

# Pre-K through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Face Mask Order

Ottawa County Board of Commissioners Meeting  
August 24, 2021

# The August 20, 2021 Public Health Order

- What is required?
  - Appropriate and properly worn face coverings when inside for pre-kindergarten through grade six for students, staff and visitors
- What exceptions are allowed?
  - Eating & drinking
  - Under 4 years old
  - Developmental conditions where face mask inhibits access to learning and when there is an Individualized Education Plan or equivalent
  - Vaccinated teachers with students who are hard of hearing or developmental conditions needing facial cues
  - Medical reason confirmed in writing by an MD/DO licensed to practice in MI

# The August 20, 2021 Public Health Order

- When will the order be lifted?
  - 60 days after the COVID-19 vaccine is available to grades pre-kindergarten through grade six, **OR**
  - Community transmission for Ottawa County reaches CDC’s “Low” category for at least 7 consecutive days, **OR**
  - By notice of the Health Officer, whichever occurs first

Indicator - If the two indicators suggest different transmission levels, the higher level is selected	Low Transmission Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
Total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days	0-9.99	10-49.99	50-99.99	≥ 100
Percentage of NAATs <sup>1</sup> that are positive during the past 7 days	0-4.99%	5-7.99%	8-9.99%	≥ 10.0%

# Road Map for Decision-Making

## JUNE

- “Low” risk
- Monitoring COVID data and vaccination coverage
- 1<sup>st</sup> Delta variant case detected late this month
- Cases rising in FL, TX, CA and other states in South and West



## JULY

- “Moderate” risk in July
- Weekly local health department meetings
- OCDPH planning local school guidance
- By 3<sup>rd</sup> week most sequenced results are Delta
- Data monitoring increases for COVID and vaccine; watching other states
- CDC & AAP school guidance



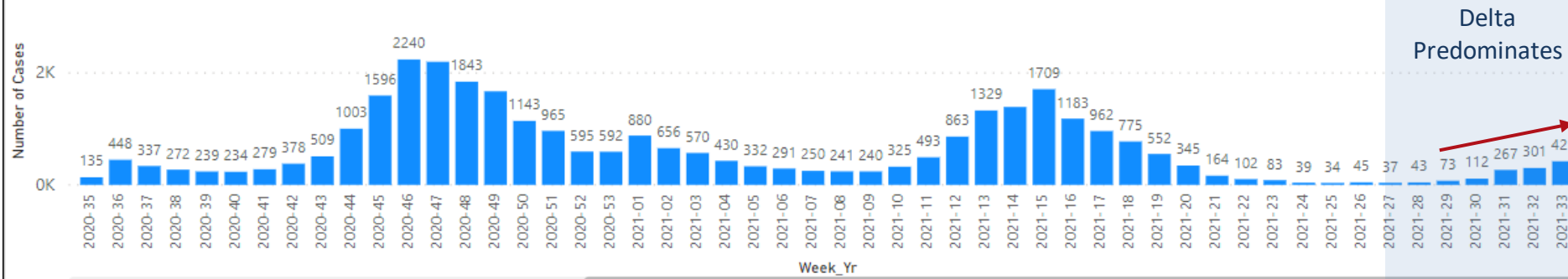
## AUGUST

- Weekly school meetings; MDHHS guidance
- **Aug 6 COVID-19 Prevention Order**
- “Substantial” risk on 8/7
- Media release alerting community and publish OCDPH Interim School Guidance
- “High” risk on 8/10
- Urgent media release on 8/13; MDHHS updates guidance
- Alert schools that another Order is being considered: 7+ consecutive days + hospitalization ↑
- Q & A with pediatric and Infectious disease experts
- **Aug 20 Face Mask Order**

