

Fall Update - Respiratory viruses in BC

November 16, 2022



Stay Informed Via These Resources:
gov.bc.ca/Covid-19 | bccdc.ca | 1-888-COVID19

Symptom Self-Assessment:
covid19.thrive.health



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

Our focus throughout the pandemic

**Protecting
people at the
highest risk
of severe
illness or
death.**

**Protecting
our health
care system
capacity.**

**Keeping
people and
communities
safe.**

**Bringing
people back
together,
safely.**

Where we are today, 16 November, 2022



51% of eligible kids 5-11 have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.



86% of British Columbians 5+ have received two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.



57% of British Columbians 5+ have received a booster* or third dose.

*5+ only recently eligible for booster

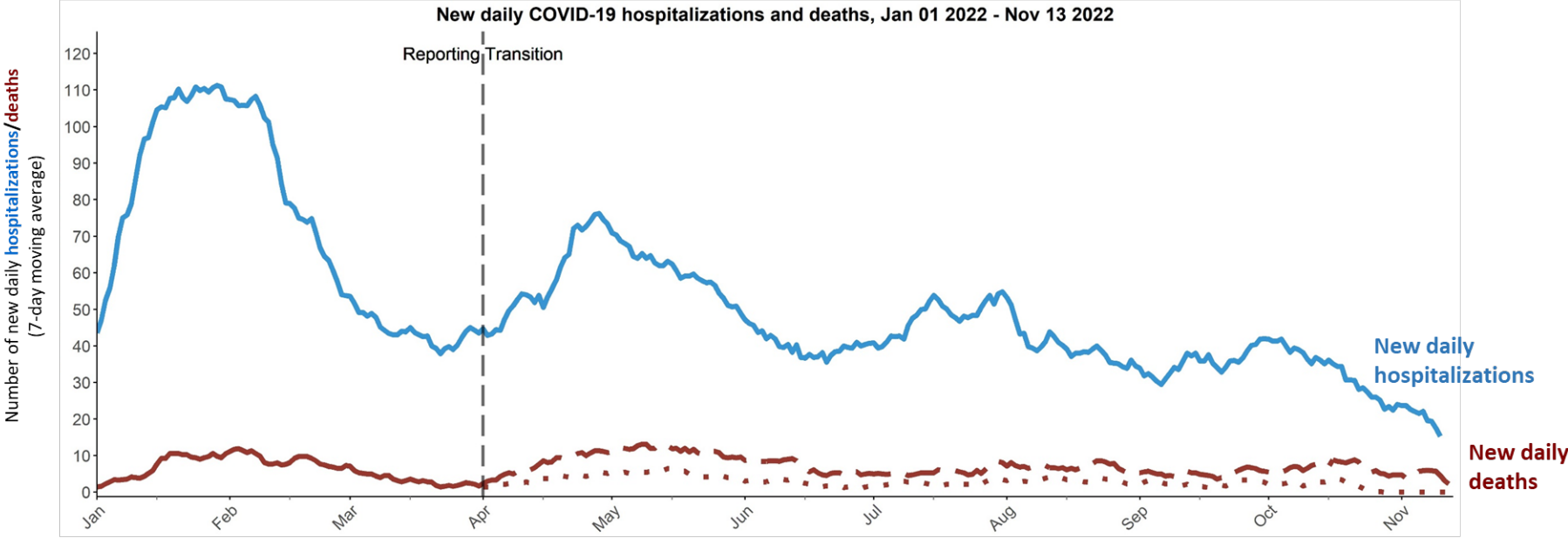


335 COVID-19 positive people are in hospital. The reason for hospitalization may not be related to COVID-19.

Updated November 14, 2022

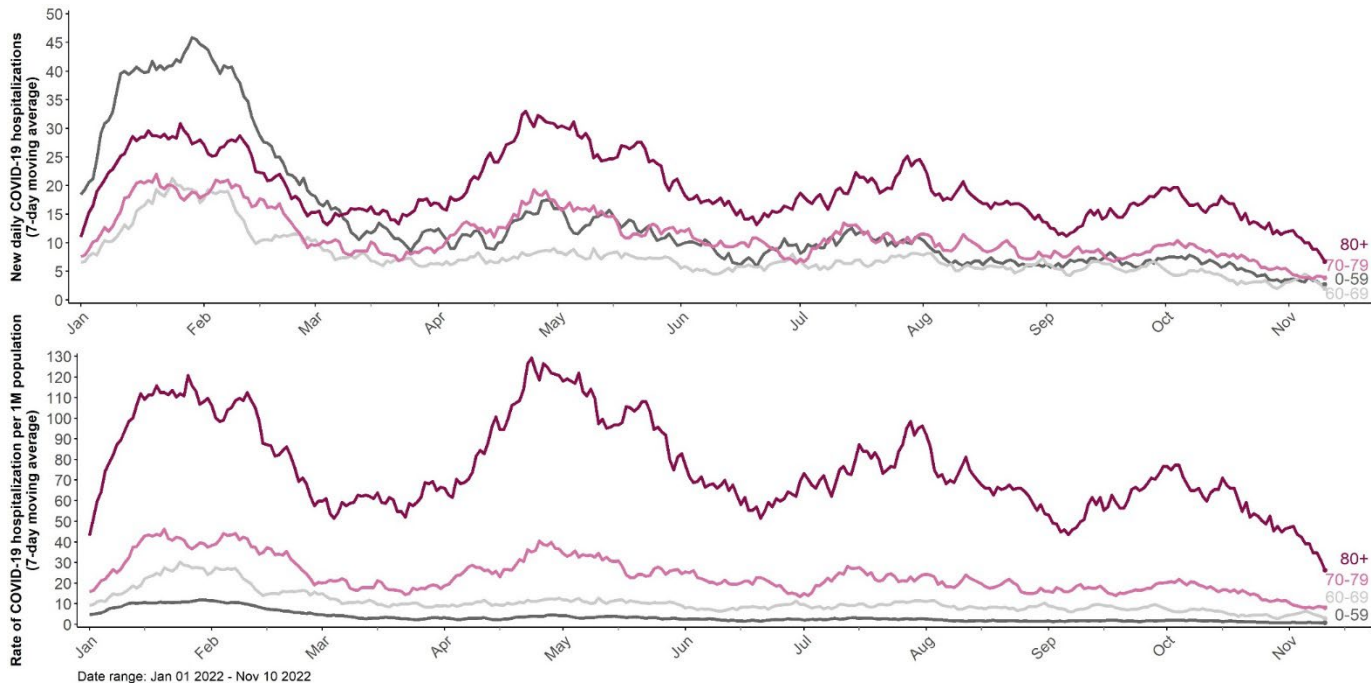
COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths

