

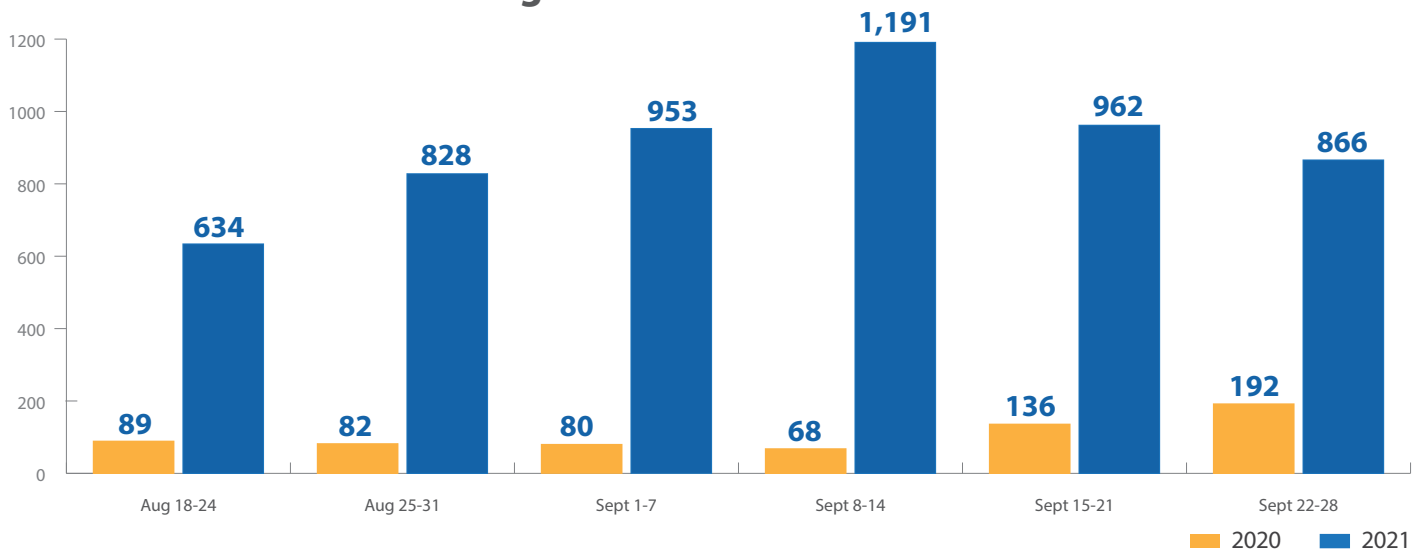
# COVID-19 Report: A Focus on Schools and Hospitals

## Schools

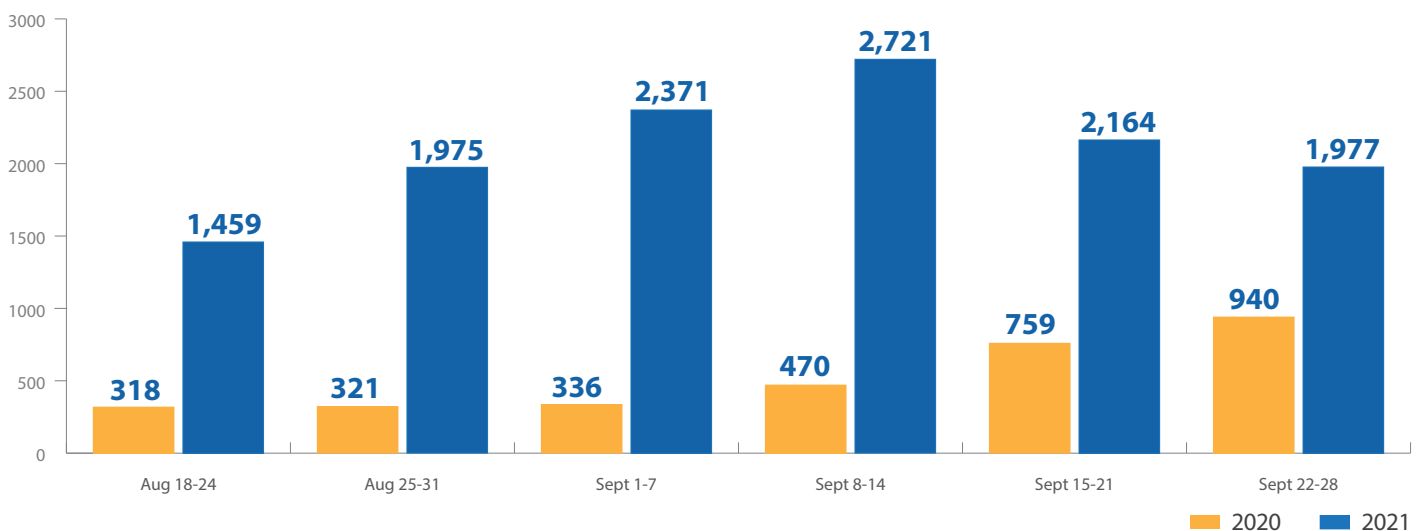
### Comparing COVID-19 cases among school-aged children from 2020 and 2021

