

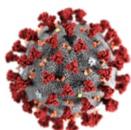
# EPI SCOPE

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN SEMINOLE COUNTY EPIDEMIOLOGY NEWSLETTER // DEC 2021 ISSUE

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## Fast Stats & Updates



COVID-19 case counts have increased in Seminole County in recent weeks.



**67%** of eligible\* Seminole County residents have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

*\*Note the percent has decreased from the last newsletter as the eligible population now includes everyone ages 5 years and older.*

For more information, view the latest weekly COVID-19 report on the [Florida Department of Health COVID-19 website](#).



**Influenza (Flu) activity is increasing in Seminole County and across Florida.** Encourage patients to get their annual flu shot and discuss cough and sneeze etiquette and proper hand washing to reduce the spread of the flu.

## CDC HEALTH ADVISORY—RAPID INCREASE OF OMICRON VARIANT INFECTIONS IN THE U.S.: MANAGEMENT OF HEALTHCARE PERSONNEL WITH SARS-COV-2 INFECTION OR EXPOSURE

### Summary

Due to the increased transmissibility of the SARS-CoV-2 [Omicron](#) variant and concerns about potential impacts on the healthcare system, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated recommendations to enhance protection for healthcare personnel, patients, and visitors and ensure adequate staffing in healthcare facilities. The guidance is based on the limited information currently available about the Omicron variant and will be updated as needed as new information becomes available.

### Background

On November 24, 2021, a new variant of SARS-CoV-2, B.1.1.529 (Omicron) was reported to the [World Health Organization](#) (WHO). Current COVID-19 vaccines are expected to protect against severe illness, hospitalizations, and deaths from infection with the Omicron variant. Omicron might cause more [breakthrough infections](#) than prior variants, and some studies have found lower effectiveness of the primary series of vaccines against infection.

On December 1, 2021, the first case attributed to Omicron was reported in the United States. Omicron has now been reported in all 50 states. CDC has been working with state and local public health officials to monitor the spread of Omicron in the United States and has identified a [rapid increase in infections](#) consistent with what has been observed in other countries. Multiple large clusters of Omicron variant cases have demonstrated the rapid spread of the virus. Holiday-related travel and gatherings may further accelerate these trends. [Plausible scenarios](#) include steep epidemic trajectories that would require prompt public health action to prevent severe impacts on the health of individuals and healthcare systems.

The clinical severity profile of Omicron infection will strongly influence its impact on U.S. hospitalizations and deaths. Early data suggest Omicron infection might be less severe than infection with prior variants (3,4); however, reliable data on clinical severity remain limited (5). Even if the proportion of infections associated with severe outcomes is lower than with previous variants, a rapid, large increase in the number of infections could still result in many people with severe outcomes requiring medical care and hospitalization in a short period. Demand for ambulatory care, supportive care for treatment of mild cases, and staffing shortages resulting from work restriction of healthcare personnel with SARS-CoV-2 infection or with higher-risk exposures could also stress the healthcare system.

### **Maintaining appropriate staffing in healthcare facilities is essential to providing a safe work environment for healthcare personnel and safe patient care.**

CDC's mitigation strategies offer a continuum of options for addressing healthcare staffing shortages and are meant to be implemented sequentially. These [strategies](#) were updated on December 23, 2021. If conventional strategies cannot be sustained during a surge in cases, facilities may consider implementing contingency strategies, then crisis strategies, in an incremental manner. Facilities are best positioned to evaluate their own needs as to whether conventional, contingency, or crisis strategies are most appropriate at a given time.

### **Consider options to address a healthcare surge by shortening the duration of work restrictions.**

When staffing shortages are anticipated, healthcare facilities and employers should plan and prepare to address these shortages in collaboration with staff leadership, human resources, and occupational health services. This can include adjusting staff schedules, hiring additional healthcare personnel, and rotating personnel to positions that support patient care activities.

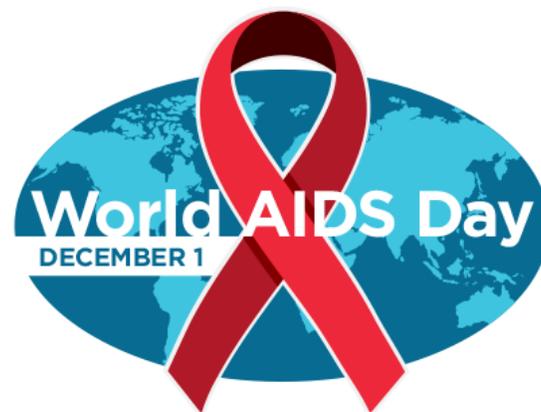
For the full health advisory, visit the [CDC HAN website](#).