1 Jan 2022 – 9 Nov 2022

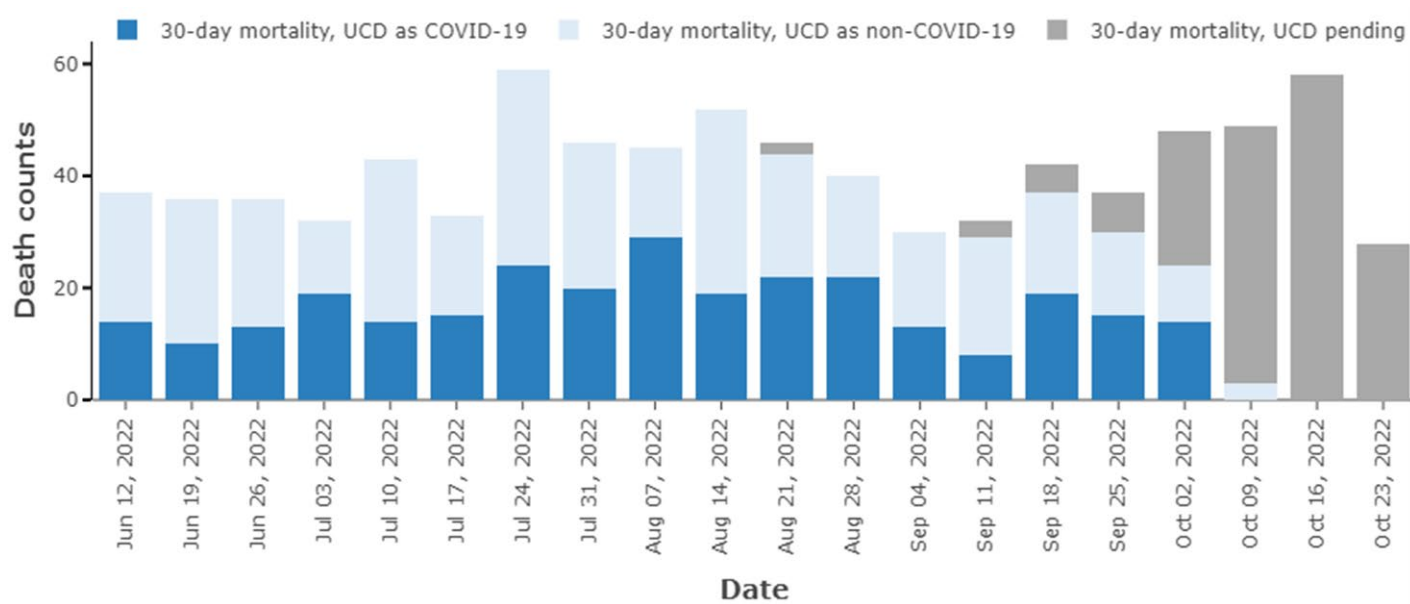


Hospitalization rates per 1M by age

1 Jan 2022 – 9 Nov 2022

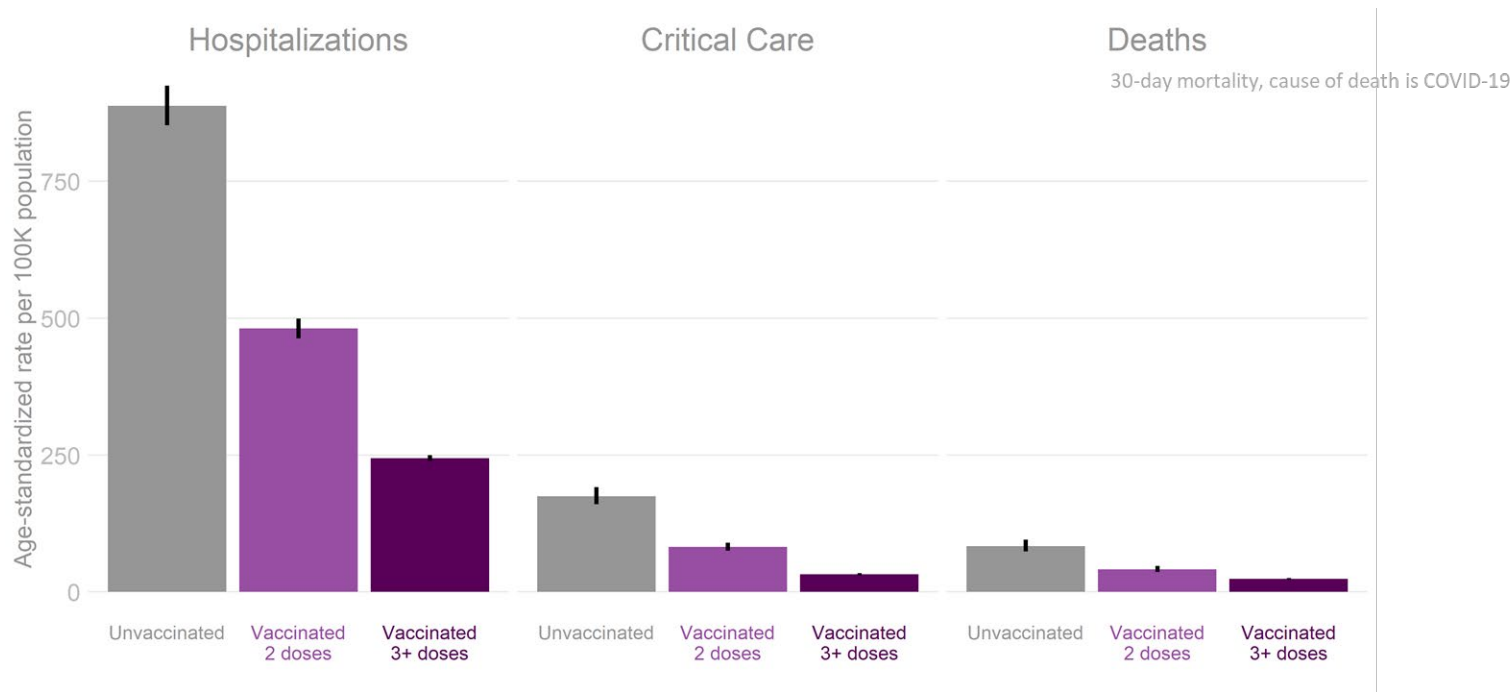


COVID-19 30-day mortality 12 Jun 2022 – 29 Oct 2022



*Each bar shows data for a single week, and the labels represent the start date of that week

