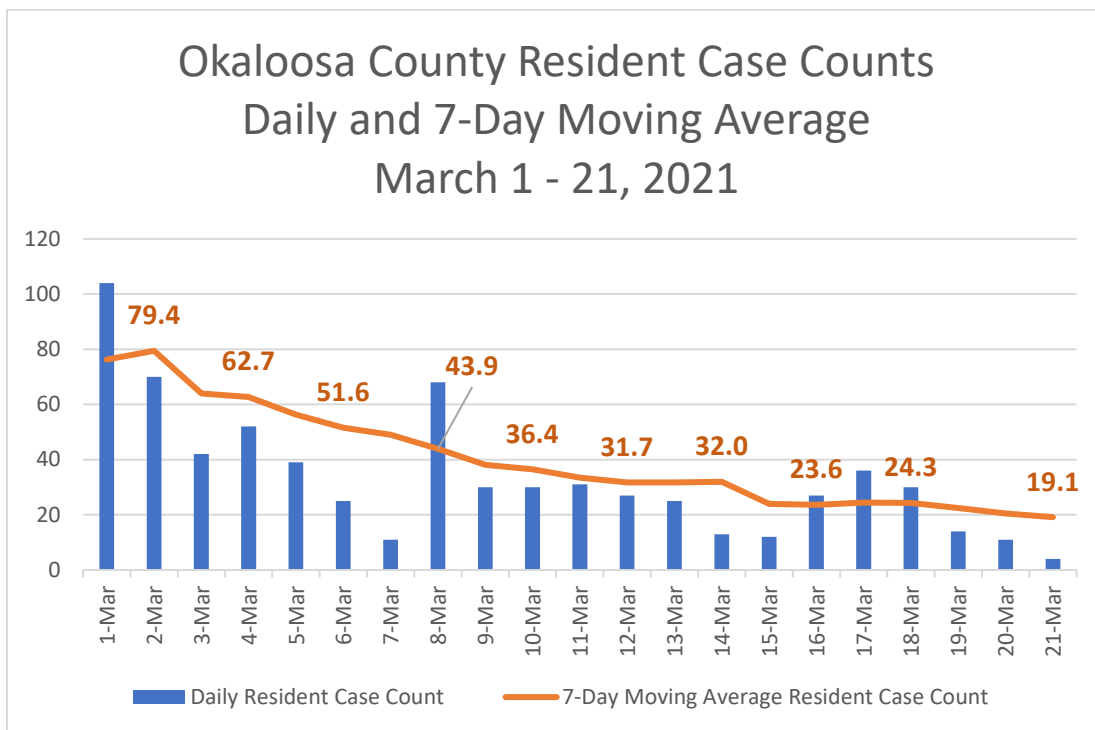
Okaloosa County continues to meet this key metric, despite a decline in testing services over the past three weeks. In the past 7-days, Okaloosa averaged 374 test results reported per day, down from 521 test results reported per day on March 6, 2021. Testing remains adequate to evaluate the next two key metrics.

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. *CDC Activities and Initiatives Supporting the COVID-19 Response and the President’s Plan for Opening Up America Again. May 2020.



The downward trend that we began to see in early March for both daily case count and the 7-day average daily case count continues. This is good news. It does not mean we are out of the woods yet. I would caution everyone not to let your guard down yet. We are so close and yet it remains important to keep wearing masks in public and get the first vaccine available to you when your turn comes around.

We saw a similar downward trend last September/October 2020 which was followed by a surge of cases from November 2020 through January 2021. The question remains open if the downward trend we are seeing now will persist or if

Spring Break and the start of summer will see a surge of more cases, especially as the percentage of new cases attributable to the variants becomes greater. Our best bet against that is getting the vaccine. More people getting the vaccine is our road to more time together with family and friends while still protecting those most vulnerable to serious disease and death.