Cases among school-aged children from the first 6 weeks of school are **2.3 times higher** this year than they were last year. This school year started with a higher number of cases, fewer safety protocols in place, and the highly transmissible Delta variant. Preliminary reports from local health departments suggest Test to Stay protocols have been effective in containing the spread of COVID-19 in schools and the downturn in cases and the downward trend in cases the last 2 weeks is encouraging.

#### Positive cases of children ages 5-10



#### Positive cases of children ages 5-17



Data on school-level cases, case counts by elementary, middle, and high school-aged youth, hospitalizations and vaccinations among school-aged youth, and information on MIS-C cases is available at [coronavirus.utah.gov/case-counts/#schools](https://coronavirus.utah.gov/case-counts/#schools).

## Children have low COVID-19 vaccination rates

Children ages 12-17 years old are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, yet there is only one health district with more than 60% of children who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. One health district has less than 20% of children fully vaccinated. Schools can request to host a mobile vaccination clinic by visiting [coronavirus.utah.gov/vaccine-event-request](https://coronavirus.utah.gov/vaccine-event-request).

	Local Health District	Children who got at least one dose	Percent of children who got at least one dose	Children who are fully vaccinated	Percent of children who are fully vaccinated	Percent increase in number of children who are fully vaccinated from last week
<b>&lt;20%</b> fully vaccinated	TriCounty	1,919	30.3	1,249	19.7	5.1
	Central Utah	2,477	28.7	1,892	21.9	7.3
<b>&lt;40%</b> fully vaccinated	Southwest Utah	7,191	30.6	5,398	23	5.5
	Southeast Utah	1,167	31.8	899	24.5	6.4
	Utah County	33,845	48.8	26,393	38.1	4
<b>&lt;60%</b> fully vaccinated	Bear River	9,658	50.1	7,791	40.4	4.6
	San Juan	768	46.9	691	42.2	3.3
	Tooele County	4,465	54.4	3,702	45.1	3.3
	Weber-Morgan	13,699	52.8	11,727	45.2	3.8
	Wasatch County	1,994	52.8	1,721	45.6	2.5
	Salt Lake County	67,875	64.9	59,705	57.1	2
	Davis County	25,866	66.9	22,879	59.1	1.8
	Summit County	2,954	73.4	2,491	61.9	1.4
<b>&lt;80%</b> fully vaccinated						

Local health districts which saw an increase of 5% or more in the number of fully vaccinated children from last week are highlighted in green.

## Schools at or above the Test to Stay threshold

[Utah Code](#) requires schools to do a Test to Stay event when:

- Two percent (2%) of the students in the school have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days (in schools with 1,500 or more students).
- Schools with fewer than 1,500 students have 30 students test positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days.

The table below shows the results of Test to Stay events held within the last week, as reported to the UDOH by the local health departments. This data DOES NOT include the number of students who tested positive to trigger the Test to Stay event. Local health departments will have the most accurate and timely data to determine public health actions in specific schools and it may not be fully reflected in this report.

This means there are actually more students than shown in the table who can't attend school in-person because they are infectious and can spread the virus to others. Other students may be on quarantine due to an exposure to COVID-19 or participating in remote learning because they didn't participate in the testing event.

### Test to Stay events the week of 9/20/2021 to 9/27/2021

Name of school	Date of Test to Stay event	# of students tested	# of students who tested positive	Percent positivity from Test to Stay	School enrollment*
Mountain Crest High School	9/22	1,286	42	3.3%	1,484

\*School enrollment data is based on the 2020-2021 school year as reported to the UDOH by the Utah State Board of Education (USBE). Statewide enrollment data for the current 2021-2022 school year is not publicly available from the USBE until late fall 2021.

### In-person school days lost due to isolation for COVID-19

School-aged children who test positive for COVID-19 must isolate at home for 10 days from the date they first had symptoms or from the date of their positive test.



