

**Community Health Services Advisory Committee  
CHIP | Health in All Policies Action Team  
Meeting Minutes  
January 5, 2022**

**Members Present/Representation**

- Hannah Fairman | Co District 1
- Alyssa Fritz | Co District 2
- Georgie Kinsman | Co District 3
- Ayah Mohammed | Co District 4
- Manoj Doss | Co District 5
- Pa Vang | Co District 6
- Jennifer Arnold | Co District 7
- Brady Johnson | County at Large
- Hongyi Lan | County at Large
- Erica Morris | County at Large
- Steve Nelson | County at Large
- Carol Thunstrom | County at Large
- Thomas Kottke | City of Saint Paul
- Hanna Getachew-Kreusser | City of Saint Paul
- David Muhovich | City of Saint Paul
- Sarah Osman | City of Saint Paul
- Regina Rippel | City of Saint Paul
- Kerri Elizabeth Sawyer | City of Saint Paul

**SPRCPH Staff:**

- Sara Hollie | Director
- Diane Holmgren | Deputy Director
- Laura Andersen | Health Protection Manager
- Melissa Finnegan | Government Relations Specialist
- Lynne Ogawa | Medical Director
- Tommi Godwin | Planning & Performance Improvement Supervisor
- Cathy St. Michel | Support Staff

The meeting was called to Order at 5:30 pm by Sara Hollie. Everyone was welcomed to the meeting and introductions were made.

A motion was made by Thomas Kottke and seconded by David Muhovich to approve the minutes for December 1, 2021. Motion passed by affirmation of the committee.

Agenda item:	Speaker/Discussion:
COVID-19 Update, Laura Andersen, Health Protection Manager	<p>Since Nov 3 there has been a fair amount of change regarding transmission rates in Ramsey County and the state. We are seeing a surge due to the Omicron variant. Minnesota has a sophisticated genome analysis system in place, which indicates that 68% of cases are due to Omicron. Omicron seems to be less severe than Delta. It is highly transmissible, nearly as much as measles. As people head indoors and plan visits over the holidays, case rates are rising sharply. See presentation slides attached to the minutes.</p> <p>Tommi added links to the chat to case and vaccine data. MDH now offers at-home test kits to residents for free. The Roy Wilkins Arena testing site plans to increase capacity by 50% this week. Some state testing sites allow walk-ins, but many are by appointment only. Brooklyn Center has weekend and evening hours.</p>

Agenda item:	Speaker/Discussion:
	<p>Dr. Ogawa added that the CDC has shortened their recommendation for isolation / quarantine guidelines. Ramsey County will continue to recommend a 10-day isolation period. The mask mandate is still in place in Ramsey County. Dr. Ogawa stressed that layered mitigation strategies matter. Ramsey County is moving toward providing surgical or KN95 masks for staff who are public-facing.</p>
<p>Legislative Update, Melissa Finnegan, Government Relations Specialist</p>	<p>Melissa shared information about the 2022 session and the M platform. See presentation slides attached to the minutes.</p> <p>Melissa noted it is anticipated that a large number of legislators will retire this year. This often happens when redistricting takes place.</p> <p>Melissa anticipates that the legislature will spend a lot of the surplus, however there are disagreements about how to spend it.</p> <p>Tom asked if there is something CHSAC should do as a group. In past we have sent letters to legislators for important issues. Some issues facing the state now are climate change mitigation and housing. (Face-to-Face is ending and youth were faced with being unsheltered). Melissa will work with Sara to address major issues.</p> <p>Alyssa recently attended a meeting discussing political health in general, especially around Commissioner Malcolm and climate change. Ramsey County is part of the Local Public Health Association (LPHA), which is discussing how to be proactive. Last session the legislature agreed to increase LPHA funding, which was supported by both the House and the Senate. While additional funding helps LPHAs, the situation in the state with Commissioner Malcolm will affect LPHAs and will reverberate down to the work we do. People are reaching out to support Commissioner Malcolm.</p> <p>Public health traditionally has had a tough time gaining support. When public health is good, the work seems invisible. When it is not, public health departments are under fire. Residents can help by advocating for public health with the legislature, adding a point around Commissioner Malcolm, hunger, foster care, and other major issues. Sara and Melissa will collaborate to provide language.</p> <p>Legislators prefer to hear from their own constituents. Members asked if there is anything specific that can be done to support the public health department, and if they should reach out to their legislators. A group letter from the committee can hold more sway with legislators who are not from Ramsey County. Melissa is often asked to provide stories that illustrate the support that is being sought.</p>
<p>Announcements and Updates, All</p>	<p>Other work to consider is a cardiovascular plan, a diabetes plan and vaccinations. We can explore avenues of preventing fatalities with COVID vaccine and preventing hospitalizations related to diabetes.</p>

Minutes taken by Cathy St. Michel.

