



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

COVID-19 Press Briefing

May 18, 2022



Daily Change in COVID-19 Cases, US

January 22, 2020 – May 16, 2022

TOTAL Cases Reported Since 1/22/20

82,522,948

NEW Cases Reported to CDC on 5/16/22

127,814

Change in 7-Day Case Average

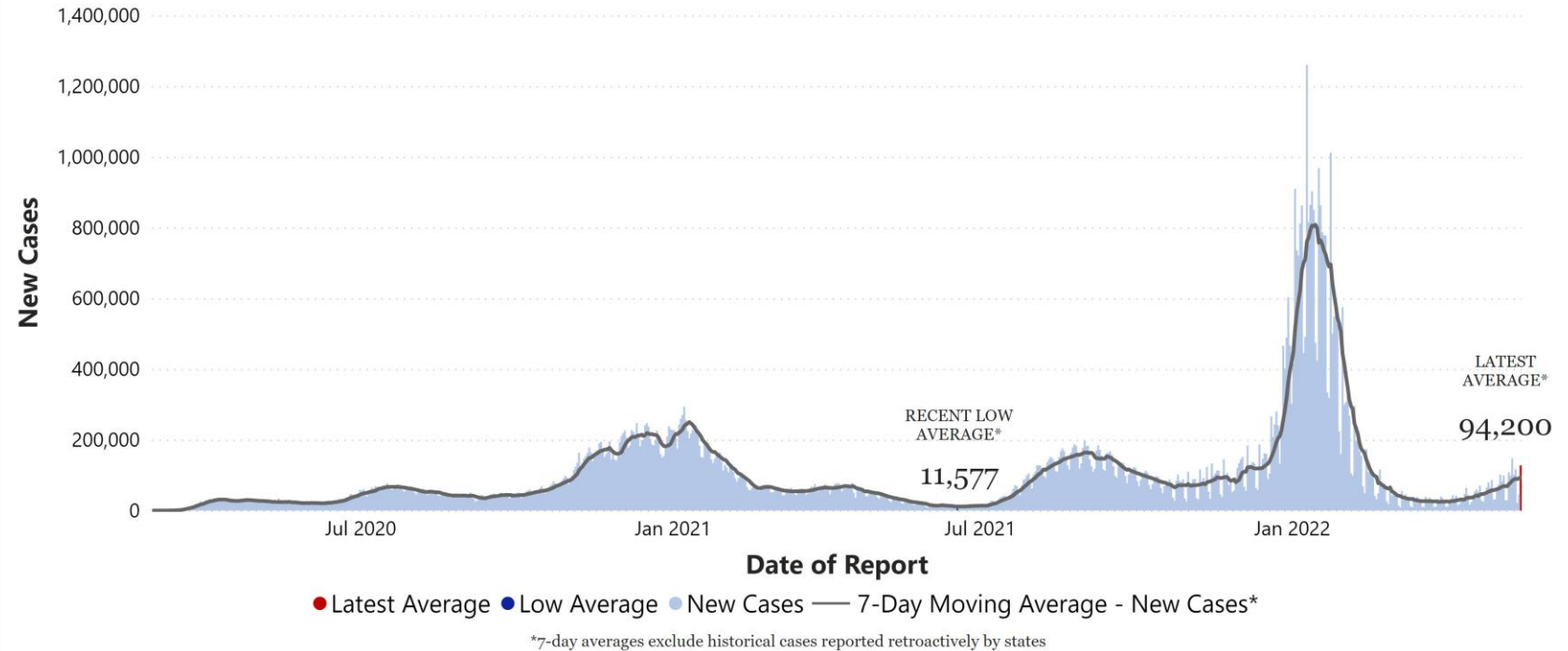
+25.8%

Current 7-Day Case Average (5/10/22 - 5/16/22)

94,200

Prior 7-Day Case Average (5/3/22 - 5/9/22)

74,890



New Admissions of Patients with Confirmed COVID-19, US

August 1, 2020 – May 15, 2022

Patients Currently Hospitalized with COVID on 5/15/22

16,422

New Admissions on 5/15/22

2,853

Peak in New Admissions (1/12/22)

