



HOUSTON HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

COVID-19 Update

Greater Houston Local Emergency Planning Committee

January 26, 2022

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take your
BEST SHOT!

Protect yourself
and your loved ones.
Get vaccinated
against COVID-19.



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DEPARTMENT

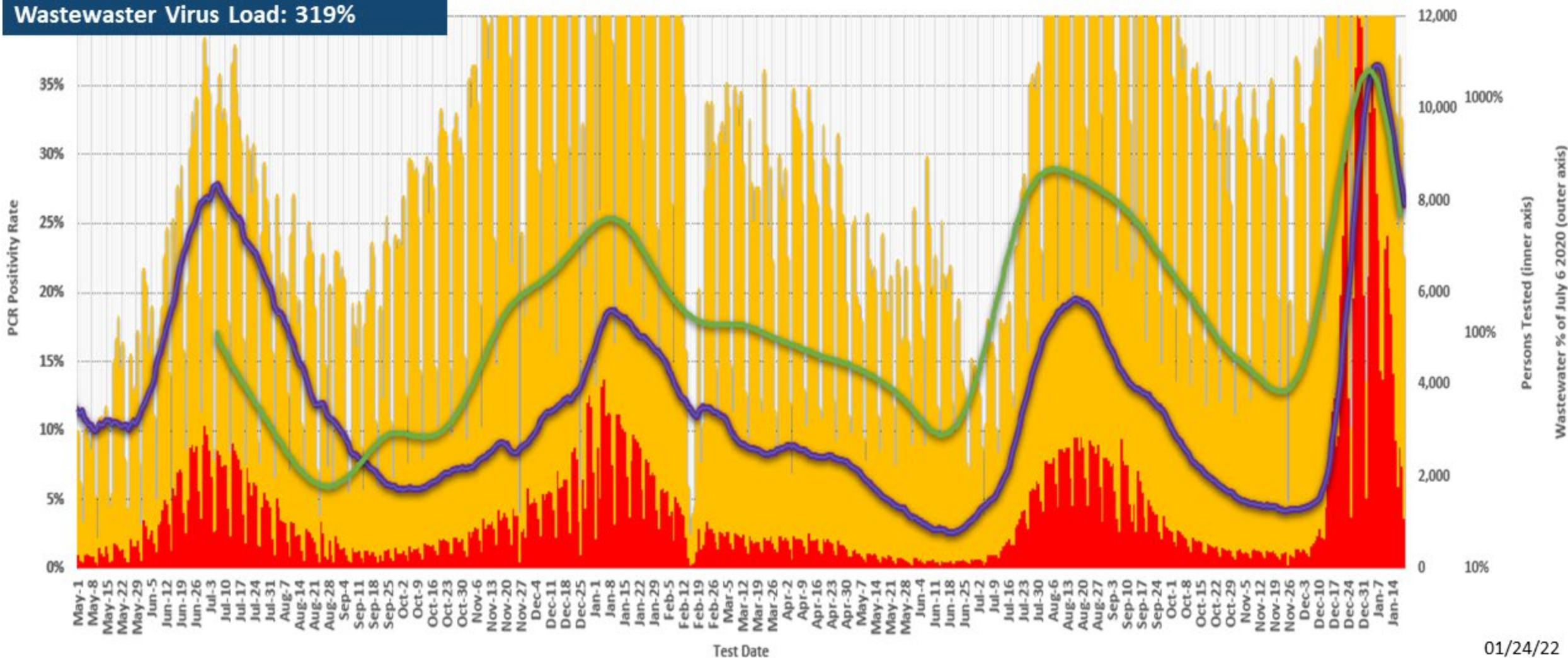
COVID-19 Positivity and Wastewater



Houston

14-day Average Positivity Rate: 26.4%
Wastewater Virus Load: 319%

Persons PCR Positive Persons PCR Negative PCR Positivity Rate (14-Day Mvg. Avg.) Wastewater % of July 6, 2020



