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Caring for our Community

Kids HAVE A
SPOT
TO TAKE THEIR
SHOT.

Watauga COVID-19 Situation Update

December 3rd, 2021

COVID-19 Updates & Important Points

Transmission: At this time, Watauga County has a **HIGH** level of community transmission (CDC COVID Data Tracker). In levels of high or substantial transmission, it is recommended individuals wear a mask in public indoor settings to decrease the spread of the virus. The majority of COVID-19 cases are among those who are unvaccinated.



Variants: Viruses, including COVID-19, have the ability to change over time. These changes are called variants and are to be expected with any virus. A new variant of COVID-19 was recently identified called Omicron (B.1.1.529) and has been mostly detected in South Africa, however it is being detected in a growing list of countries including the United States. Right now in North Carolina, **the dominant variant remains the Delta variant** and the Omicron variant has not been detected yet in North Carolina. **The Omicron variant has been labeled as a variant of concern** by WHO which means it's transmissibility, severity and activity is being closely monitored. It is suspected this variant may be more transmissible given how quickly it has spread and become the dominant variant in South Africa. The vaccines have been effective against other variants by preventing severe illness, hospitalization and death. We expect to learn more about the Omicron variant in the coming days and weeks.

Vaccines: Vaccines are the best protection we have against COVID-19. The vaccine is **free, safe and effective** at preventing severe outcomes. We encourage anyone who is unvaccinated to get a vaccine to protect yourself, loved ones and the community. We offer walk-in hours Monday through Friday 1:00-4:00pm for those wanting to complete the initial series of vaccines.

This week the CDC strengthened its recommendation for booster vaccines and stated that **everyone ages 18 years and older should get a booster vaccine**. The booster will strengthen and extend your protection. We offer booster vaccines by appointment only. Call our COVID-19 Call Center at (828) 795-1970 to make an appointment.

For more information about vaccines and how you can get your vaccine, [visit our website](#).

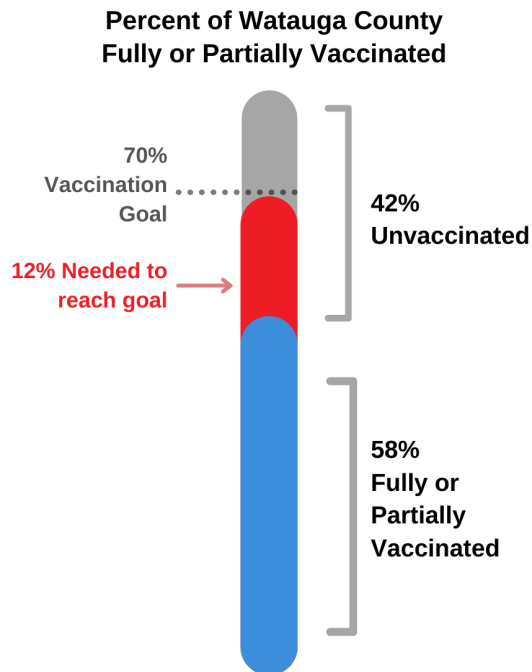
Testing: If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or have been exposed to someone who has COVID-19, we encourage you to get tested. We offer drive-thru testing Monday through Friday 8:30-10:00am, no appointment is needed. For more information about testing, [visit our website](#).

Do you have questions about COVID-19, vaccinations, testing or guidance?

Visit our website at www.AppHealthCare.com or call our COVID-19 Call Center at (828) 795-1970.