# WORLD AIDS DAY—ENDING THE HIV EPIDEMIC

Tyler Weston, MPH

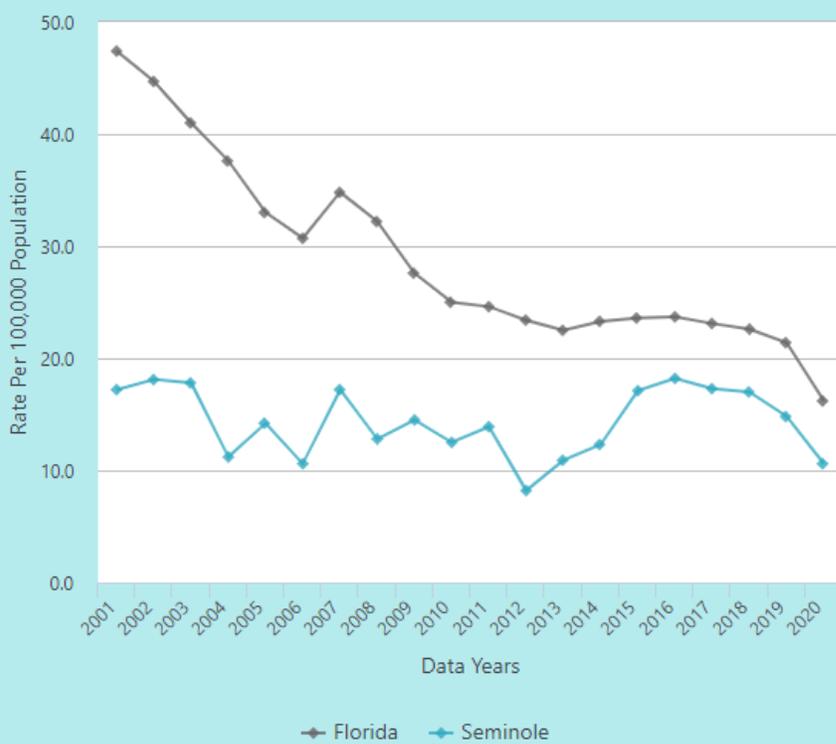
On December 1, 2021, the world gathered to celebrate World AIDS Day. This annual day of observance is an opportunity for people around the world to show their support for those living with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), unite in the fight against HIV, and memorialize those who have lost their life to HIV or an acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)-related illness. This year's World AIDS Day 2021 theme in the United States (U.S.) is "Ending the HIV Epidemic: Equitable Access, Everyone's Voice," and although much progress has been made on the global front to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic, significant barriers such as stigma and access to care and treatment continue to stall the hard-earned gains attained over the past few decades.

There are approximately 1.2 million people in the U.S. living with HIV. In 2019, an estimated 34,800 new HIV infections occurred in the U.S. In Florida, there were 4,558 new HIV diagnoses in 2019 and in Seminole County, 70 new diagnoses were identified. The HIV diagnosis rate per 100,000 population decreased from 22.6 in 2018 to 21.4 in 2019 statewide, while in Seminole County, the rate per 100,000 population decreased from 17.0 in 2018 to 14.8 in 2019. While rates of new HIV infections have declined in recent years, HIV continues to have a disproportionate impact on certain populations, including gay and bisexual men of all races and ethnicities, African Americans, and Latinos.



**ENDING THE HIV EPIDEMIC**  
Equitable Access, Everyone's Voice

**HIV Diagnoses, Single Year**



To eliminate HIV transmission and reduce HIV-related deaths, the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) adopted a comprehensive strategic approach focused on four key components. These components include:

- Implement routine HIV testing
- Provide rapid access to treatment and ensure retention in care
- Improve access to antiretroviral pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and non-occupational post exposure prophylaxis (nPEP)
- Increase HIV awareness and community response through outreach, education, and messaging

In addition to following this strategic approach, healthcare providers and HIV care providers are encouraged to talk with their patients about HIV care, treatment, and transmission prevention strategies. It is also important for providers to continue serving as a resource for their patients as well as work with communities and partners to address disparities and achieve health equity.

For more information on World AIDS Day, visit the [World AIDS Day](#) webpage. For additional information on HIV/AIDS, please visit the FDOH's [HIV/AIDS](#) webpage or the CDC's [HIV](#) webpage. To contact the Florida Department of Health in Seminole County HIV/AIDS Program, please call 407-665-3240.