Priority Messaging

COVID-19



- We're moving in the right direction but it's too soon to stop.
- Houston's latest 14-day average COVID-19 positivity rate is 26.4%, down from 38.0% two weeks ago. The wastewater virus load is 319%, down from 1,436% two weeks ago.
- To protect against Omicron, it's important to use all tools available including vaccination, boosters, masking, social distancing, and testing.
- Highly contagious variants like Omicron require more protective face coverings. Swap the cloth mask for a high filtration mask like a N95 or KN95.
- The facts are clear: Vaccination and boosters significantly reduce your chance of serious illness and death from COVID-19.
- While Omicron may not cause illness more severe than Delta, we are concerned about our hospitals and overall workforce.
- A small percentage of very sick people out of a massive number of cases is still a big number.
- Keeping cases low helps ensure there is enough room in hospitals to take care of everyone who needs care for things like car accidents, broken bones, heart attacks, strokes, etc.
- Whether a person is hospitalized for Covid or with Covid, they are an infectious patient who takes up resources.
- It's also important to reduce cases to keep grocery stores, restaurants, gas stations, and other vital businesses open and those jobs secure.
- Omicron is causing more breakthrough infections, which can be discouraging... but vaccinated and boosted people mostly experience mild to no symptoms.
- Children under the age of 5 remain vulnerable to COVID-19 since vaccines for them have yet to receive authorization/approval.
- Remember: Hospital stays can be very expensive. The vaccine is free.

Priority Messaging



COVID-19

- Protecting children currently ineligible for a COVID-19 shot requires the rest of society to get fully vaccinated, mask up, practice social distancing and test frequently.
- People with symptoms of COVID-19 should get tested, regardless of vaccination status.
- It's helpful to get tested if you recently participated in a gathering with people who do not live in your home.
- If you test positive, you should isolate for five days. If your symptoms resolve or are improving, you can leave your home while strictly wearing a mask around others for another five days.
- The Houston Health Department and its partners offer six mega sites and dozens of smaller sites across the city.
- Remember: Hospital stays can be very expensive. The vaccine is free.

Priority Messaging

COVID-19



- Every home in the U.S. is eligible to order four free at-home COVID-19 tests at covidtests.gov. The orders usually ship in 7-12 days. Order yours now so you have them when needed.
- We also offer many free vaccination sites across Houston that offer any dose for all eligible ages.
- You can find free testing and vaccination sites at houstonhealth.org or by calling 832-393-4220.
- Remember: Hospital stays can be very expensive. The vaccine is free.

Educational Resources

COVID-19

Will COVID-19 vaccines give you COVID-19?



No. None of the vaccines authorized for use in the U.S. contain a live virus.

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Do COVID-19 vaccines contain microchips?



No. Vaccines are developed to fight against disease and are not administered to track your movement.

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Can receiving a COVID-19 vaccine cause you to be magnetic?



No. COVID-19 vaccines do not contain ingredients that can produce an electromagnetic field.

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Are all events reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) caused by vaccination?



No. Anyone can report events to VAERS, even if it is not clear whether a vaccine caused the problem. Some VAERS reports may contain information that is incomplete, inaccurate, coincidental, or unverifiable.

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Will getting a COVID-19 vaccine cause me to test positive for COVID-19 on a viral test?



No. None of the authorized and recommended COVID-19 vaccines cause you to test positive on viral tests, which are used to see if you have a current infection.

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Is it safe for me to get a COVID-19 vaccine if I would like to have a baby one day?



Yes. There is currently no evidence that COVID-19 vaccination causes any problems with pregnancy. In addition, there is no evidence that female or male fertility problems are a side effect of any vaccine.

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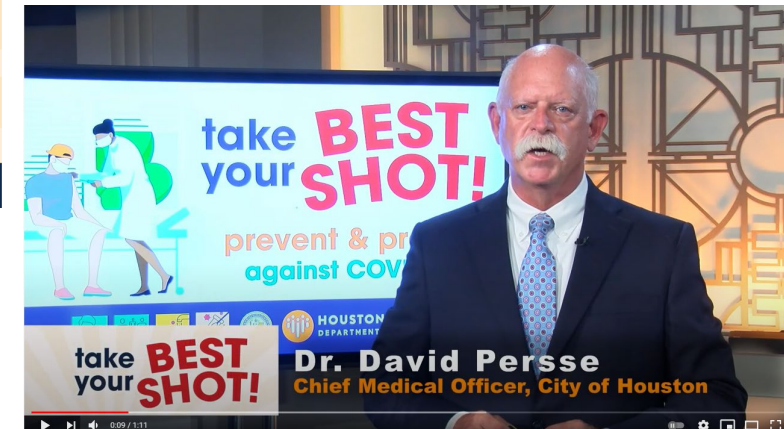
Will a COVID-19 vaccine alter my DNA?



No. Material in COVID-19 vaccine never enters the nucleus of the cell, which is where our DNA is kept.

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- Toolkits: HoustonEmergency.org/covid19
- Twitter: @houstonhealth
- Facebook: @houstonhealth
- Instagram: @houstonhealthdepartment
- TikTok: @cityofhouston



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