



office of the governor of the commonwealth of virginia

# **GOVERNOR'S COVID-19 LONG-TERM CARE TASK FORCE**

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October 28, 2021

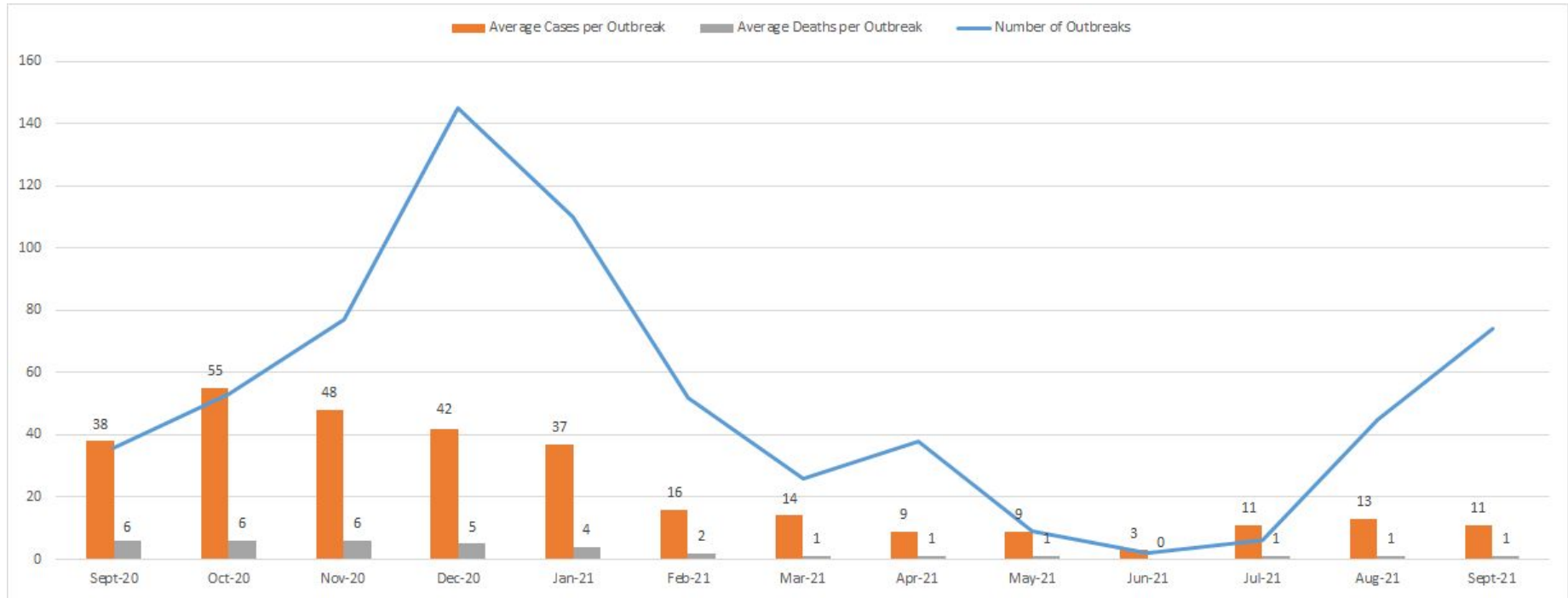
# Welcome and Housekeeping Items

- Please mute your phone (do NOT put us on hold) if you are not speaking
- We prefer to take questions/comments at the end of each agenda item
  - Feel free to utilize the chat box

# Overview of Agenda

- Data Update
- Infection Control Guidance Updates
- Testing Check-In
- Vaccination Check-In
- Monoclonal Antibody Update
- DMAS Update
- Strike Team Planning
- Next Steps
- Discussion