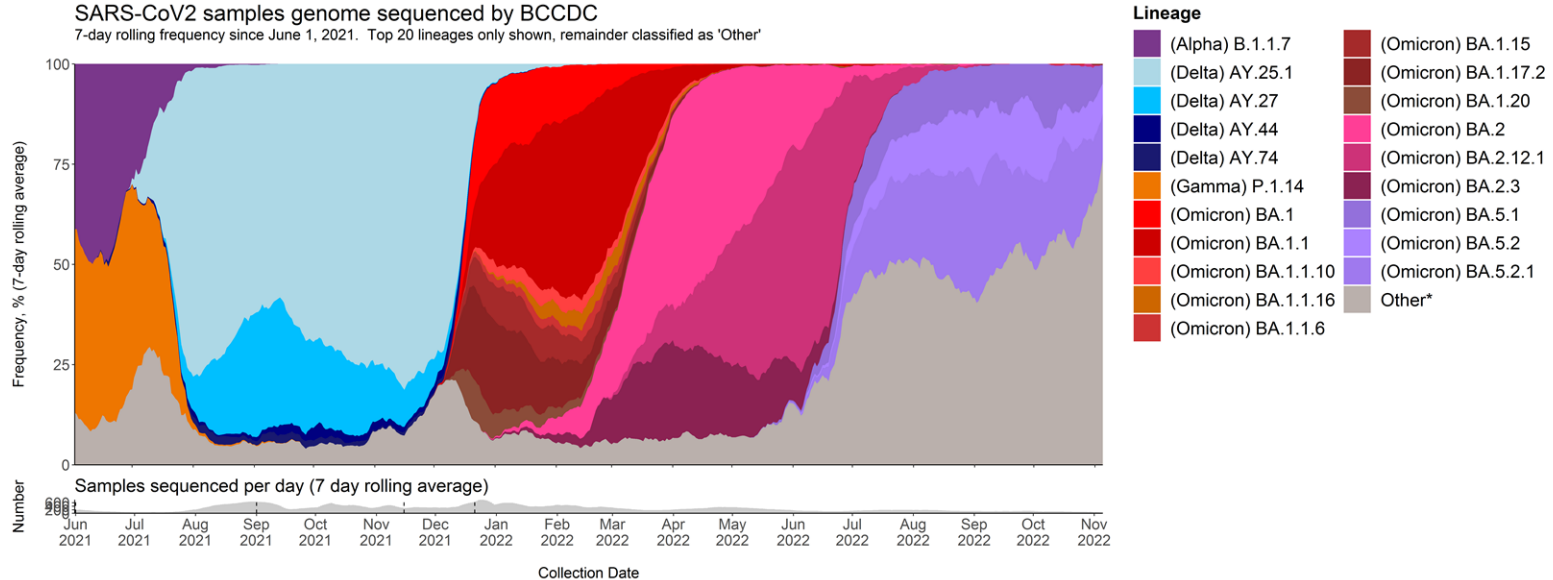
Age-standardized hospitalizations, critical care admissions and deaths by vaccination status 1 Jan 2022 – 5 Nov 2022



Most prevalent SARS-CoV-2 lineages 1 June 2021 – 5 Nov 2022

SARS-CoV2 samples genome sequenced by BCCDC

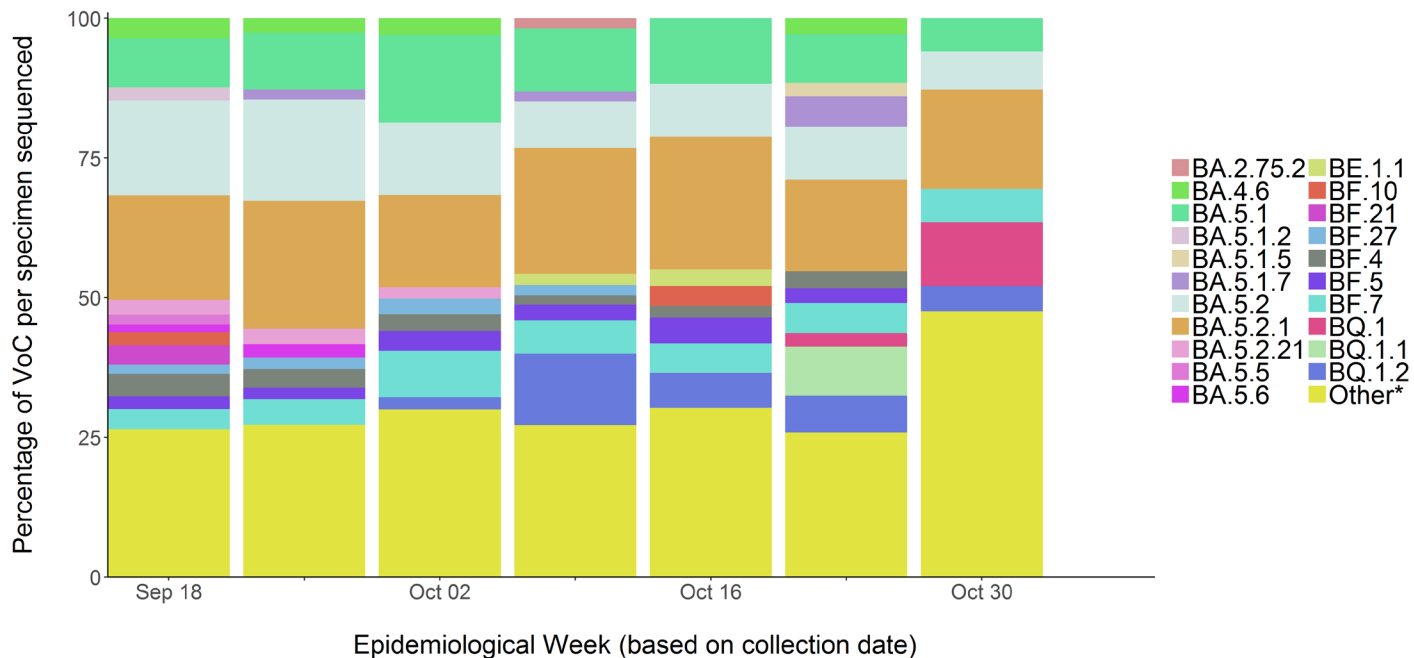
7-day rolling frequency since June 1, 2021. Top 20 lineages only shown, remainder classified as 'Other'



Other includes: BA.4.6, BA.5, BA.5.1.1, BA.5.1.2, BA.5.1.27, BA.5.1.3, BA.5.1.5, BA.5.1.6, BA.5.1.7, BA.5.2.20, BA.5.2.22, BA.5.2.27, BA.5.2.3, BA.5.2.34, BA.5.2.37, BA.5.2.6, BA.5.2.8, BA.5.3.1, BA.5.5, BA.5.5.1, BA.5.6, BA.5.6.2, BE.1.1, BE.1.2.1, BF.10, BF.26, BF.27, BF.28, BF.4, BF.5, BF.7, BF.7.4, BF.7.5, BF.7.7, BN.1.3, BQ.1, BQ.1.1, BQ.1.1.1, BQ.1.1.18, BQ.1.1.4, BQ.1.1.5, BQ.1.10.1, BQ.1.11, BQ.1.12, BQ.1.2, BQ.1.3, BQ.1.5, BR.4, BW.1, BY.1, other BA.2.
in the most recent week of data. Note that lineages included in "Other" change over time and therefore not included in the legend.