22,920

Change in 7-Day Average of New Admissions

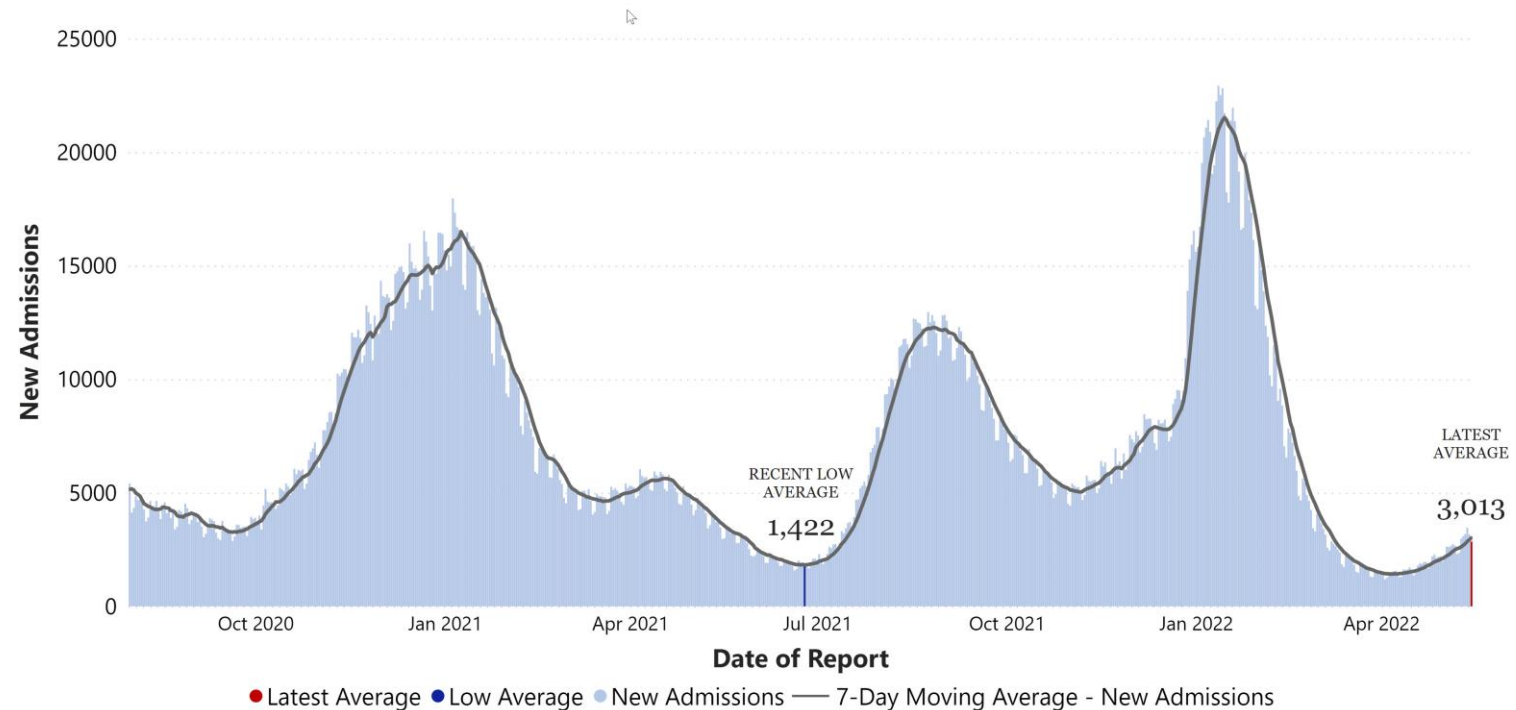
+18.7%

Current 7-Day Average of New Admissions (5/9/22 - 5/15/22)

3,013

Prior 7-Day Average of New Admissions (5/2/22 - 5/8/22)

2,539



Daily Change in COVID-19 Deaths, US

January 22, 2020 – May 16, 2022

TOTAL Deaths Reported Since 1/22/2020

997,468

NEW Deaths Reported to CDC on 5/16/22

231

Change in 7-Day Death Average

-10.6%

Current 7-Day Death Average (5/10/22 - 5/16/22)

