

COVID-19 UPDATE

February 22, 2021



Top Things To Know

1. Due to shipping disruptions from recent winter storms, vaccine shipments have been delayed. **2nd doses of the vaccine are not available today, Mon., Feb. 22**, at the Blue Ridge Church. **For the status of 2nd doses tomorrow, please check NRVRoadtoWellness.com.**
2. **Centralized statewide pre-registration system is live.** Visit NRVRoadtoWellness.com. Already pre-registered but cannot find your information in the state's system? Please note **the state is still integrating data** from previous pre-registration systems. There is no need to pre-register again.
3. **Businesses:** Continue to sign up to schedule your employees as a group. Visit NRVRoadtoWellness.com or contact Ashley Briggs at 540-639-9313 or abriggs@nrvc.org.
4. **NRV Vaccine Call Center** is at 540-838-8222. Open Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., closed Sun. After hours & when lines are busy, calls automatically transfer to the new centralized call center at **1-877-VAX-IN-VA**. Every day, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
5. **Precautions are still important**, even after vaccination. **Wear** a mask. **Watch** your distance. **Wash** your hands.

Take Note

- Today, there are **20** COVID-19-positive patients hospitalized & **0** persons under investigation.

COVID-19 Data

As reported to VDH, by date of lab report.

May differ from other sources, due to reporting lags. Totals are cumulative, since March 2020.

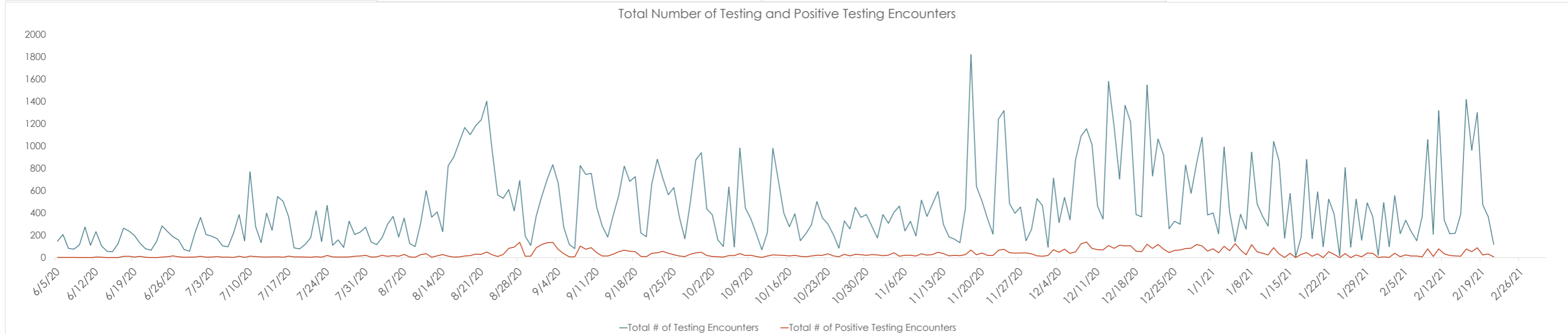
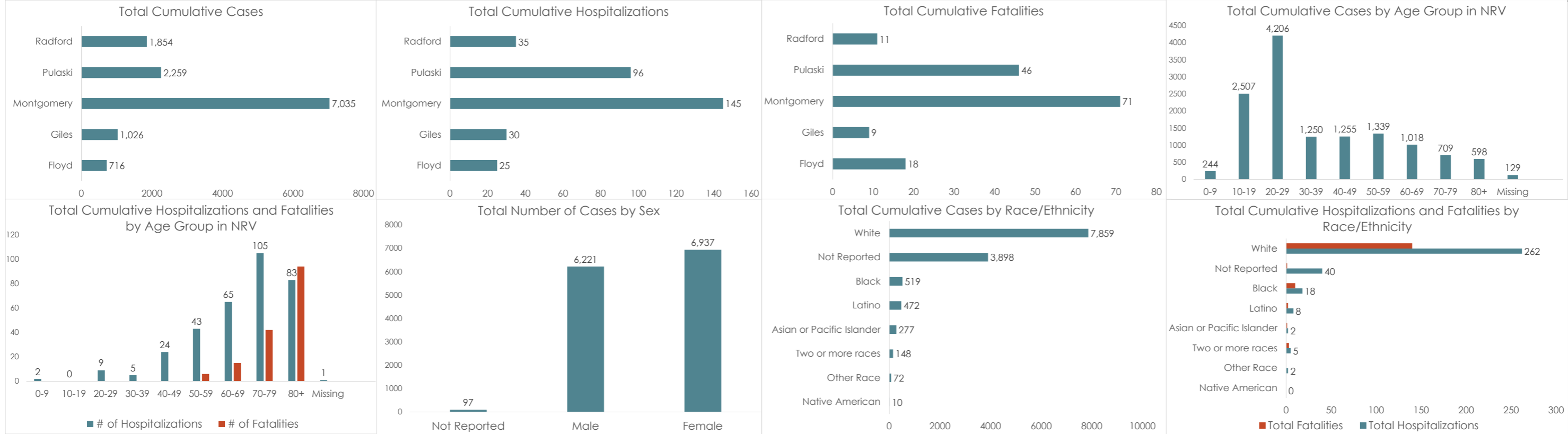
	New cases, today	New cases, 7-day avg.	Total cases	Total hospitalizations	Total deaths	Total vaccines given
Floyd County	0	2	724	25	18	2,503
Giles County	1	4	1,044	32	10	3,873
Montgomery County	22	51	7,343	146	72	21,138
Pulaski County	3	3	2,271	98	46	7,164
Radford City	1	4	1,873	36	11	5,557
New River Health District	27	64	13,255	337	157	40,235
Virginia	1,155	1,962	565,270	23,530	7,486	1,602,502