Pangolin version: 4.1.3, Usher version: 1.16, Pango version: 1.16. Total Pango assignments: 55 588; Total Usher assignments: 76 192

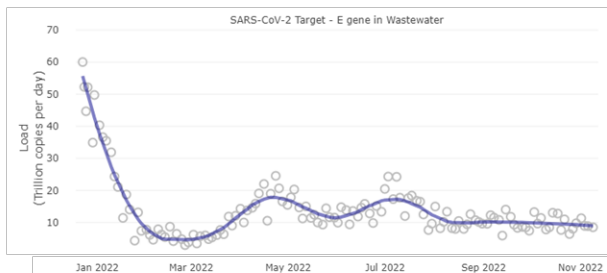
Weekly distribution of SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Concern among sequenced specimens, 18 Sep – 5 Nov 2022



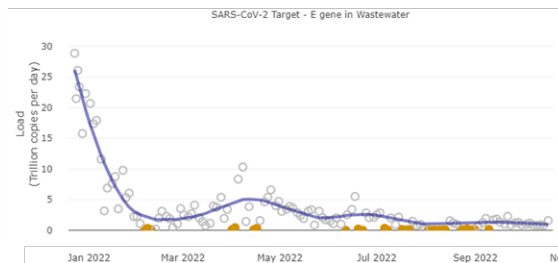
*Lineages with less than 10 samples sequenced a week are binned into 'Other'

SARS-CoV-2 viral load in Lower Mainland wastewater samples 5 Jan 2022 – 5 Nov 2022

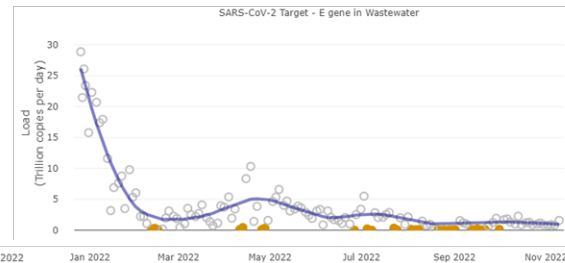
Lulu Island Wastewater Plant
(approximate region: Richmond)



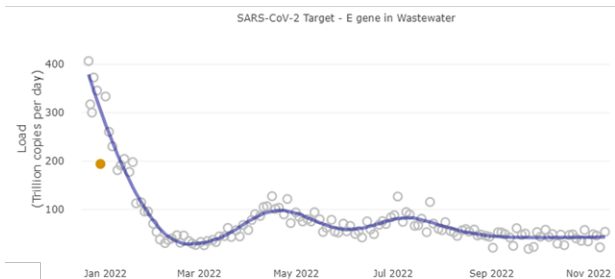
Lions Gate Wastewater Plant
(approximate region: North Shore)



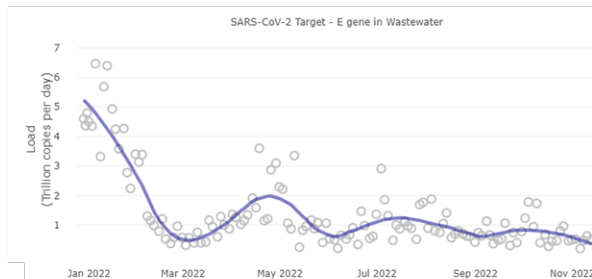
Iona Island Wastewater Plant
(approximate region: Vancouver)



Annacis Island Wastewater Plant
(approximate region: Fraser North and South)



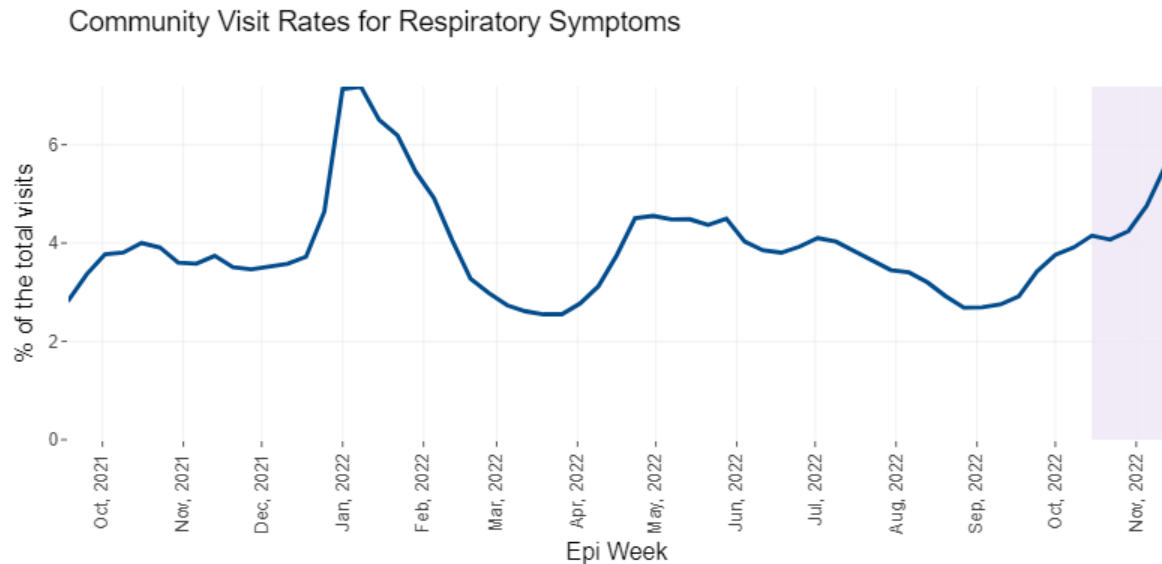
Northwest Langley Wastewater Plant
(approximate region: Northwest Langley)



Load is the total viral signal detected over a 24-hour period in the sampled wastewater

