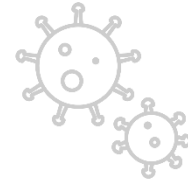




COVID-19 VACCINE EQUITY BRIEF REPORT

JANUARY 2022



Part 1: Current Context

During January 2022, Fairfax Health District experienced a peak and subsequent decline in cases due to the Omicron variant. COVID-19 case rates surged in the first half of the month, peaking on January 13, 2022, at a reported 7-day average of 2,520 cases (219 per 100,000 population). This peak substantially exceeded previous surges. While cases exceeded previous peak rates several fold, hospitalizations and deaths showed smaller increases. This reflects the lower severity of Omicron compared with previous variants and the impact of vaccination which remains particularly effective at preventing more severe disease. Following the mid-month peak, cases rapidly declined, with this decrease continuing through mid-February. On February 15, the reported 7-day average of was 232 cases (20 per 100,000 population) corresponding with a “high” level of community transmission.

At the peak of the Omicron surge young adults, 20-34 years old, emerged as the group most likely to be infected. However, following the peak, the highest rate of infection by age has been among 0-4 year olds followed by those from ages 5-9 years. This trend has continued in February with the continued decline in cases. By race and ethnicity, the gap between the rate of COVID-19 among Hispanic and African American versus non-Hispanic White residents increased to about 2-fold at the Omicron peak whereas by the end of January, this gap again decreased with only small differences in rate by race and ethnicity. In February, to-date, there continues to be little variation in case rates by race and ethnicity.

Recent CDC updates of COVID-19 vaccination recommendations included extending recommendations for an additional (third) primary vaccine dose of the Pfizer vaccine to include moderately and severely immunocompromised children 5 years old and older. The Moderna mRNA vaccine also received full FDA approval at the end of January. In early February, the CDC provided the recommendation for immunocompromised people to receive a booster dose at least 3 months (instead of 5 months) following completion of a 3-dose mRNA vaccine primary series. Additionally, as of mid-February, the FDA has decided to delay review of the Pfizer vaccine for children under five years of age, citing the need for additional data on safety and effectiveness of a 3-dose series.

Vaccinations can be obtained at over 300 sites around the county, including the Government Center and the Gerry Hyland South County Building. Despite the Omicron surge, overall uptake of primary vaccination decreased in January compared with December. In December, 31,761 individuals received a first vaccine dose among whom, 10,395 (33%) were children from 5-11 years old, whereas in January, the total had dropped to 20,061 with 5,559 (28%) being children. By January 31, 149,658 Fairfax Health District residents ages 5 and older were eligible for vaccination but remained unvaccinated.

Part 2: Vaccine Equity Goals, Strategy, and Implementation

FCHD vaccine equity strategies in January remained unchanged focusing on administration of first doses, especially among children 5-11 years old, and administration of booster doses. Strategies include continued vaccine equity clinics, outreach by vaccine navigators, focus on higher risk populations including those experiencing homelessness, and working with community-based organizations (CBOs) to

expand outreach through alignment of vaccine navigators. In addition, we continue to use ZIP code, census tract, and property (e.g., apartment complex) level data to guide these activities.

In January 2022, 61 **vaccine equity clinics** were held at 40 venues including Fairfax County Public Schools (13), houses of worship (6), commercial centers (5), housing or apartment complexes (5), restaurant/food establishments (5), government buildings (2), health clinics (2), community centers (1), and non-governmental organizations (1). Vaccinations were provided by the Health Department's Field Vaccination Team, Healthworks, Safeway, and through vendors, Giant and Ashbritt, for clinics at Fairfax County Public Schools. Among the events hosted by the Field Vaccination Team were five closed vaccination events that vaccinated staff at four restaurants. Twenty-seven of the 61 clinic events held in January served adults only, 18 served both adults and children, and 16 were pediatric-only clinics.

Fairfax County Public School (FCPS) School Vaccine Clinics (14 clinic events) provided pediatric vaccinations at 13 elementary school sites during January 2022. In addition to after-school and weekend clinics, FCPS has implemented clinics during the school day at elementary schools with the lowest vaccination rates. The Health Department provides monthly clinic location recommendations to FCPS based on vaccination rates by elementary school catchment area, identifying schools with lower vaccination rates.