# The Data: Then & Now

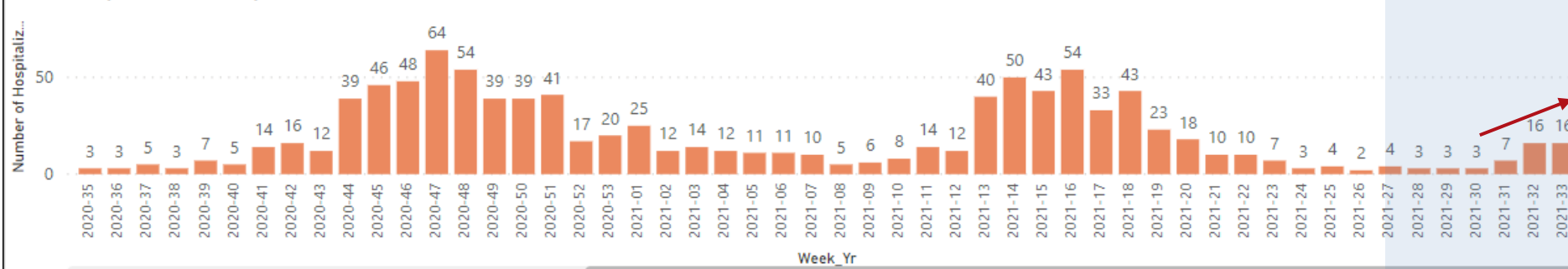
## Key Indicators By Week

### New Cases By Week of Referral



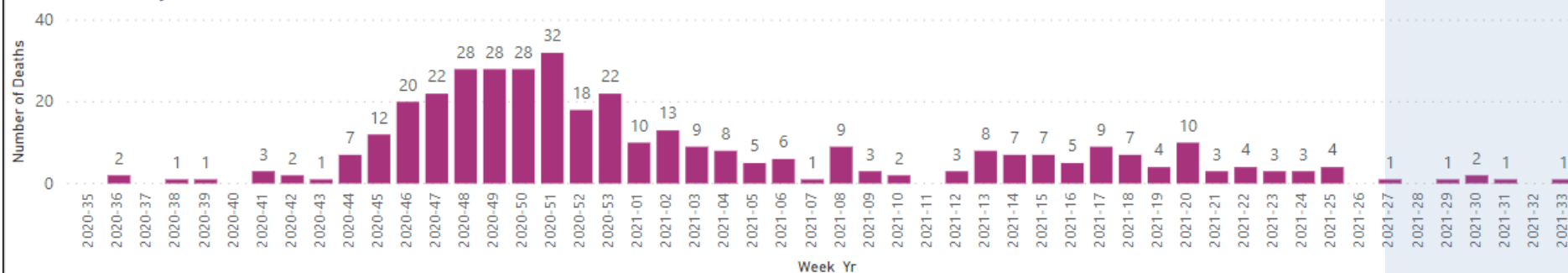
Cases higher in August 2021 than August 2020 and increasing for **five consecutive weeks**.

