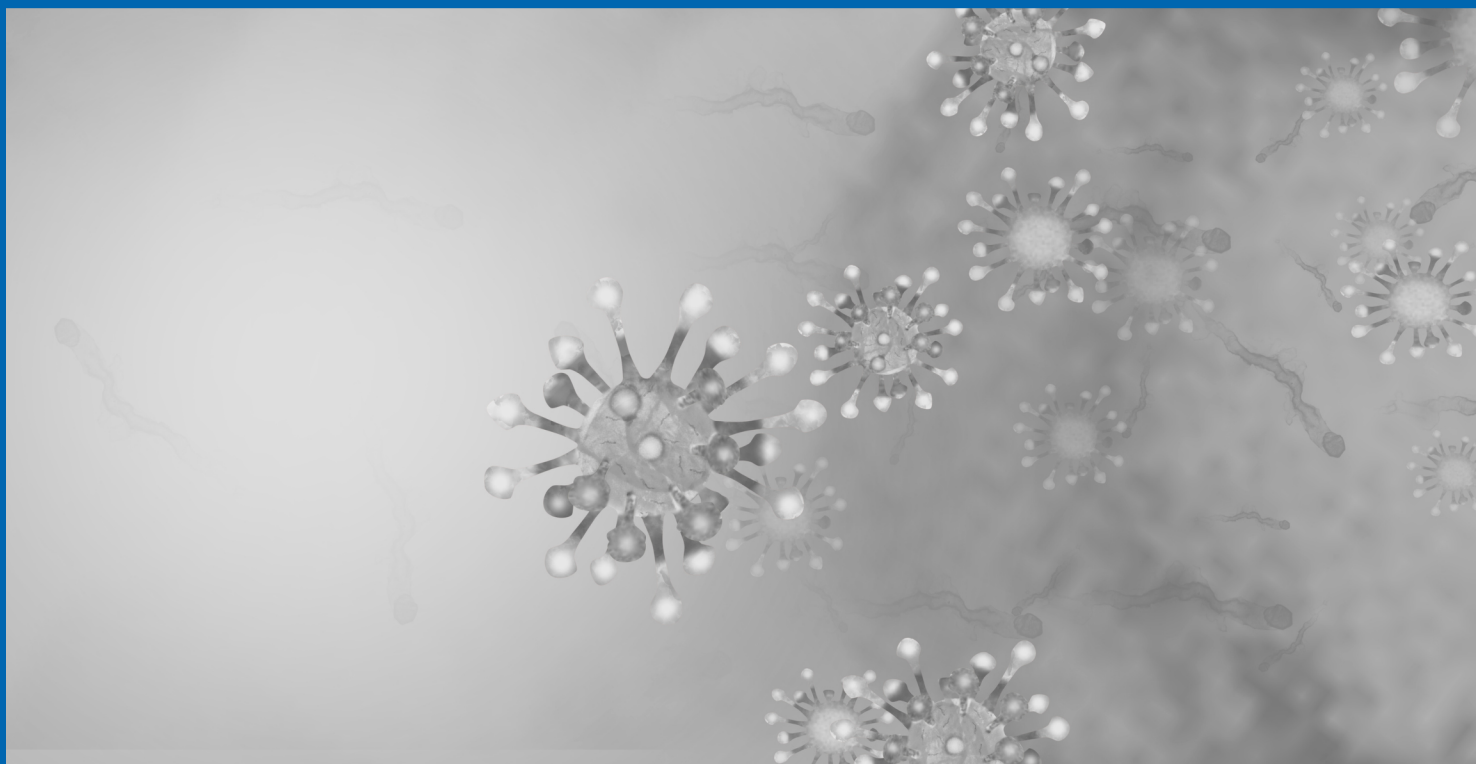




**Ministry of Health
& Wellness**

Cayman Islands Government



Public Health Spotlight

Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases

Issue 9 | 28 July 2022

Epidemiological Week 29

17-23 July 2022 (Data as of 25-07-2022)

International Situation

Following the recent uptick in new cases reported globally, over the past week the number of new cases plateaued, and the number of deaths reported has increased. Many countries are changing testing strategies which need to be considered when interpreting trends in cases detected. Omicron continues to be the dominant variant circulating globally, with the BA.5 sub-lineage accounting for 54% of sequences from recent early July. BA.5 is indicated to lead to an increase in cases as well as hospitalisation and admissions to ICU. A new subvariant of Omicron which WHO is monitoring is BA.2.75 which has been reported in 15 countries to date. However, it is not known whether this subvariant is associated with more severe outcomes.