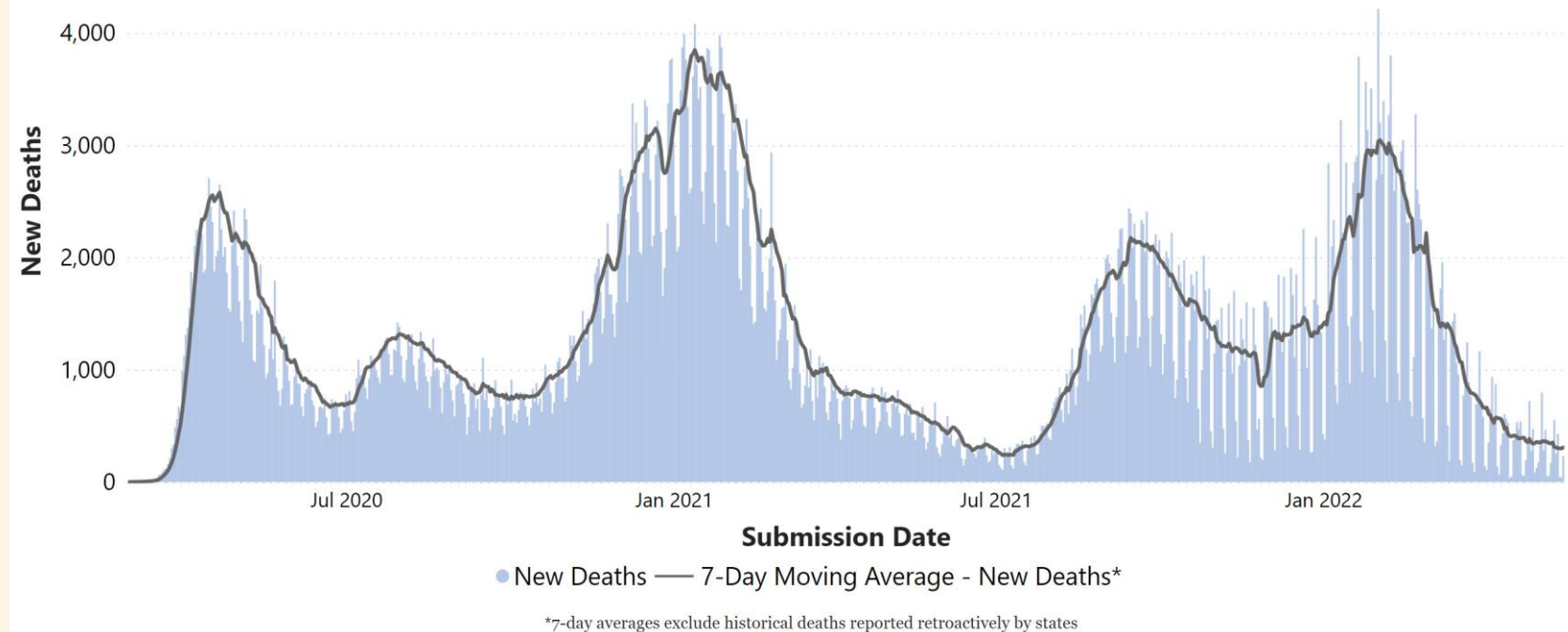
275

Prior 7-Day Death Average (5/3/22 - 5/9/22)

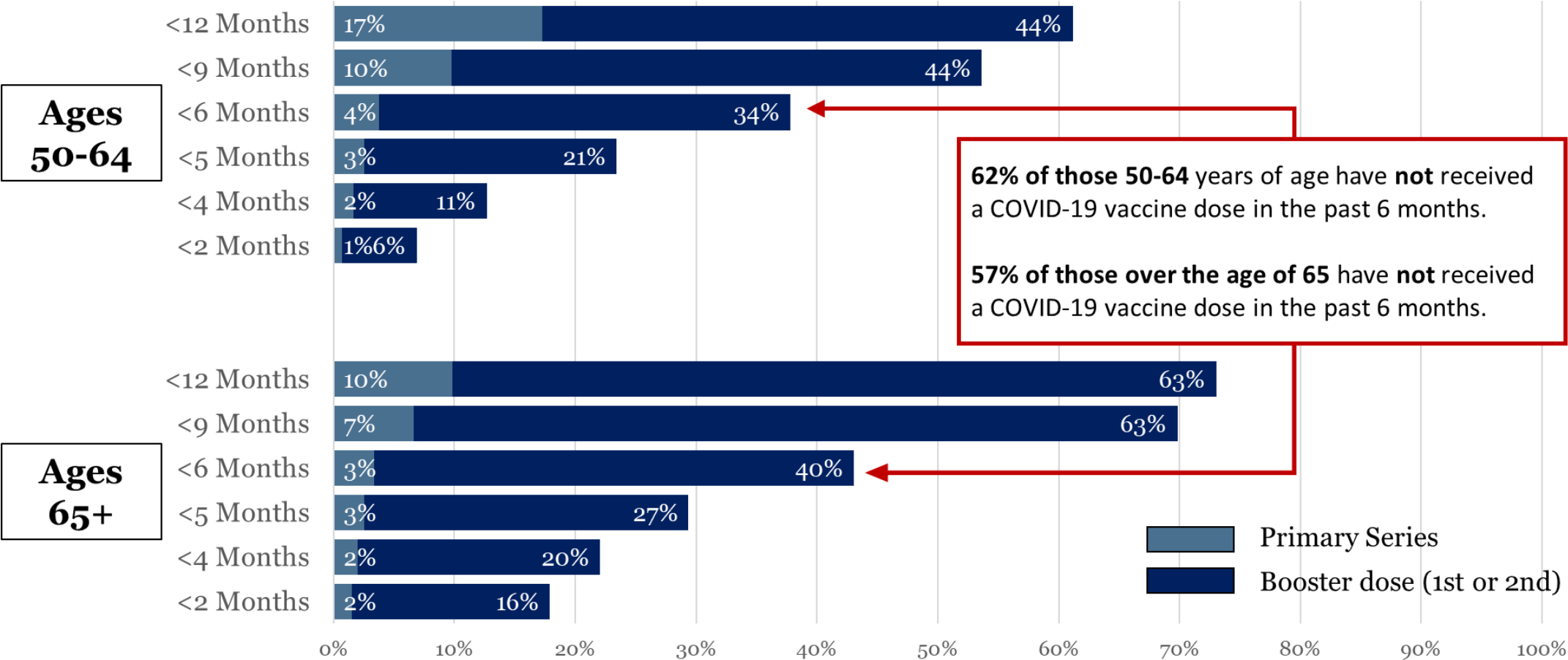
308

Forecasted Total Deaths by week ending (04/09/22)