# COVID-19 Outbreaks in Long-Term Care Facilities<sup>\*^†</sup>

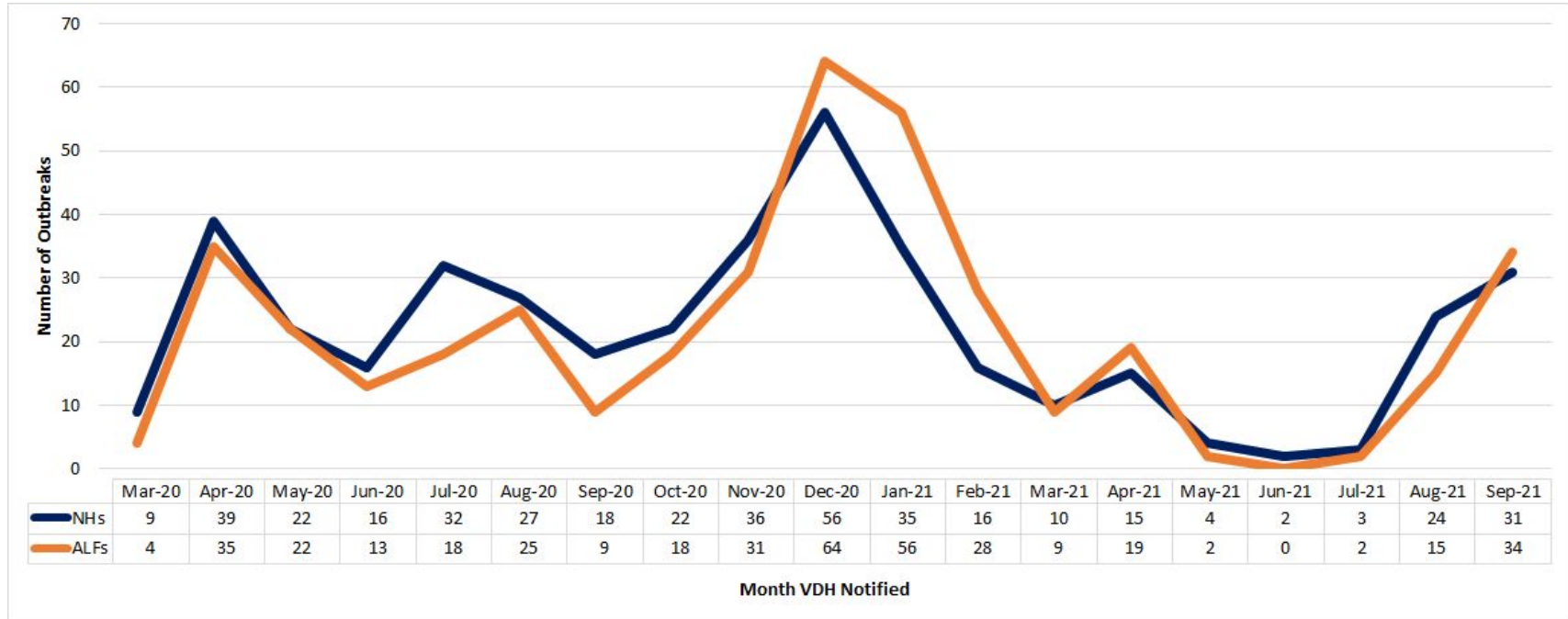


↑ CMS Visitation Guidance  
(9/17)

↑ LTCF Federal Pharmacy  
Partnership Program Begins  
(12/28)

(Updated 10/4/2021)

# COVID-19 Outbreaks Reported in NHs vs. ALFs

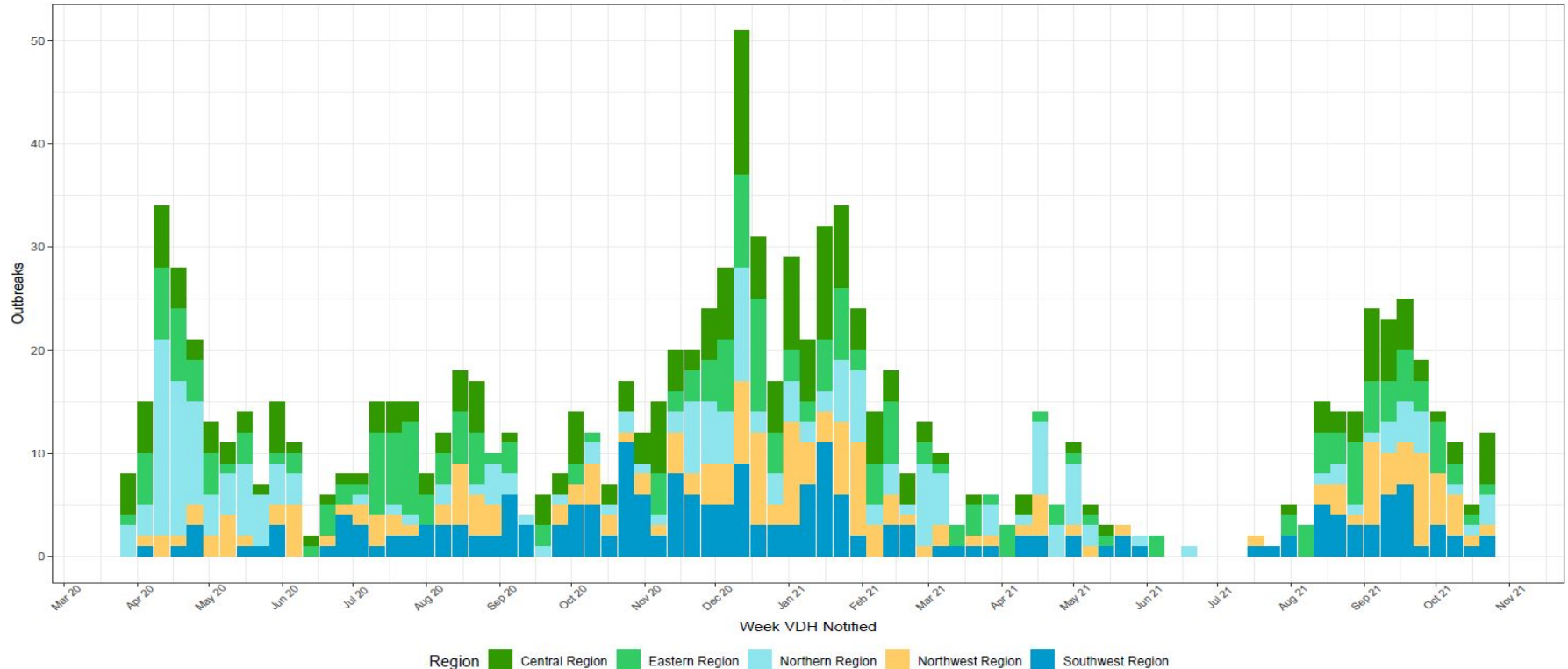


Data from VOSS and VEDSS are subject to change.