WHO declared the monkeypox outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). No cases have been detected in the Cayman Islands.

Cayman Islands Local Trends

As testing activity has fallen over the past week, detection of cases has also decreased. The number of new confirmed cases declined by 21% from 408 in Epi Week 28 to 323 in Epi Week 29. The detected case rate decreased to 466 cases per 100,000 from 588 cases per 100,000. The number of PCR tests conducted decreased by 18% from 876 in the week prior to 718 tests. The daily detection of cases presents in a different weekly pattern from previous weeks (Fig 2) as drive through PCR testing is now available on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Hospital Admissions

Nine new hospital admissions were registered during Epi Week 29, the same as the previous week. Of the nine new admissions, 3 were admitted due to COVID-19 morbidity and 6 patients were detected on screening. A total of 15 patients required inpatient treatment, an increase of 25% from 12 in the previous week.

Vaccination

During Epi Week 29, there were 55 adults who received a COVID-19 vaccine (19 first dose and 36 second dose) and 7 children (2 first dose and 5 second dose).

Key Message

Hospital admissions remain elevated considering the decline in detected cases, which is likely indicating that the number of detected cases is an underestimate of the true incidence in the population. Genomic sequencing data suggests a decrease in the proportion of samples which are the BA.2 Omicron sub-variant and an increase in BA.5, BA.4 and BE.1 Omicron sub-variants.

COVID-19 - Epidemiological Week 29

Statistics

Table 1: COVID-19 case numbers

Indicator	Current EpiWeek	Previous EpiWeek	Percentage change	Total
Newly confirmed cases ¹	406	427	-5%	28,784
Case rate ² per 100,000 population	585	616	-5%	41,505
Daily average (7-day rolling average)	58	61	-5%	
Number of PCR tests conducted	870	896	-3%	
New positive PCR test results	395	425	-7%	28,784
Test positivity ³	45%	47%	-4%	-
Testing rate per 100,000 population	1,255	1,292	-3%	-
Deaths	0	0	0%	29

¹Newly confirmed cases (PCR) reported to Public Health with a sample collection date between 00:00 to 23:59 on 17 July 2022 –23 July 2022.

²Case Rate = proportion of persons who tested positive over population standardized to 100K population (New cases/total population)*100,000

³ Number of new positive PCR results over total number of PCR tests done (new positive PCR results/total number of PCRs conducted)*100