Supply is not an issue at this point. If you sign up for a vaccine, the DOH-Okaloosa has the dose(s) for you. Unfortunately, for the past three weeks, DOH-Okaloosa has not fully filled several vaccination clinics. The Tuesday March 23rd clinic in Crestview had 1320 appointment slots of which 36.5% of the appointments were NOT scheduled.

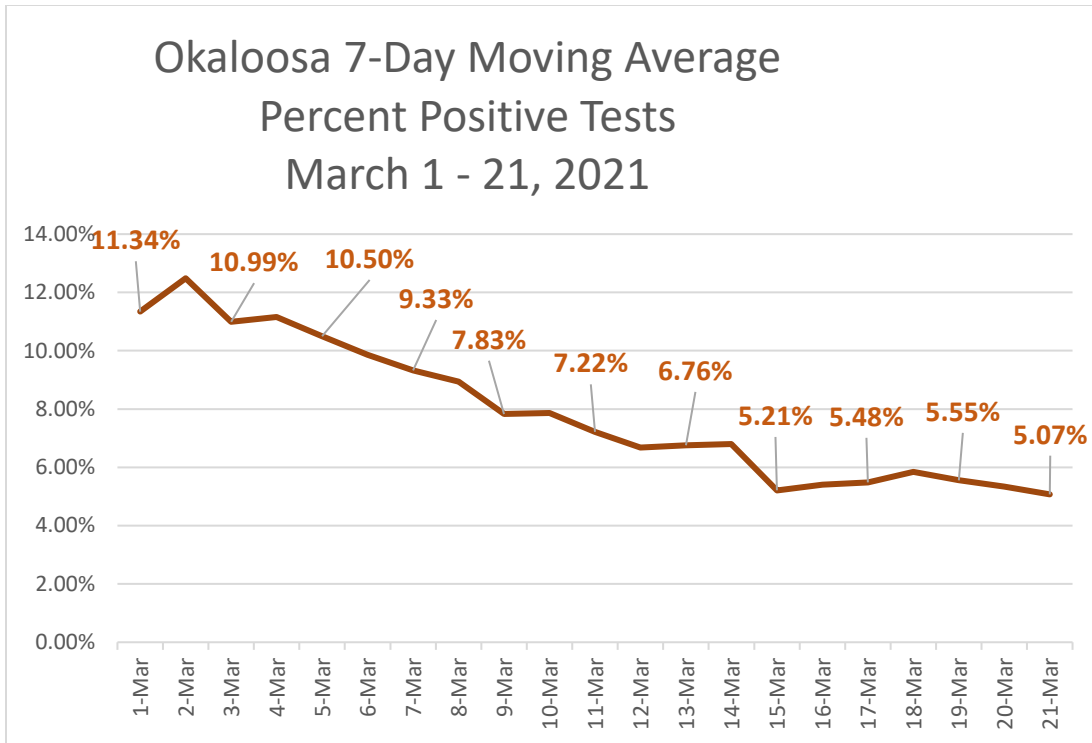
Percent Positive COVID-19 Tests:

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 another 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 first metric in report).

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.



In the March 6, 2021 report, the percent positive tests hovered at 10-11%. In the past two-weeks, there has been a clear downward trend. While Okaloosa has not met this key metric target, the trend is encouraging. Again, caution should not be thrown to the wind. We also saw a decline in the fall before the winter surge. It is too early to tell what sort of seasonality we will experience with this virus and probably too early to know the impact of vaccination since we still have months to go to reach even 70% herd immunity. That is why it remains so important that when it is your turn to get the vaccine, get the first one available to you. All are safe and effective and authorized by the FDA based on clinical testing.

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.

