

COVID-19 Press Briefing

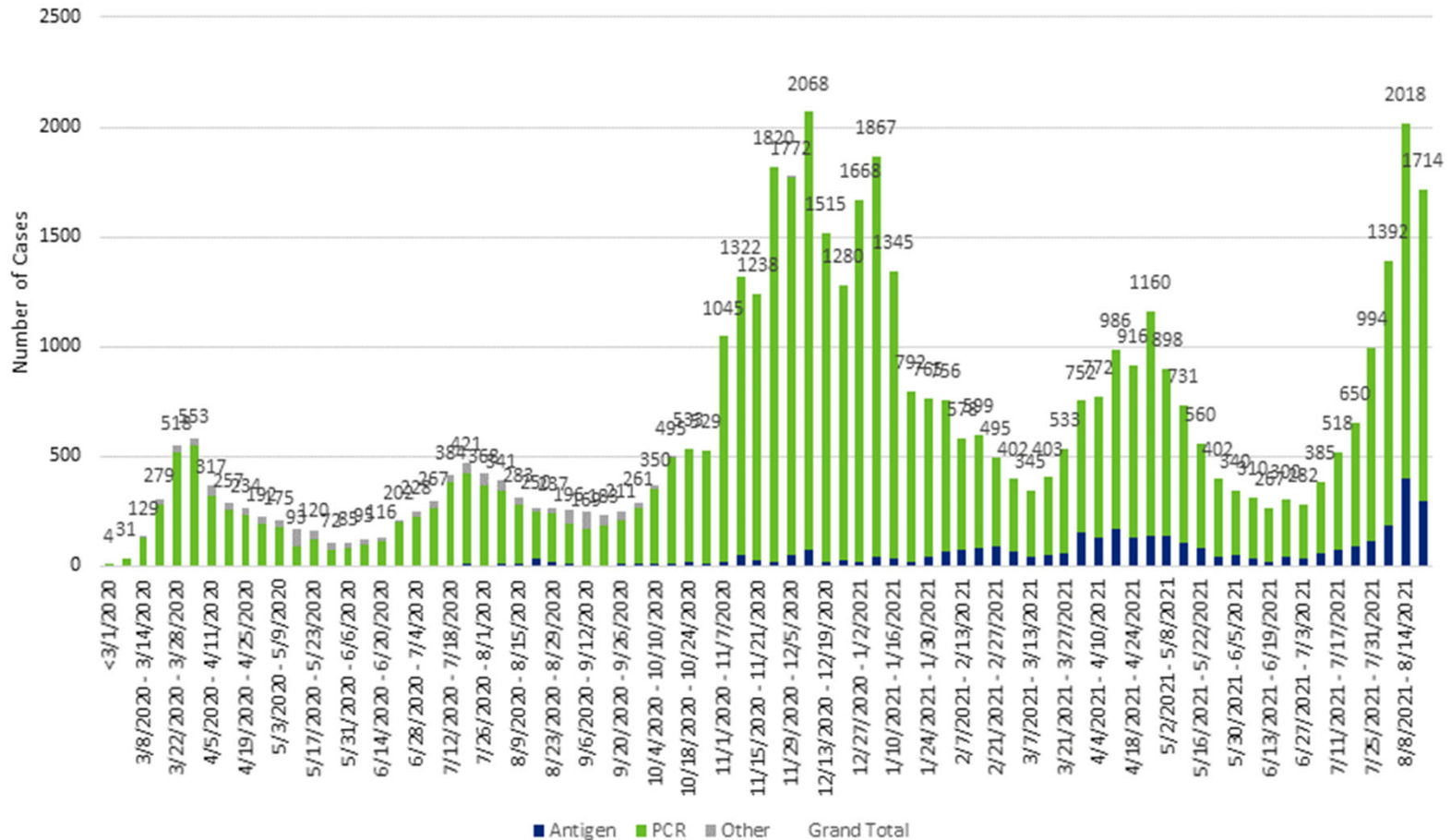
Snohomish Health District



August 24, 2021