### New Hospitalizations by Week of Admission



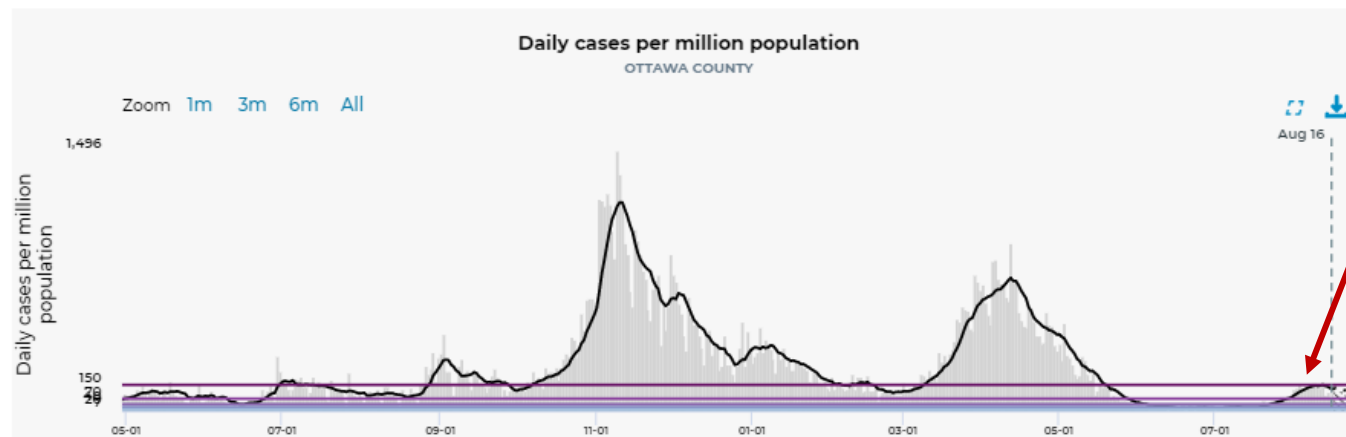
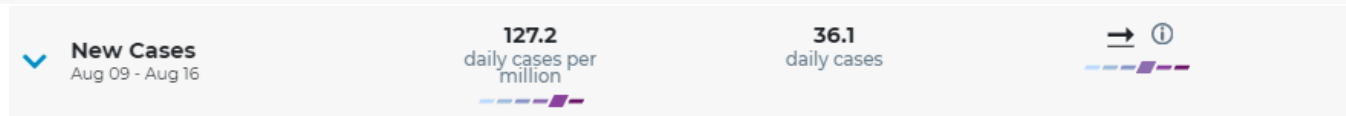
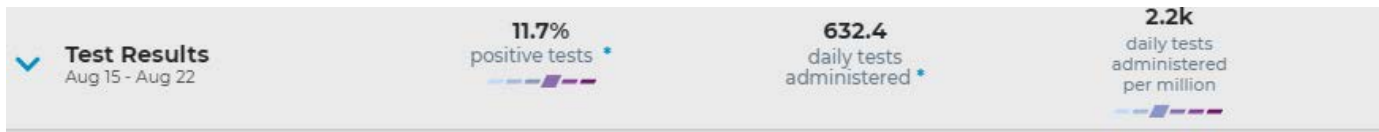
Hospitalizations higher in August 2021 than August 2020 and **increasing**.