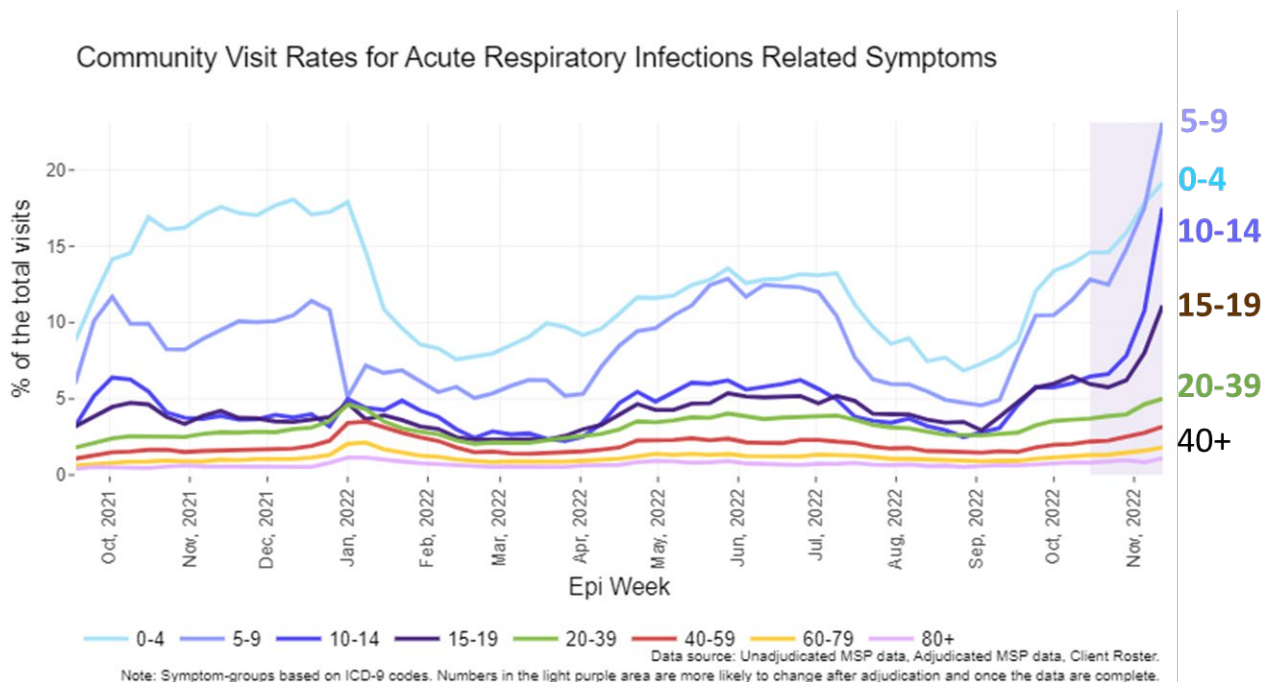
● Data excluded ○ Viral signal — Smoothed viral signal

Community visits to healthcare practitioners for respiratory symptoms

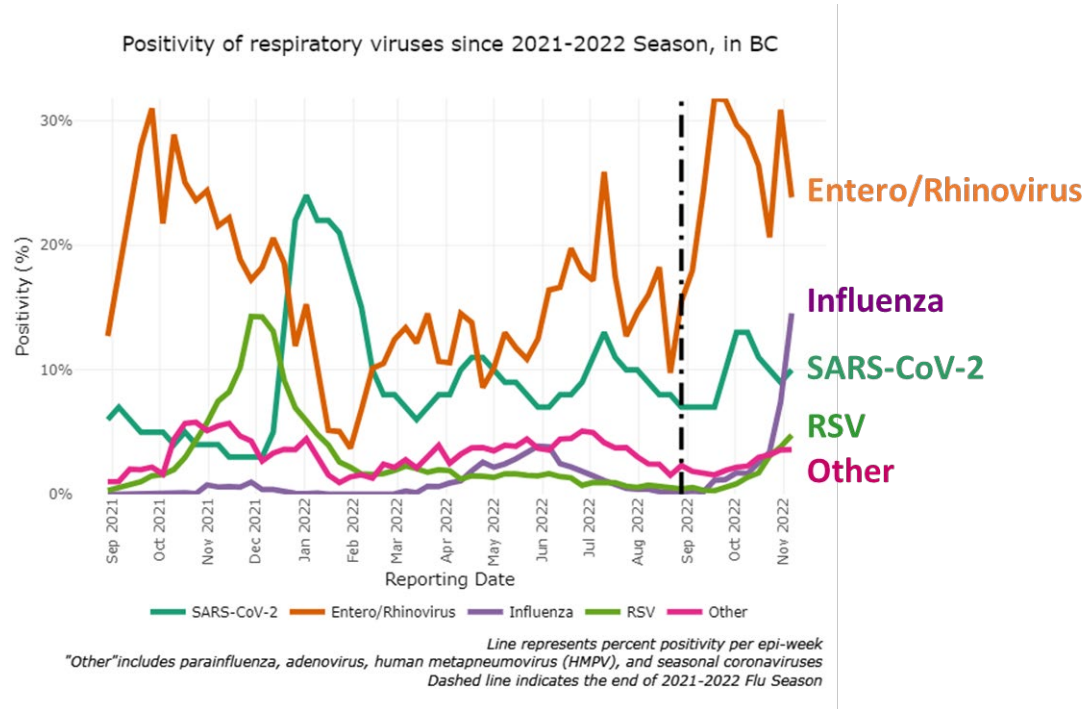


Data source: Unadjudicated MSP data, Adjudicated MSP data, Client Roster.
Note: Symptom-groups based on ICD-9 codes. Numbers in the light purple area are more likely to change after adjudication and once the data are complete.

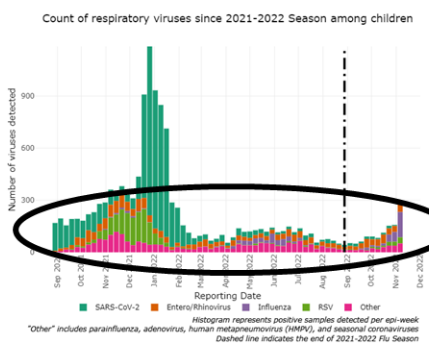
Community visits to healthcare practitioners for symptoms related to acute respiratory infections by age



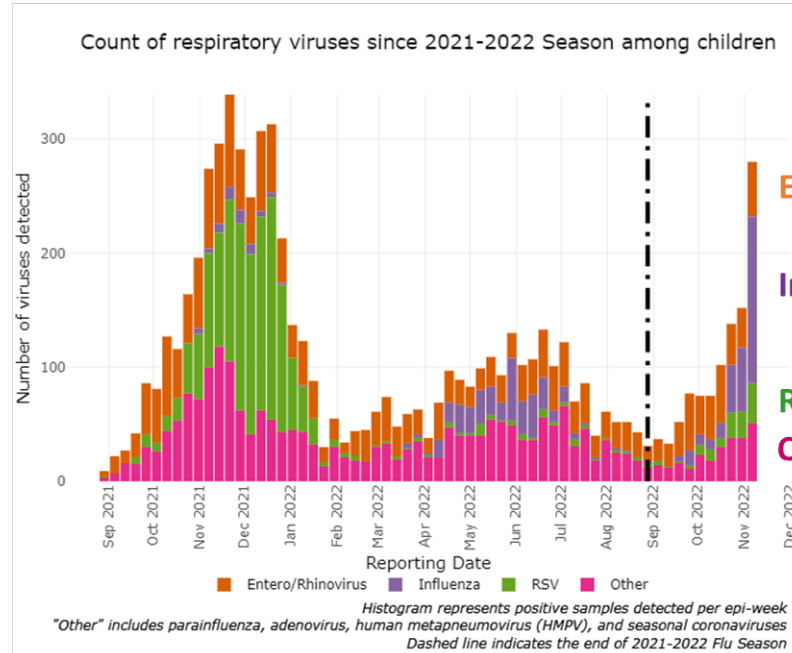
Test % positivity of respiratory viruses since Sep 2021



