CALIFORNIA'S COVID-19 RESPONSE

February 28, 2022

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California Health and Human Services Agency

As we enter the next phase with COVID-19, which may include future surges and new variants, we will be ready to build on what we have learned over the past two years to meet the COVID-19 challenges that lie ahead.

CALIFORNIA SMARTER

THE NEXT PHASE OF CALIFORNIA'S COVID-19 RESPONSE

Anchored in our Focus on Equity and Addressing Disparities.

SHOTS

Vaccines are the most powerful weapon against hospitalizations and serious illness.

MASKS

Properly worn masks with good filtration help slow the spread of COVID-19 or other respiratory viruses.

AWARENESS

We will continue to stay aware of how COVID-19 is spreading, evolving variants, communicate clearly how people should protect themselves, and coordinate our state and local government response.

READINESS

COVID-19 is not going away and we need to be ready with the tools, resources, and supplies we will need to quickly respond and keep public health and the health care system well prepared.

TESTING

Getting the right type of tests - PCR or antigen - to where they are needed most. Testing will help California minimize the spread of COVID-19.

EDUCATION

California will continue to work to keep schools open and children safely in classrooms for in-person instruction.

RX

Evolving and improving treatments will become increasingly available and critical as a tool to save lives.

DATA TRENDS

	February 14	February 28	Difference
Cases (7- day average by episode date)	22,875	7,819	↓ -66%
Case Rate (Per 100,000/ Day)	57	19.5	↓ -66%
Hospitalizations (COVID-19 Positive)	8,189	4,233	↓ -48%
Pediatric Hospitalizations (COVID-19 Positive)	232	124	↓ -47%
Hospital Admissions (COVID-19 Positive)	1,047	528	↓ -50%
Test Positivity (7- day average)	6.2%	2.9%	↓ -53%

Continue to focus on disrupting disparities from COVID-19

Case rate for Pacific Islanders is **77% higher** than statewide

Cases per 100K people:

36,406 NHPI
20,578 all ethnicities

Case rate for communities with median income <$40K is **24% higher** than statewide

Cases per 100K people:

25,615 income <$40K
20,578 all income brackets

Death rate for Black people is **17% higher** than statewide

Deaths per 100K people:

235 Black
201 all ethnicities

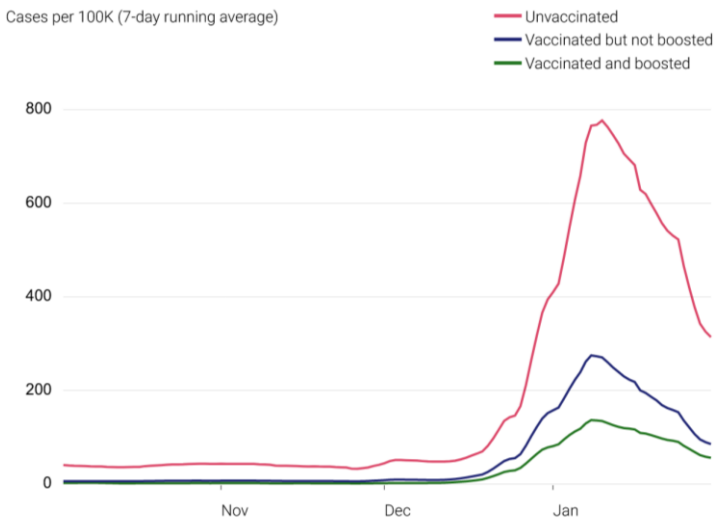
Death rate for Latino people is **16% higher** than statewide

Deaths per 100K people:

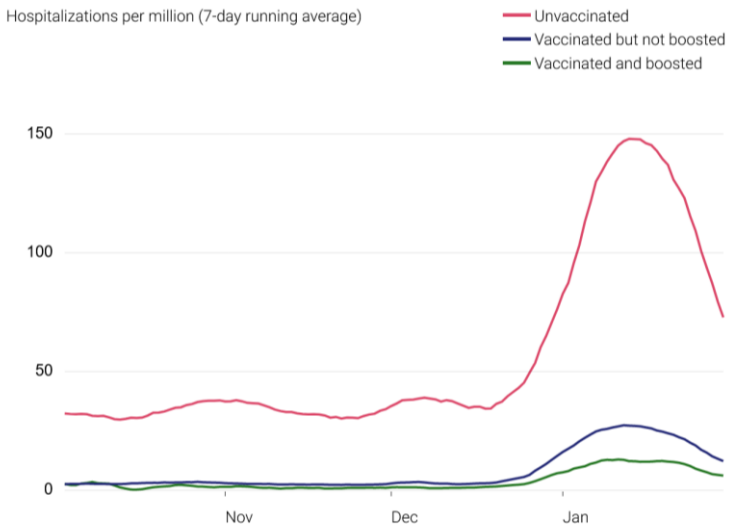
233 Latino
201 all ethnicities

Vaccines have saved lives and reduced transmission

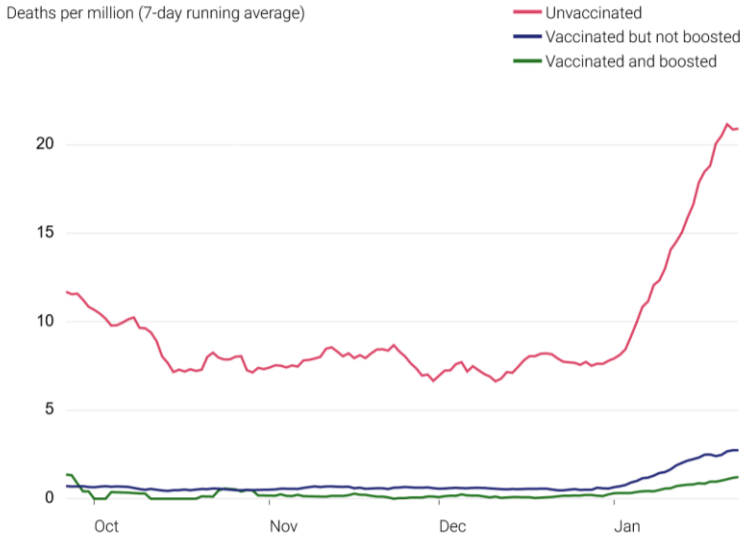