Figure 1: Total COVID-19 cases since March 2020 by specimen date

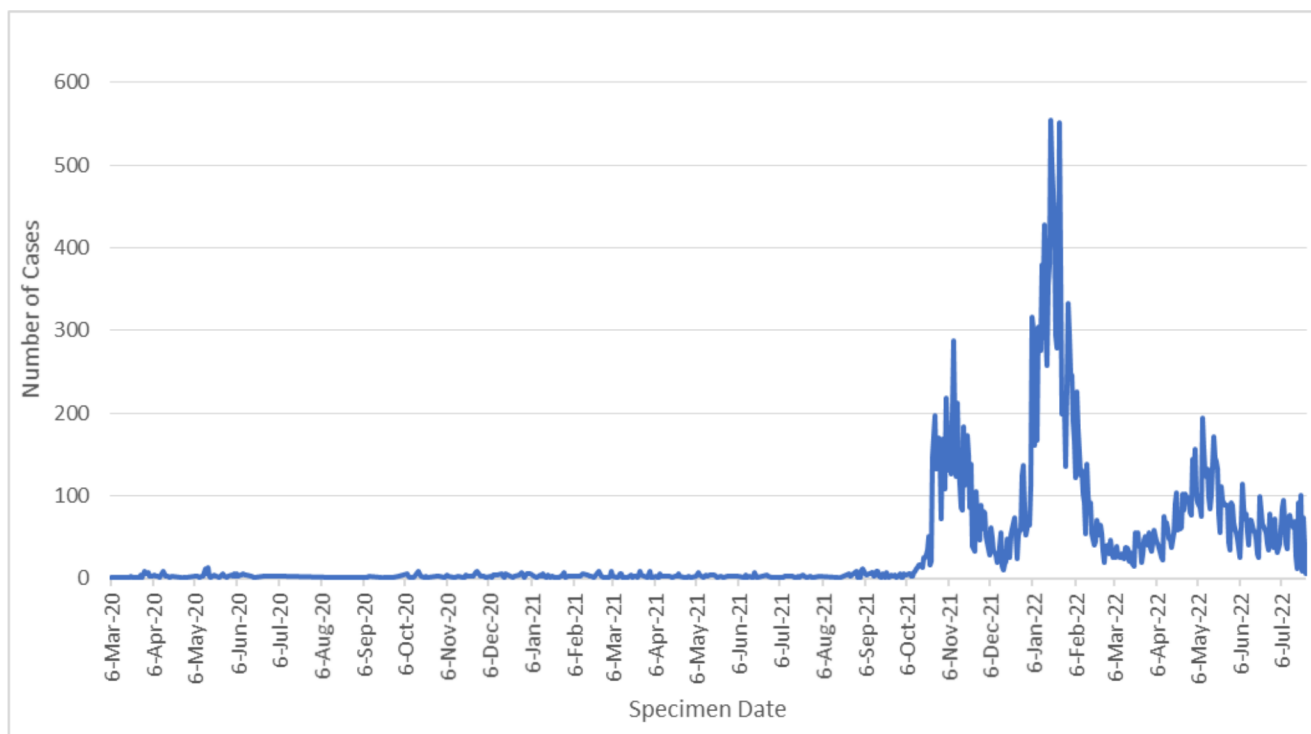