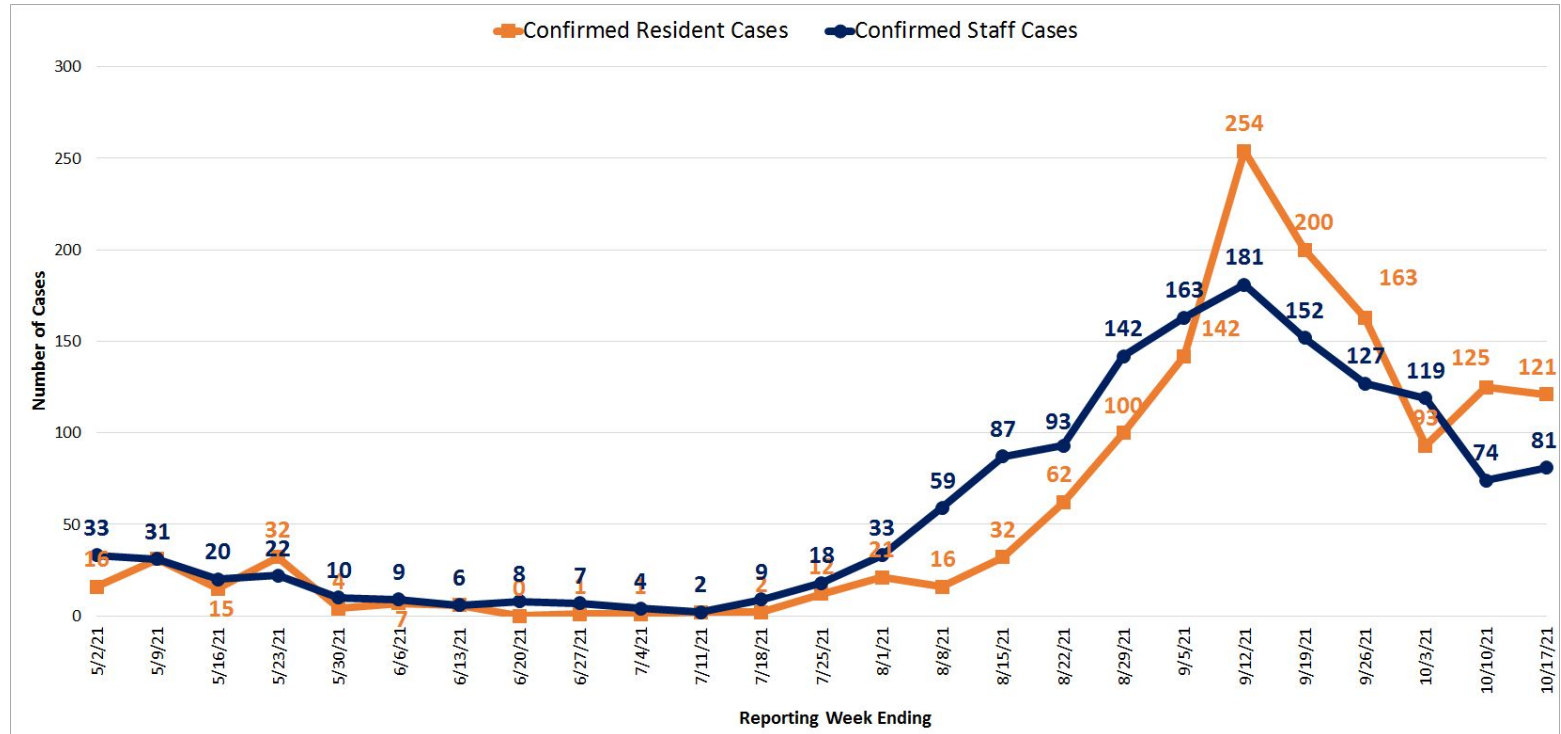
Months are from the date that VDH was notified. Outbreaks may have occurred in previous months and were retroactively reported to VDH.

# Trend: Number and Region of LTCF COVID-19 Outbreaks

by date VDH notified; includes outbreaks reported from assisted living facilities, nursing homes, and multicare facilities to VDH