Cases



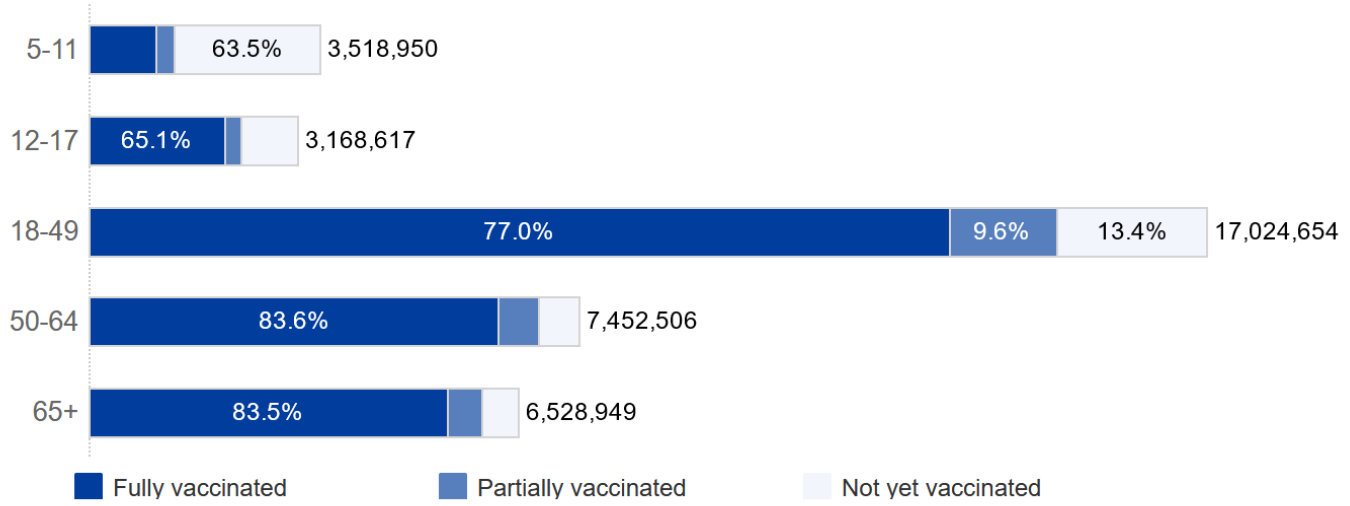
Hospitalizations

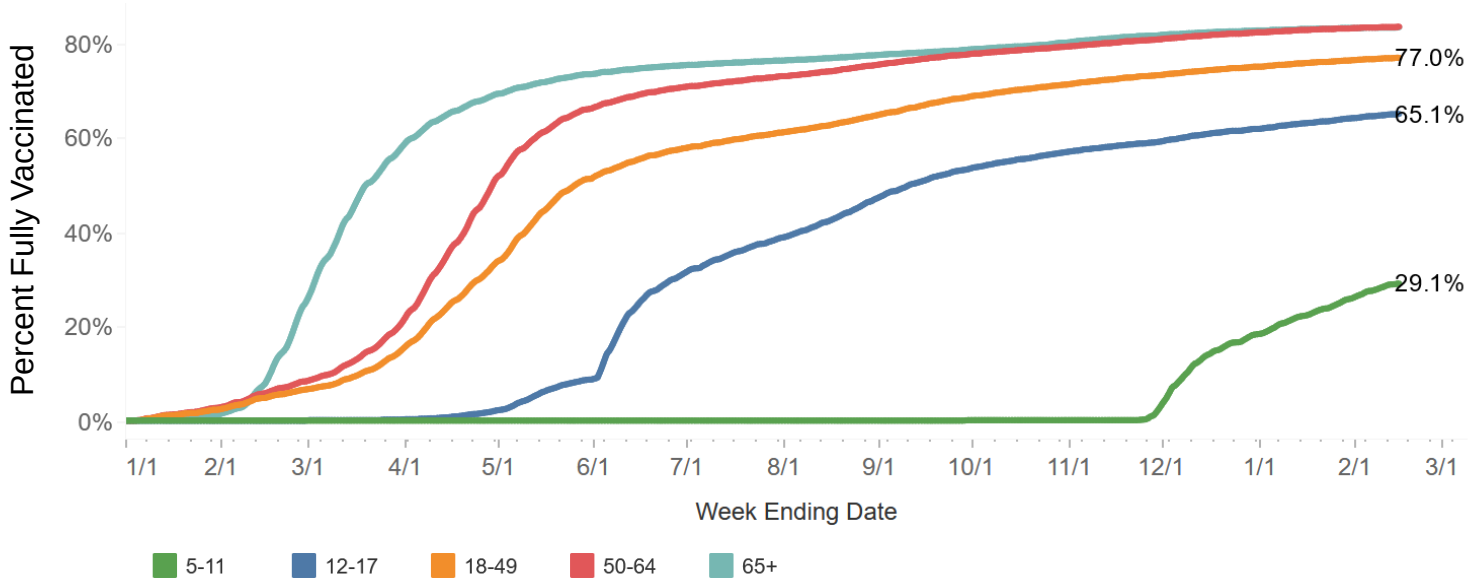