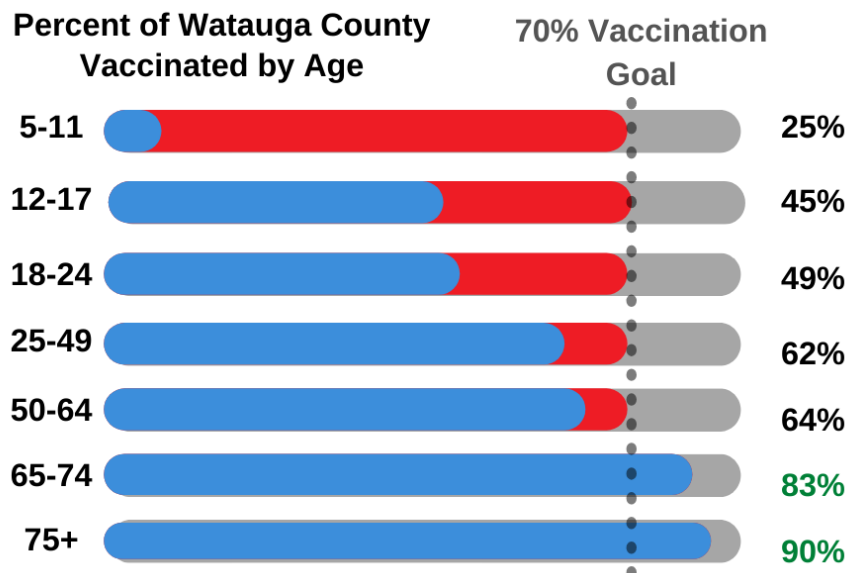
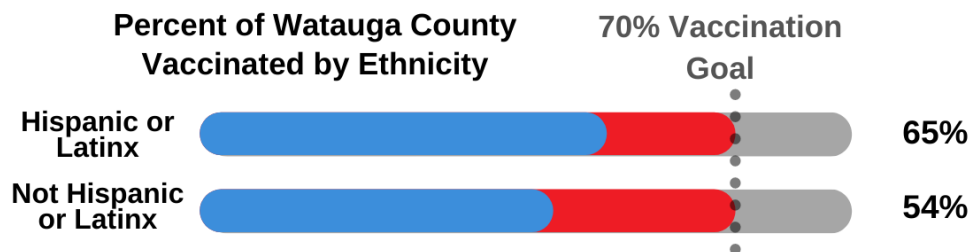
COVID-19 Watauga County Vaccination Updates

County-specific race, ethnicity and age data are from the [NCDHHS COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard](#).
 - (All vaccine demographic data are current as of 12/2/2021 at 12:00pm.).



23,172
 Vaccines Administered by
 AppHealthCare in Watauga
 County
 as of 12/2/2021.

Percent of Population by Race Fully or Partially Vaccinated	
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0%
Asian	0%
Black or African American	46%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0%
Other	61%
White	54%



North Carolina COVID-19 Updates

North Carolina State Synopsis

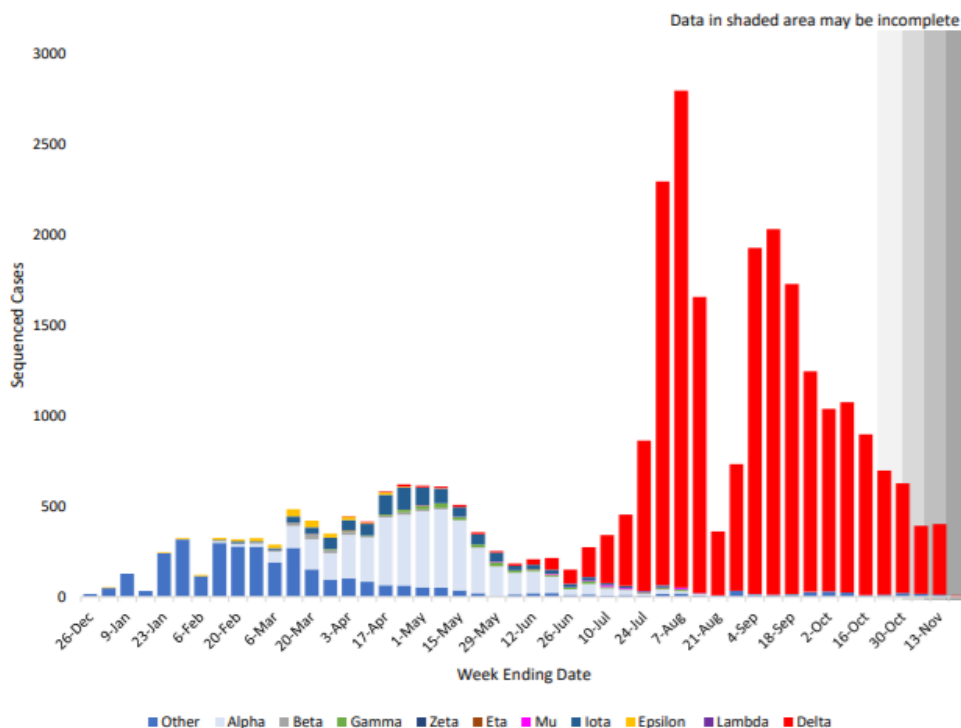
Data is from [COVID-19 State Profile Report](#), provided by White House COVID-19 Team, Joint Coordination Cell, Data Strategy and Execution Workgroup - (All data is current as of 11/24/2021)