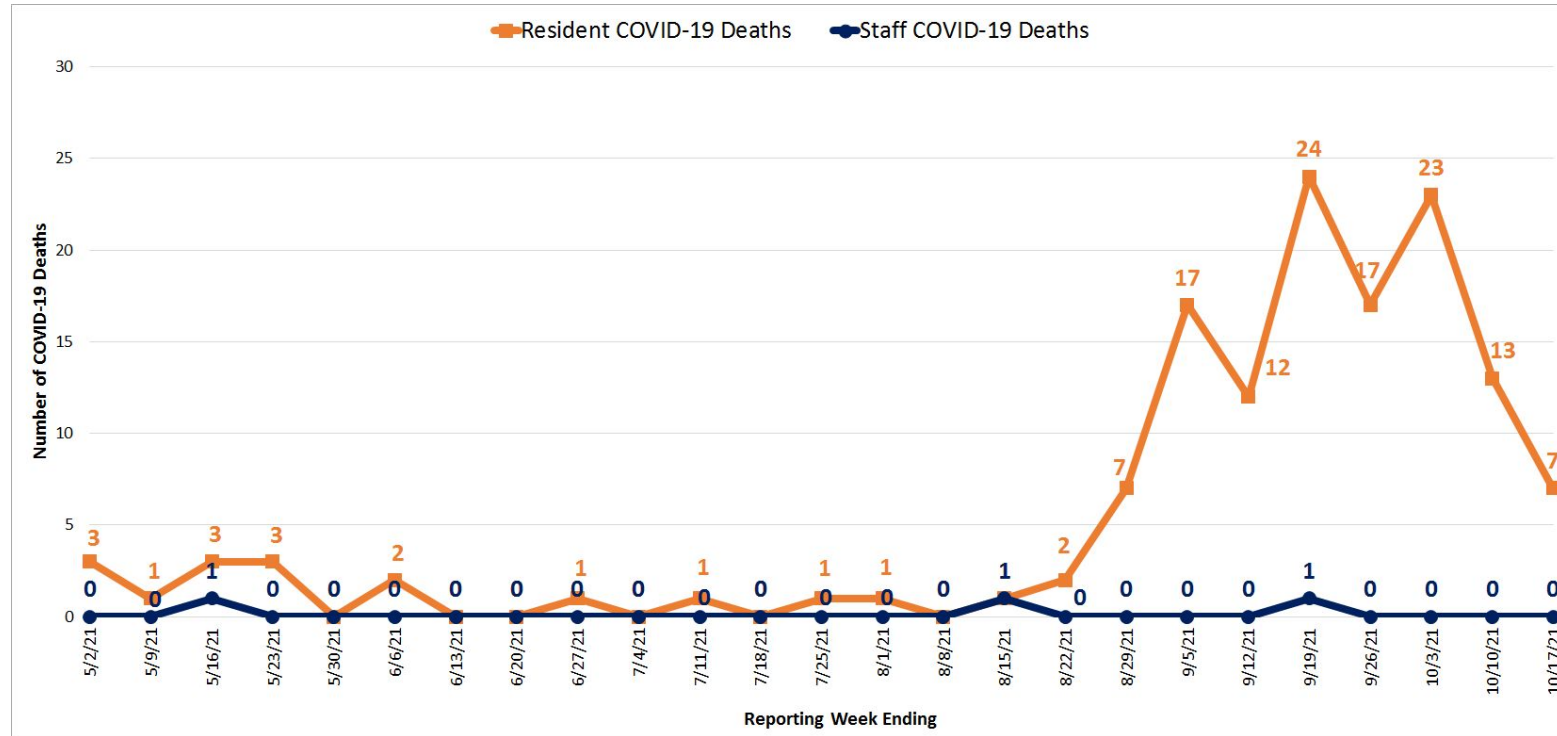


# Nursing Home Resident and Staff COVID-19 Cases



Data are from NHSN as of 10/26/21 and are subject to change. Data include PCR and antigen test results.

# Nursing Home Resident and Staff COVID-19 Deaths

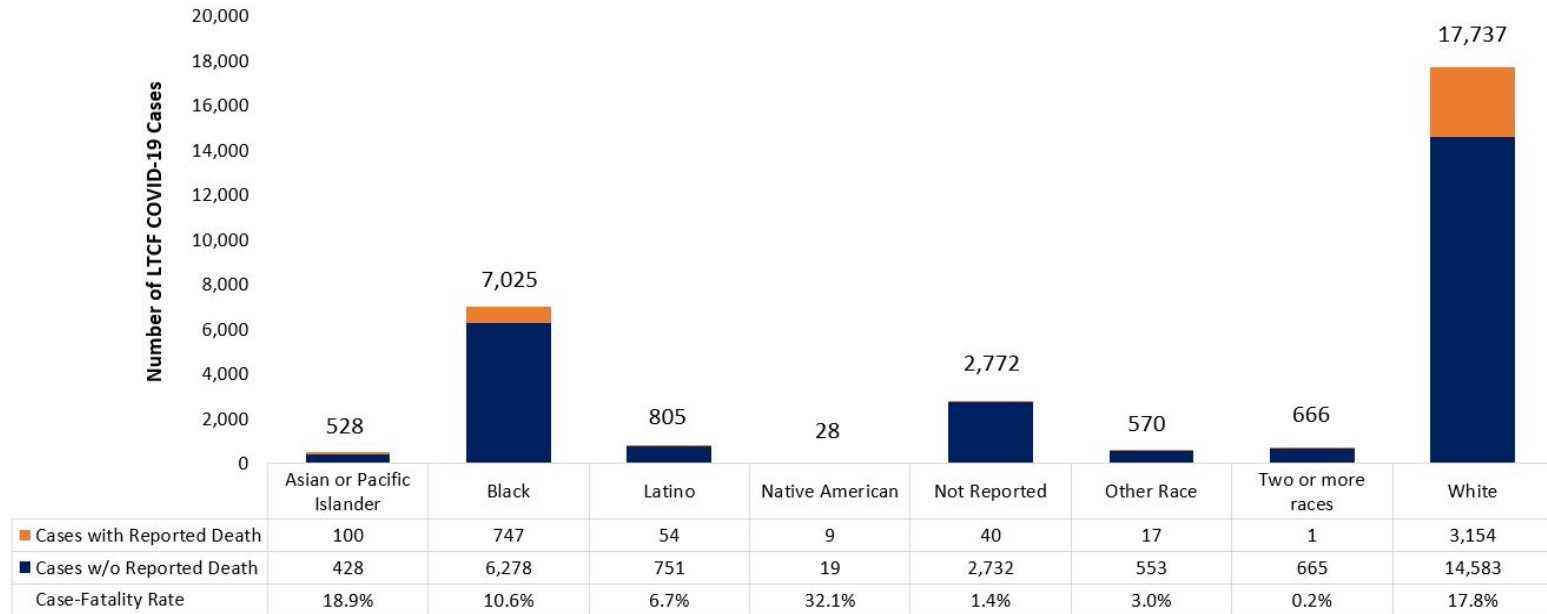


Data are from NHSN as of 10/26/21 and are subject to change. Data include PCR and antigen test results.