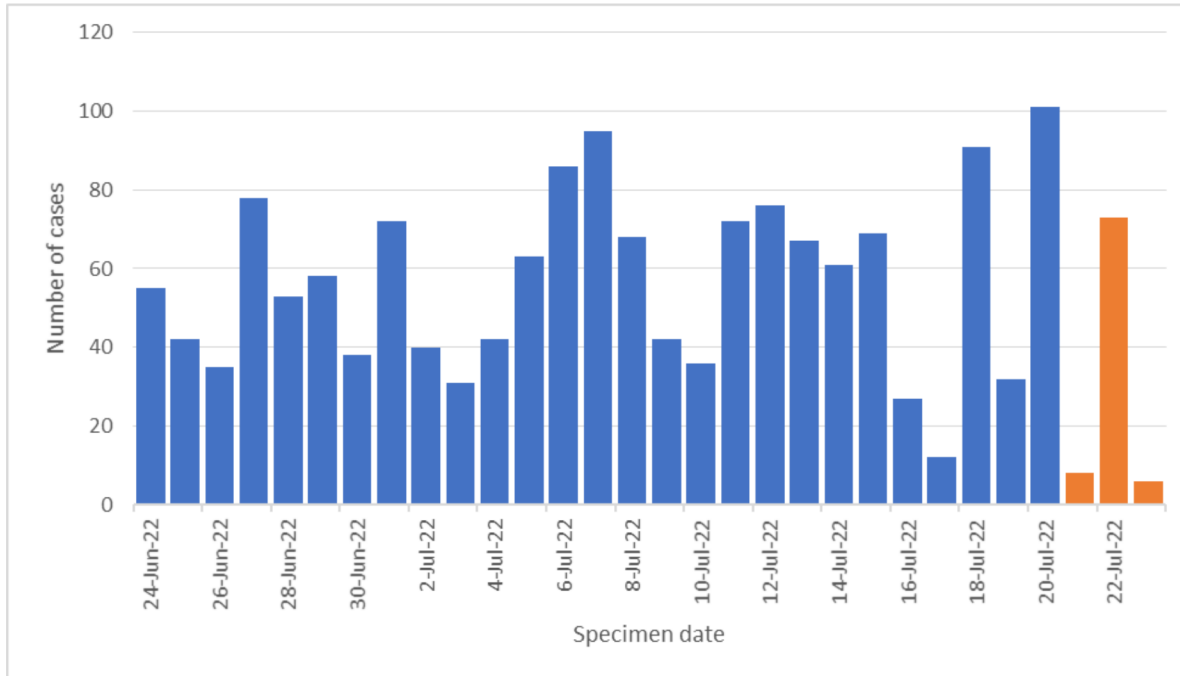
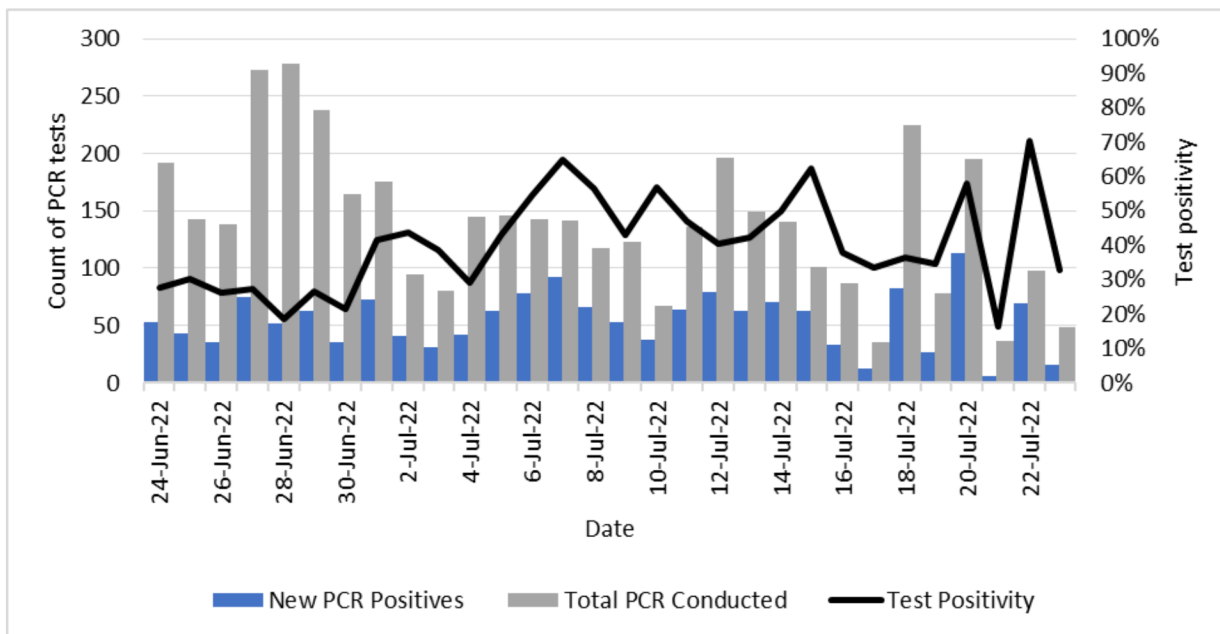