Relevant comments from the chat are copied below.

Motion to adjourn (7 p.m.) passed by affirmation of the committee.

**Next meeting:** February 2, 2022

17:58:05 From T Godwin to Everyone:

Ramsey County COVID Case Situation update

<https://data.ramseycounty.us/stories/s/Ramsey-County-COVID-19-Situation-Update/w4ux-wmze>

17:59:33 From T Godwin to Everyone:

Ramsey County Vaccine dashboard

<https://data.ramseycounty.us/stories/s/v3gu-4zh7>

18:03:00 From Sara Hollie (She/Her) Saint-Paul Ramsey County Public Health to Everyone:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/testsites/athome.html>

18:54:32 From Sara Hollie (She/Her) Saint-Paul Ramsey County Public Health to Everyone:

FYI There was an astounding 54% increase in opioid-related fatalities between 2019-2020 among Ramsey County residents resulting in 69 deaths in 2020.

19:04:23 From Dave Muhovich to Everyone:

Sara: Bethel is planning on a "scrubs" camp again this summer to let students (especially BIPOC students) be more aware of nursing possibilities. I will gather the specifics and get them to you. I wonder if other St Paul Ramsey County schools are also planning summer camps.

# Omicron Variant

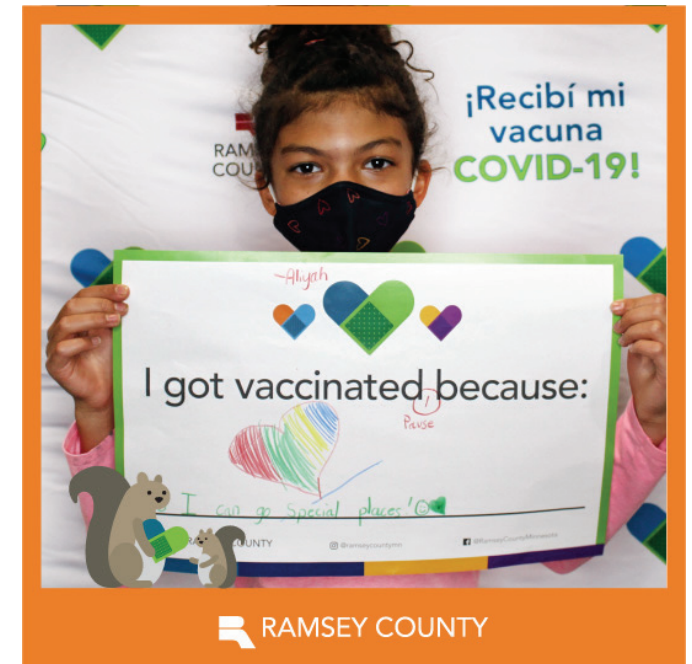
- On Dec. 2, the state's 1st COVID-19 case involving the Omicron Variant in a Hennepin County resident.
- On Dec. 16, the first case of Omicron was identified here in Ramsey County (8<sup>th</sup> in the state).
- Omicron is classified by the World Health Organization as a Variant of Concern.
- CDC surveillance data predict that the Omicron variant represents about **58% of COVID-19 cases** in the U.S. Here in Region 5, Omicron likely represents about 68% of cases.

# Layered prevention slows Omicron

- **A two dose, mRNA-vaccine plus a booster is the best way for us to protect ourselves.**
- It is important to remember we have more tools to slow the spread of COVID-19 than we did at this time last year.
- We know layered prevention strategies can slow the spread of COVID-19
  - Get vaccinated
  - Get boosted
  - Wear masks in public indoor spaces, regardless of vaccination status
  - Take a COVID-19 at home test prior to gathering with others

# Good news

- Since pediatric (5 to 11-year-olds) Pfizer was approved October 29, we've given 4,403 doses at our department clinics.
  - Currently, 72% of all Minnesota residents ages 5+ have received at least one dose. In Ramsey County, 77% of residents 5+ have.
- Boosters for all adults were approved on October 15 (boosters for 16–17-year old's just last week). We've given 2,843 booster doses since then. Our primary focus remains on:
  - Children ages 5-11
  - Adults with 0-1 doses



## New School Site

- Starting Jan. 6 -  
Thursdays, 3-6 p.m., 360  
Colborne St., Saint Paul.