# COVID-19 Cases and Deaths in LTCFs\* by Race/Ethnicity^

N=30,131

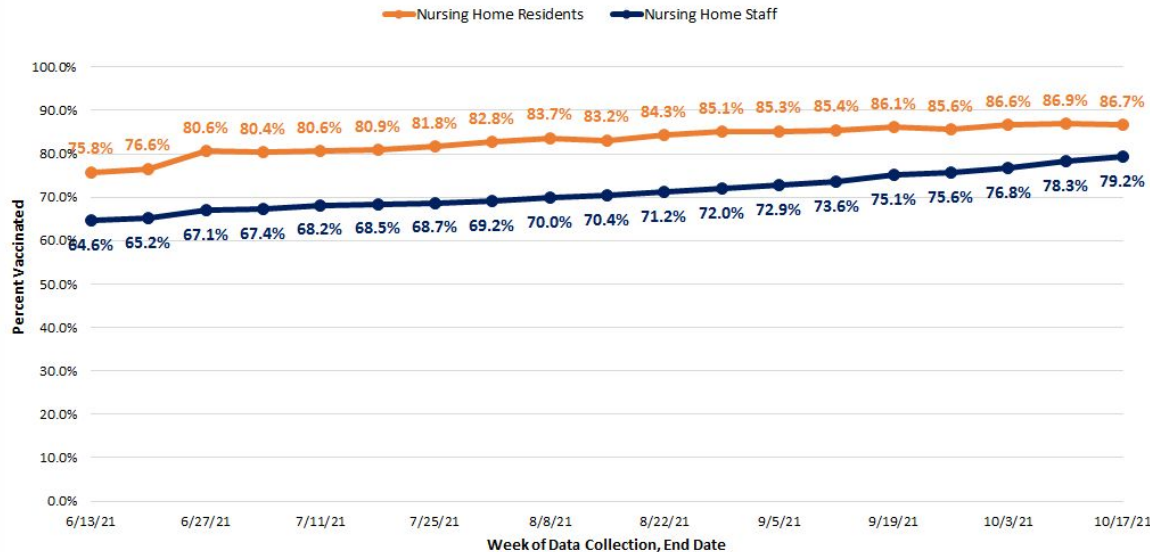


\*Long-term care facility includes nursing homes, assisted living facilities, multicare facilities, group homes, and behavioral health residential facilities. Includes residents and staff.

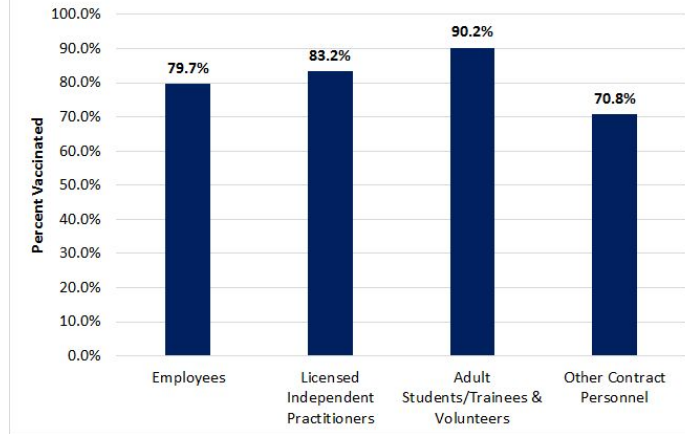
^Data from VOSS and VEDSS are subject to change

# COVID-19 Vaccination in Nursing Homes

Virginia Nursing Home Vaccination Rates for Residents and Staff by Reporting Week



Vaccination by Nursing Home Staff Type



Data are from NHSN as of 10/26/2021.

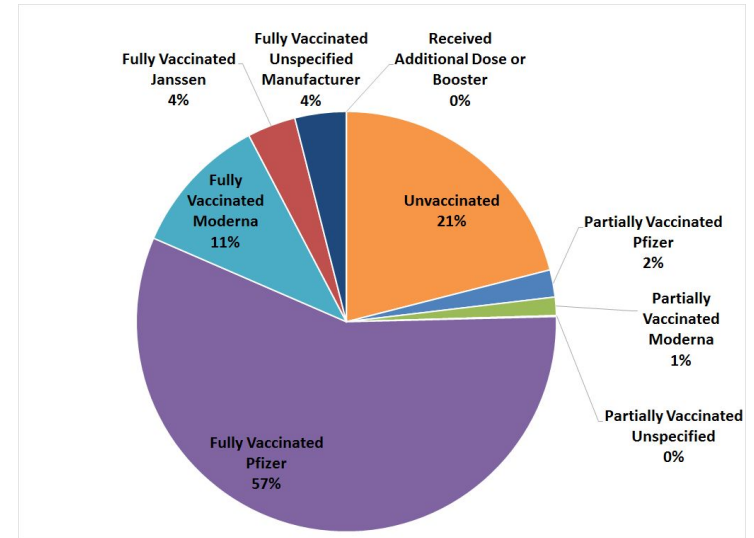
In Virginia, 280 nursing homes reported resident vaccination data for the reporting week ending 10/17/2021;

278 nursing homes reported staff vaccination data for the reporting week ending 10/17/2021.