1,005,000 to 1,018,000



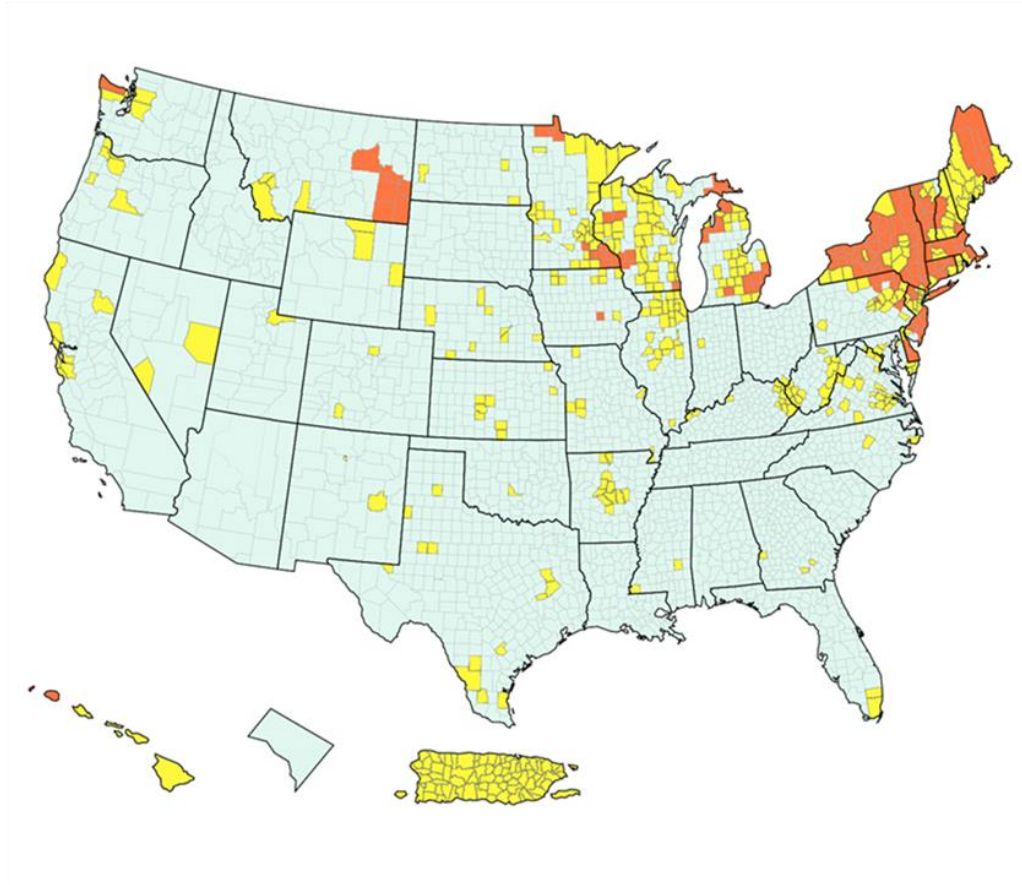
Percentage of US Population by Age Group that Received Their Most Recent COVID-19 Vaccine Dose (Series Completion or Booster) within a Given Period Before May 15, 2022



Source: Immunization Data Lake. Data as of May 15, 2022.

Current COVID-19 Community Levels

As of May 12, 2022



>30% of the population currently lives in a county with a medium or high COVID-19 Community Level

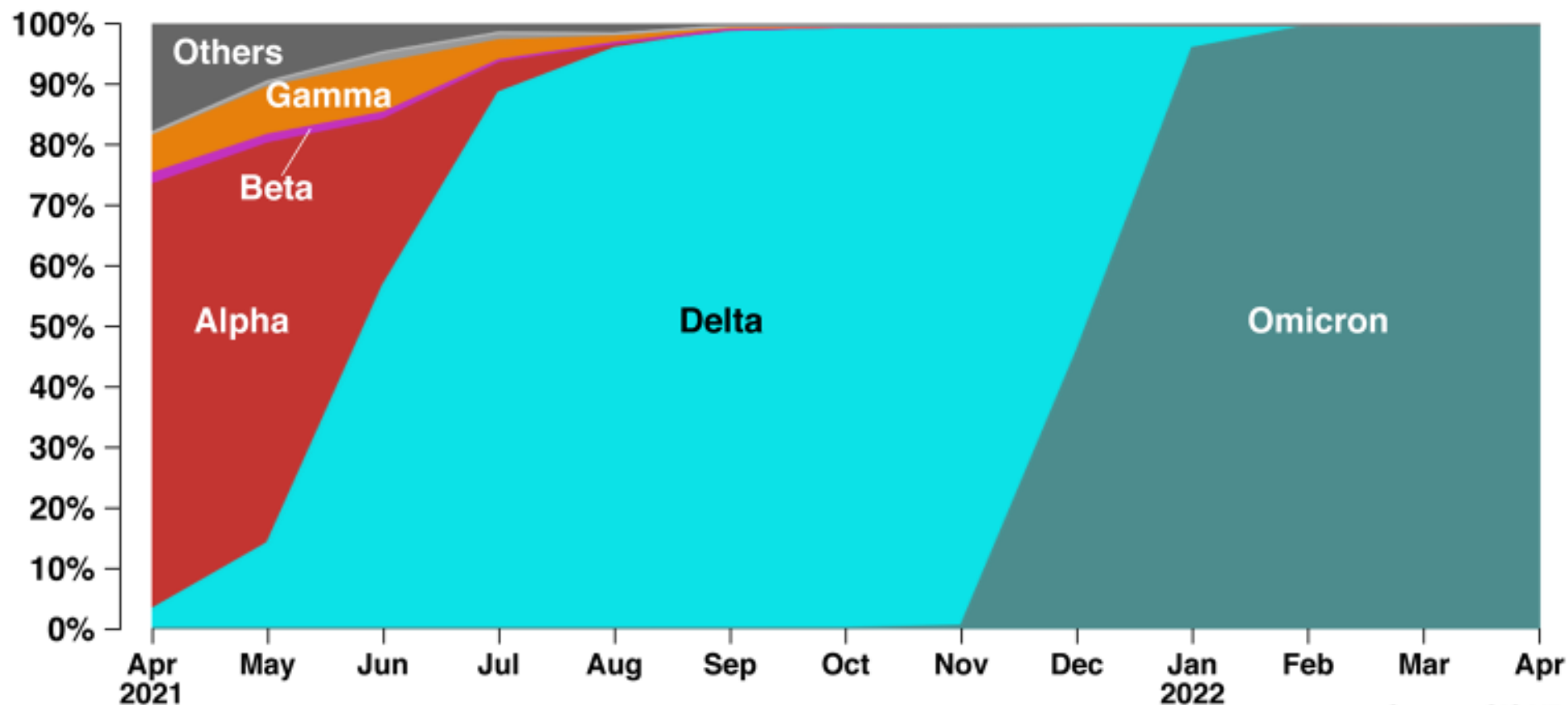
COVID-19 Community Levels by U.S. County

