

Clinical Bulletin #161: COVID-19

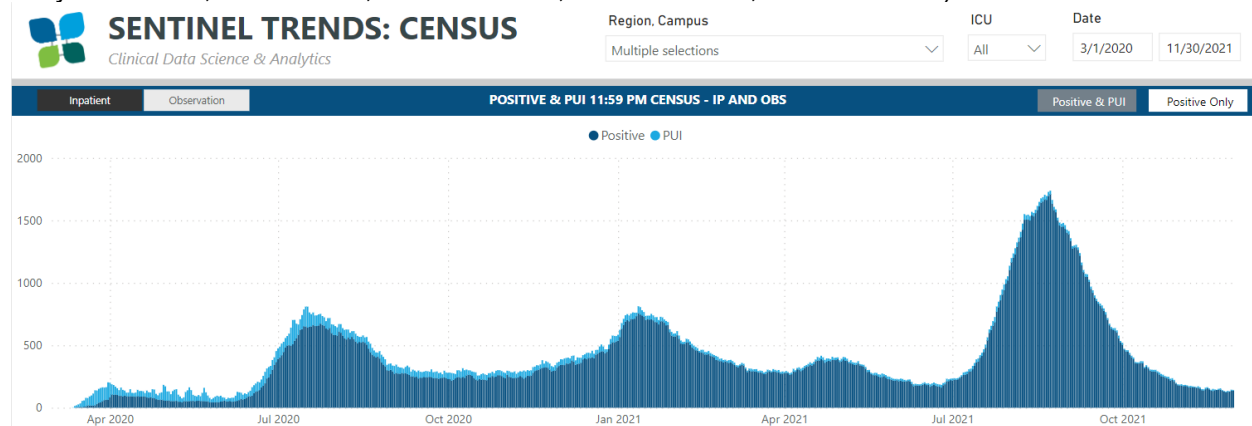
AdventHealth Central Florida Division

DAILY BRIEFING Thursday, Dec. 2, 2021

The Central Florida Division remains at **Green Status**. See [this letter](#) for more details.

AdventHealth Central Florida Division:

Inpatients: 137 (7 Altamonte, 9 Apopka, 8 Celebration, 1 Children's, 10 Daytona Beach, 11 DeLand, 14 East, 10 Fish Memorial, 4 Heart of Florida, 9 Kissimmee, 3 Lake Wales, 6 New Smyrna Beach, 21 Orlando, 6 Palm Coast, 10 Waterman, 8 Winter Park)



AdventHealth Centra Care:

- [This report](#) shows the COVID-19 positivity rate statewide has increased to 5.6% (Nov. 29).
- Flu activity at AdventHealth Centra Care across Florida declined last week, but this was due in large part to reduced patient volumes from the Thanksgiving holiday.
 - Consistent with the [CDC's recent advisory](#), over 50% of positive tests were in pediatrics and young adults (ages 18-22).

Variant Updates

New Highly Transmissible COVID-19 Variant of Concern 'Omicron':

- The [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) classified a new COVID-19 variant as a highly transmissible virus of concern, [naming it Omicron](#).
- This is the WHO's fifth "variant of concern," but experts say it's [acting differently](#) than other variants. It has an unusually high number of mutations, 32 alone in its spike protein.
 - [It will likely take weeks](#) to determine if Omicron is more infectious, causes more severe illness, hospitalization or death, and if vaccines are effective against it.
 - All previous variants have responded to vaccines and boosters.
- First identified in South Africa on Nov. 24, Omicron has been detected in [over 20 countries](#) including [the U.S.](#)

Vaccine Booster Updates

COVID-19 Booster Recommendations Expanded:

- The [CDC strengthened its recommendations](#) on booster doses in light of Omicron.
- [Everyone 18 and older should get a booster shot](#) either when they are six months after their Pfizer or Moderna series or two months after their initial J&J vaccine.
 - People can mix-and-match boosters from any company.
- Contact [employee health](#) for internal vaccine opportunities. [Click here](#) for community vaccine opportunities.

CDC Urges Pregnant People to Get Booster Dose:

- After releasing two studies on the danger of the COVID-19 Delta variant, [the CDC](#) is urging [pregnant people to get a booster dose](#).
- The [first study](#) found that pregnant people infected with the Delta variant have nearly double the risk of stillbirth.
- The [second study](#) found the risk of death for pregnant people infected with the Delta variant is also higher, but that it's disproportionately worse for pregnant women of color.