# Vaccine progress

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- Among all residents 12+, ~~76%~~ 81.9% have received at least one dose (6% in two months).
  - Among individuals 16+, ~~76.4%~~ 82.3% have received at least one dose

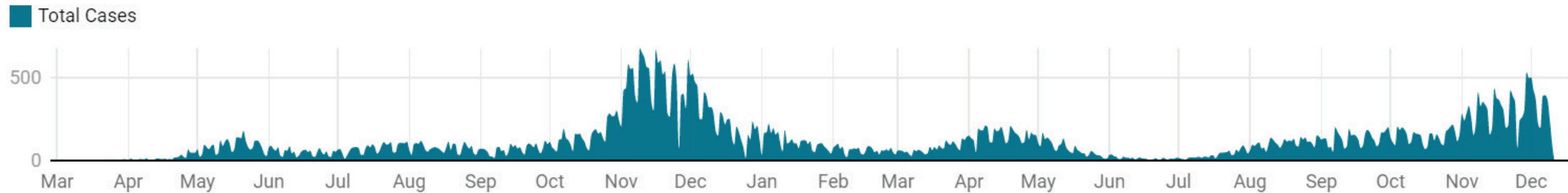
For more detail, click here:

<https://data.ramseycounty.us/stories/s/v3gu-4zh7>

# Daily cases (impact of Delta)

## Ramsey County COVID-19 New Cases by Day

The number of people confirmed to have or have had COVID-19, by date of test specimen collection.



*This chart gets updated once a day.*

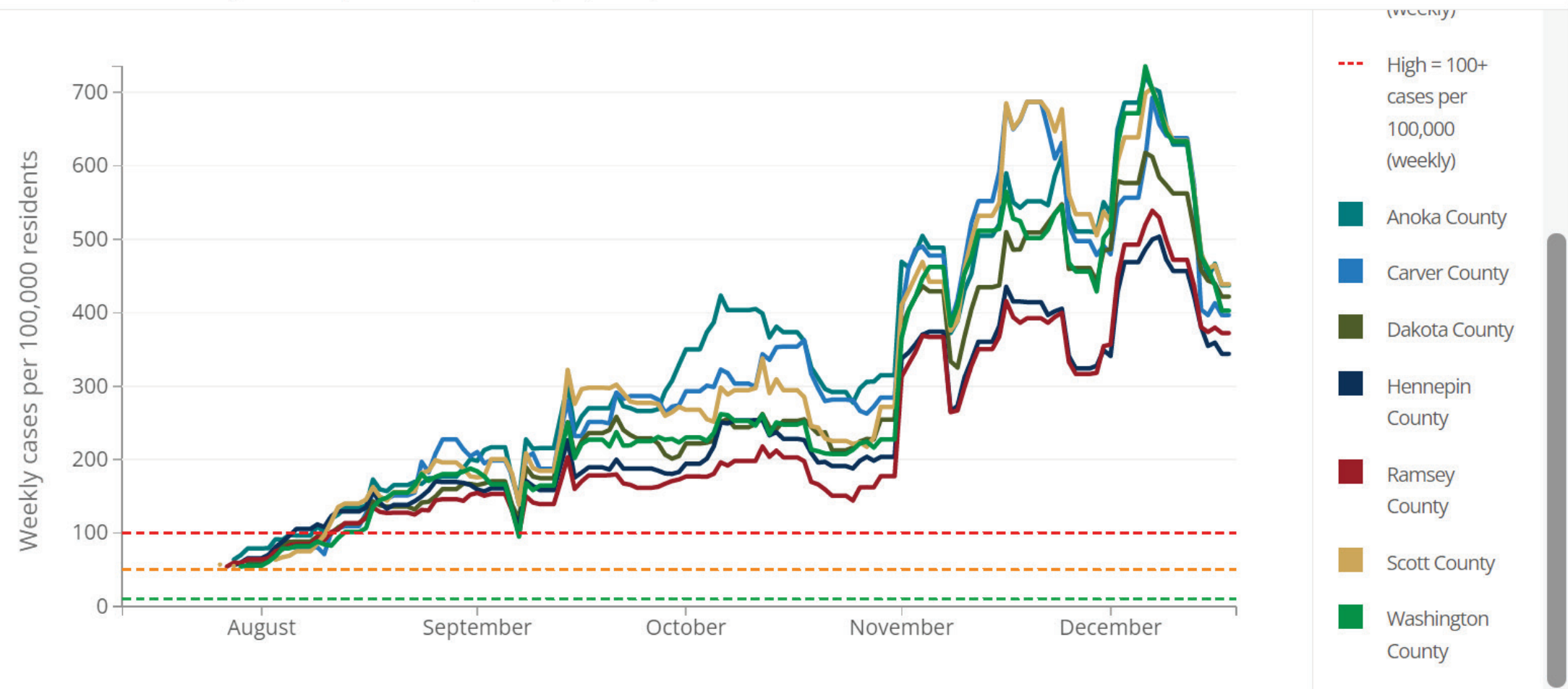
Source: [MDH](#) • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