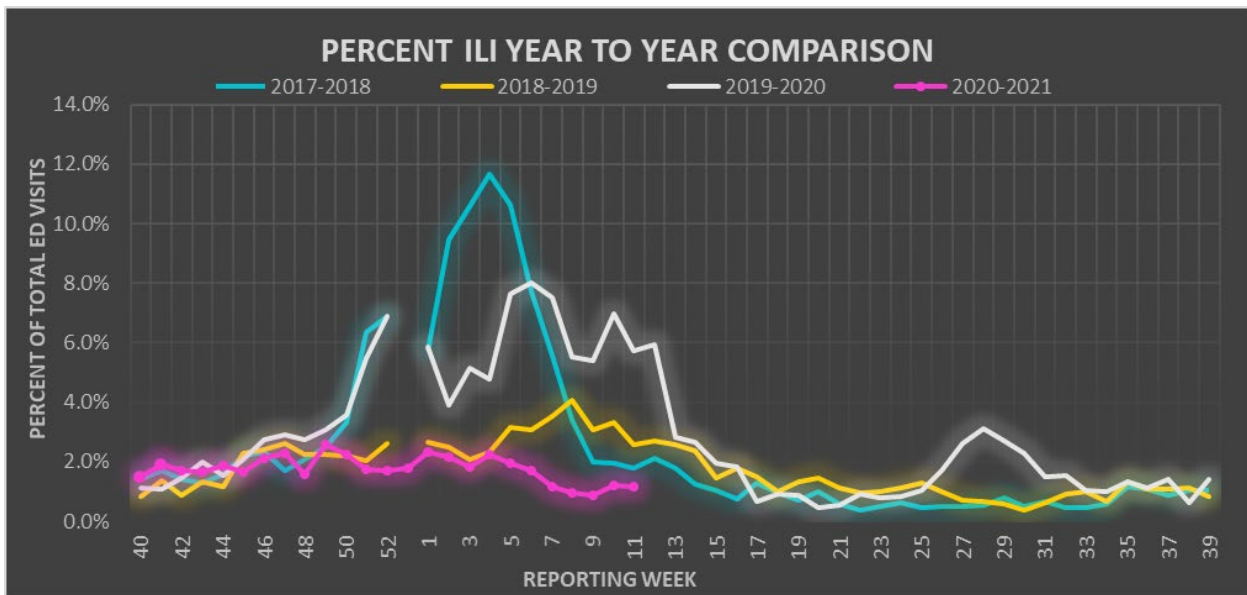
RATIONALE: This type of syndromic surveillance* is used to monitor trends in emergency department visits and can be used to potentially detect a rise in COVID-19 cases before a rise in confirmed cases occurs. ILI is defined as

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.

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

The percent of ILI visits to local emergency departments remains below 2%. To date, the 2020-2021 influenza season has been mild.



WEEK	VISITS ILI/Total	% ILI of Total ED Visits	WEEK	VISITS ILI/Total	% ILI of Total ED visits
Week 02	44/2035	2.16%	Week 07	22/1918	1.15%
Week 03	37/2042	1.81%	Week 08	20/2054	0.97%
Week 04	45/2010	2.24%	Week 09	18/2045	0.88%
Week 05	39/1990	1.96%	Week 10	26/2140	1.21%
Week 06	35/2061	1.70%	Week 11	25/2168	1.15%