Figure 2: Number of COVID-19 cases in the last 30 days by specimen date



Orange bars indicate PCR results are pending thus figures may change.

Figure 3: Number of PCR tests conducted, new PCR positive results and test positivity rate for the last 30 days by test date



Data refers to the percentage of patients who tested positive via PCR in the prior 30 days.

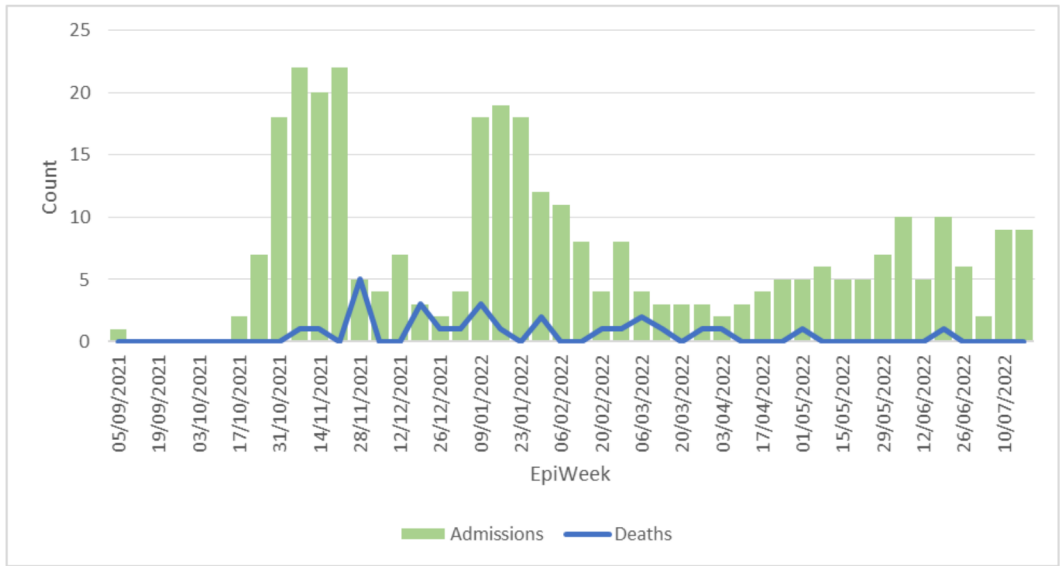
Table 2: COVID-19 patients admitted to hospital

Indicator	Current EpiWeek	Previous EpiWeek	Percentage change	Total
Total				
New COVID-19 patients admitted	9	9	0%	346
By age, vaccination, and reason for admission				
New admissions <10 years	0	0	0%	27
New admissions >10 years	9	9	0%	319
New admissions with ≥ 2 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine	6	7	-14%	119
Admitted for COVID-19 morbidity	3	4	-25%	-
Admitted with COVID-19, detected by screening	6	5	+20%	-

Table 3: COVID-19 inpatients

Indicator	Current EpiWeek	Previous EpiWeek	Percentage change	Total
Total number of inpatients	15	12	+25%	346
Supplemental O2 inpatients	2	3	-33%	-
ICU inpatients	1	3	-66%	-
Ventilated inpatients	0	0	0%	-

Figure 4: Weekly hospitalisations and deaths (since 8 September 2021*)



*First COVID-19 patient was in March 2020, but hospitalisation figures begin September 2021 for graphical reasons.

Table 4: Hospitalisation and Death statistics March 2020 – Present.

Vaccination Status	Hospitalisations	Proportion	Deaths	Proportion
Unvaccinated	209	60%	24	83%
Partially Vaccinated	11	3%	1	3%
Fully vaccinated	99	29%	4	14%
Fully vaccinated +1 Booster	26	8%	0	0%
Fully vaccinated +2 Boosters	1	0%	0	0%
Total	346	100%	29	100%

Figure 5: Weekly COVID-19 hospital admissions stratified by those aged above and below 10