For more detail, click here: <https://data.ramseycounty.us/stories/s/Ramsey-County-COVID-19-Situation-Update/w4ux-wmze/>



# COVID-19 Weekly Case Rates per 100,000

The number of new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days by county of residence.

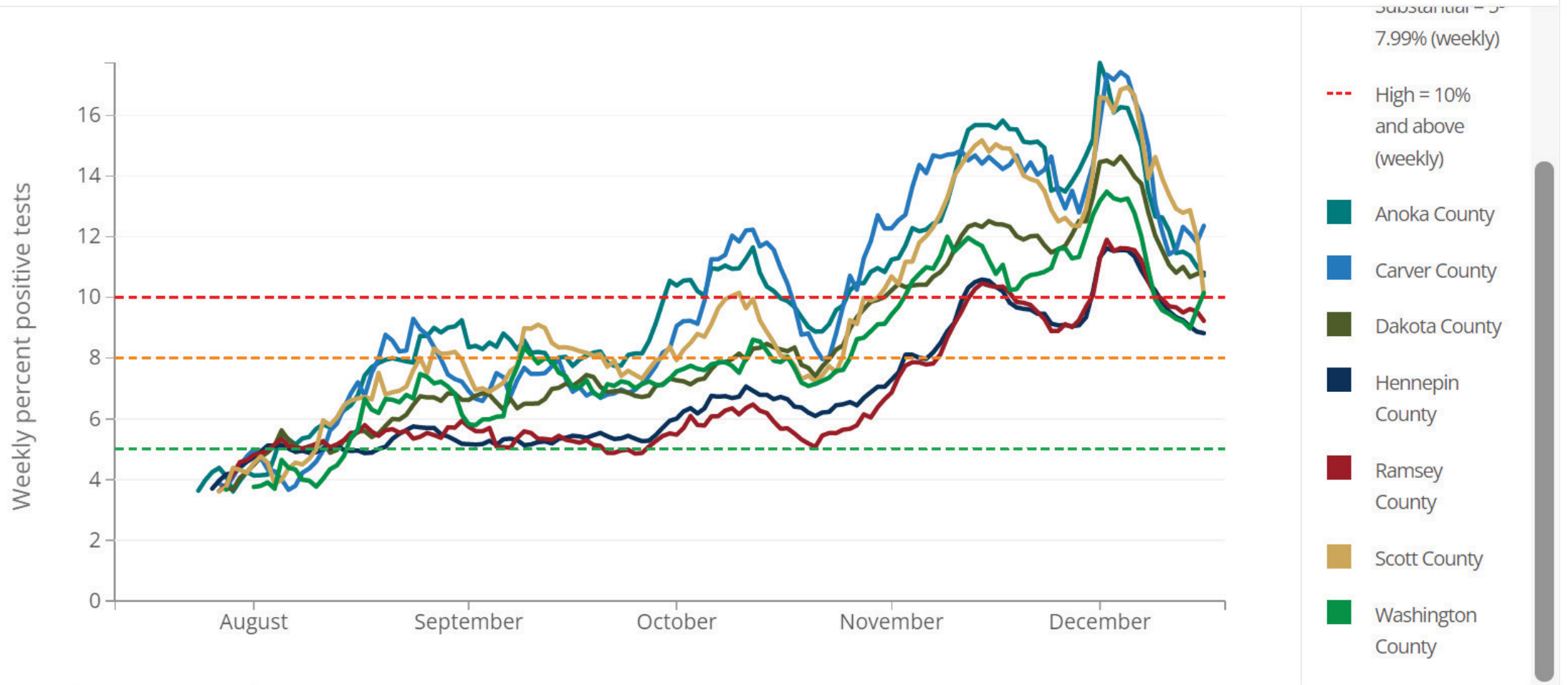


[Chart](#) [Summary Table](#)

[View Source Data](#)

# COVID-19 Weekly Percent Positive Tests

The percent of positive tests by county of residence by week of specimen collection.