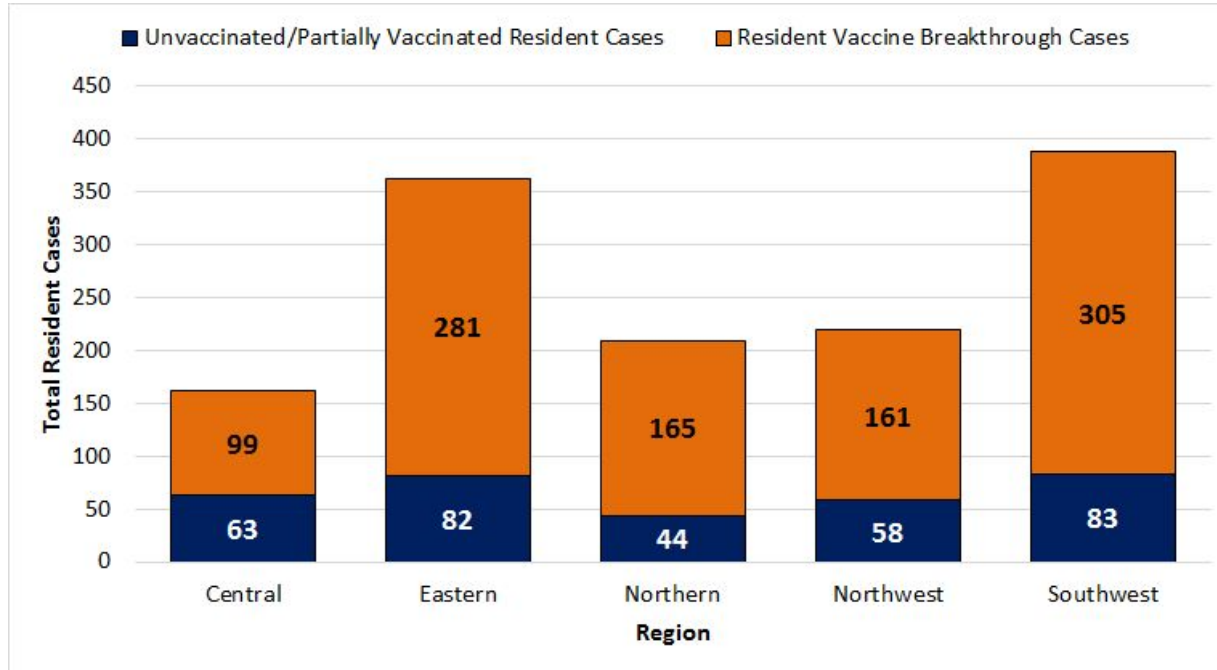
For staff type definitions, please refer to the [NHSN Table of Instructions](#).

## Vaccine Breakthrough Cases in Virginia Nursing Homes, July 19, 2021 - October 17, 2021

- From July 19, 2021 - October 17, 2021, 149 Virginia nursing homes (52% of all nursing homes in Virginia) reported at least 1 confirmed resident case of COVID-19
  - Among these outbreaks, there were an average of 9 cases and a maximum of 65 cases
  - There were a total of 1,341 cases across all 149 nursing homes during this time period
- Among all cases reported during this time period, **75% of resident cases had been fully vaccinated** (n=1,011 vaccine breakthrough cases)
  - 25% of cases were unvaccinated or partially vaccinated (n=282 unvaccinated, n=48 partially vaccinated)
  - 17 facilities (11%) reported no vaccine breakthrough cases and 132 (89%) reported at least one vaccine breakthrough case
- Most vaccine breakthrough cases occurred among residents who had been fully vaccinated with the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine (75%)