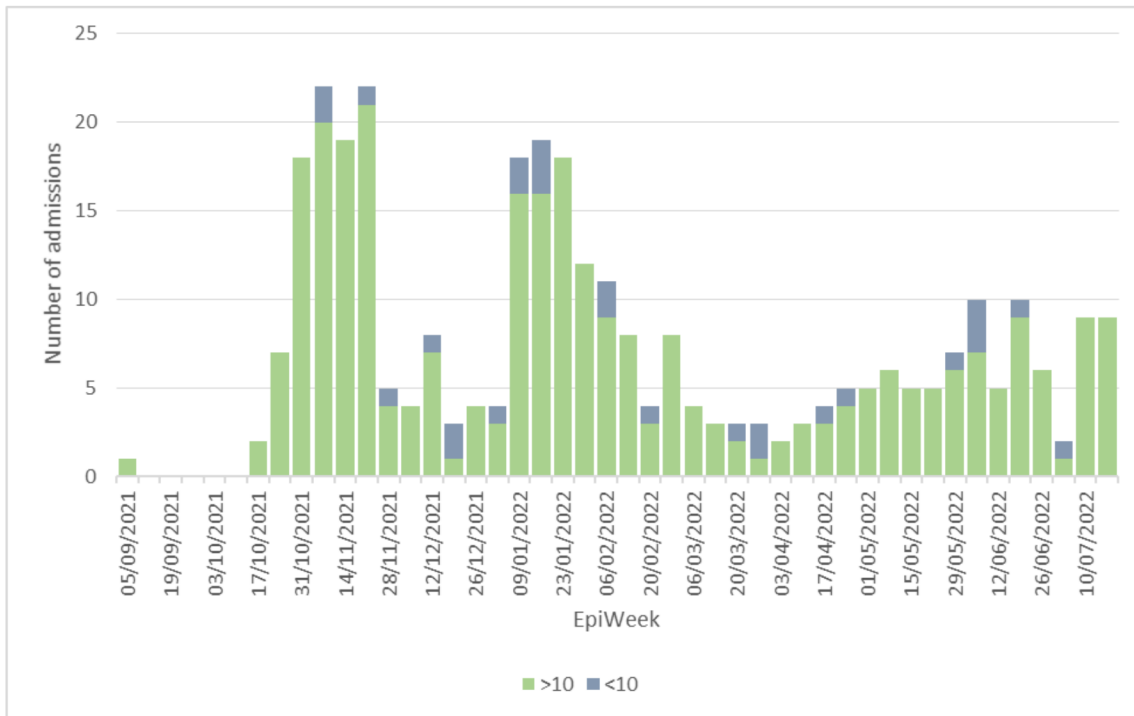


Table 5: COVID-19 vaccine uptake and coverage

Dose Number	Number administered in the week	Total Count	Coverage of Total Population	Coverage of population over 5
1	21	61,550	88.8%	95.1%
2	41	59,972	86.5%	92.6%
3	41	23,773	34.3%	36.7%
4	76	2,095	3.0%	3.2%

Based on total population of 69,350

Table 6: COVID-19 paediatric vaccine doses administered and booster coverage

Indicator	Total
Number of paediatric 1st doses administered within the EpiWeek	2
Number of paediatric 2nd doses administered within the EpiWeek	5
Number of children (5-11) immunized with the paediatric vaccine	798
Booster (3rd dose) coverage for population >20 (Fig.7)	43.3%

Figure 6: Vaccine coverage for the total population (69,350)