	% of Counties	% Change
Low	81.7%	-6.1%
Medium	14.1%	+4.3%
High	4.2%	+1.8%

COVID-19 Community Levels by U.S. Population

	% of Population	% Change
Low	67.6%	-8.3%
Medium	23.2%	+3.1%
High	9.2%	+5.2%

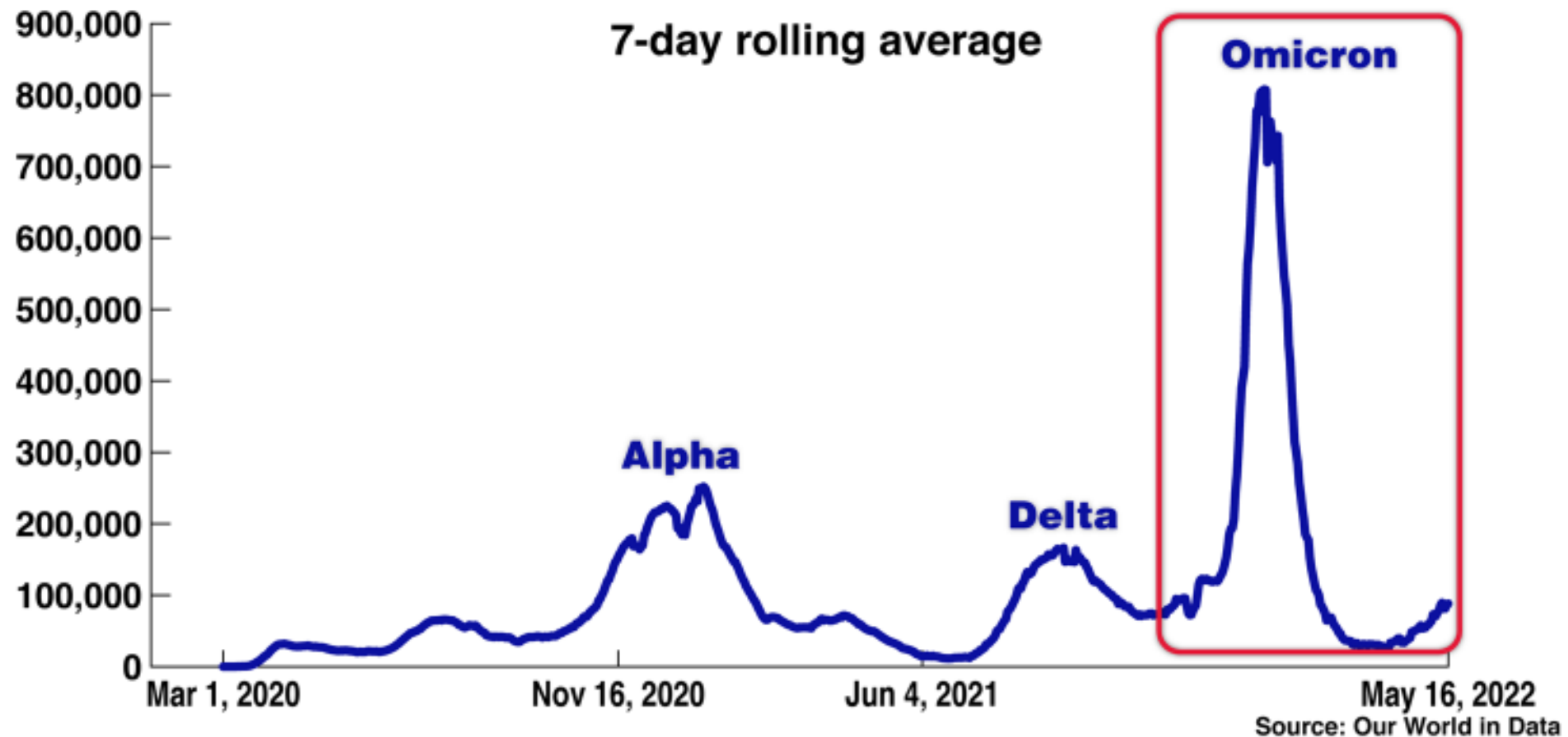
Timecourse of SARS-CoV-2 Variant Distribution, Global