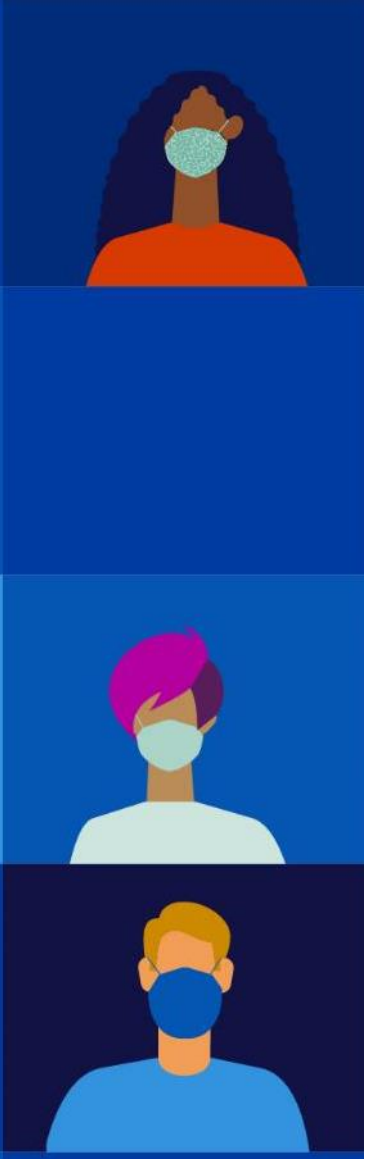
Deaths



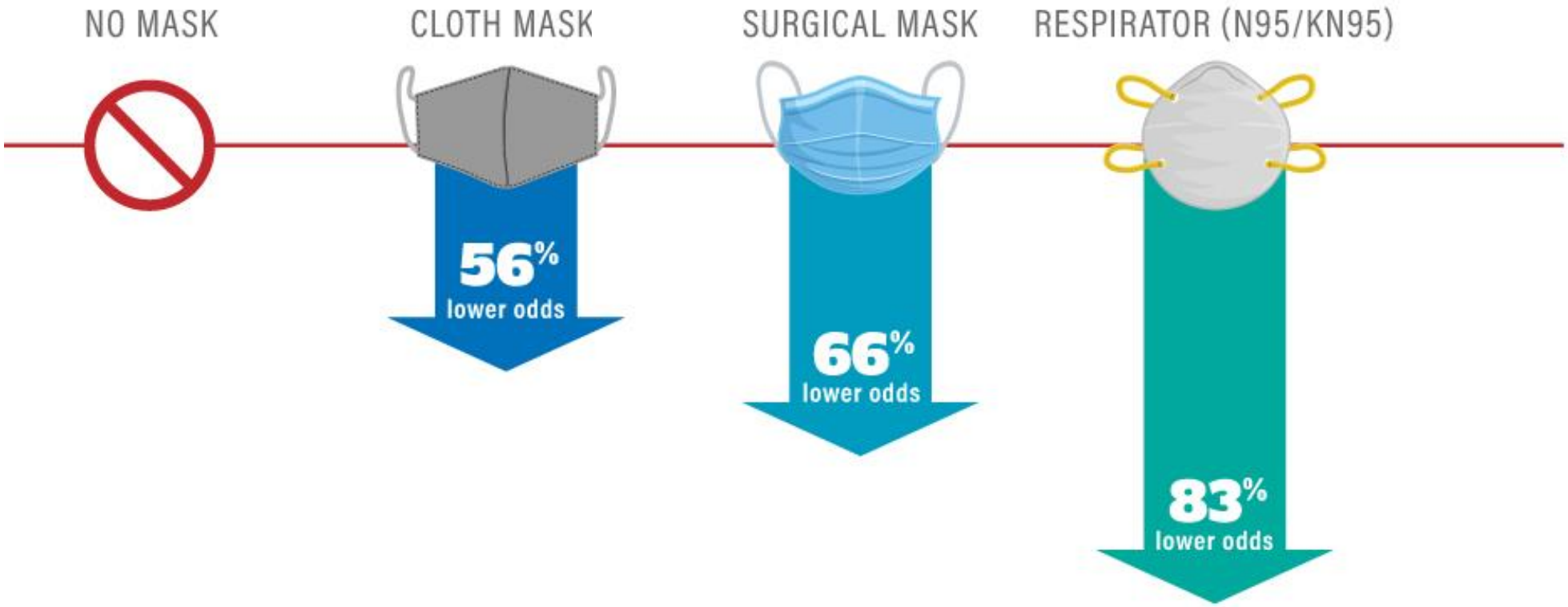
Vaccine uptake by age cohort



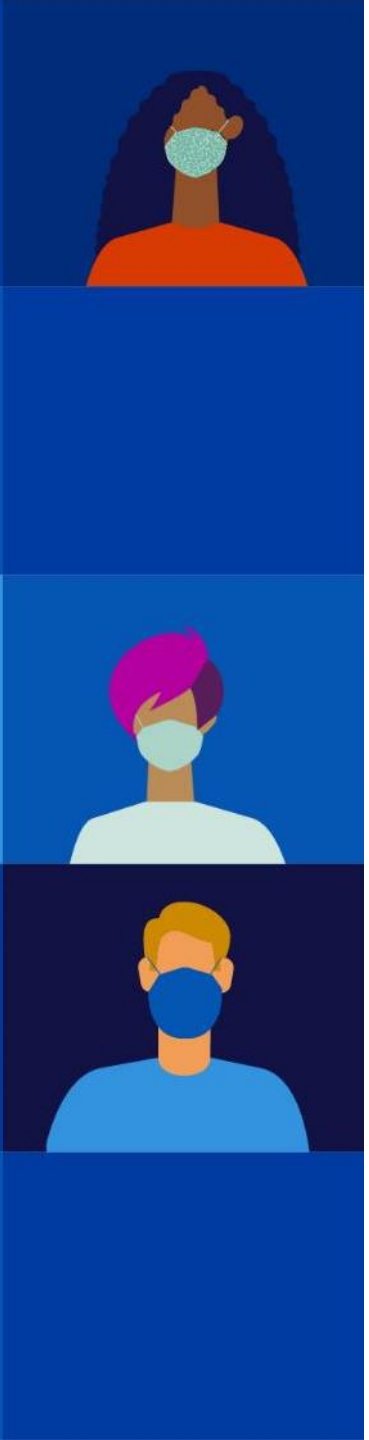




