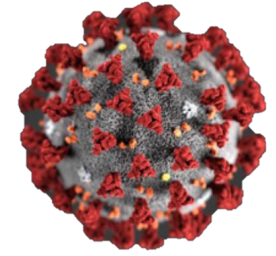


New Hampshire Coronavirus Disease 2019 Weekly Call for Healthcare Providers and Public Health Partners



March 18, 2021

Ben Chan
Elizabeth Talbot
Beth Daly
Lindsay Pierce

Thursday noon-time partner calls will focus on science, medical, and vaccine updates geared towards our healthcare partners

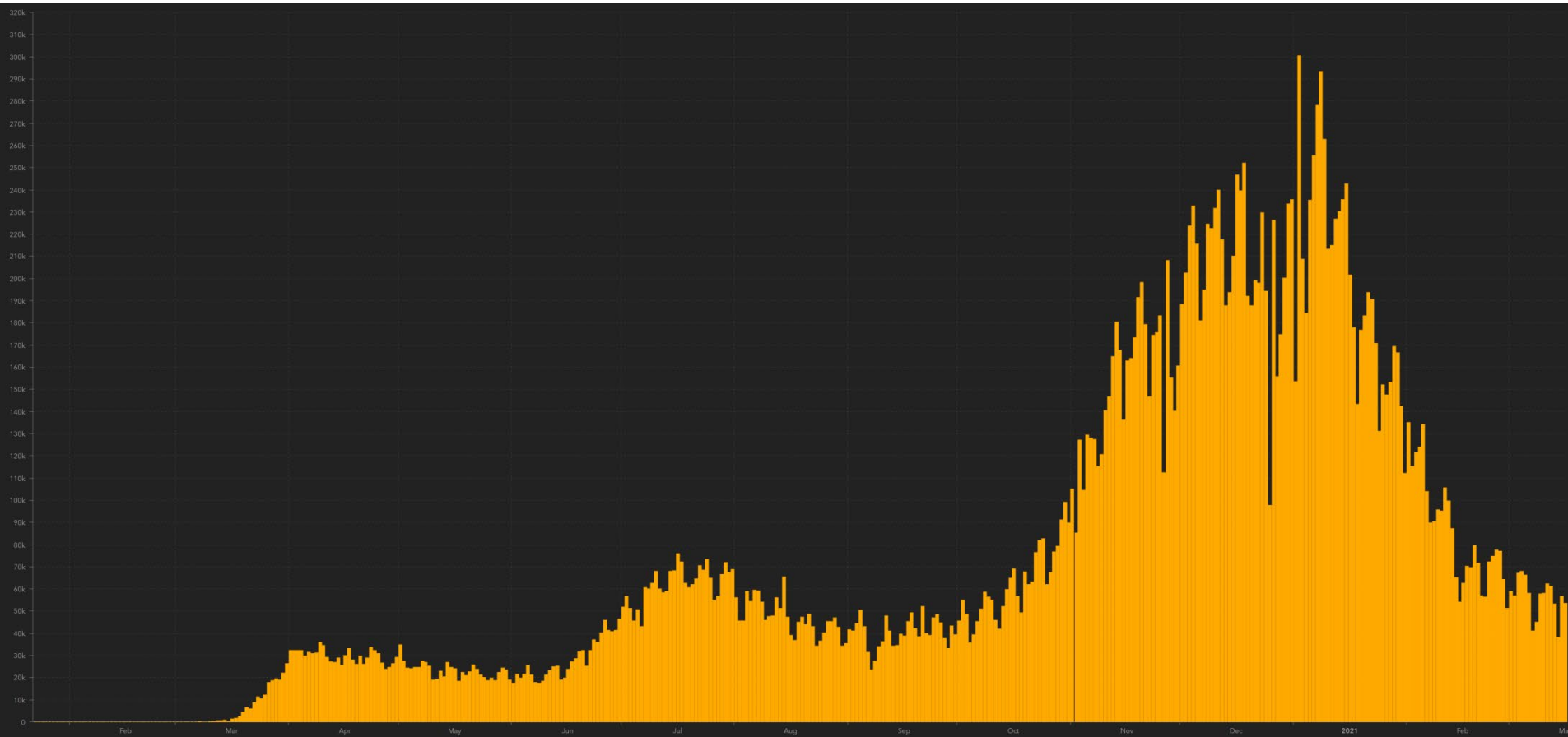
Agenda

- Epidemiology Update
- NH [COVID-19 HAN #38](#): Updated NH travel guidance and change in school quarantine guidance
- Questions & Answers (Q&A)