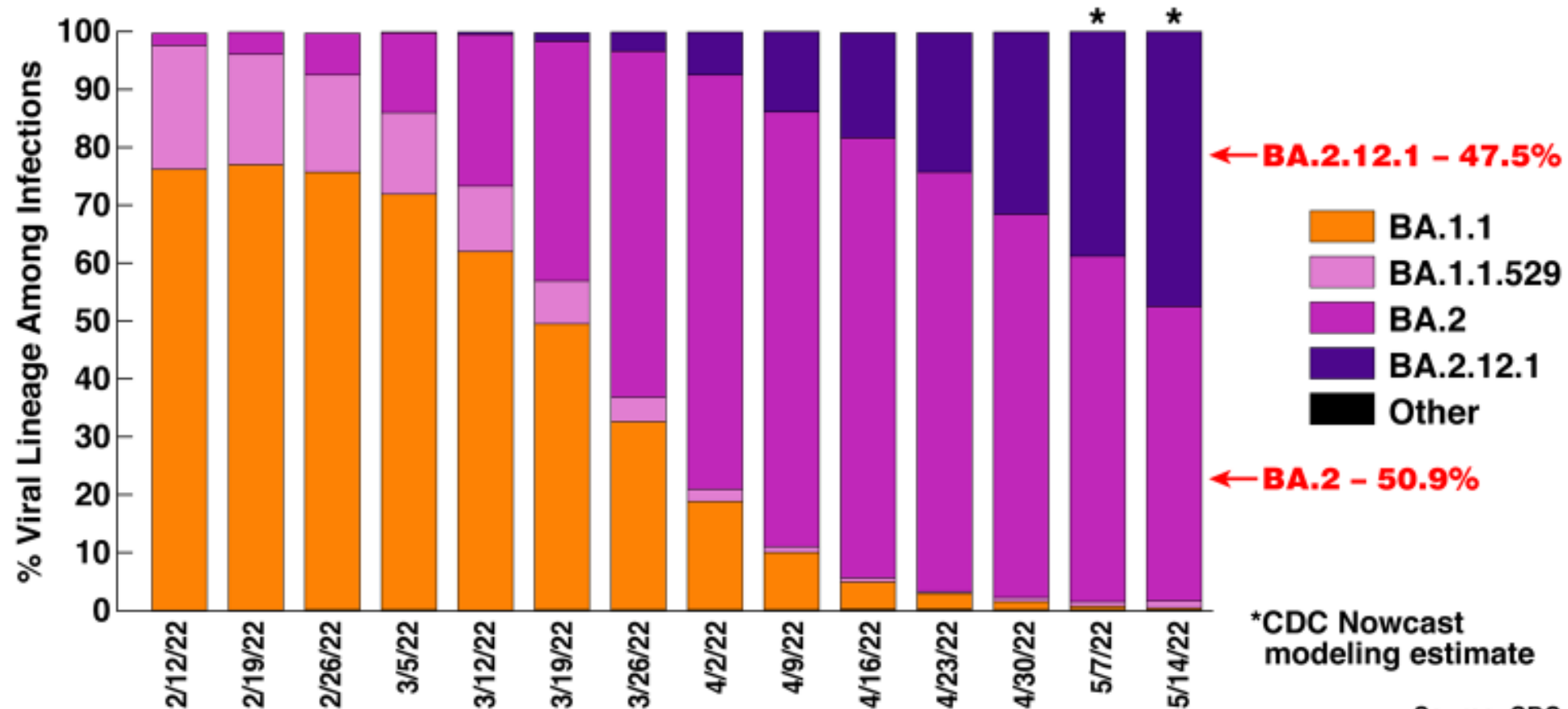
Source: GISAID



Daily New Confirmed COVID-19 Cases, United States

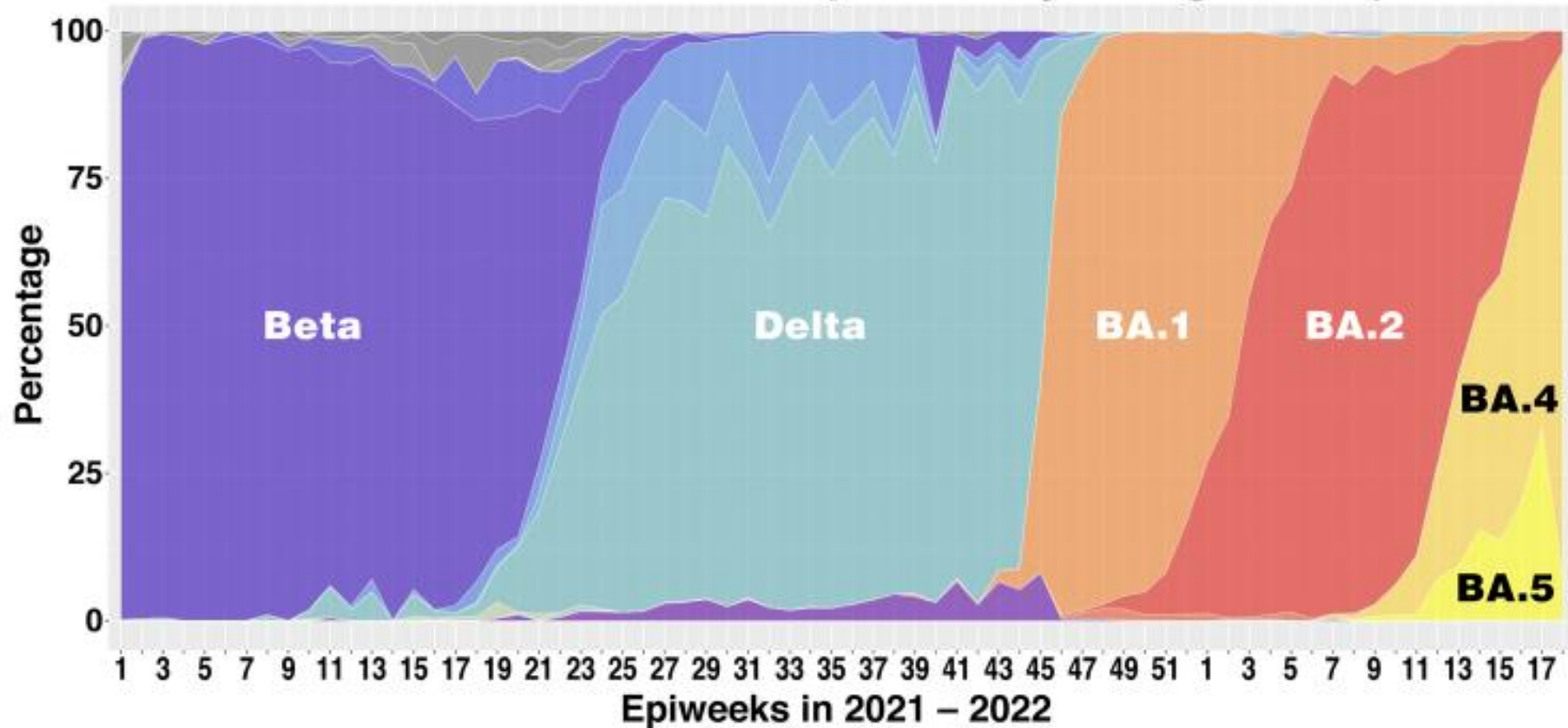


SARS-CoV-2 Variant Proportions, United States, Feb. 6 - May 14, 2022