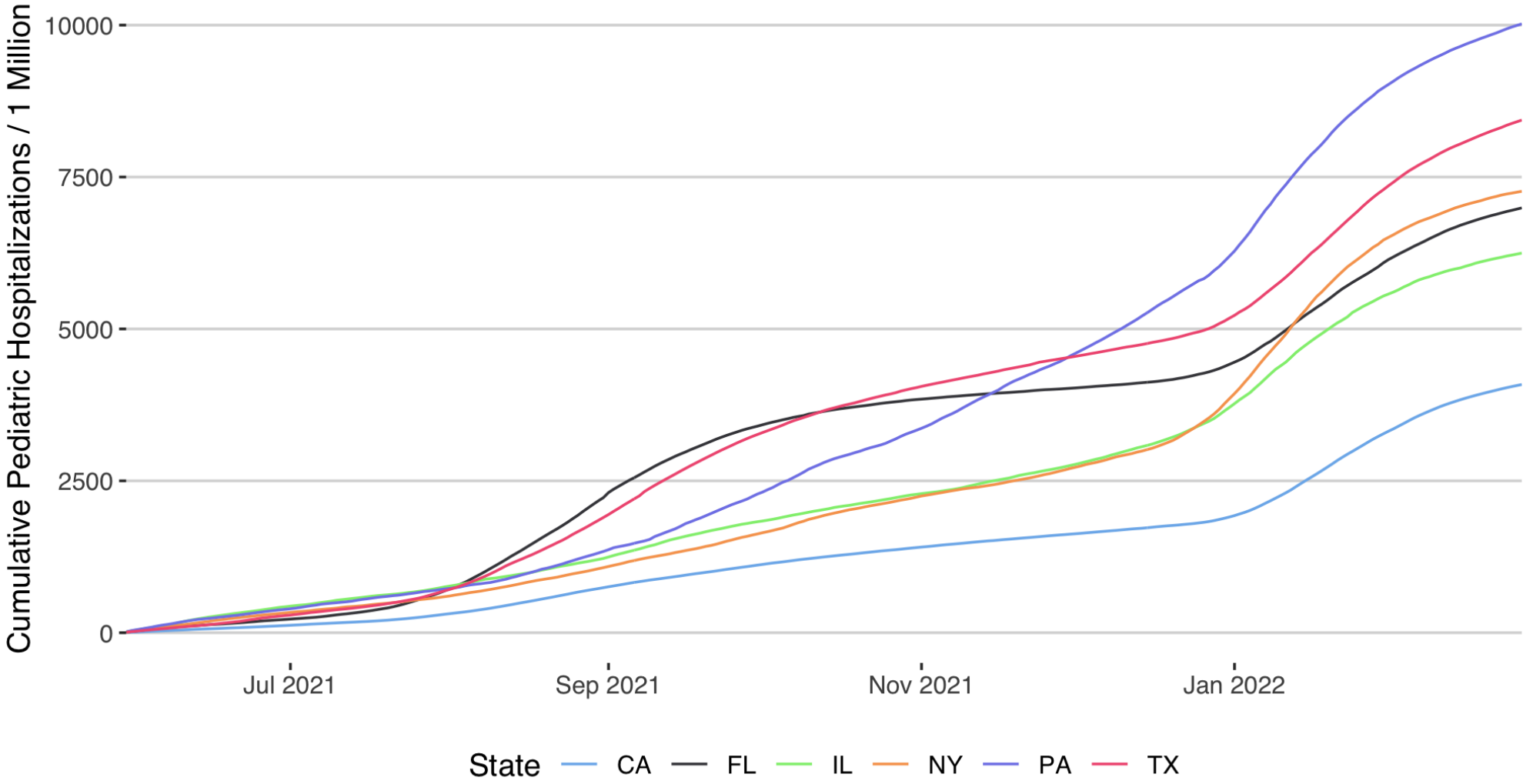
Masks have been effective and lowering the odds of COVID-19 infection and reducing transmission