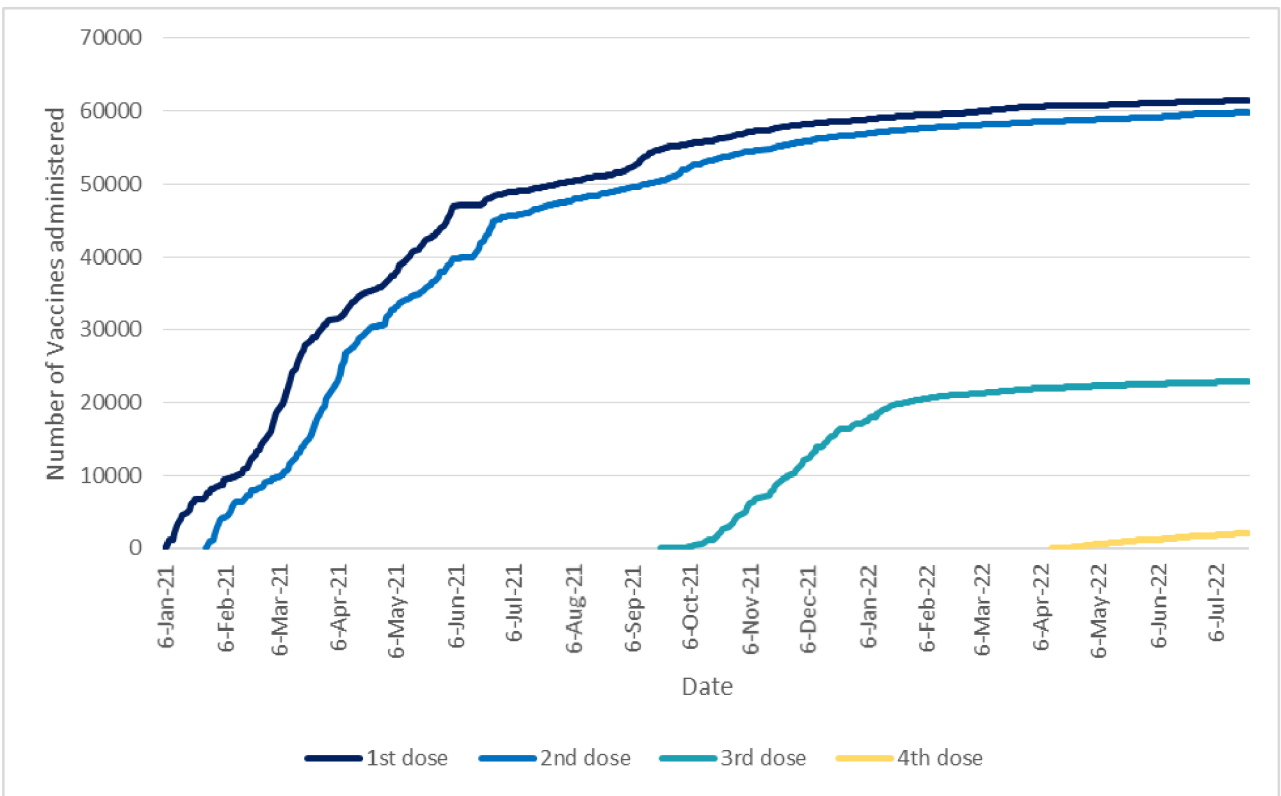


Figure 7: Booster (3rd dose) Vaccine Coverage per Age Group

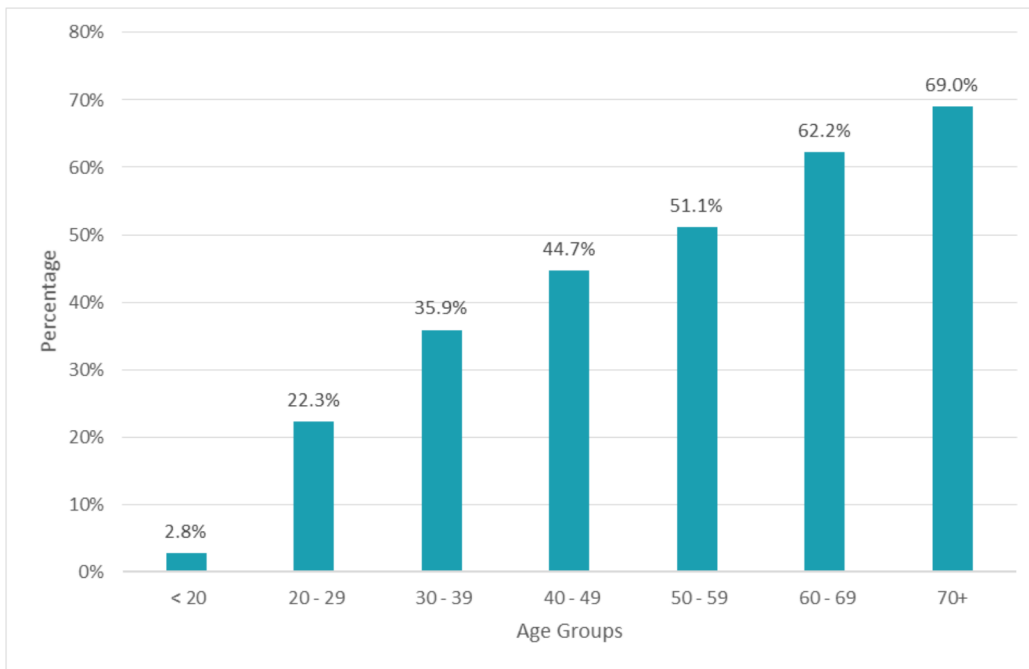
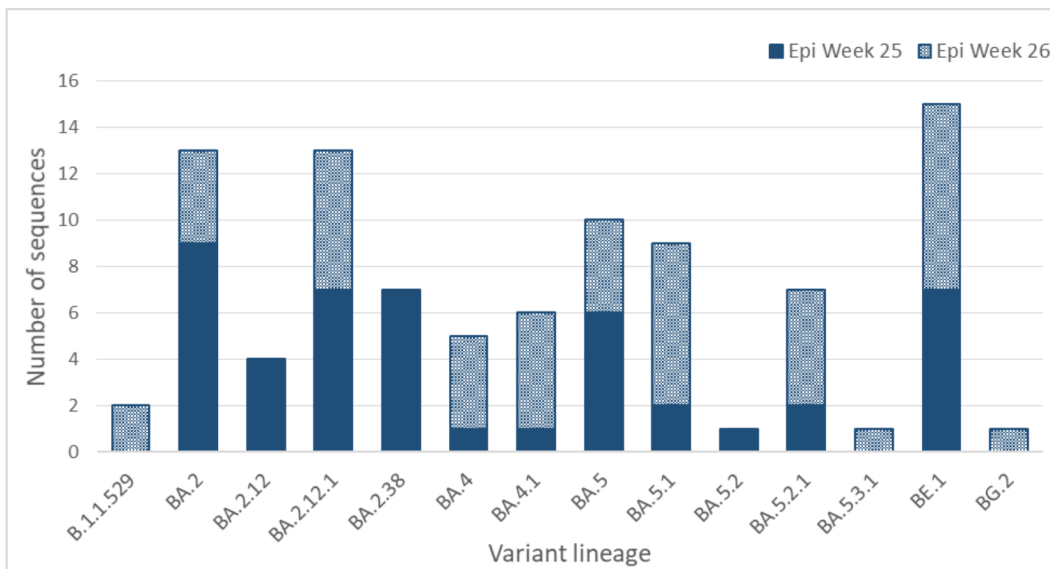