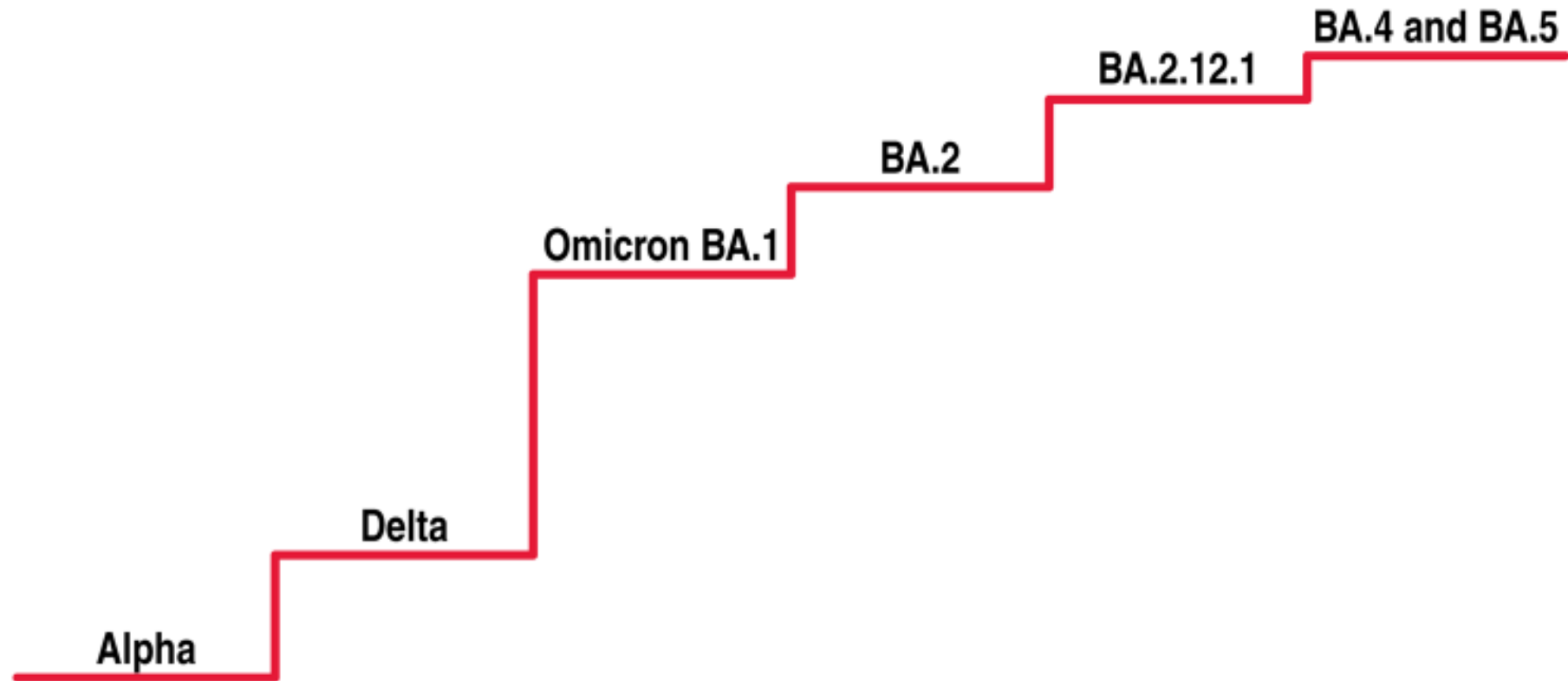
South Africa: BA.4, BA.5 Now Dominant

Prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 sequences by lineage and epiweek