	LAST WEEK	CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS WEEK
RATE OF NEW COVID-19 CASES PER 100,000	121	+5%
NUCLEIC ACID AMPLIFICATION TEST (NAAT) POSITIVITY RATE	5.7%	+0.3%
NEW CONFIRMED COVID-19 HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS / 100 BEDS	3.8	+15%
RATE OF NEW COVID-19 DEATHS PER 100,000	1.2	+146%
COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION LEVEL	HIGH TRANSMISSION	
PEOPLE RECEIVED AT LEAST 1 DOSE	7,282,242 people	69.4% of total pop
PEOPLE 18+ RECEIVED AT LEAST 1 DOSE	6,748,613 people	82.4% of 18+ pop
PEOPLE FULLY VACCINATED	5,660,326 people	54.0% of total pop
PEOPLE 18+ FULLY VACCINATED	5,308,093 people	64.8% of 18+ pop
PEOPLE 65+ RECEIVED BOOSTER	364,398 people	25.0% of fully vaccinated 65+ pop

COVID-19 Variants Detected in North Carolina by Week

Data is from [North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services' COVID-19 Surveillance Study](#). (Data is current as of 12/2/2021 at 4:00pm)

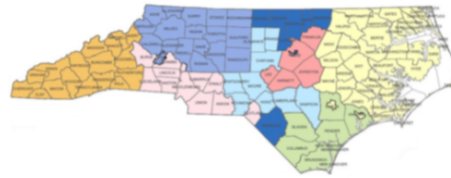
What COVID-19 variants are being detected in North Carolina?



The Delta variant was first detected in the United States in March 2021. This variant seems to spread more easily and quickly than other variants, which may lead to more cases of COVID-19. The best way to protect yourself is by getting a COVID-19 Vaccination.

Regional COVID-19 Hospitalization Data

The hospitalization data reflected includes Watauga County. All hospitalization data is from [North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services' Hospitalization Data Dashboard](#). (All data is current as of 12/2/2021 at 2:00 pm)

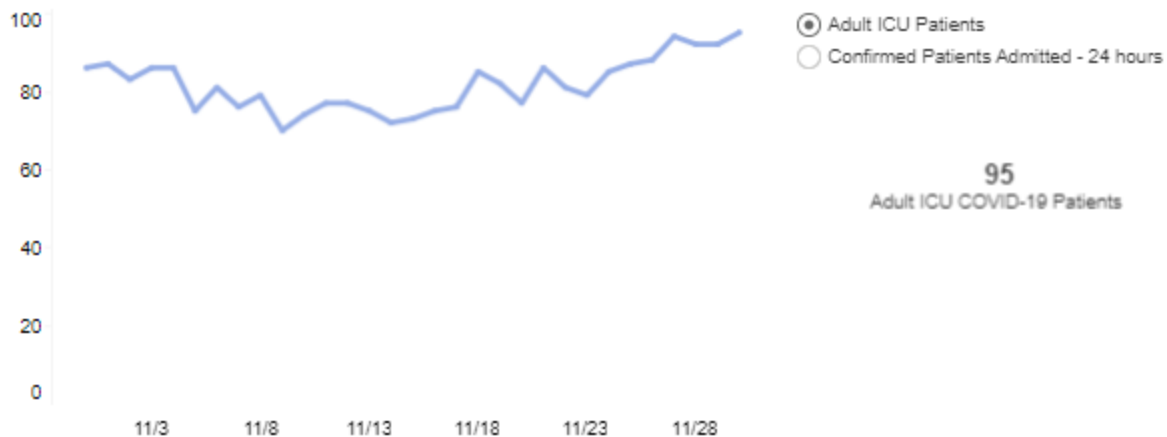


CapRAC - Capital Region Healthcare Preparedness Coalition
DHPC - Duke Healthcare Preparedness Coalition
EHPC - Eastern Healthcare Preparedness Coalition
MAHPC - Mountain Area Healthcare Preparedness Coalition
MCRHC - Mid Carolina Regional Healthcare Coalition
MHPC - Metrolina Healthcare Preparedness Coalition
SHPR - Southeastern Healthcare Preparedness Region
THPC - Triad Healthcare Preparedness Coalition

Currently Hospitalized COVID-19 Patients in Triad Health Preparedness Coalition Region* (THPC)



Number of COVID-19 Adult ICU Patients in Triad Health Preparedness Coalition Region* (THPC)



Watauga County COVID-19 Case Updates

Updated Cases to Date in **Watauga County**: (All data is current as of 11/12/2021 at 9:00 am- Cumulative case counts may decrease or fluctuate due to ongoing reconciliation of data sets and elimination of duplicate data.)