Respiratory viruses detected at BC Children's Hospital Laboratory since 2021



Excluding
SARS-CoV-2



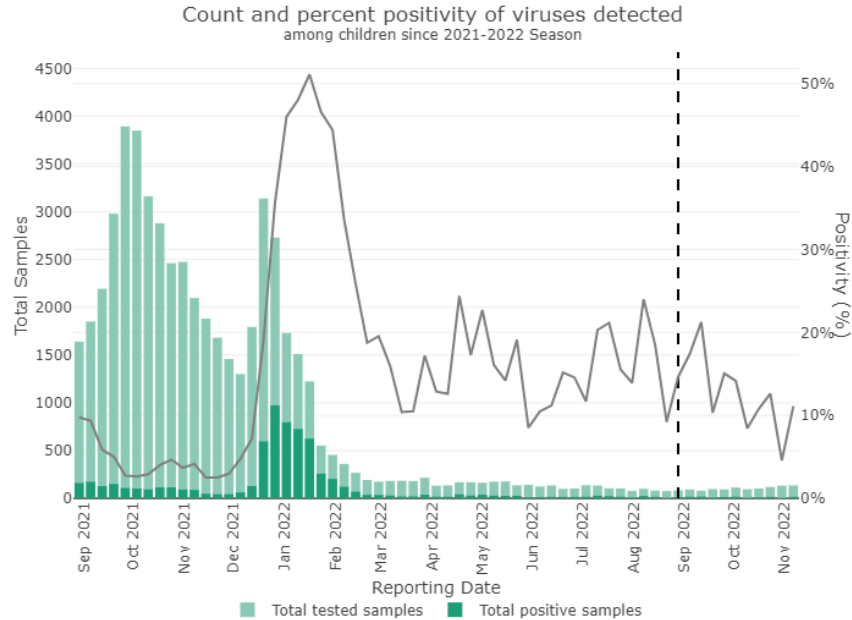
Entero/Rhinovirus

Influenza

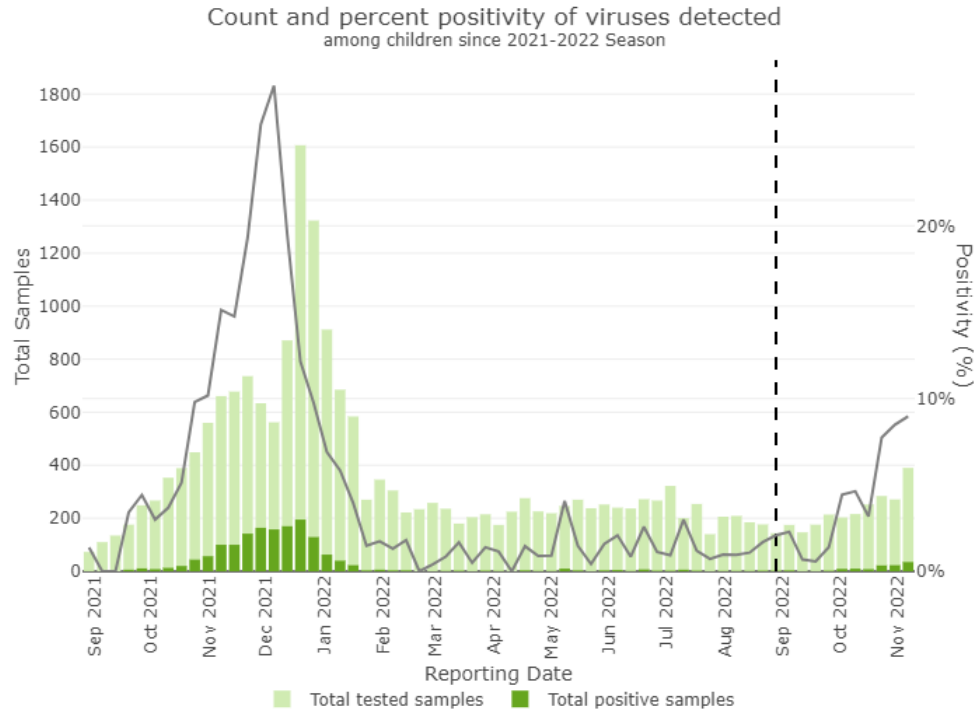
RSV

Other

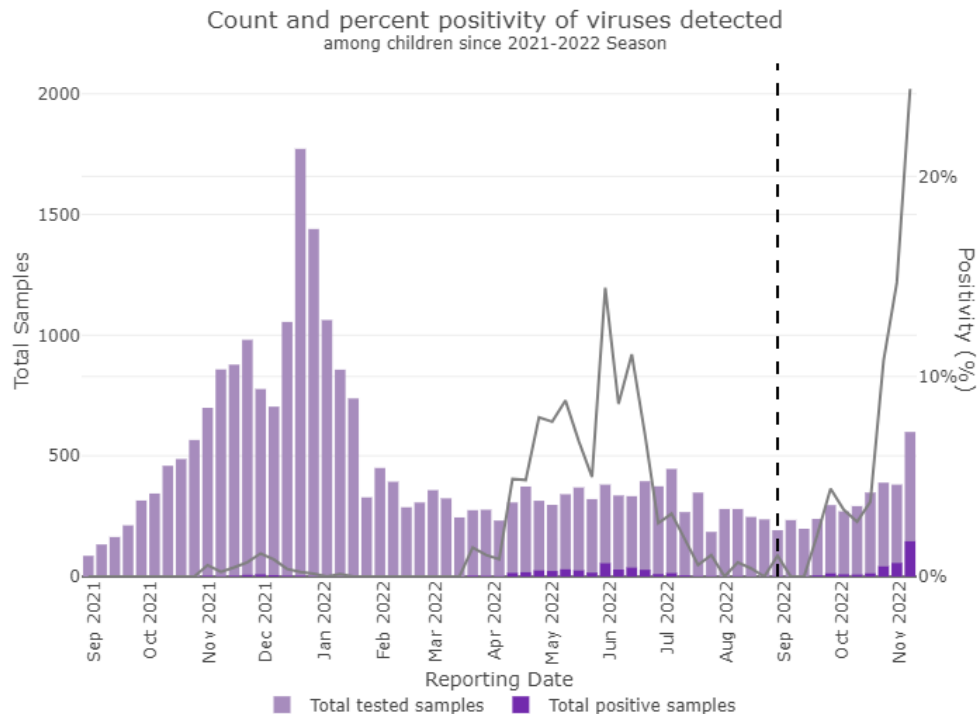
SARS-CoV-2 detected at BC Children's Hospital Laboratory since Sept 2021



Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) detected at BC Children's Hospital Laboratory since Sept 2021

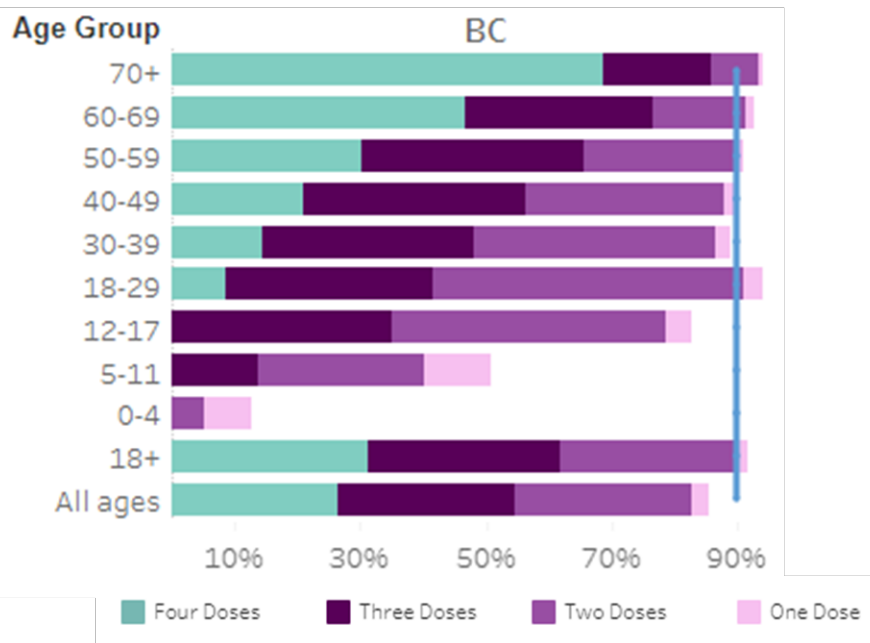


Influenza detected at BC Children's Hospital Laboratory since Sept 2021

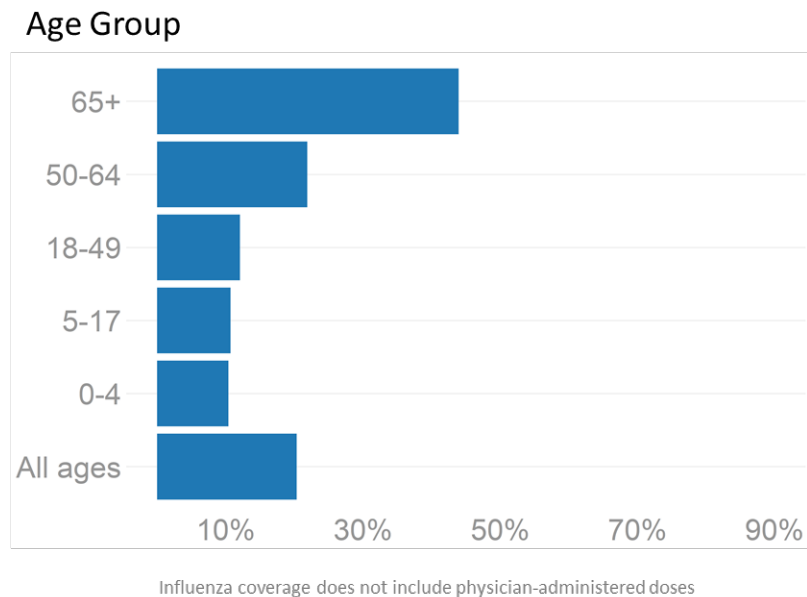


COVID-19 and Influenza vaccination coverage in BC

COVID-19, as of 6 Nov 2022



Influenza, as of 13 Nov 2022

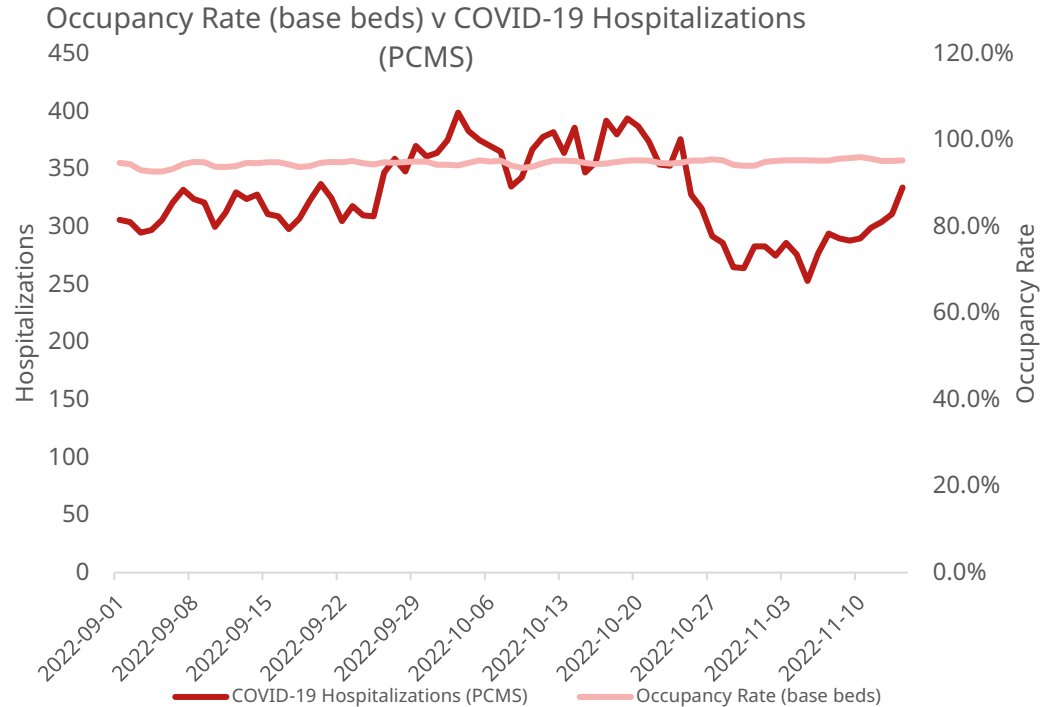


Current hospitalization status

COVID-19 hospitalizations are at levels similar to September but below October

Hospital occupancy is slightly higher than September

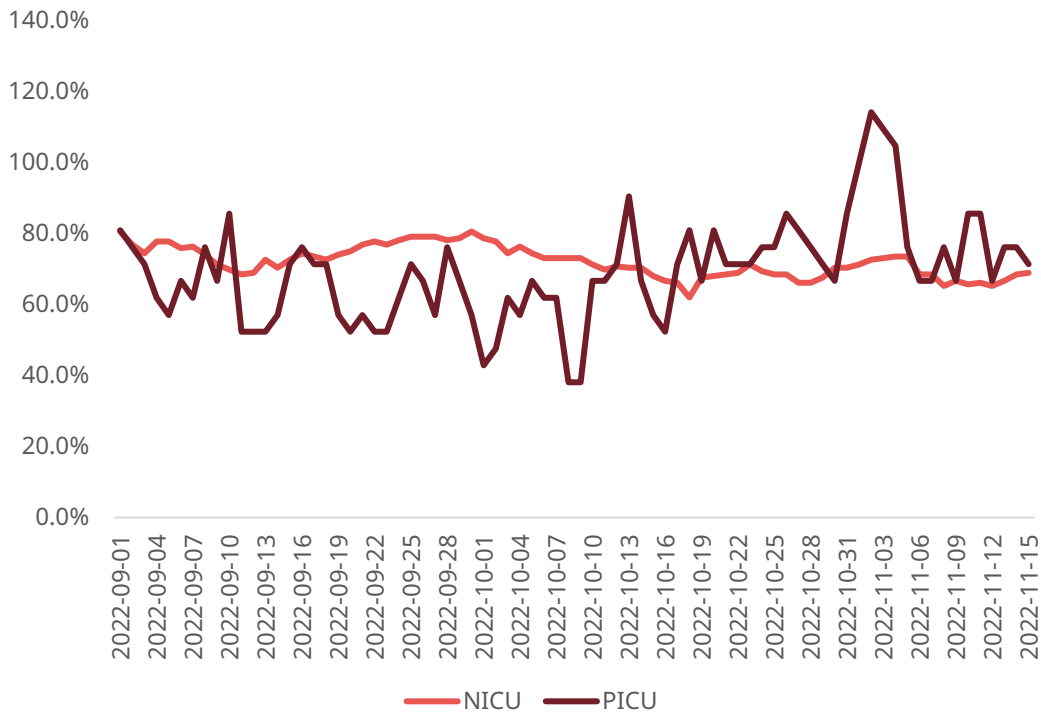
- Average base bed occupancy :
 - 95.4% November to date
 - 94.4% in September
- Overall occupancy (including surge beds):
 - 82.7% November to date
 - 80.5% in September



Children's Critical Care Capacity

- NICU occupancy is lower than September rates
- PICU rates are highly variable due the number of beds with particular sites having been over capacity in recent days

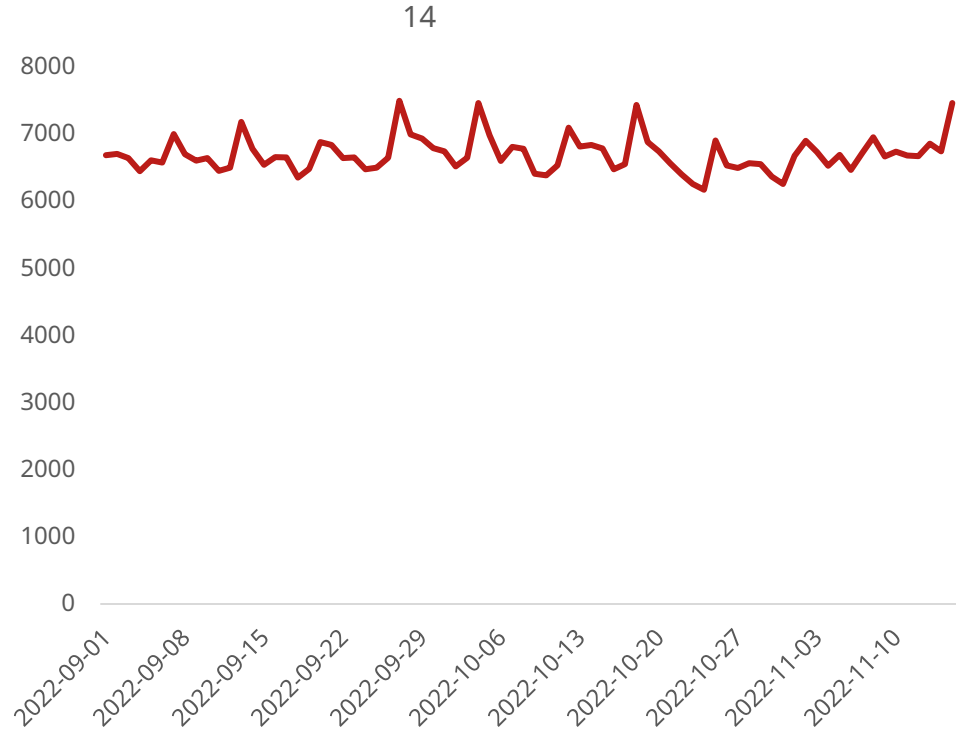
Children's Critical Care Occupancy Rate (base beds)



Emergency Department Visits

- ED visits demonstrate considerable variation day-to-day
- However, average daily visits were approximately 6,700 in September and October.
- In November to date, daily ED visits are slightly up, averaging 6,765.

Emergency Department Visits, September 1 to November



Bed Management Update

Priority actions identified by Emergency Department and Hospital Capacity Task Group

- Priority actions being integrated into health authority surge response plans
- Implementation underway or in planning stages
- Task Group will continue to action these throughout the fall/winter

Examples of work underway include:

- **Improvement to emergency department triage processes including piloting new models like physician triage and further implementation of quick response teams to connect patients with care in the community to avoid unnecessary hospital stays or shorten emergency department length of stay;**