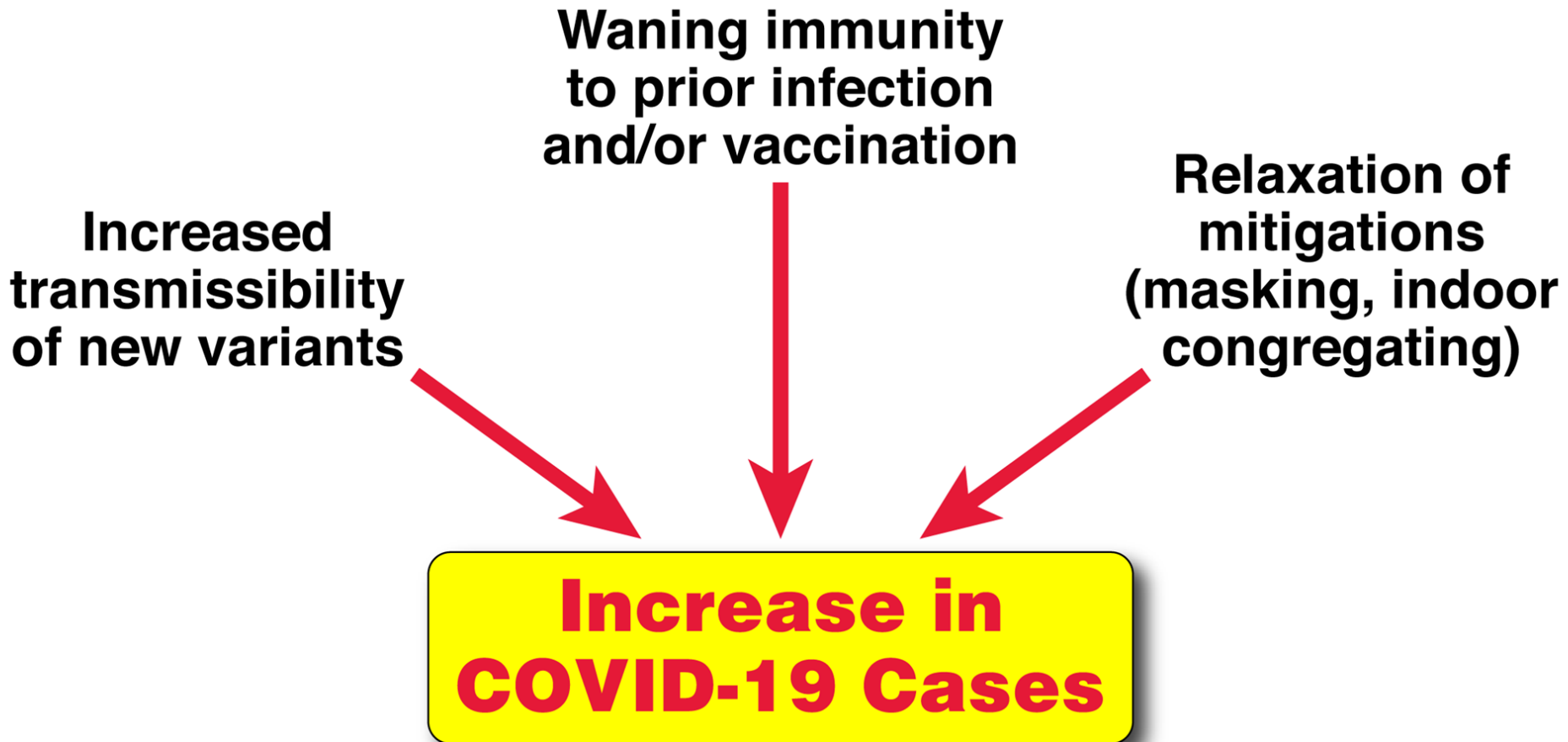
Source: Network for Genomic Surveillance in South Africa (NGS-SA), May 13, 2022

SARS-CoV-2 Variants: Ladder of Transmissibility



Adapted from E Topol: Groundtruths Substack, May 4, 2022





Meeting the Challenge of SARS-CoV-2 Variants

- Variants will continue to emerge if virus circulates globally
- Keeping levels of virus to the lowest possible level is our best defense – less replicating virus, fewer mutations
- **Vaccines** continue to provide strong protection against severe disease; however, immunity wanes – stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines and boosters
- Improve **ventilation** in indoor spaces when possible
- **Monitor COVID levels in your community** and follow CDC guidance for masks and other mitigations
- **Treatments for COVID-19 are now widely available.** If you test positive for COVID-19, talk to a healthcare provider as soon as possible about treatment options, including “test to treat”
- Development of **next-generation vaccines and therapeutics** is critical





THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

WH.GOV