COVID-19 Weekly Case Counts

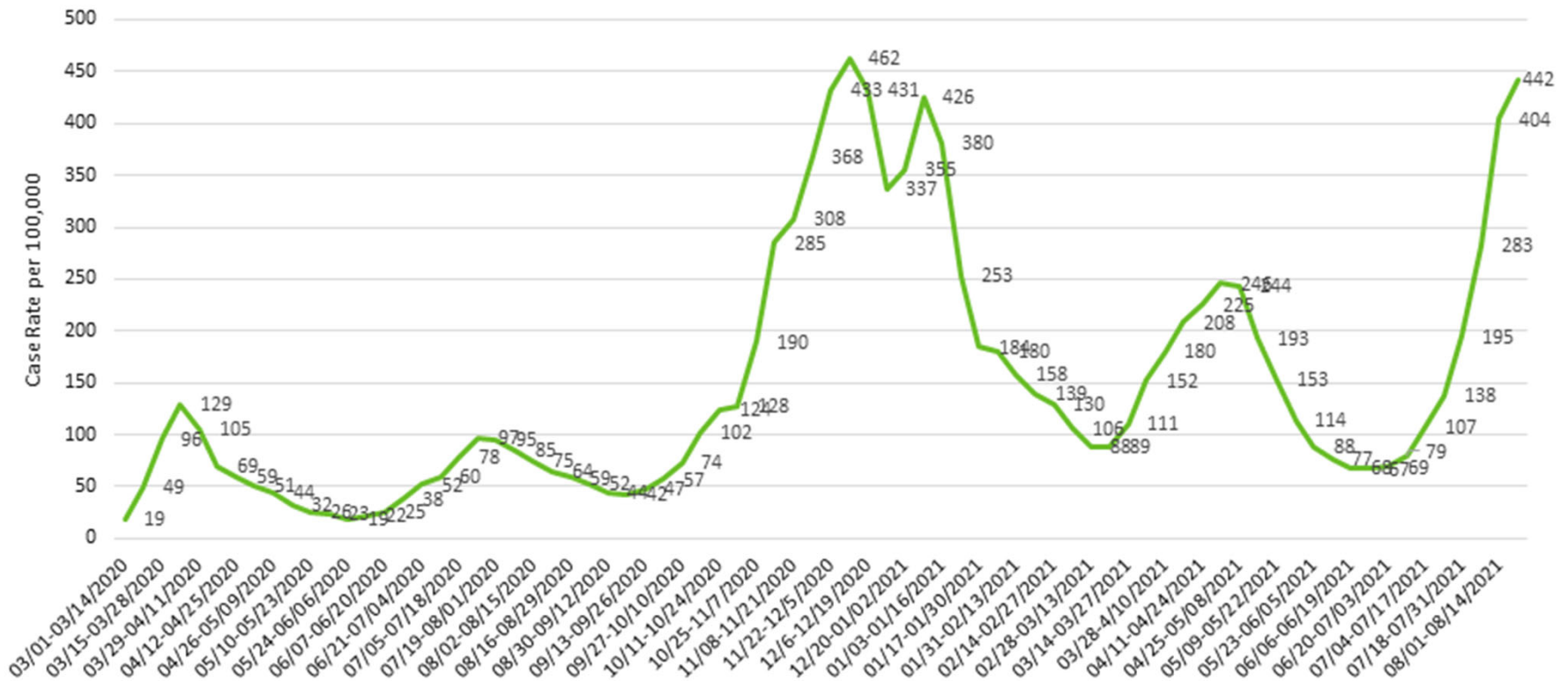
Snohomish County COVID-19 Cases by Report Week