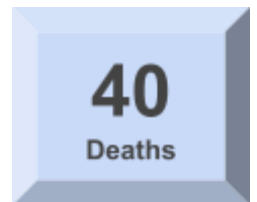


*At-Home tests, while they provide valuable information regarding COVID status and potential spread, are reportable to NCDHHS as suspected cases and are thus not included in our cases to date.

A breakthrough case is when someone who is fully vaccinated becomes infected. **Breakthrough cases occur in only a small proportion of vaccinated people and the vast majority are avoiding serious illness, hospitalization, or death.**

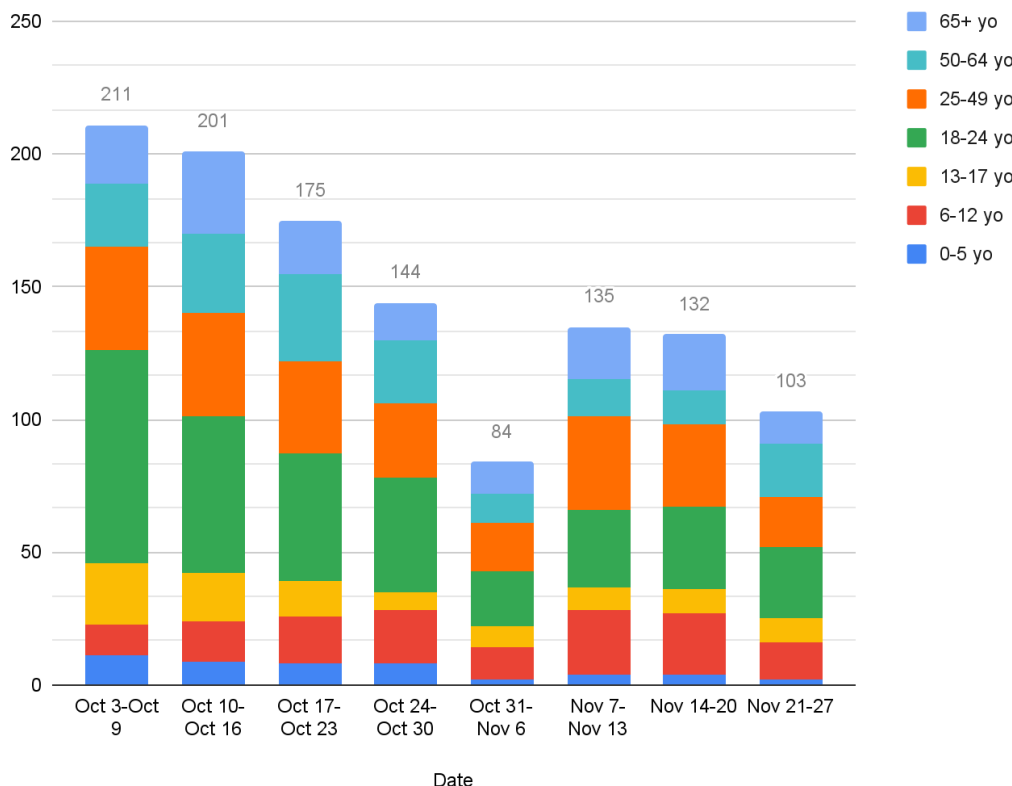
If you have COVID-19 symptoms or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 (regardless of whether or not you have symptoms), we recommend you be tested.

AppHealthCare offers free walk-in testing. Refer to our [website](#) for more information and FAQs regarding getting tested for COVID-19.

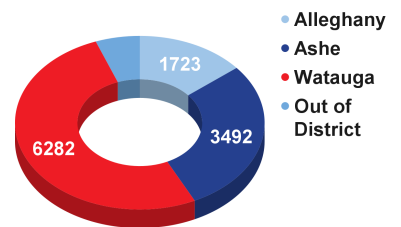


Active Cases/Week Broken Down by Age Group

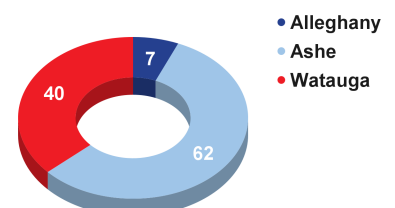
Watauga County



Positive Cases



COVID-19 Deaths



[Click here to view COVID-19 case and trend distribution by demographic groups for Alleghany, Ashe, and Watauga counties.](#)