Total school-aged cases in the past 10 days

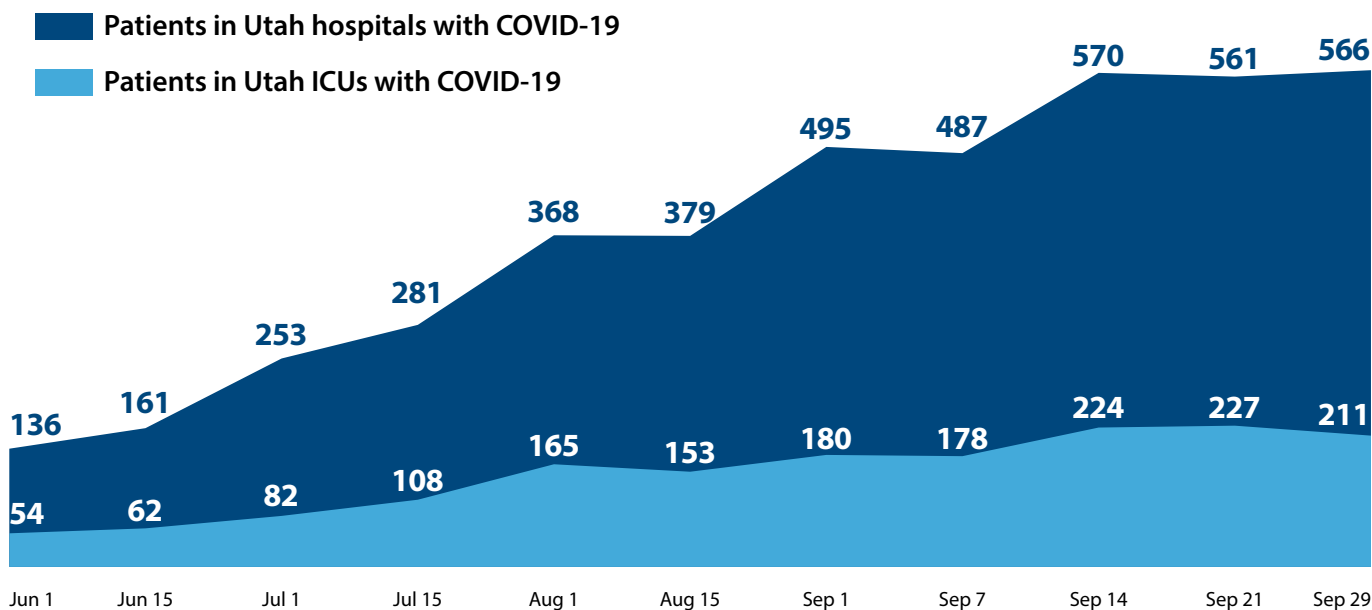
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\*Assumes a school-aged child will miss an average of 7 days of in-person instruction during their isolation period

# COVID-19 related hospitalizations

The number of patients being treated for COVID-19 in hospitals and ICUs has increased dramatically since the beginning of summer. Since June 1, the number of patients who are currently hospitalized for COVID-19 has increased by 316% and the number of patients currently being treated for COVID-19 in ICUs has increased by 290%.

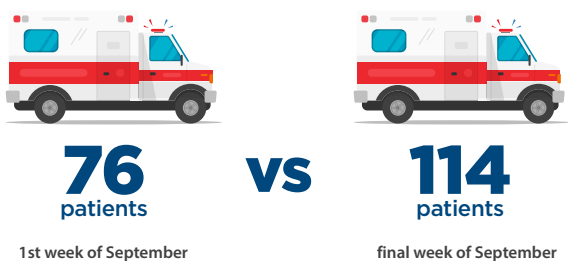


## Pressure on hospitals

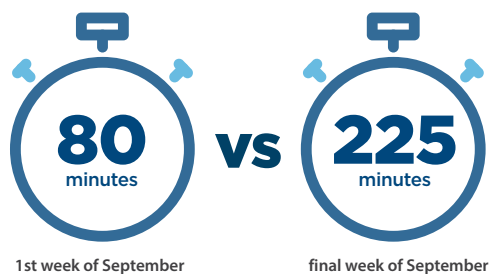
Patient transfers are another indicator of the current demand on hospitals. Patients may need to be transferred to another hospital for many reasons: hospitals may not have the equipment needed or specialized staff to treat patients with cardiac problems, severe injuries from car crashes, burns or COVID-19, etc. Currently, many transfers occur because the hospital where the patient originally arrives does not have enough staffed ICU beds when the person arrives at the ER. This need for patient transfers affects all patients.

Delays in getting into a hospital aren't just inconvenient, they can also impact the care a patient receives or the ability of a family to visit a patient during their hospital stay.

### Patients needing a transfer\*



### Wait time to find an ICU Bed\*\*

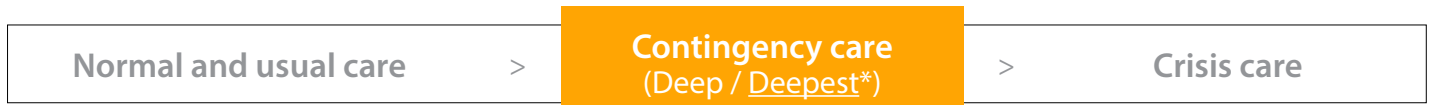


\*People who needed to be transferred to another hospital for higher levels of care. Not all patients who need to be transferred have COVID-19.