Through August 21, 2021

COVID-19 Rolling 2-week Case Rate

Snohomish County COVID-19 Case Rates per 100,000 for 2-week Rolling Periods



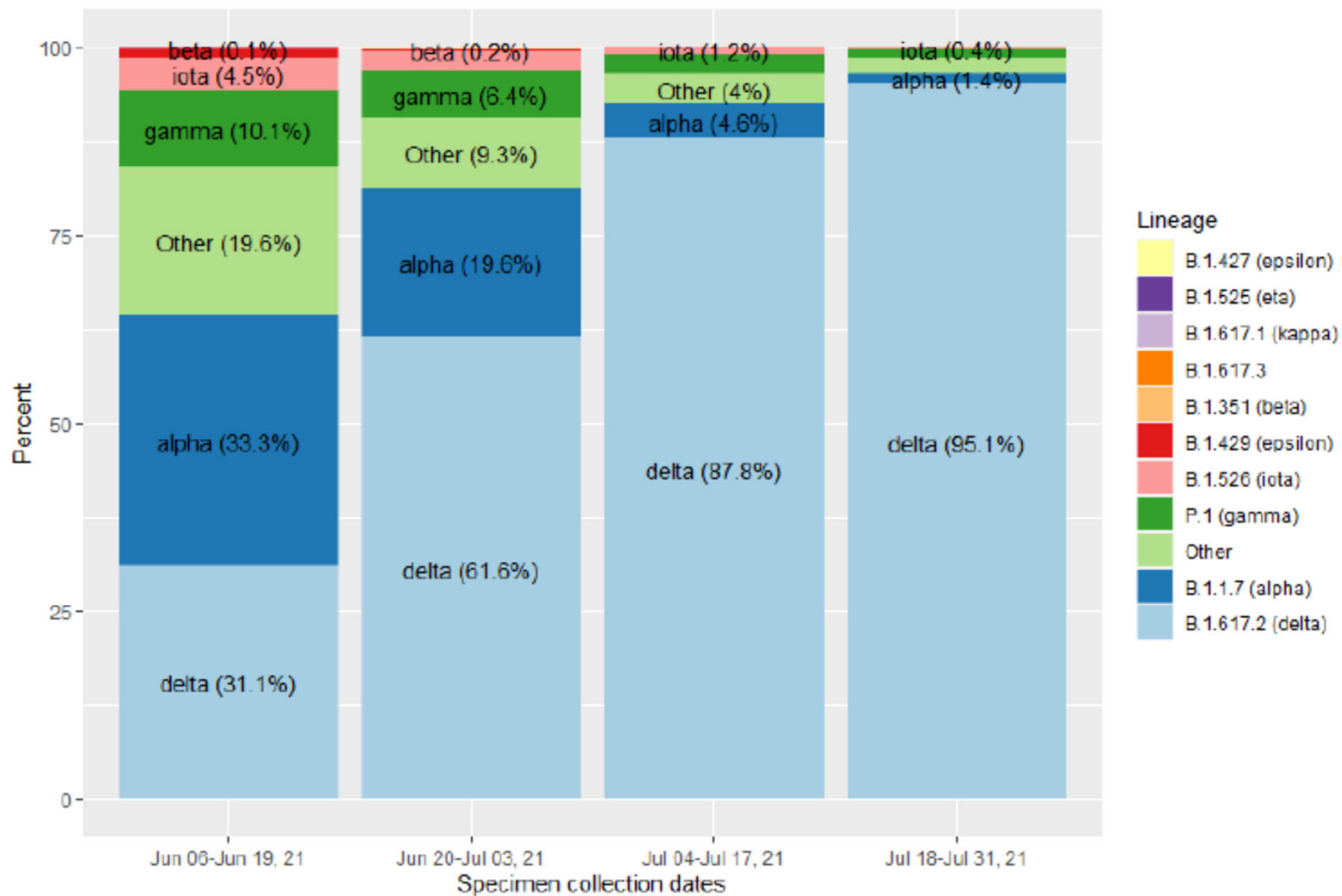
Through August 21, 2021



COVID-19 Hospitalizations

- Contributing factors
 - Pre-existing surge in demand for non-elective acute care
 - COVID surge
 - Staffing shortages
- Response
 - Masking
 - Vaccination
 - Health care system coordination (DMCC, WMCC)