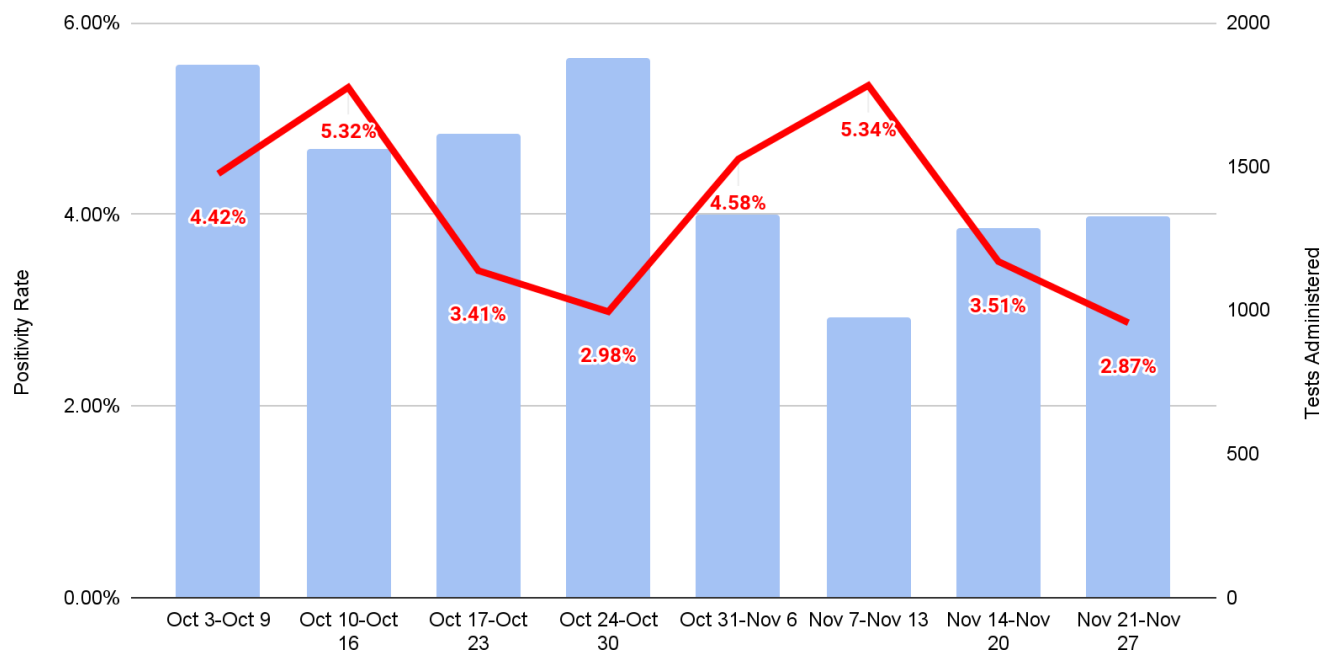
Watauga County COVID-19 Case Trends

Changes since the Watauga County November 26th Situation Update:



Tests Administered Vs Positivity Rate

Watauga County



Active Clusters and Outbreaks in Watauga County

An outbreak is defined as two or more laboratory confirmed cases within a 14 day period in a congregate living setting. A cluster is defined as a minimum of five cases within a 14-day period and plausible epidemiologic linkage between cases. An outbreak or cluster is considered active until 28 days have passed with no newly identified cases. Additional information on the [definitions of outbreaks and clusters](#) is provided by the North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services.

County	Setting Name	Setting Type	Active Cases	Cumulative Cases	Latest Positive Result
Watauga	Thunder Hill Residence Hall (App State University)	University/College	0	16	10/21/2021
Watauga	Cottages of Boone	Apartment Complex	1	17	11/22/2021
Watauga	The Standard at Boone	Apartment Complex	0	11	10/20/2021

(Cluster and outbreak data is current as of 12/1/2021 at 9am)

Alleghany (336) 372-5641 | Ashe (336) 246-9449 | Watauga (828) 264-4995

AppHealthCare COVID-19 Message Line: (828) 795-1970

General COVID-19 Questions: preparedness@apphealth.com

Media inquiries: media@apphealth.com

www.AppHealthCare.com and follow us on Facebook & Twitter