Internal Policies

Updated Guidance on Meetings/Gatherings and Respiratory Protection:

- Based on the [CDC COVID-19 tracking data](#), the AdventHealth Central Florida Division is now experiencing moderate-to-low COVID-19 community level transmission.
- [AdventHealth has issued updated guidance](#) on respiratory protection, meetings and gatherings for both clinical and non-clinical settings. For the full guidance, [click here](#).

Masking Policy Changes:

- Masks are now **optional for fully vaccinated individuals** in all non-clinical work settings in AdventHealth buildings in Florida. See [this Whole Story memo](#).
- This change does **not apply to clinical work settings** (which includes any area patients or visitors can access, such as lobbies, hallways, etc.) **or unvaccinated individuals**.
- [Visitor/patient masking requirements](#) remain unchanged.

Treatment Updates:

COVID-19 Adult Treatment Algorithm:

- The [revised treatment algorithm](#) (approved Dec. 1) reflects a new inpatient anticoagulation algorithm, chart on preferred outpatient therapies, and information on fluvoxamine.

Monoclonal Antibody (MAB) Treatment Clinic Closes at AdventHealth Orlando:

- Orange, Osceola, Polk & Seminole counties:
 - AdventHealth Orlando's MAB clinic has closed. However, MAB remains available.
 - AdventHealth ERs can continue to provide MAB as clinically indicated.
 - [Click here](#) to access the Florida Department of Health MAB clinics.
 - No prescription or referral is required; treatment is free.
- Flagler, Lake & Volusia counties:
 - AdventHealth administers MAB in [Lake & Volusia counties](#).
 - AdventHealth Fish Memorial MAB clinic remains open by referral.
- Team members positive for COVID-19, should seek MAB immediately. [Review the criteria](#).

FDA Panel Narrowly Backs Merck's Oral COVID-19 Pill:

- The [Food and Drug Administration panel voted 13-10](#) to recommend [Merck's experimental COVID-19 pill molnupiravir](#), setting the stage for a likely authorization of the first drug that Americans could take at home to treat the coronavirus.
 - According to [the completed study](#), Molnupiravir reduced hospitalization and death by 30% among adults infected with the coronavirus.
- The FDA isn't bound, but is likely to follow the panel's recommendation by the year's end.
 - The antiviral is already authorized in the U.K.

Studies & Research

Five Areas to Redefine the Clinical Leader of the Future:

- AdventHealth Central Florida Division physician leaders [published findings in the New England Journal of Medicine](#) related to COVID-19 learnings that improved outcomes.

EMR Update: The Transition to Epic

Wave 1 Provider Registration Now Open:

- Self-register using your OPID & password via [the AdventHealth Learning Network](#).
- For assistance with registration, you or your practice manager can call (407) 357-EPIC (3742), 6:30 a.m. – 8 p.m., Sunday through Friday.
 - For those at a hospital, Provider Advocates can also assist with registration.

Chief Medical Information Officers (CMIOs) New Structure & Support:

- [Jean Saltivan explains](#) the responsibilities of the CMIOs to ensure systems enhance clinician workflows and improve communications to clinical teams.

Other News for Clinicians

Radiology Studies & Anatomic Pathology Results Will No Longer Be Delayed:

- The 21st Century Cures Act's Information Blocking Rule does not allow for groups of results or notes to be categorically withheld from patients.
- Effective Dec. 27, the [radiology studies and anatomic pathology results](#) will be posted to the AdventHealth Patient Portal as soon as they are available.

Provider Engagement Survey:

- Physicians and advanced practice providers who received an email from Press Ganey to the Provider Engagement Survey are encouraged to complete it by Dec. 20.

New Career Growth Offerings:

- AdventHealth now offers debt-free education options, student loan support for existing student loan debt and defined career paths. [Learn more.](#)

Highlight of the Day

Music of Advent: A Song of Hope:

We are celebrating the Advent season by highlighting one of the most beautiful gifts given to humanity: the gift of music. [This performance by the AdventHealth Orchestra](#) is centered on hope. The AdventHealth Orchestra brings together the best of AdventHealth's musically talented team members and physicians. Learn more and watch a behind-the-scenes video [here](#).



To view past editions, see the communication archives on the [CFD Provider Resource page](#).

Email any COVID-19 questions to CFDCoronavirusQuestions@AdventHealth.com or call the free AdventHealth Coronavirus Information Line at 877-VIRUS-HQ (877-847-8747).