Sources: [CDC HIV](#); [FDOH HIV/AIDS](#); [FLHealthCHARTS HIV Diagnoses](#); [World AIDS Day](#)

# SEMINOLE COUNTY MONTHLY SURVEILLANCE DATA

Confirmed and probable cases of select notifiable diseases as per 64D-3, Florida Administrative Code

*These data are provisional and subject to change.*

Disease	Seminole Monthly Total		Year to Date Total		Seminole County Annual Totals		
	November 2021	November 2020	Seminole 2021	Florida 2021	2020	2019	2018
<b>A. Vaccine Preventable</b>							
Measles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mumps	0	0	0	8	0	1	0
Pertussis	0	0	1	45	10	6	4
Varicella	1	0	13	328	18	24	17
<b>B. CNS Diseases &amp; Bacteremias</b>							
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)	0	0	1	22	0	1	1
Meningitis (Bacterial, Cryptococcal, Mycotic)	0	1	0	85	1	2	3
Meningococcal Disease	0	0	0	25	0	0	0
<b>C. Enteric Infections</b>							
Campylobacteriosis	6	2	52	3514	38	75	59
Cryptosporidiosis	0	1	3	304	4	4	1
Cyclosporiasis	0	0	10	252	6	25	1
<i>E. coli Shiga Toxin (+)</i>	2	0	28	520	6	7	9
Giardiasis	3	0	14	627	16	14	18
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Listeriosis	0	0	0	52	0	0	0
Salmonellosis	11	6	84	5658	76	120	121
Shigellosis	2	0	9	457	12	22	17
<b>D. Viral Hepatitis</b>							
Hepatitis A	0	0	0	179	10	48	30
Hepatitis B in Pregnant Women	0	0	2	270	2	13	4
Hepatitis B, Acute	0	0	9	488	8	16	16
Hepatitis C, Acute	0	4	19	1562	28	15	6
<b>E. Vectorborne/Zoonoses</b>							
Animal Rabies	0	0	1	77	7	2	1
Rabies, possible exposure	11	7	74	3326	134	180	134
Chikungunya Fever	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Dengue	0	0	0	0	0	5	0
Eastern Equine Encephalitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lyme Disease	0	0	4	230	3	4	3
Malaria	0	0	2	37	0	3	4
West Nile Virus	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Zika Virus Disease	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>F. Others</b>							
Chlamydia	157	138	1,733	n/a	1730	2002	1982
Gonorrhea	52	41	610	n/a	591	620	646
Hansen's Disease	0	0	0	11	1	0	1
Legionellosis	1	1	13	456	13	8	16
Mercury Poisoning	0	0	0	19	0	0	0
Syphilis, Total	14	17	215	n/a	151	148	133
Syphilis, Infectious (Primary and Secondary)	6	2	77	n/a	51	45	36
Syphilis, Early Latent	5	7	64	n/a	61	55	63
Syphilis, Congenital	0	0	0	n/a	1	0	2
Syphilis, Late Syphilis (Late Latent; Neurosyphilis)	3	8	74	n/a	38	48	32
Tuberculosis	0	0	4	n/a	7	4	12
<i>Vibrio Infections</i>	0	0	2	241	5	2	2

\*n/a—Data not available

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**STD Program**  
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### Email Address\*

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*\*Do not include any confidential  
information in email.*

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

## Florida Department of Health Websites

[Florida Department of Health](#)

[Florida Department of Health in Seminole County](#)

## General Public Health Surveillance & Data Resources

[Florida Statewide Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report—Flu Review](#)

[CDC U.S. Weekly Influenza Surveillance Report—FluView](#)

[Florida Health CHARTS—Public Health Data](#)

[Agency for Health Care Administration Data](#)

## COVID-19 Surveillance & Data Resources

[Florida Department of Health—COVID-19 Data and Information](#)

[CDC—U.S. COVID-19 Data](#)

[World Health Organization—Nationwide COVID-19 Data](#)

## Practitioner Resources

[Florida Department of Health Practitioner Disease Report Form](#)

[Florida Department of Health—Report Food and Waterborne Illness](#)

## Health Alerts and Advisories

- [CDC Travel Health Notices](#)
- [FDA Food Recalls](#)

## Epi Scope Information

The Epi Scope is a monthly newsletter provided at no cost to consumers to share epidemiological data and trends, public health and health care guidance and current events to Seminole County stakeholders.

To subscribe to the Epi Scope distribution list, please visit the Florida Department of Health in Seminole County [Epi Scope webpage](#).