[Chart](#) [Summary Table](#)

[View Source Data](#)

# Testing and medical staffing from our state partners (update)

- National Guard training a new cadre of Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) to provide staffing support at Minnesota's long-term care facilities.
- Department of Human Services releasing ARPA dollars to support recruitment/retention of nursing at staff long-term care facilities.
- Antigen testing options alongside your saliva (PCR) testing at the Vault sites here locally, as well as at our department sites (pilot project, likely to be extended).

# Monoclonal antibody treatment from our state partners

Remember... Eligible persons are those who:

- Test positive for COVID-19.
- Symptoms started less than 10 days ago.
- Are not hospitalized.

If you have been close to someone with COVID-19 or are at high risk of being close to someone with COVID-19, you may also be able to get medication if:

- You are not fully vaccinated and
- You have a weakened immune system (for example, if you have an immunocompromising condition, or are taking immunosuppressive medications).

Visit COVID-19 Medication Options ([health.mn.gov/covidmeds](https://health.mn.gov/covidmeds)) or talk with your health care provider. You can also call the COVID-19 Public Hotline at 1-833-431-2053, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. to get connected.

# Visit our clinics! Vaccine opportunities in St Paul for 5+

## Vaccine Summary as of January 3, 2021

- 67,038 doses have been administered at 453 clinics. 72,085 vaccines have been given, including those given by redistribution partners.
- 4,403 pediatric doses and 2,843 booster doses have been administered (noted on slide 2).



## Community vaccine clinics

Community centers	Pop-up clinics	MSP Airport and MOA
<p>Saint Paul – Ramsey County Public Health offers free COVID-19 vaccine clinics for all eligible individuals. <b>Pfizer booster shots are now available by appointment only.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pfizer (first or second doses) available to those 12 years and older.</li><li>• Pfizer (booster shots) for <a href="#">eligible people</a> who received their second dose of the Pfizer vaccine at least six months ago.</li><li>• Moderna (first or second doses) available to those 18 years and older.</li><li>• Limited walk-ins available for first and second doses, up to 15 minutes before end time.</li><li>• You can get your first or second dose with Ramsey County.</li></ul> <p>Call Public Health's vaccine phone line with questions: <a href="tel:651-266-1190">651-266-1190</a> (Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)</p> <h3>Arlington Hills Community Center</h3> <p><a href="#">1200 Payne Avenue</a> <a href="#">Saint Paul, MN 55130</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Limited walk-ins available for first and second doses. If you walk in, you will need to register at the clinic.</li><li>• Pfizer booster shots are available by appointment only.</li><li>• Gift cards are not available for booster shots.</li></ul> <p>Register:</p> <p><b>Oct. 21</b> 3 - 6 p.m. (Pfizer - first or second dose, Pfizer booster shots by appointment only)</p> <p>Oct. 28: CLOSED</p> <p><b>Nov. 4</b> 3 - 6 p.m. (Pfizer - first or second dose, Pfizer booster shots by appointment only)</p> <h3>Oxford Community Center</h3>		

# Session 2022 Preview

*Government Relations*

**January 5, 2022**

## What We Will Review

- The Legislature: Who, When, How
- Ramsey County Platform Process
- How to Get Engaged

## The Legislative Session (When)

- MN has a biennial (2 year) session structure
- The first year sets the budget for the state
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> year is focused on funding building projects (bonding)
- Session begins on January 31<sup>st</sup> and ends May 23<sup>rd</sup>.





## New Maps!

- Redistricting happens after every census
- Legislature is tasked with coming together and agreeing on maps by Feb. 15th
  - This hasn't happened in 50 years
- If Legislature fails task falls to the Courts
  - Already planning for that
- Expect many retirements



## Commissioner Confirmations

- Senate has the authority to confirm or deny Governor's appointees
- Several Senate Republicans have talked about refusing to confirm Commissioner Malcolm



## Show Me the Money!

- State is projected to have a \$7.7 BILLION surplus
  - Record setting
  - Official number will be updated in February/March
- State doesn't HAVE to spend this money
- Lots of folks in line with ideas