## Vaccine Breakthrough Cases in Virginia Nursing Homes, July 19, 2021 - October 17, 2021

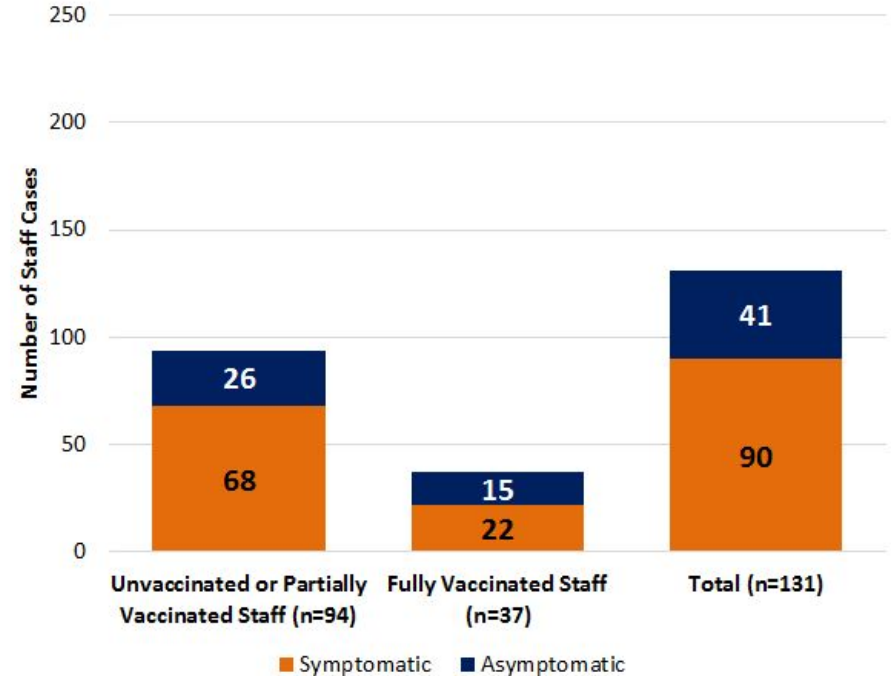
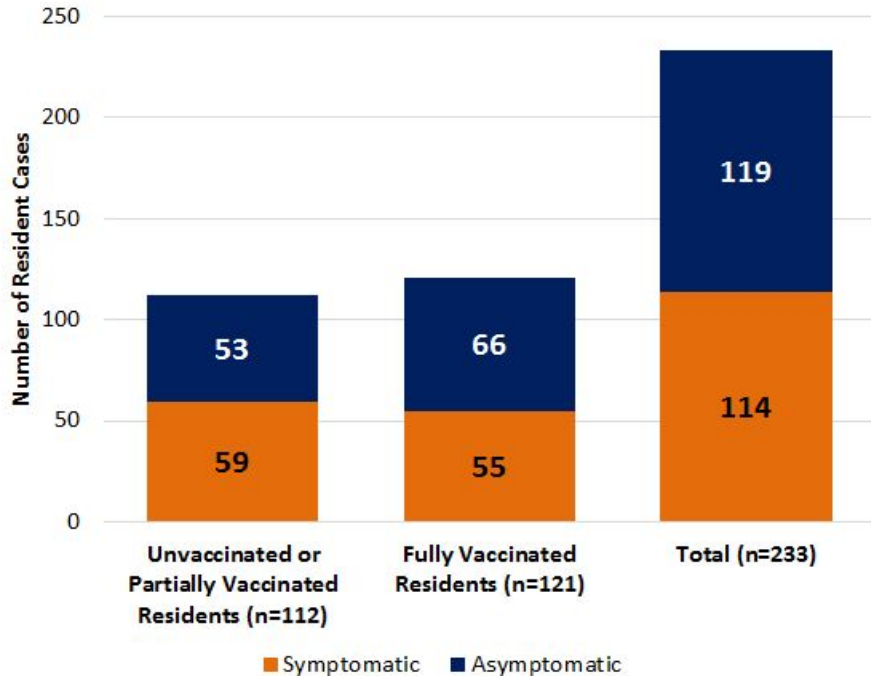


Data are from NHSN as of 10/26/2021. [Resident vaccine breakthrough cases](#) are reported when a resident had completed an FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccine series at least two weeks prior to testing positive for COVID-19.

## Supplementary LTCF COVID-19 Outbreak Data March 1, 2021 - October 20, 2021

- **52 outbreaks** in long-term care facilities from 3/1/2021-10/20/2021 with completed supplementary outbreak forms
- 38 outbreaks had a confirmed etiologic agent of SARS-CoV-2 and 14 had a suspected etiologic agent of SARS-CoV-2
- 43 outbreaks were complete as of 10/20/2021 and nine were still in progress
- Specimens were sent to DCLS for **13 of the outbreaks**
  - Of these **six outbreaks were identified as having VOC cases**
  - Six outbreaks were identified as not having VOC cases
  - One was missing the sequencing results
- Most forms were completed for outbreaks that occurred in nursing homes and located in the Eastern Region

## Supplementary LTCF COVID-19 Outbreak Data March 1, 2021 - October 20, 2021



## LTC Task Force Website

### Updated Guidance for all LTCFs

- [COVID-19 Outbreak Response Method in LTCFs](#) (10/26/2021)
- [Considerations for PPE and Cohorting during COVID-19 Response in LTC](#) (10/21/2021)

### Updated Guidance for Nursing Homes

- [VDH COVID-19 Guidance for Nursing Homes](#) (10/27/2021)

### Research tab added under Guidance for LTCF Section

- [HHS Report](#): Vaccination Linked to a Reduction of Over a Quarter Million COVID-19 Cases, 100,000 Hospitalizations, and 39,000 Deaths Among Seniors (October 2021)

## Testing Updates

- Existing HHS testing supplies (BinaxNOW Ag professional use) managed by VDH Central Office will end in December 2021
- VDH Central Office is strategizing within the current grant budget to potentially purchase BinaxNow Ag Pro cards to fill the gap between Jan-March for SNFs/ALFs.
- In April 2021, SNFs and ALFs will need to rely solely on either HHS provided testing supplies and/or their own purchasing.
- **Discussion point:**
  - **At the facility level, what is the understanding of continued supplies for testing being directly shipped to your facilities from HHS?**



# Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCFs) Vaccine Updates

## Pfizer/Moderna Booster Vaccine Recommendations

- Booster dose\* recommended at least 6 months after 2nd dose
  - a. People 65 years and older
  - b. Residents in long-term care settings
  - c. People aged 18–64 years with underlying medical conditions
  - d. People aged 18–64 years who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure because of their occupational or institutional setting (LTCF staff aged 18–64 years who are at increased risk for SARS-CoV-2 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional setting are eligible to receive a booster)

## J&J Booster Vaccine Recommendations

- Booster dose\* recommended at least 2 months after 1st dose

\*All COVID-19 vaccines are interchangeable for booster doses

For more information and guidance, email the pharmacy team ([COVIDPharmacySupport@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:COVIDPharmacySupport@vdh.virginia.gov))

# Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCFs) Vaccine Updates (cont)

## Pediatric 5-11 year old Vaccine Access

- FDA recommended the Pfizer Bio-NTech vaccine for the 5-11 population on October 26
- If a facility has 5 to 11 year old patients, the facility is advised to work with a pharmacy partner or the LHD to confirm access to the new pediatric vaccine
- Expected approval of the Pfizer 5-11 vaccine early November

\*Note: Pediatric vaccines have been recommended but are not yet fully approved. Vaccines should not be administered to 5-11 population until final CDC/ACIP approval.