Figure 7: Genomic sequencing of positive SARS-CoV2 isolates (N=94) from Epi Week 25 and Epi Week 26



The genomic sequencing data indicates that the proportion of sequenced samples that are BE.1, BA.4 and BA.5 variants (include sub lineages) are increasing. Whereas the proportion of sequenced samples which are BA.2 and respective sub-lineages are decreasing. This pattern aligns to what is reported internationally of the shift of Omicron subvariants from BA.2 being the predominant variant to an increase in BA.5 and BA.4. As this is a relatively small sample of 94 isolates over a two-week period that have been sequenced, this provides an indication of what is circulating in the population however cannot determine prevalence. The variant BA.2.75 recently included under WHO monitoring has not been detected to date in Cayman Islands.

Monkeypox

Overview

Globally, 14,533 laboratory-confirmed and probable monkeypox cases have been reported by WHO (data as of 23 July 2022) across 72 countries. A total of five deaths have been reported, three were in Nigeria and two in the Central African Republic. Most cases are among males identifying as gay, bisexual or men who have sex with men (MSM). These have been found to cluster in social or sexual networks often in urban areas. A low number of cases have been reported among children, pregnant women and healthcare workers. Data gathered from affected countries indicates the mean incubation period to be between 7.6 to 9.2 days.

On 23 July 2022, WHO declared the monkeypox outbreak to be a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).

Cayman Islands

There continue to be no known cases of monkeypox virus detected in the Cayman Islands, and there are no suspected cases currently being investigated.

World Hepatitis Day, 28 July

Viral Hepatitis causes inflammation of the liver and can result in severe disease and liver cancer. 28 July is World Hepatitis Day to raise awareness of the infection and the treatment and care that is available.

As the infection can be asymptomatic, in the Americas, only 18% of people who have a Hepatitis B infection and 22% of those with a Hepatitis C infection are diagnosed, with the majority remaining unaware of their infection. Around 30% of those with Hepatitis C (HCV) can clear the virus spontaneously, however for those who develop chronic HCV infection it can lead to cirrhosis, liver cancer and death. For cases who develop chronic infection there is a highly effective treatment available. Hepatitis B infections can be prevented by available vaccination, which is routinely administered as part of infant immunization programmes.

Internationally an outbreak of unexplained acute hepatitis infections has recently been detected among children. As of 24 June, 920 probable cases have been reported by 22 countries to WHO. Severe cases have required liver transplants. Testing has excluded hepatitis A, B, C, D or E being the cause of this outbreak. Adenovirus is the most frequently detected pathogen among the cases, and thought that early immunity in children was missed due to COVID-19 and social distancing. The symptoms include diarrhoea, vomiting, fever, muscle pain and jaundice. No cases have been reported in the Cayman Islands to date.

**The Public Health Spotlight is published weekly by the Ministry of Health and Wellness.
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