

Update on Omicron Surge

Berkeley Unified School District
February 2, 2022 Board Meeting

COVID-19 at BUSD

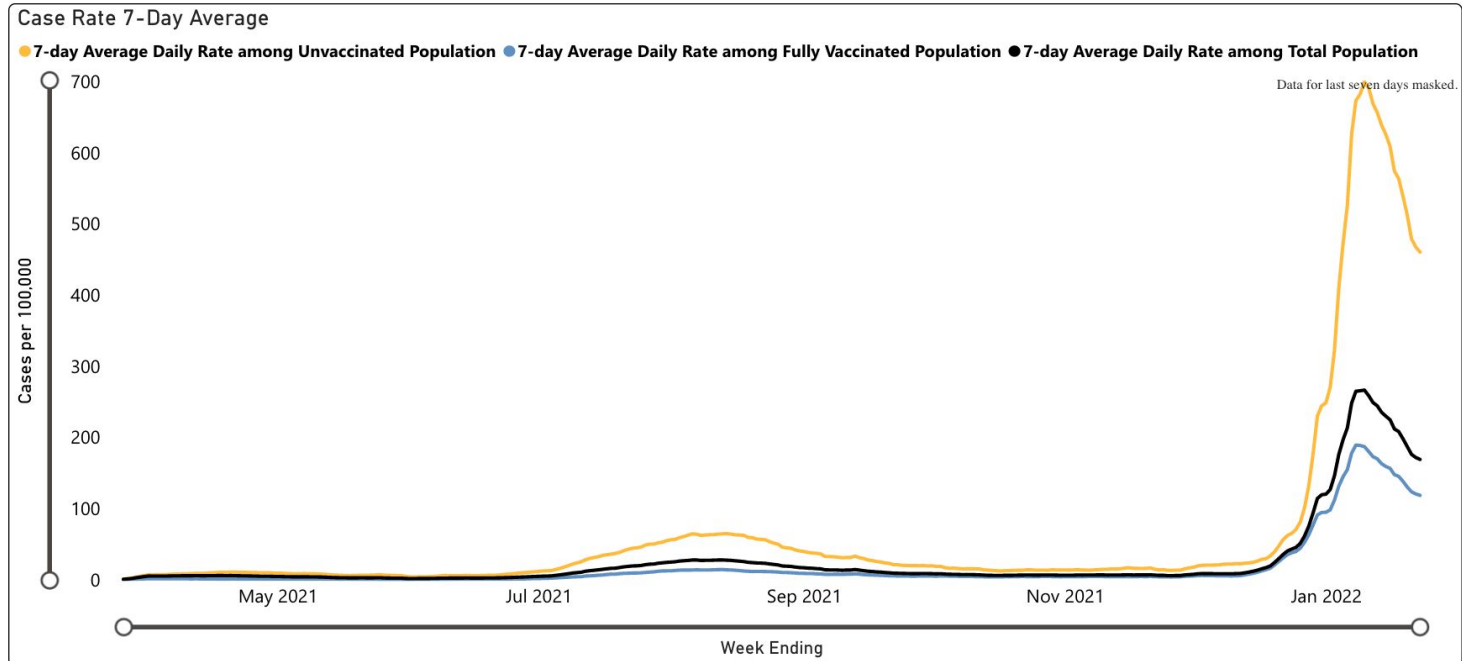
1. Data
 - a. COVID Cases by Week, January 2022
 - b. Alameda County Trends
2. Looking Ahead: Post-Surge Mitigation

CASES BY VACCINATION STATUS

[mobile version](#)



Alameda County Cases by Vaccination Status



Notes and disclaimers: The State's CalREDIE database has the COVID-19 case data, which includes vaccination status in some instances. This dashboard uses that vaccination status and CalREDIE test data, but also matches CAIR vaccination data to CalREDIE case data. People are considered fully vaccinated 14 days after the final dose, and the fully vaccinated population (which changes each day) is used as the denominator for the fully vaccinated rate. The total population minus the number of fully vaccinated and the partially

Cases In Our Schools

January, 2022

One-Week Case Count (on campus while infectious)	
January 3-8	167
January 9-15	285
January 16-22	203
January 23-27	171

More detailed data is available at BUSD's [On Campus Case Dashboard](#)

Tuesday,
Feb 1

25 cases

Looking Ahead

Post-Surge Mitigations

Under Consideration

Looking Ahead Considerations for Scaling Back

1. Public Health guidance
 - a. New guidance on masks in schools is anticipated in mid-February
2. Continuing at the current Level is unsustainable
 - a. Central office staff assigned to contact tracing must return to other responsibilities
 - b. Budget for additional hours for contact tracing team
 - c. 200 testing volunteers/week is not sustainable
3. Number of cases continues to drop

Looking Ahead Post-Surge Mitigations

Looking ahead, anticipating the end of the Omicron surge, we imagine at some point:

For Students

1. BUSD will no longer require outdoor masking*
2. Urge voluntary 1x/week testing at school
 - a. School Day for Elementary and Middle
 - b. School Day for High School
3. Unvaccinated students still required to test once per week
4. Home kits for Pre-K and students who are unable to test themselves
5. Indoor and Overnight Field Trips Permitted

**BUSD Must Meet and Confer with Labor Partners*

Looking Ahead Post-Surge Mitigations

Looking ahead, we imagine at some point:

For Families

1. Maintain school-wide case notices with substantial percent of students testing, and group contact tracing for higher transmission exposures*
2. Continued free testing at Berkeley Adult School
3. Home kits for students for Spring Break (pending supply)
4. Vaccination opportunities through BUSD/ COB collaboration
 - a. February 12 Clinic at Longfellow

*Under Consideration in Consultation with Public Health

Looking Ahead Post-Surge Mitigations

Looking ahead, we imagine at some point:

For Staff:

1. TSAs and Central Office Staff: Return to regular duties on February 7, as planned
2. Remove mandate to mask outdoors*
3. Testing available at schools and work locations 1x/week
4. Testing available at BAS each weekday / all other test sites are open to staff
5. 1x/week testing required for unvaccinated staff
6. Vaccination requirement for all employees, effective April 29 (pending Board Approval on February 16)

**BUSD Must Meet and Confer with Labor Partners*

COVID Testing Volunteers



Berkeley Public Schools Fund

Jumpstart their future

Thank You, Berkeley!

Thank You, Berkeley School Volunteers!

Thank You, Berkeley Public Schools Fund!

For Board Discussion and Direction to Staff

Over the course of the January Omicron surge, BUSD has exceeded most of the safety measures recommended by public health officials. This was a district decision, made in consultation with public health.

BUSD is permitted to reduce mitigation strategies down to the levels described in these recommendations.

How quickly should BUSD ease our current Omicron mitigation strategies?

Now

Soon

Later