From January 1, 2022 to January 31, 2022, the **Vaccine Navigation program** supported 77 events in the Fairfax County Health District and reached more than 3,000 Fairfax County residents. The program recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with United Community, for a total of 7 MOUs with community organizations. United Community's mission is to "empower our neighbors in need to transform their lives." These relationships facilitate access to the organizations' clients and provide an added layer of trust as an extension of the agency.

The navigators continue to serve Springfield Town Center's vaccine equity clinic. They have also participated in multiple neighborhood/community canvassing events to promote vaccine clinics in the surrounding areas. Mobile food distributions continue to be an effective method for engaging with the community. Additionally, the navigators have spent a great deal of time supporting houses of worship and community centers with their vaccine clinics. Residents also continue to ask the navigators about options for testing and the navigators assist them in locating testing resources. Health Department Outreach Team and navigators supported community participation in the FCPS elementary school clinics.

The **vaccination of homeless people** continues to be a challenge. By early February 2022, 1,184 homeless individuals and shelter staff had been vaccinated at 108 on-site vaccination clinics. The proportion of the homeless population vaccinated (a point-in-time estimate among those currently being served) was 37% on February 8. One-hundred-sixteen homeless clients and 12 shelter staff members received vaccinations during December 2021 and January 2022.

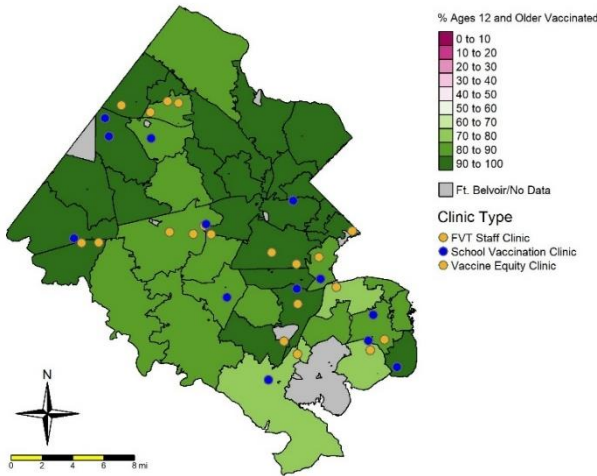
Part 3: Fairfax County Vaccination Overview

As of February 14, a total of 2,192,189 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in Fairfax Health District, and 960,269 people had received at least one vaccine dose. This represents 90.4% of the adult (≥ 18 -year-old) population, and 90.6% of those ages 12 and older. The proportion vaccinated in the

Fairfax Health District includes more than 98% of persons ages 65 and older. Additionally, 50.8% of children ages 5 to 11 have been vaccinated with at least one dose.

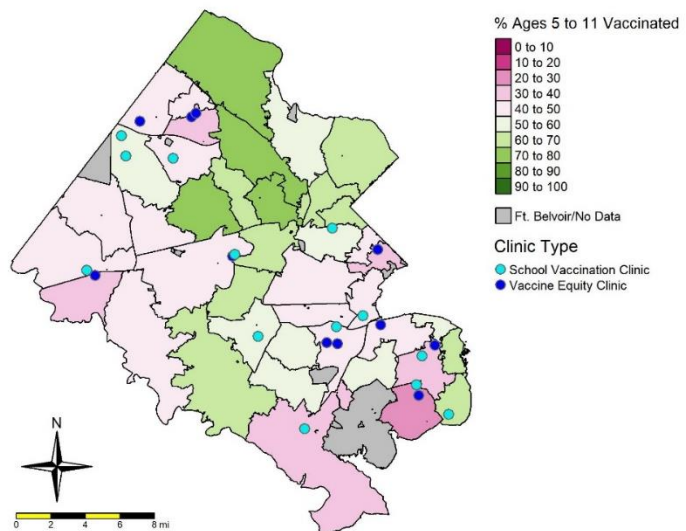
As of February 14, 408,338 booster or additional doses have been administered to Fairfax Health District residents. This represents 40.9% of the population ages 12 and older. Booster dose rates among ages 12 and older vary by race and ethnicity. 40.6% of White residents, 46.8% of Asian or Pacific Islander residents, 26.5% of Black/African American residents, and 28.6% of Hispanic residents ages 12 and older have received a booster dose.