### New Deaths by Week of Death



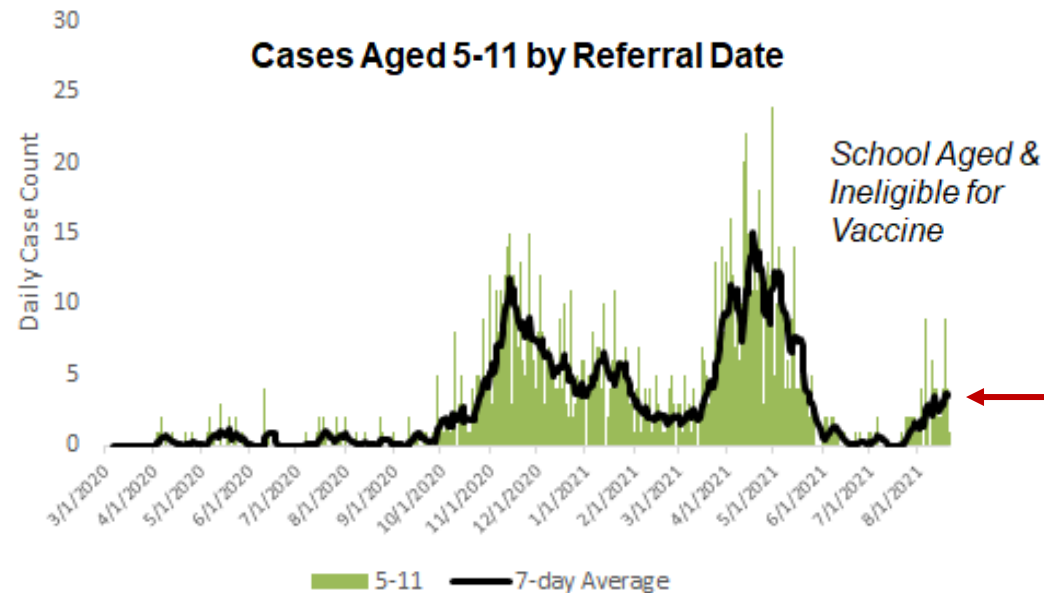
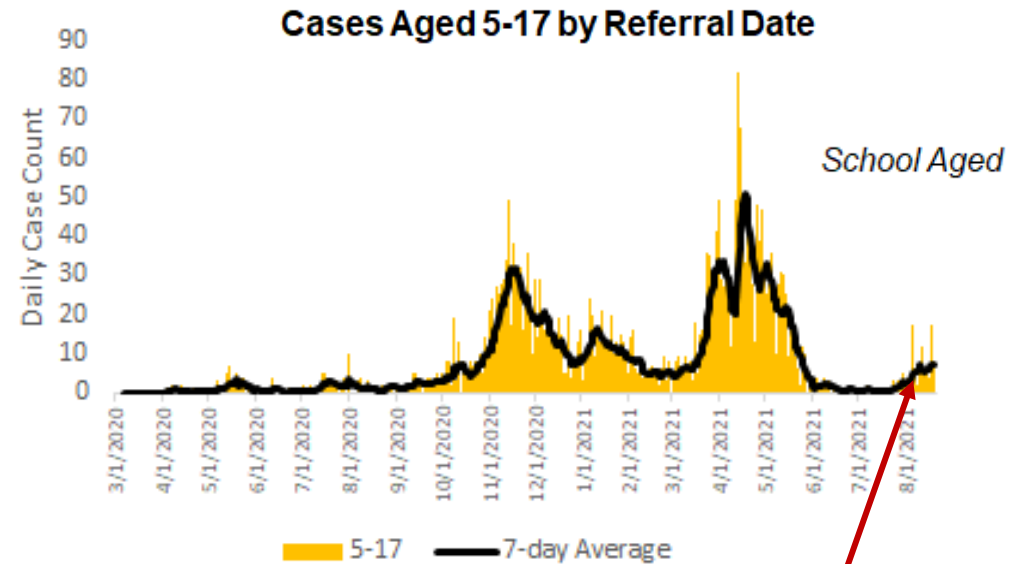
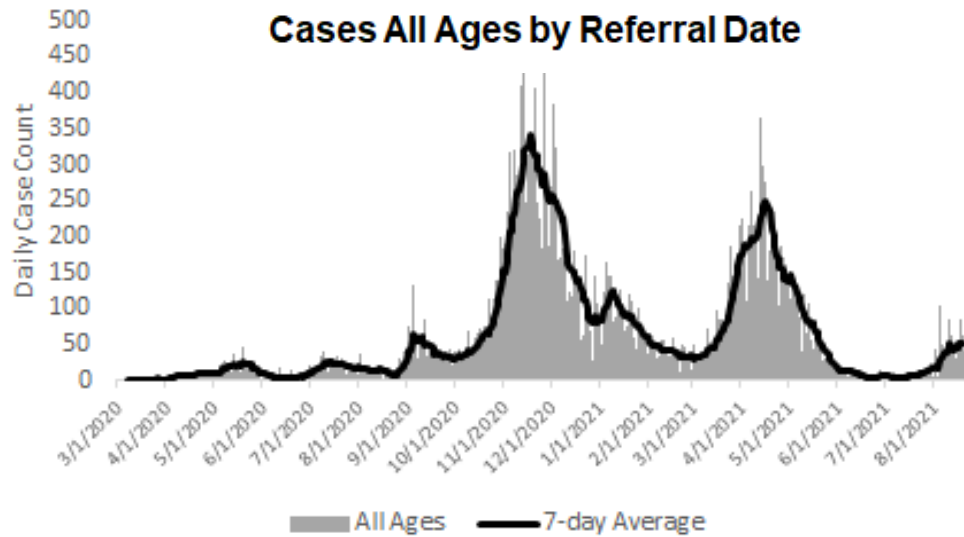
Deaths in August 2021 about the same as last year. **Typically lag 2 to 4 weeks** after hospitalizations.

# The Data: Ottawa County



COVID-19 test positivity and case rates are increasing in Ottawa County.