Delta Strain



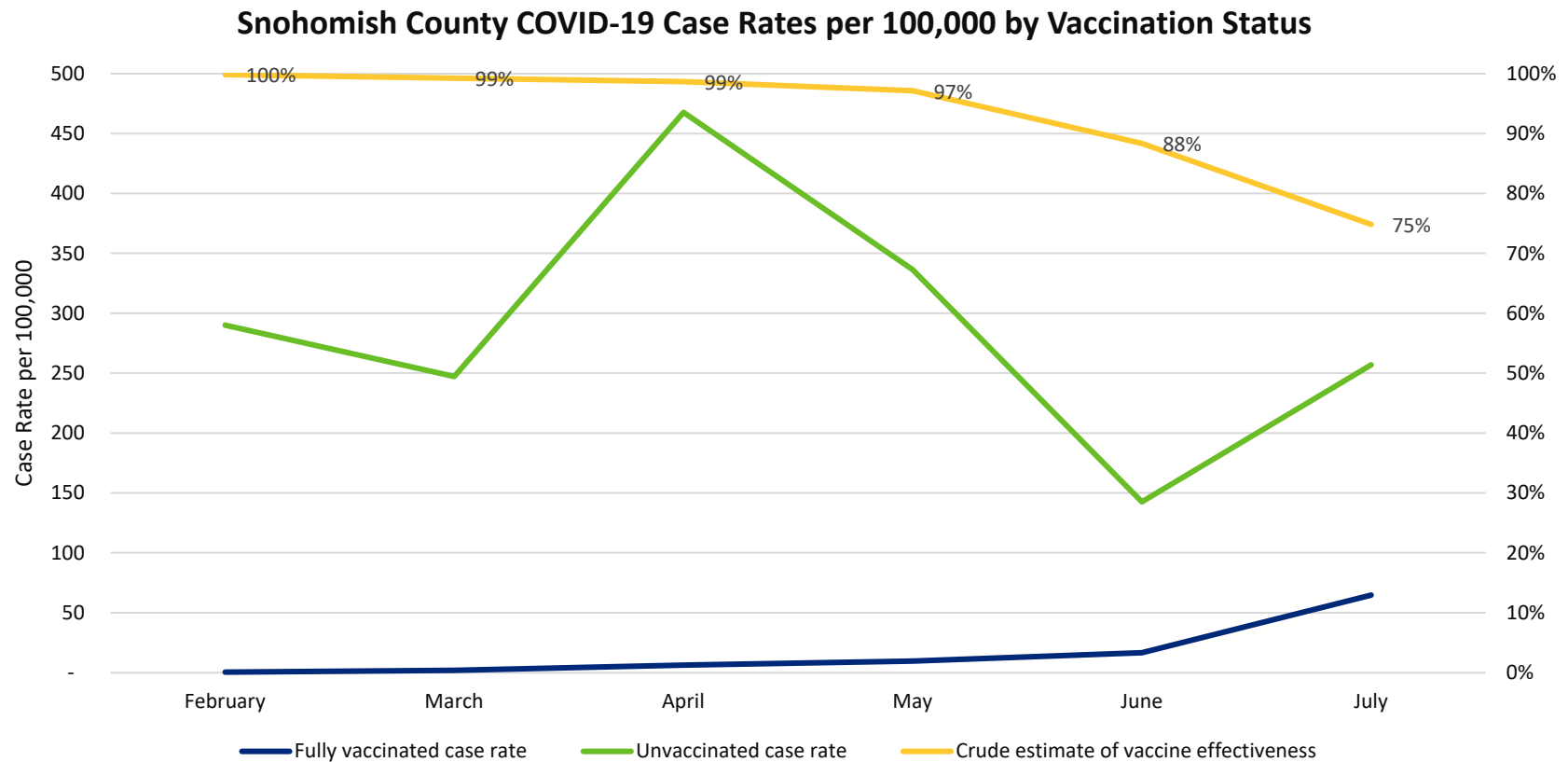
Source: WA DOH 2021

Incomplete Vaccination Coverage

- **1-of-4 eligible (209K) have not started**
- 124K children <12 years not eligible
- 333K (40% of total pop.) unvaccinated