Fast Facts

- Help stop the spread of variants. **It's time to double down on personal precautions.**
- For **weather-related vaccine clinic schedule changes**, follow instructions in email & phone messages.
- **Vaccines status: We remain in [Phase 1b](#), while completing [Phase 1a](#).**
- **Pre-registered for a vaccine? What's next?** Please do not call or email to check your status. **Please be patient. You will be contacted ASAP** to make an appointment.
- **We administer all available vaccines.** We have the capacity to give 1,200 vaccines per day, but we lack supply.
- Some local **Pharmacy Partners** help provide high priority vaccines close to home for those most vulnerable.
- **COVID-19 testing is available:**
Montgomery Co. Health Dept. in Christiansburg, Mon., Wed. & Fri., 9-11 a.m. Appointments required. 540-267-8240.
Giles Co. Health Dept. in Pearisburg, Mon.-Fri., 9-11 a.m., No appointment required.
- **Sign up for vaccine notifications at NRVRoadtoWellness.com.**
- **Celebrate every vaccine that is given, even if it's not in your arm!**

New River Valley COVID-19 Snapshot as of 2/22/2021

New Cases Today	Total Cases in NRV	7-Day Average # of Daily New Cases	Total Hospitalizations	Total Fatalities
27	13,255	64	337	157



Source: Virginia Department of Health COVID-19 Data, 2020 available at <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/>

Weekly Update with Dr. Bissell

February 17, 2021



Press Statement from Dr. Bissell

The overall trend of cases in our district is down. We still have community spread and we do have some pockets from our college students, which we expected.

Our message hasn't changed. We continue to remind people of the 3 W's. We continue to encourage creative ways to see each other – ideally outdoors – with masks and at appropriate distances. Vaccinations are the light at the end of the tunnel, but we still have a ways to go.

The Virginia Department of Health has released a new statewide COVID-19 vaccine pre-registration system. Going forward, everyone in Virginia will pre-register for the vaccine through the same system and be able to confirm that they are indeed pre-registered. This is explained on our website, NRVroadtowellness.com.

Part of this process involves pulling all of the data from local lists into one central list. We have heard some people who pre-registered through our local link saying they don't show up in the statewide system yet. We would suggest you wait and check back again in a few days because the data migration will take some time. We have over 31,000 people pre-registered; statewide that number tops 1 million.