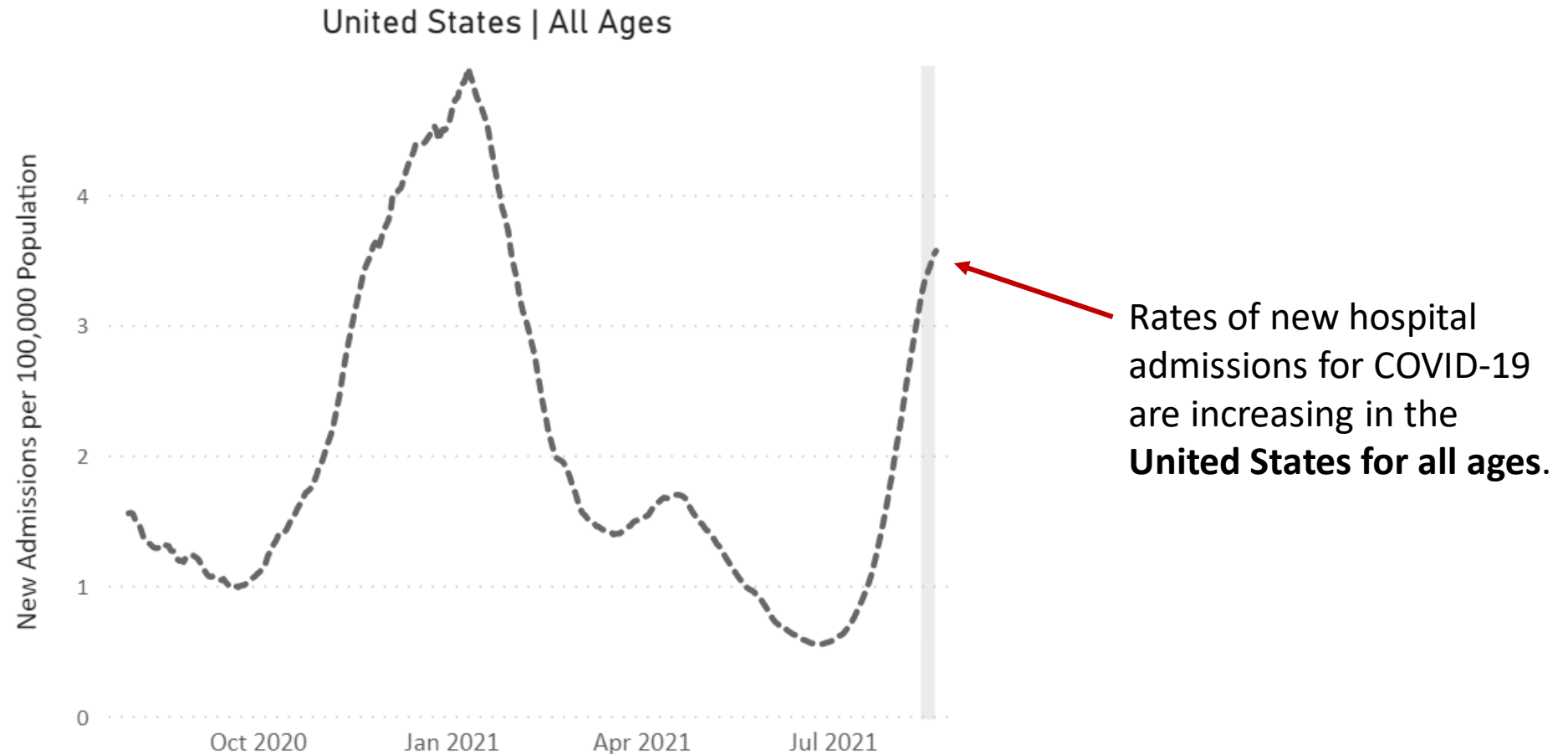
# The Data: Ottawa County Cases



COVID-19 case counts are increasing for youth in Ottawa County

# The Data: National Hospital Rates