\*\*The time for hospital staff to locate an available ICU bed. Does not include transfer or transportation time.



# Continuum of Care



\*Utah's current level

## Normal and usual care

- No need for extra staffing/shifts
- Patients are cared for in usual areas of the hospital based on their treatment needs
- All patients get resources as needed
- Supplies aren't limited

## Contingency care

(patient care may be diminished)

### Contingency

- Normal hospital operations are stressed
- Extra staffing/shifts needed
- Conservation of supplies
- Double bunking (putting 2 patients in a single room)

### Deep contingency (challenges in providing the best care to every patient)

- Elective procedures and surgeries may be postponed
- Providers are responsible for treating more patients at one time than what is normal
- Diversion of ICU patients to other locations or systems
- Rural hospitals increase the use of tele-critical care support

### Deepest contingency (quality of care will likely be less than normal)

- Cancellation of surgeries
- Severe staffing shortages and extreme ratio of patients to providers
- Providers must help treat patients outside their speciality areas or scope of practice
- Patients are treated in rooms or areas of the hospital that are not normally used or equipped for their treatment needs
- Pressure on load-leveling means patients both in-state and out-of-state cannot be transferred to hospitals with the staff and equipment they need or in a timely manner

## Crisis care

- Trained staff are unavailable or unable to care for the number of patients in the hospital, even after extreme measures are taken
- [Crisis standards of care](#) declared through formal legal or regulatory powers based on a request by the health systems

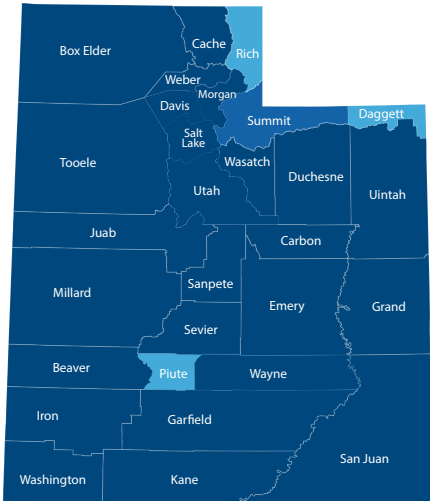
Surges in COVID-19 can overwhelm hospital capacity to the point that patient care may be diminished. Patients may not receive the best care they deserve. Patients and families may have to travel far greater distances than is ideal or normal for care or to secure a hospital bed. Care for injuries or medical issues that are not immediately life-threatening may be delayed.

In the last week, one health system needed to bring providers who usually care for patients in offices and clinics into the hospital setting to provide care. This means less access to outpatient services as hospitals continue to experience a surge of severely ill COVID-19 patients requiring hospital level-of-care.

Hospital capacity changes minute-by-minute as contingency plans are implemented. These strategies are not listed in any particular order and serve as examples for what must be done to preserve patient care as best as possible. Hospitals may be at different points on the continuum of care across the state. As the number of hospitalized patients changes, some or all of these strategies may be needed. At this time, many hospitals in Utah are using deepest contingency care.

9/30/2021





## COVID-19 Transmission Index

The COVID-19 Transmission Index places counties in high, moderate, or low levels of transmission using defined public health metrics. These levels correspond directly to case rates, positivity rates, and ICU utilization. The transmission index is updated weekly on Thursdays.






Visit [coronavirus.utah.gov/utah-health-guidance-levels](https://coronavirus.utah.gov/utah-health-guidance-levels) to see your county's current transmission level.



## HB 294 Metrics

House Bill 294 terminated certain COVID-19 public health orders when thresholds for case rates, intensive care unit (ICU) utilization, and vaccinations were met. On May 4, 2021, these thresholds were met and the public health orders ended. Currently, the state's case rates and ICU utilization are 2.8 to 3.2 times higher than these thresholds.

Metrics	Last week (9/23/2021)	Current
 Statewide 7-day average COVID-19 ICU utilization is less than 15%	<b>44.2%</b>	<b>41.9%</b> (2.8x higher)
 Statewide 14-day case rate is less than 191 cases per 100,000	<b>680.5 per 100,000 people</b>	<b>606.9 per 100,000 people</b> (3.2x higher)
 1,633,000 prime doses of COVID-19 vaccine allocated to the state	1,878,768 people have received at least one dose	<b>Target met May 4</b> 1,890,478 people have received at least one dose