The new pre-registration system is functional and anyone can now sign up for the vaccine. Anyone can pre-register – but we will still only be vaccinating people in Phase 1b for the time being. If you are in Phase 1c or later please expect to wait for some time before we contact you and check our roadtowellness website regularly for updates when we move to later phases. Vaccine demand still far exceeds supply, and we simply cannot vaccinate everyone who needs/wants it in short order.

Our vaccinations in the New River Health District are moving forward steadily, even with schedule changes due to winter weather. We are still receiving only 2000 doses a week from the state allocation. CVS, and soon to include Walgreens and Wal-Mart, are doses from the federal allocation so it is a separate pot of vaccine over which I have no control. We continue to partner with local pharmacies and providers to administer vaccine broadly in the community. To date the New River Health District has administered 15,155 vaccines (1st/2nd doses) and our partners have administered 5375 vaccines (1st/2nd doses). We also just redistributed 975 for administration this week.

We expect some winter weather in the New River Valley tonight and tomorrow. We will be honoring first and second dose vaccine appointments scheduled for Thursday today and Friday February 19th. We want everyone to be safe, so if you have an appointment at the Blue Ridge Church on Thursday, come

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today or Friday, around the same time as your original appointment if possible, and we will vaccinate you. We will watch the weather closely – if we have to adjust Friday’s schedule we will send messages to all appointment holders about coming next week.

We have all learned during this past year that many activities require more planning in order to stay safe. While everyone is making plans for this ice storm heading our way, we need to consider more than batteries and food, but also think about how we will keep up vigilance from COVID while we protect ourselves and our neighbors if the storm takes down power in our homes.

—*Dr. Noelle Bissell, Director, New River Public Health District.*

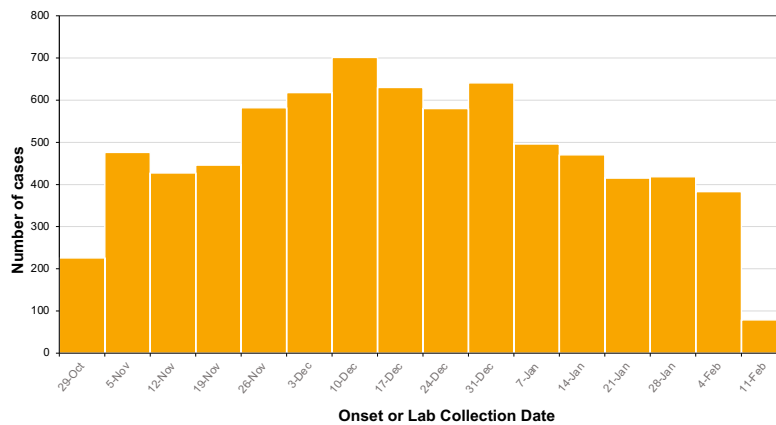
Overall and adjusted COVID-19 Epidemic Curves

1 Nov 2020 – 17 Feb 2021



The first slide shows the overall numbers of COVID-19 cases in the New River Health District since November. However, when we remove the rates of COVID-19 transmission among university students and those in congregate settings – prison communities and long-term care facilities – we can see a more accurate picture of the spread in the general community.

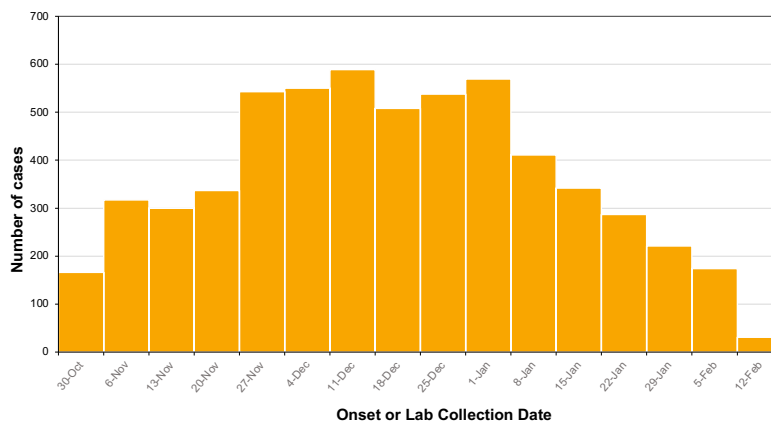
NRHD, COVID-19 Epi Curve, 1 Nov – 17 Feb, by Week of Onset or Lab Collection Date



Overall numbers of COVID-19 cases in the New River Health District since November 2020.