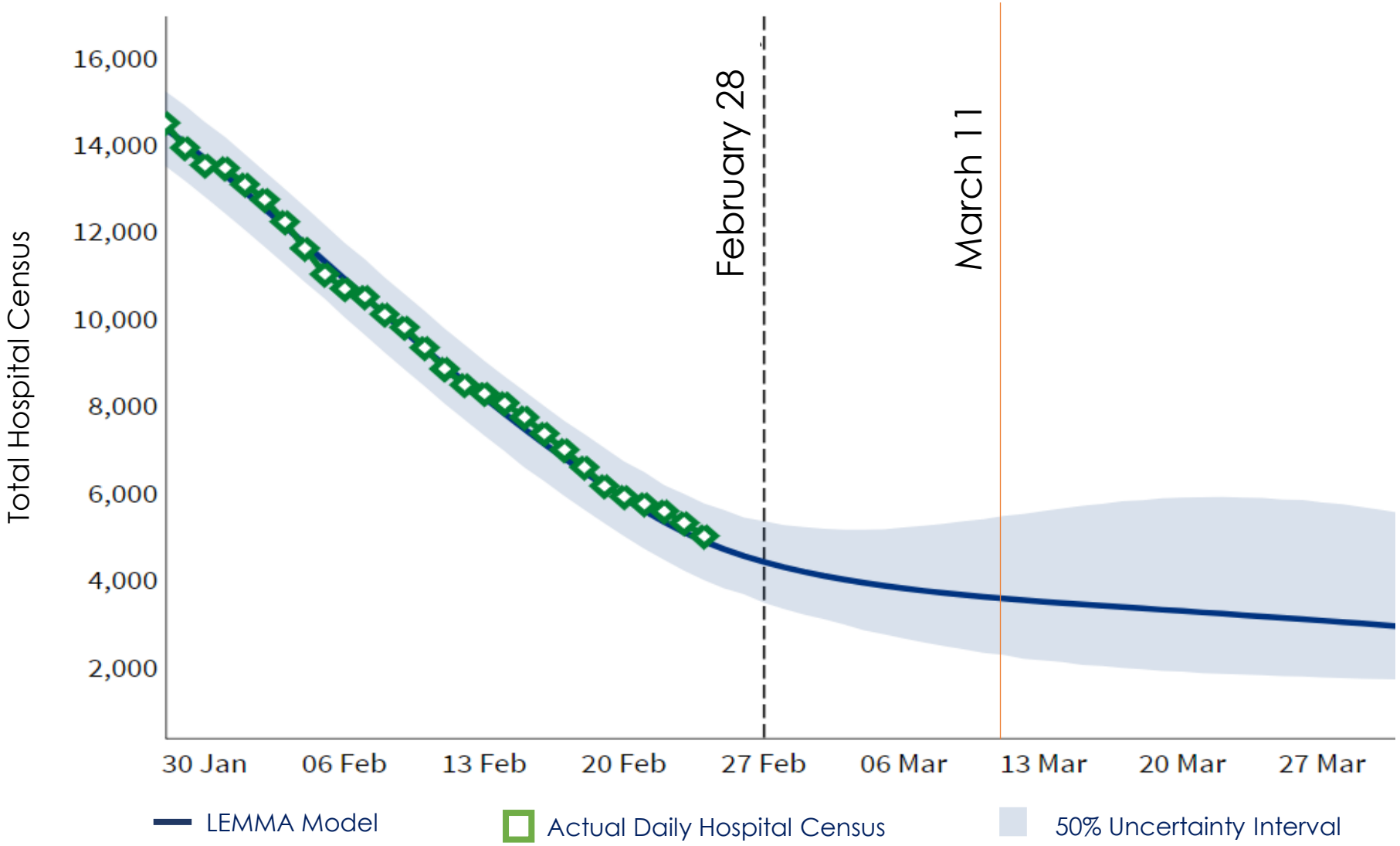
Source: CDC MMWR

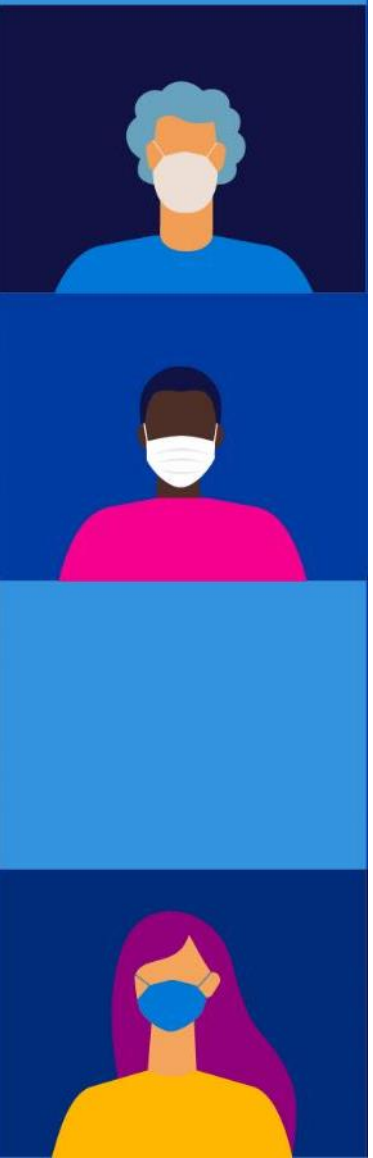


California had among the lowest pediatric hospitalizations, compared to other populous states