## LTCF Vaccine Access

- CDC non-SNFs survey closed October 15 and VDH has requested data from the CDC
- Group Homes follow-up survey closed and data being shared with local health districts
- VDH Central Office and the local health districts (LHDs) are contacting facilities to confirm vaccine access status

## Monoclonal Antibody Update

-Monoclonal antibody administration sites continue to place orders with VDH who, in turn, places the order with Amerisource Bergen

-HHS's weekly allocation of monoclonal Abs to Virginia has been very good -- we have received plenty of doses. As an example, Virginia's allocation for this week was about 3600 doses.

-No restrictions on the use of monoclonal antibodies -- please feel free to use for treatment of mild to moderate Covid-19 in outpatients who meet EUA criteria, and for postexposure prophylaxis. This is particularly important in the setting of a Covid-19 outbreak.

-We encourage LTCFs to reach out to us regarding monoclonal Ab questions, guidance, webinars. Please email [brooke.rossheim@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:brooke.rossheim@vdh.virginia.gov)

-Long-term care facilities can obtain monoclonal Abs in one of two ways -- from the pharmacy that serves the facility (e.g., Omnicare, etc.) or by registering to become a monoclonal antibody administration site. If facilities want to register, we can help with that process - please email us at [mabs\\_requests@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:mabs_requests@vdh.virginia.gov)

-Question: what suggestions do you have for the Monoclonal Ab Team to promote the use of mAb usage in the long-term care community? How can we help you to obtain and administer these products?

## American Rescue Plan Act

- DMAS is implementing a 12.5 % temporary rate increase for specific waiver services, behavioral health services, home health services, and other identified services for dates of service from July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022. The [Medicaid Memo](#) includes eligible procedure and revenue codes.
- DMAS issued a Request for Proposal to help with administering the \$1000 payment to agency-directed and consumer-directed personal care attendants. Payments will be made in early 2022.

## Federal Strike Team Funding

- **CDC guidance**

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dpei/pdf/guidance-nursing-home-ltc-facility-strike-team-and-infastruc-ture-508.pdf>

- **Purpose**

- Support LTCFs with COVID-19 response
- Build and maintain IP infrastructure to support resident, visitor, and HCP safety
  - Improve and sustain facility capacity to detect and respond to infectious diseases and emerging pathogens, including COVID-19
  - Other infectious diseases/outbreaks may be addressed if in support of or related to control of COVID-19
- Consider retention of existing staff
- Ensure IPC and outbreak support is equitable

## Federal Strike Team Funding

- **Must address support for nursing homes and other LTCFs**
  - Virginia can decide what other LTCFs to include; can include ALFs
- **Required**
  - Provide technical assistance for prevention and/or fund clinical services during outbreaks
    - Can be in-person or remote
- **Optional**
  - Give LTCFs resources (supplies, technology, staffing) to support rapid detection and response
    - Can include support for testing, vaccination, etc.
- **Optional**
  - Provide infrastructure to support HCP and resident safety

## Federal Strike Team Funding

### How does the ELC grant operate?

- VDH received Notice of Award this week
  - 90 days to submit workplan and budget to CDC (Jan 2022)
- Virginia receiving **\$9,965,264**
  - VDH HAI/AR Program overseeing funding
    - We operate off other ELC projects almost entirely
    - Quarterly and biannual programmatic updates to CDC
    - Monthly fiscal reports to CDC
- Timing
  - This supplemental funding is only available for up to one year beyond the end of the federal public health emergency or through BP5 (which ends on July 31, 2024), whichever comes first.

# Federal Strike Team Funding

## VDH would like your input!

- May consider short (6 month) and long term (1-2 year) goals
- Can we use any of this funding to move the needle on existing problems?
  - Do not focus on the term 'strike team'; think support team
  - We will not be able to solve the LTC staffing crisis with \$10 million
  - Infection control infrastructure?
  - Low hanging fruit? What will get money out the door?
- Scheduled call Nov 9 with LTC providers and LTC associations
  - Can schedule more listening sessions
- Plan to keep LTC Task Force updated
  - Standing agenda item; Nov 18 and Dec 16



# Federal Strike Team Funding

**Current ideas or needs?**

# Discussion

# Next Steps

- LTC Task Force Newsletter
- Monthly LTC Task Force meeting Nov 18

## Selected COVID-19 Dashboards

- [COVID-19 in Virginia Summary](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Summary](#)
- [COVID-19 Cases by Vaccination Status](#)
- [COVID-19 Level of Community Transmission](#)
- [COVID-19 Outbreaks in Virginia](#)
- [COVID-19 Outbreaks by Setting](#)
- [COVID-19 Variants of Concern](#)
- [VDH PCR Test Positivity Rates](#)
- [VHHA COVID-19 Hospitalizations](#)
- [Equity in Action](#)
- [Equity at a Glance](#)