Be committed. Be well.

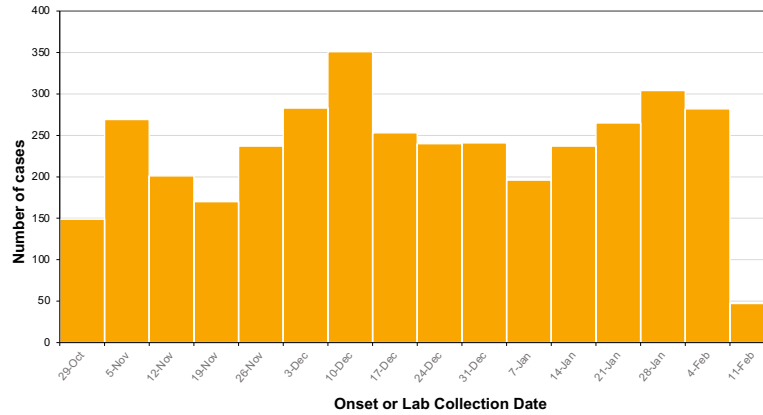
NRHD, COVID-19 Epi Curve, 1 Nov – 17 Feb, by Week of Onset or Lab Collection Date, University Student and Congregate Setting Outbreak Cases removed



Adjusted epi curve for the New River Health District, not including COVID-19 transmission among university students and those in congregate settings.

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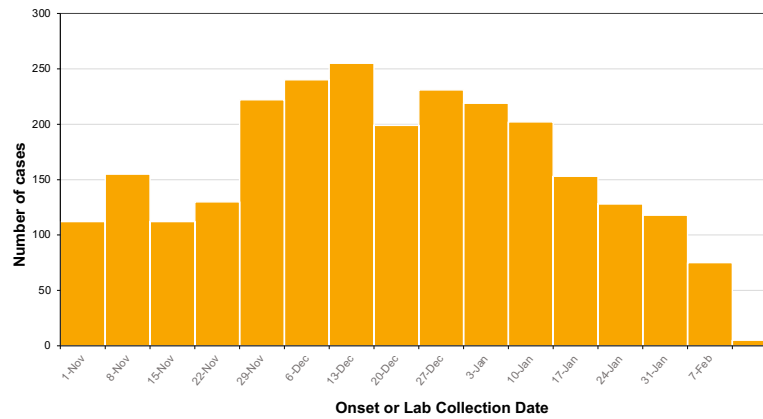
Montgomery Co., COVID-19 Epi Curve, 1 Nov – 17 Feb, by Week of Onset or Lab Collection Date



Overall numbers of COVID-19 cases in Montgomery County since November.

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Montgomery Co., COVID-19 Epi Curve, 1 Nov – 17 Feb, by Week of Onset or Lab Collection Date, University and Congregate Setting Cases Removed



Adjusted epi curve for Montgomery County since November 2020, not including COVID-19 transmission among university students and those in congregate settings.

Be committed. Be well.

COVID Companions



Are you looking for friendship? Help with technology? Want to connect with younger adults in the NRV?

COVID Companions is a buddy program that connects older adults with a friend within the NRV community.

Our program includes **weekly** phone calls, video-calls, or pen pals with your companion. We can also help with **developing technology skills** to help you **stay connected** with friends and family during the COVID-19 pandemic.

For **more information** on COVID Companions or **to sign up**, for yourself or others, please contact:

VT Center for Gerontology
(540) 231-7657
CGBooth@vt.edu

If you are interested in **becoming a companion** please contact our volunteer coordinator:

Callyn Niesen
calruth@vt.edu