- **Hiring additional patient care coordinators to support better patient flow through hospitals, including on evenings and weekends**
- **Increased integration with Urgent and Primary Care Centres**
- **Improved communication about services for patients**
- **Supporting rural and remote care and transport**

Bed Management Update

A dedicated provincial pediatric table led by BC Children's Hospital has been activated to coordinate pediatric resources and rapidly respond to increased demand across the province.

- Pediatric ICUs are located at BC Children's, Victoria General and University of Northern BC Hospitals.

High demand scenario planning continues and will be used as a last resort.

- Where needed, service reductions including postponing surgeries could be required.

Supporting Patients in Community

Since October we have stabilized the number of Alternate Level of Care patients

Increasing Capacity in Community

The Ministry is working closely with health authorities and operators to open/access long term care (LTC) beds.

All health authorities are focused on solutions to support their teams to provide high quality care for patients and families. This includes:

- **Interior Health** has physicians supporting emergency department triage and is working to expand this, is hiring patient care coordinators and creating dedicated access and flow teas
- **Island Health** enhanced rapid community response supports
- **Fraser Health** are exploring opportunities to improve integration between the ED and UPCCs, opening additional hospital beds to create capacity now.
- **Northern Health** is investing in quick response teams to support avoidable admissions in the ED, and support patients who are admitted to hospital to return home through investment in discharge supports.
- **Vancouver Coastal Health and Providence Health Care** increasing active daily bed management to improve discharged from the hospital as well as opening 15 mental health beds.