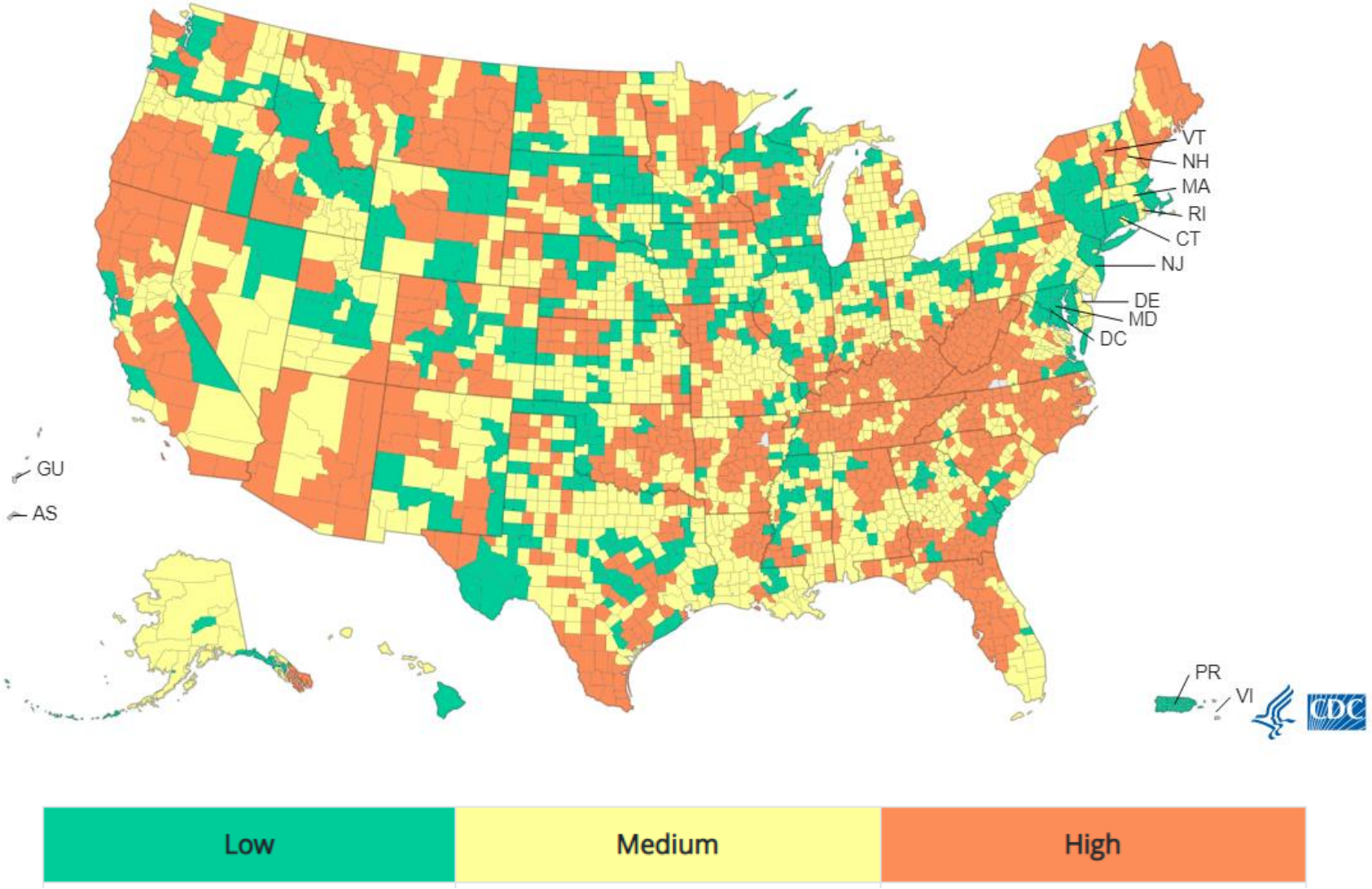


Models project continued decline in hospitalizations





New CDC COVID-19 community level metrics



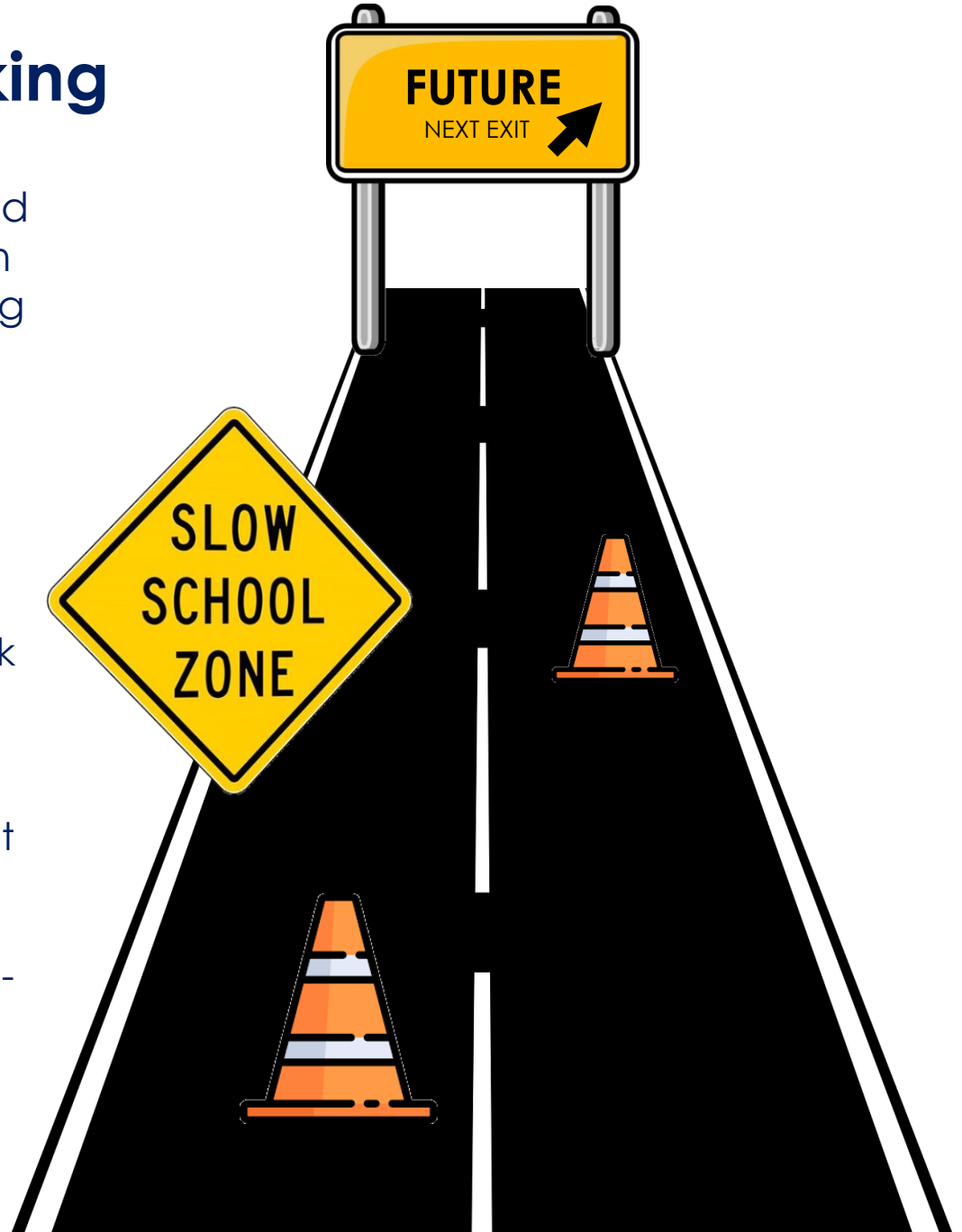
EXIT 1A
OFF RAMP
HOSPITAL IMPACT
EXIT ONLY
SLOW
ON RAMP
TEST POSITIVITY
&
COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION

MASKING

Future of school masking

We committed to coming back on February 28 to reassess the data and the conditions and determine when the statewide indoor school masking requirements can be changed.

- Safe in-person instruction is essential, particularly for vulnerable populations
- We must ensure that there is low risk of catching COVID-19 in school for students and staff
- We must remain prepared to adjust with conditions of the virus
- We will continue to provide COVID-19 mitigation resources to schools including testing



CURRENT masking guidance in California

	REQUIRED	STRONGLY RECOMMENDED	RECOMMENDED	OPTIONAL
Public Indoor (Vaccinated)		✓		
Public Indoor (Unvaccinated)	✓			
Schools & Childcare (Vaccinated & Unvaccinated)	✓			
Health Care (Vaccinated & Unvaccinated)	✓			
Long-Term Care (Vaccinated & Unvaccinated)	✓			
Jails & Prisons (Vaccinated & Unvaccinated)	✓			

PROPOSED masking guidance in California

Vaccinated & Unvaccinated

	REQUIRED	STRONGLY RECOMMENDED	RECOMMENDED	OPTIONAL
Public Indoor (Effective end of day **February 28**)		✓		
Schools & Childcare (Effective end of day **March 11**)		✓		
Health Care	✓			
Long-Term Care	✓			
Jails & Prisons	✓			

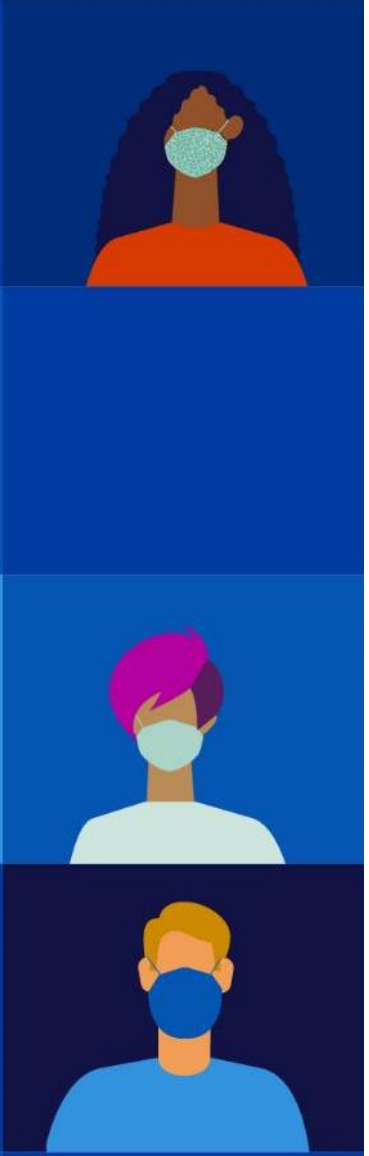
NOTE: Locals may have additional requirements beyond the state requirements based on local conditions including community vaccine rates or vaccination rates in schools and childcare facilities.

Why strongly recommend masking?

We must continue to work together to protect the health and well-being of the most vulnerable among us, which includes:

- Children who are not eligible for a vaccine
- People who are disabled
- People who are 65 years of age or older
- People who have a compromised immune systems
- People with multiple chronic conditions, including asthma, diabetes, lung disease and heart disease

No person can be prevented from wearing a mask as a condition of participation in an activity or entry into a business.



Be **KIND**

Be **ACCEPTING**

Be **RESPECTFUL**

Be **SAFE**

OUR ACTIONS. SAVE LIVES.