Climb

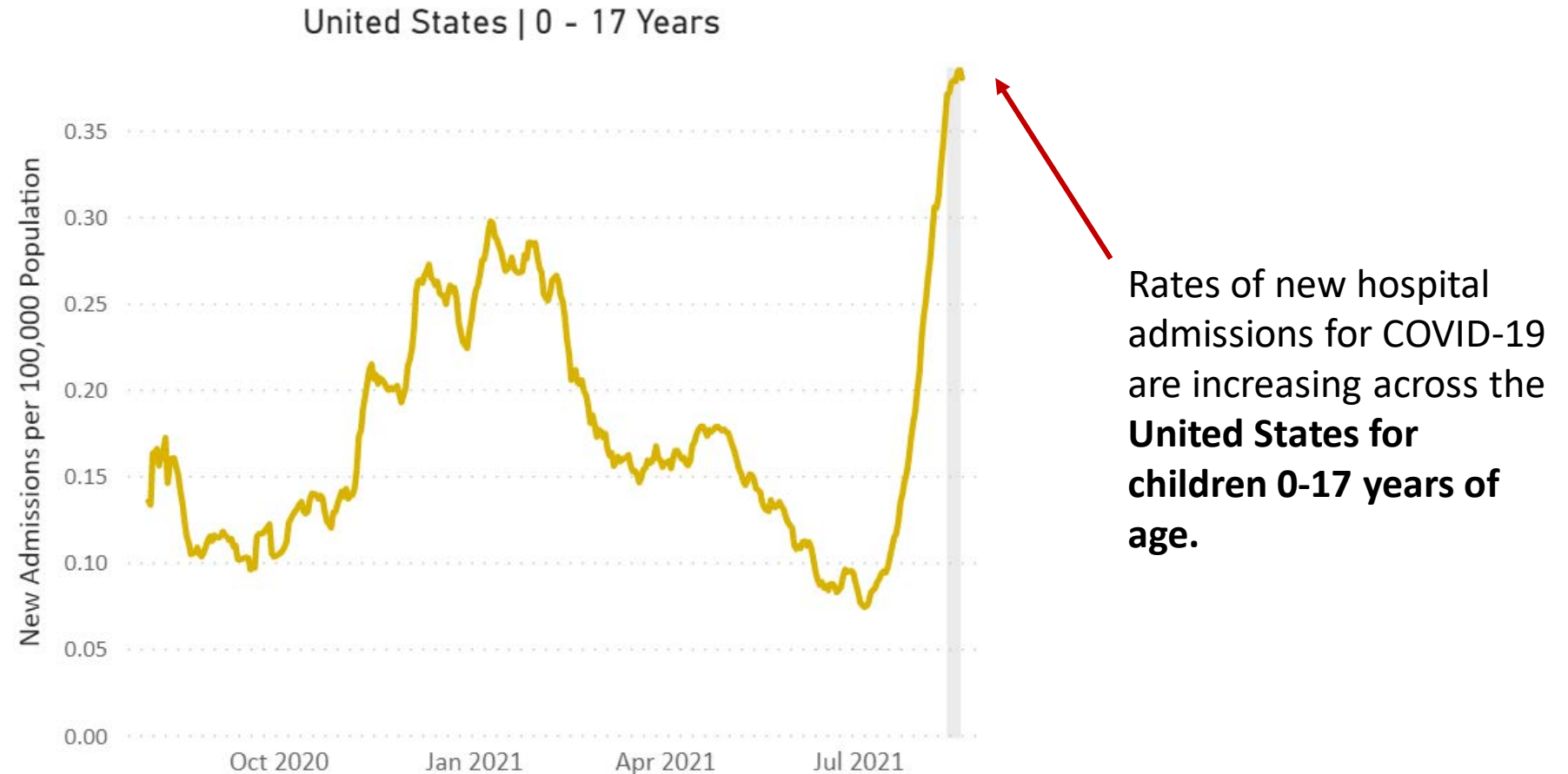
**New Admissions of Patients with Confirmed COVID-19 per 100,000 by Age Group, United States, August 1, 2020 – August 19, 2021**