Percent ages 12 and older vaccinated with at least one dose by 1/31/22
 Adult Vaccine Equity Clinic Sites in January 2022
 Fairfax Health District



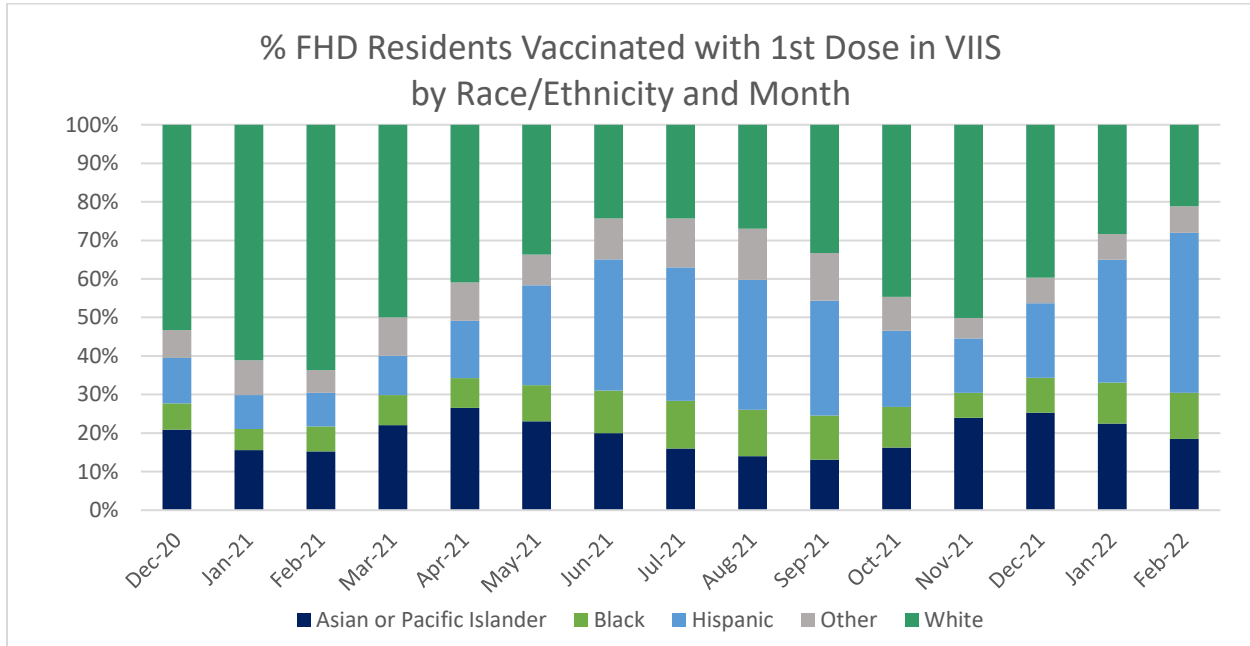
To the left are results from vaccinations throughout the Health District. The first map below shows the locations of adult vaccine equity clinics overlaid on the percent of the vaccine eligible population ≥ 12 years old vaccinated with at least one dose by ZIP code. Vaccination rates by ZIP code can also be viewed in Table 1. Overall, 90.4% of those ages 12 and older had been vaccinated as of January 31, 2022 – up from 88.9% on January 1.

Percent ages 5 to 11 vaccinated with at least one dose by 1/31/22
 Pediatric Vaccine Clinic Sites in January 2022
 Fairfax Health District



The map to the right demonstrates the locations of pediatric vaccine equity clinics overlaid on the percent of the vaccine eligible population 5 to 11 years old vaccinated with at least one dose by ZIP code. Pediatric vaccination rates by ZIP code can also be viewed in Table 2. 50.0% of those ages 5 to 11 had been vaccinated as of January 31, 2022 – up from 44.9% on January 1.

As of February 14, of the 960,269 Fairfax Health District residents who have been vaccinated 887,122 (92%) have race and ethnicity included in the Virginia Immunization Information System (VIIS). Overall, from December 2020 through February 14, 2022, Hispanics comprised 17.1% of Fairfax Health District residents vaccinated, Black or African Americans comprised 8.2%, Asian or Pacific Islanders comprised 21.7%, non-Hispanic Whites comprised 44.0%, with 9.1% reporting another race and ethnicity.