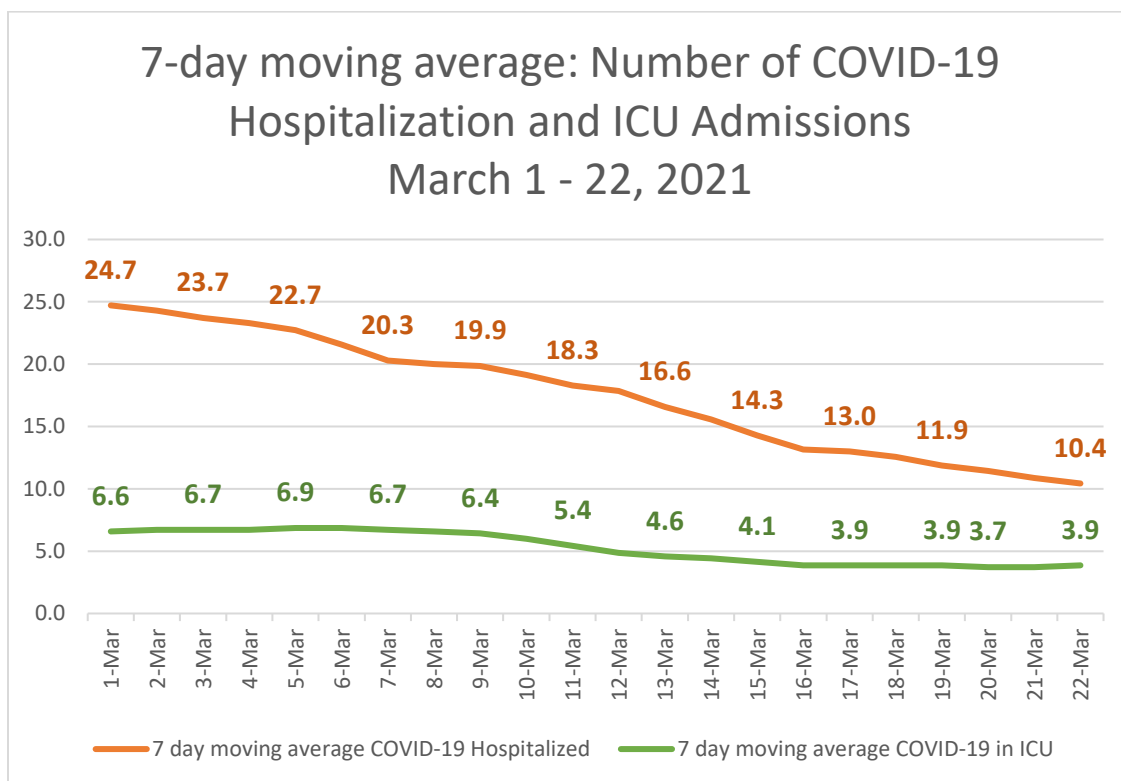
COVID-19 Hospital Admits

Number of COVID+ Hospitalized; Number of COVID+ in ICU.

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.



Okaloosa hospitalizations and ICU admissions continued to decline over the past three weeks. COVID-19 hospitalizations have been less than 3% of all available acute care community hospital beds for the past week.

Deaths

There have been 11 deaths from COVID-19 since March 6, 2021. Rates of death are declining. The increase in the number of deaths in this past two-week period have noticeably declined for persons 65 years and older.

AGE GROUP	DEATHS 3/21/2021	PERCENT	CHANGE FROM 3/6/2021
25-34 YEARS	4	1%	+0
35-44 YEARS	4	1%	+0
45-54 YEARS	15	4%	+2
55-64 YEARS	34	10%	+2
65-74 YEARS	67	19%	+2
75-84 YEARS	99	29%	+2
85+ YEARS	121	35%	+3
TOTAL	344		+11

Long-term Care Facilities

As of March 22, 2021, there are no COVID-19 cases in residents residing in Okaloosa County long-term care facilities. In the past two weeks there have been no hospitalizations for or deaths from COVID-19 to long-term care facility residents. This is excellent news!

Public Schools (K-12)

For the week of March 14 – 20, 2021, Okaloosa public schools (school district and charter) had 20 cases of COVID-19 reported from 5 elementary schools, 4 middle schools, 3 high schools, and the district office. This is a 52% reduction from two weeks ago. Eighteen cases were in students and two in staff. The vast majority presented with symptoms (80%). As in the community, our public schools are seeing an ongoing decline in cases in students and staff.

And for the first time since I resumed these reports, Crestview High School dropped from #1 to #2 in the state for total cases during this school year. Of the 1,774 COVID-19 cases that occurred to students, teachers and staff through March 20, 2021 of this school year, 60% occurred in 10 schools to include: four high schools; one K-12 school; four middle schools, and one elementary school.