# The Data: National Hospital Rates for Youth Set Records

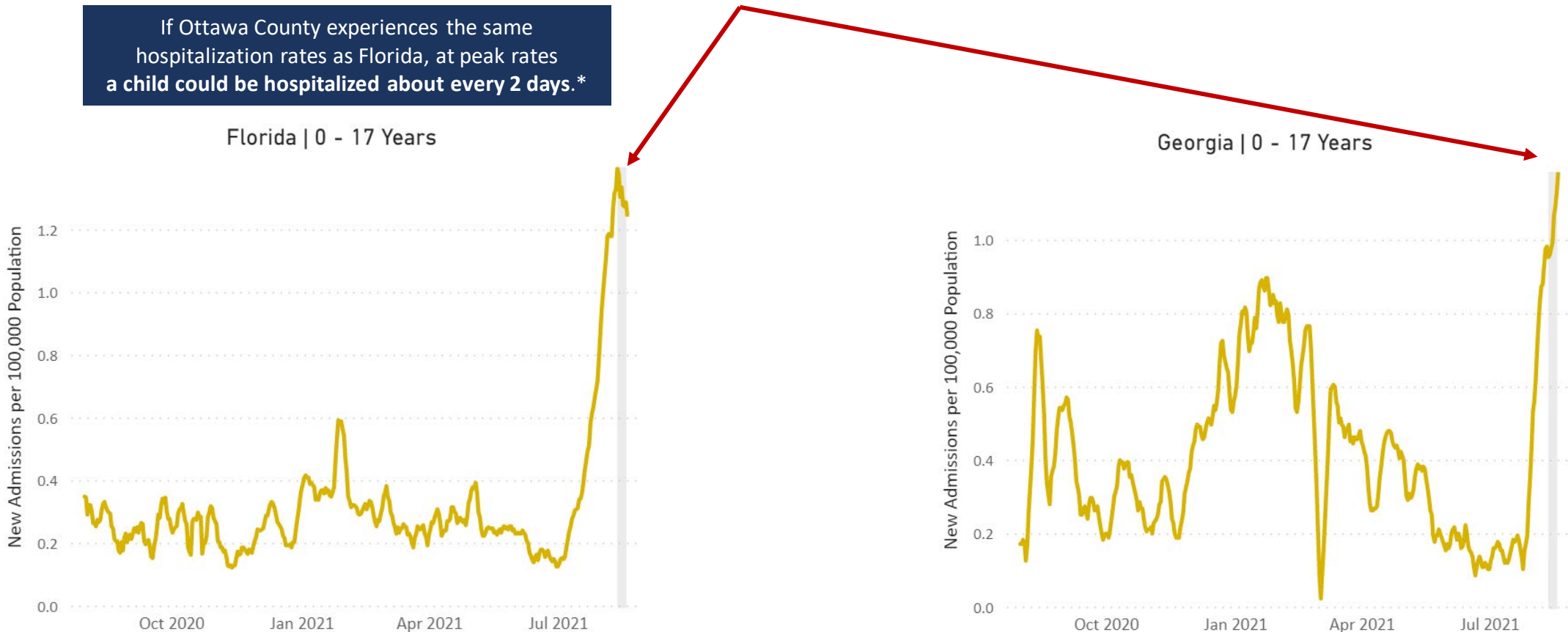
**New Admissions of Patients with Confirmed COVID-19 per 100,000 by Age Group, United States, August 1, 2020 – August 19, 2021**



# The Data: Youth Hospital Rates by State

Southern states experiencing COVID-19 surges are seeing some of the **highest rates of hospitalized children** since August 2020.

If Ottawa County experiences the same hospitalization rates as Florida, at peak rates a child could be hospitalized about every 2 days.\*