*Data for February 2022 are through 2/14/22.

Based on VIIS data, there were 20,061 Fairfax Health District residents who received a first vaccine dose in January 2022 at any location, with 18,311 (91%) reporting race and ethnicity. Overall, 22.5% identified as Asian or Pacific Islander, 10.6% identified as Black/African American, 31.9% identified as Hispanic, and 28.4% identified as non-Hispanic White.

5,559 (28%) of the 20,061 Fairfax Health District residents who received a first vaccine dose in January 2022 were children ages 5 to 11. 4,790 (86%) of these children reported race and ethnicity. Among this age group, 21.6% identified as Asian or Pacific Islander, 11.5% identified as Black/African American, 39.4% identified as Hispanic, and 21.3% identified as non-Hispanic White.

The proportions of Black/African American residents and Hispanic residents who received vaccinations in January 2022 were higher than the proportions of these groups in the Fairfax Health District population overall, as well as the proportion of these groups who received vaccinations in December 2021. This trend has continued in February to-date.

Table 1. Percent Ages 12 and Older Vaccinated by ZIP Code as of January 31, 2022			
ZIP Code	Percent of 12+ Vaccinated	ZIP Code	Percent of 12+ Vaccinated
22027	100.0%	22308	90.4%
22180	100.0%	22153	90.3%
22101	100.0%	22124	89.9%
22182	100.0%	22039	88.9%
20170	97.7%	20190	88.4%
20171	97.0%	20191	88.2%
22102	96.5%	22066	88.0%
22043	95.2%	22312	87.9%
20151	94.6%	22015	87.5%
22181	94.3%	20124	86.3%
22031	93.4%	22152	85.8%
22151	93.4%	22307	85.7%
20120	93.1%	22303	84.2%
22033	93.0%	22032	84.1%
22003	92.9%	22030	84.0%
22044	92.9%	22306	83.9%
22150	92.8%	22315	80.6%
22042	92.6%	22079	79.9%
22041	92.1%	22309	79.0%
20194	91.5%	22310	77.0%
22046	91.2%	Total	90.4%
20121	90.6%		

Population totals per ZIP code are defined using population estimates from the American Community Survey (2019).

Table 2. Percent Ages 5 to 11 Vaccinated by ZIP Code as of January 31, 2022			
ZIP Code	Percent 5 to 11 Vaccinated	ZIP Code	Percent 5 to 11 Vaccinated
22182	74.6%	20194	49.8%
22066	74.1%	22151	49.5%
22124	73.2%	20124	49.4%
22180	70.1%	22033	49.4%
22181	70.0%	22310	48.9%
22308	64.9%	20191	48.8%
22031	64.8%	22044	48.4%
22307	64.7%	22030	47.9%
22027	63.1%	20170	47.8%
22032	62.1%	20120	46.9%
22043	61.9%	22003	46.3%
22101	61.8%	22312	44.4%
22039	60.8%	22150	44.3%
22046	60.6%	20151	41.6%
22153	58.4%	20121	39.0%
22102	58.3%	22041	34.2%
20171	55.7%	20190	34.0%
22315	53.5%	22079	33.8%
22303	52.7%	22306	33.2%
22042	52.0%	22309	26.1%
22152	51.7%	Total	50.00%
22015	50.5%		

Population totals per ZIP code are defined using population estimates from the American Community Survey (2019).

Part 4: Conclusion

COVID-19 vaccinations of Fairfax Health District residents continue to progress. Vaccination coverage of children 5-11 years old now exceeds 50%. And the proportion of all vaccine doses that were administered to people of color has continued to increase since November 2021 when vaccination was first recommended for 5-11 year olds. Strategies to reduce gaps in vaccination coverage and to vaccinate more vulnerable populations continue unchanged from prior months with a focus on vaccine equity clinics, school-based clinics, vaccine navigators, community partnerships, and reaching vulnerable populations such as those who are homeless. Because program interventions are relatively stable at this time, we will be reducing the frequency of vaccine equity reports to quarterly with additional updates shared if warranted by changes in the pandemic or our equity approach.