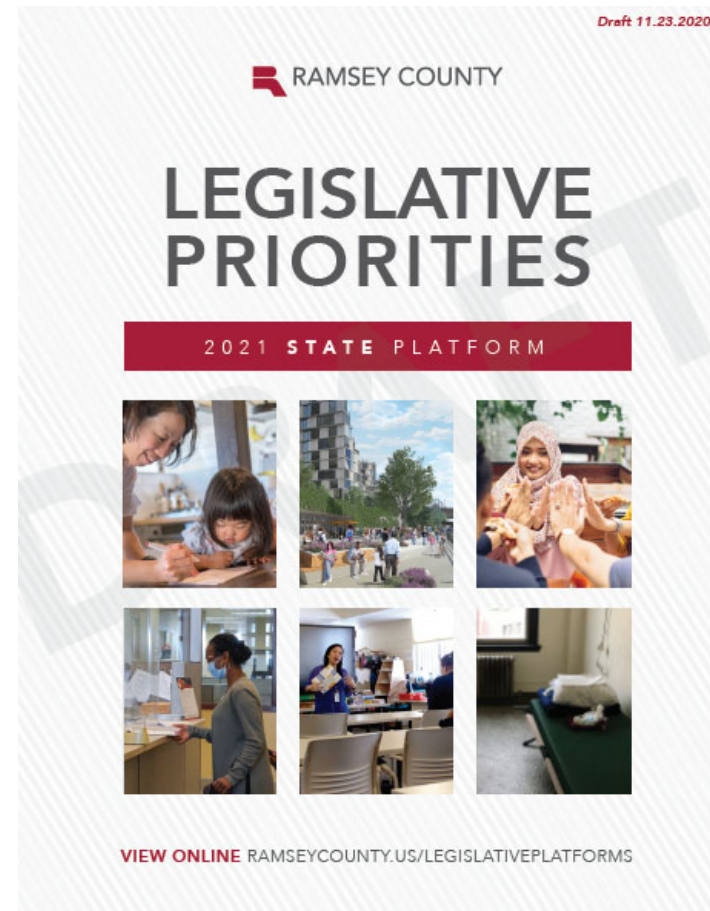
## But Wait – There’s a Pandemic!

- House has already committed to acting remotely in 2022
  - Hearings via Zoom
  - State Office Building is closed to the public.
- Senate is doing a hybrid process.
  - There will be in person and Zoom options for hearings.
  - The 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Senate Office Building will be open to the public.



## Ramsey County Platform

- Set by the County Board each year.
- Sets forward the legislative priorities for the coming session.
- Three categories:
  - Support
  - Lead
  - Defend



## 2022 Platform Priorities

- **Family and Community Stabilization:**
  - Investing in housing stability—affordability and homelessness.
  - Addressing racial disparities in out-of-home displacements.
- **Systems Transformation:**
  - Improving mental and behavioral health systems and support.
  - Justice system reform.
- **Economic Competitiveness and Inclusion:**
  - Funding transportation, including new revenues for transit, roads and bridges.
  - Workforce.
  - Climate change.
  - Bonding requests.

## Key Public Health Items

### **COVID-19 Response Support**

Support funding resources directed to COVID-19 response, including, but not limited to: building and maintaining our workforce, specifically for our 24/7 facilities; community education, engagement and outreach; case investigation and contact tracing; testing; delivery of essential services; and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines with specific focus on underserved communities, kids, youth and young adults.

### **Climate Change**

Support legislation that addresses climate change, protects and enhances natural environments, and promotes sustainability in county operations.

### **Hunger Relief**

Support additional funding and policy changes to address hunger relief needs in Ramsey County. Hunger continues to disproportionately affect our racial and ethnic communities, revealing longstanding systemic issues that have been heightened as a result of the impact of COVID-19 pandemic.

## Our Roles as Citizens

- You can reach out to your Senators and Representatives on the topics that you care about.
- It's our duty as citizens to be engaged in the decisions that affect our lives.
- Find out who represents you here:  
<https://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/>







## Tips for Engaging with Legislators

- Have a plan – know what you want to talk about and/or ask for
- Be brief! Most meetings last 15 minutes or less
- Think about what information you can bring to leave behind
- Be nice to the staff

Data + Human Stories = Success!

## How To Stay Engaged

- Twitter, #mnleg
- MN has an award-winning legislative Web site where you can find schedules, bill introductions, legislator info, etc.
  - <https://www.leg.mn.gov/>

## Questions?

- Jennifer O'Rourke – Director  
Jennifer.O'Rourke@ramseycounty.us



- Melissa Finnegan – Government Relations Specialist  
Melissa.Finnegan@ramseycounty.us