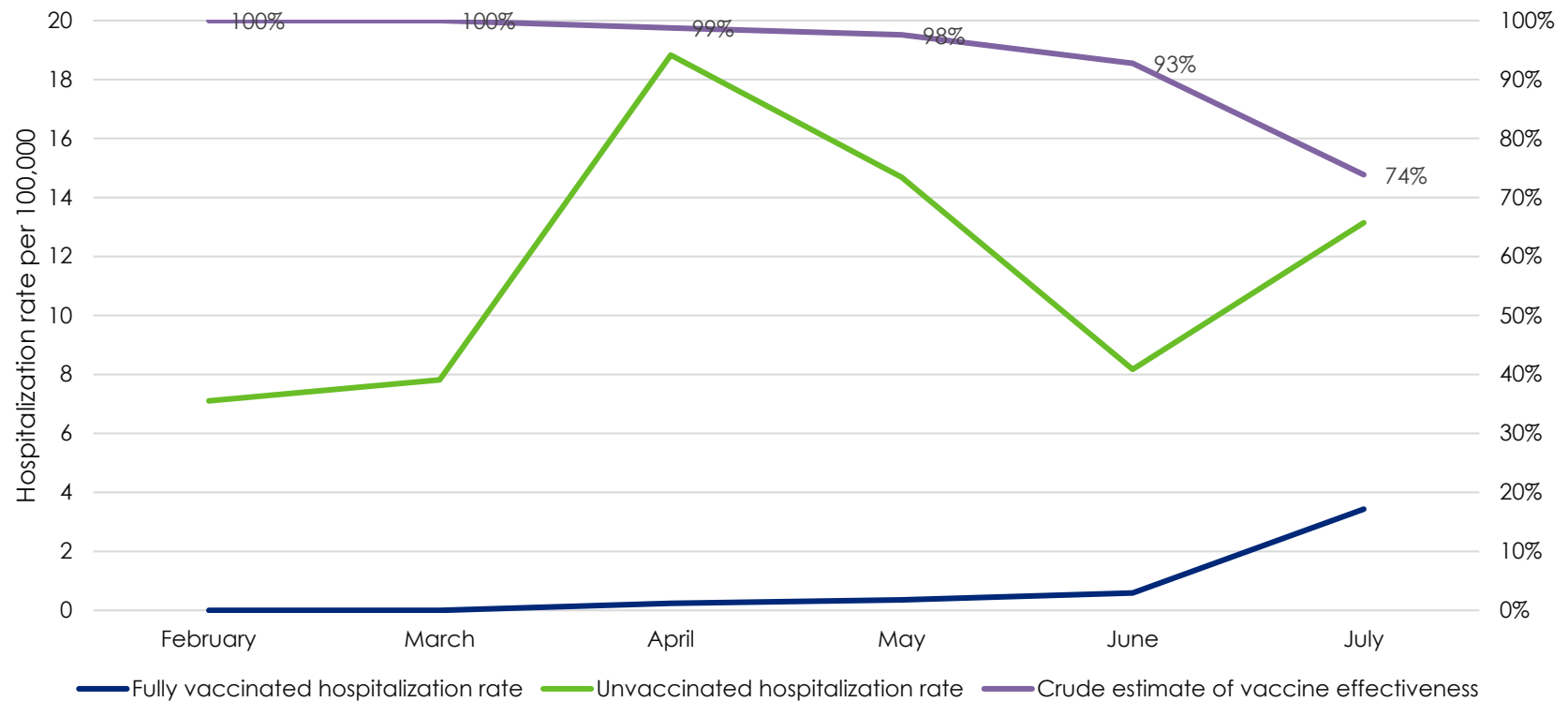
Measure	Vaccines Given August 11-17	Total	% of total population	% ≥12 years
People started vaccination	5,600	44K	5%	6%
People completely vaccinated	4,160	454K	55%	64%
	10,760			
≥12 years, not started		209K	25%	30%
<12 years, not yet eligible		124K	15%	--
Totals		831K	100%	100%

Vaccine Protection: Reported Cases



Vaccine Protection: Hospitalization

Snohomish County COVID-19-related Hospitalization Rates per 100,000 by Vaccination Status





Vaccine Protection

- Contributing factors to apparent decline in effectiveness
 - Delta variant (change in target of vaccine)
 - Time since vaccination (waning immunity)
 - Vaccinated people are more likely to be older and older folks are at higher risk for serious disease

Boosters Ahead? Probably, but not yet

- Purpose: re-stimulate immune system after waning of immunity over time
- Federal medical leadership's vision:
 - *8 months after last dose of initial series*
 - *Planning for start-up in late September*
 - *Front loads health care workers, long-term care and other seniors*
- But first: awaiting FDA authorization and CDC ACIP recommendations for use after review of supporting evidence
- ACIP meeting next week (Aug 30-31) may address this



And so...

- Wear a mask indoors and where it is crowded outdoors
- Get vaccinated...NOW (both doses!)
- Keep your distance
- Avoid gatherings
- Stay tuned for more news on
 - boosters in the fall
 - vaccination for children <12 y/o (roughly Dec-Jan target)