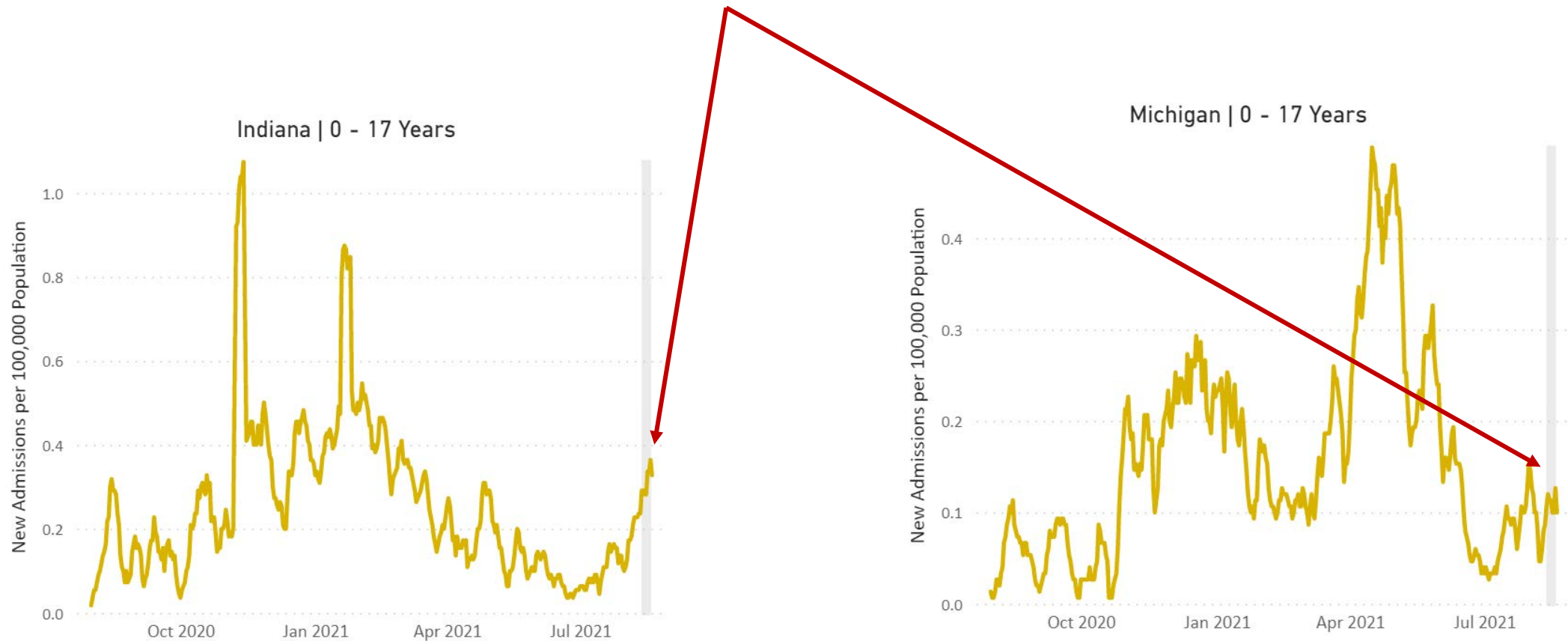


Source(s): [CDC COVID Data Tracker](#)

\*Calculation for hypothetical Ottawa Child Hospitalization Rate =  $((1.29 / 100000) * 69279)$  [Ottawa population aged 0-17 = 69279, per CDC Wonder 2019 estimates]

# The Data: Youth Hospital Rates by State

**Indiana** and **Michigan** are also experiencing **rising hospitalization rates** among children.



# The Data: Underlying Conditions for Youth

46%

As of June 30, 2021, this % of youth hospitalized for COVID-19 in the U.S. had **NO underlying health conditions**

# Data: National Pediatric Outcomes

Total influenza-associated pediatric deaths in the U.S. and Michigan by season.

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
United States	188	144	199	1
Michigan	3	3	6	0

**200** Influenza-associated deaths since October 2019  
vs  
**471 COVID-19 deaths** in only 15 months

4,404  
MIS-C Cases

(5 cases in Ottawa, collectively spent 28 days in the hospital)

# Summary of Evidence for Action

- The Delta variant is very infectious; kids under 12 are not yet eligible for vaccines and are therefore unprotected
- Outcomes of Delta in other states are concerning, especially pediatric hospitalization
- Children will be back in school this fall in-person without many of the prevention strategies from last school year
- Without masks or regular testing, up to 90% of susceptible students may become infected by December (if only 30% have incoming immunity)
- The American Academy of Pediatrics, CDC and MDHHS say masks are safe and effective
- Ottawa has accelerated through the CDC risk thresholds, Moderate to High less than 1 week
- Signal in the data showing an increase in hospitalized cases in Ottawa
- Children are susceptible to severe outcomes of COVID-19, including hospitalization, MIS-C, and death
- The duty to prevent an imminent health threat to children and the community

# Common Questions

Are masks harmful to kids?

Do masks harm development?

Do we really know if masks are effective?

Can't the virus get through a mask?

Is Delta riskier for kids?

Why mask if kids don't die from COVID?

Why don't we mask for the flu?

What studies have you considered?

What about the mental health impact of masks?

Isn't natural immunity from infections important?

Can kids use a mask properly & safely?

Isn't it good enough if each person chooses what's best for them?

# Next Steps

- Resources posted soon to the OCDPH website
  - Frequently Asked Questions
  - Research
  - Legal opinions