Update COVID-19 Resources and Guidance

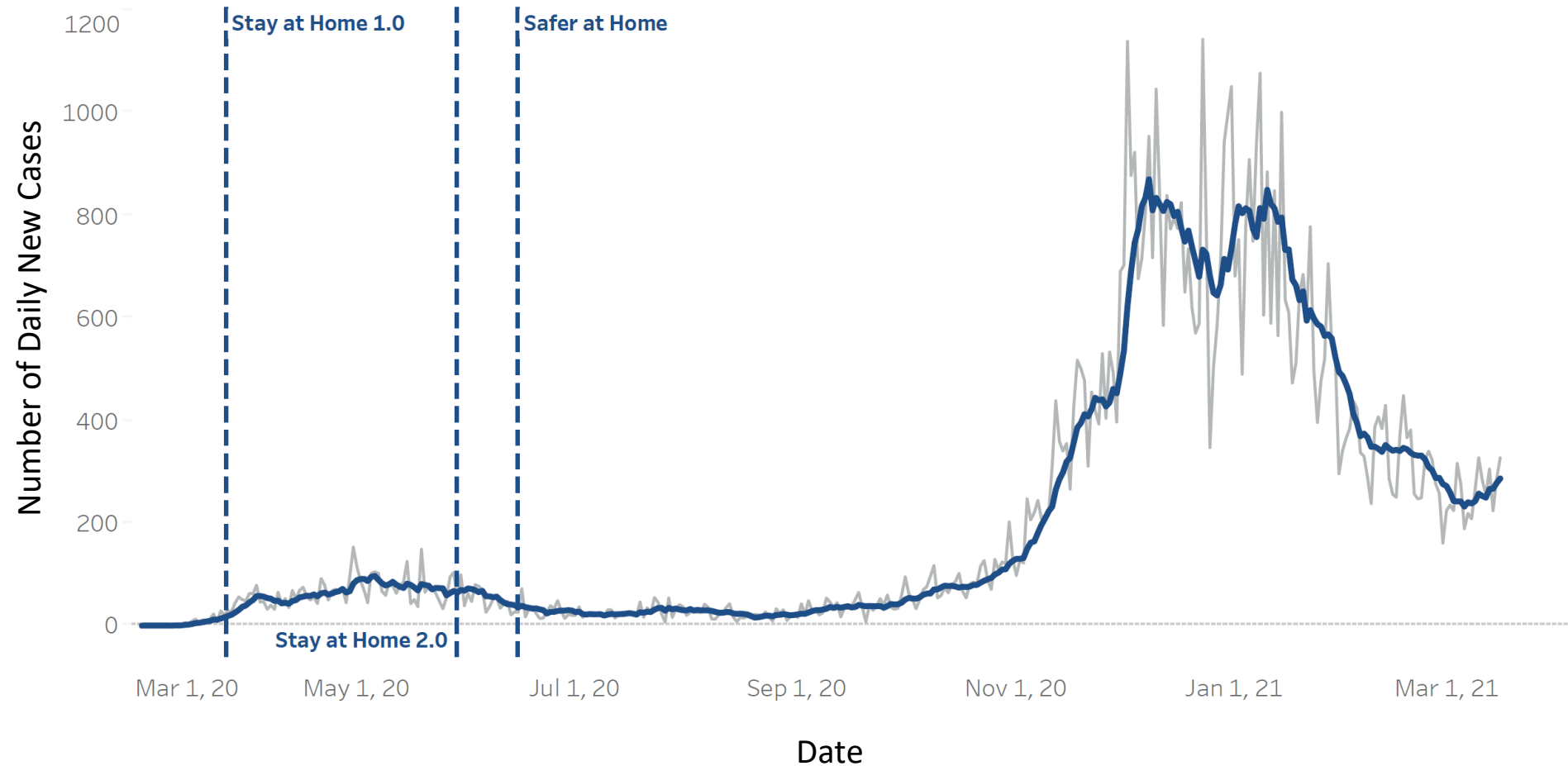
- [HAN Update #37](#)
- [HAN Update #38](#)
- [Travel Guidance](#)
- [Employer Travel, Screening, and Exclusion Guidance](#)
- “Safer at Home” [Universal Guidelines](#)
- [Reopening Guidance for LTCFs](#)
- [LTCF Visitation FAQs for Families and Residents](#)

National Daily Incidence of COVID-19



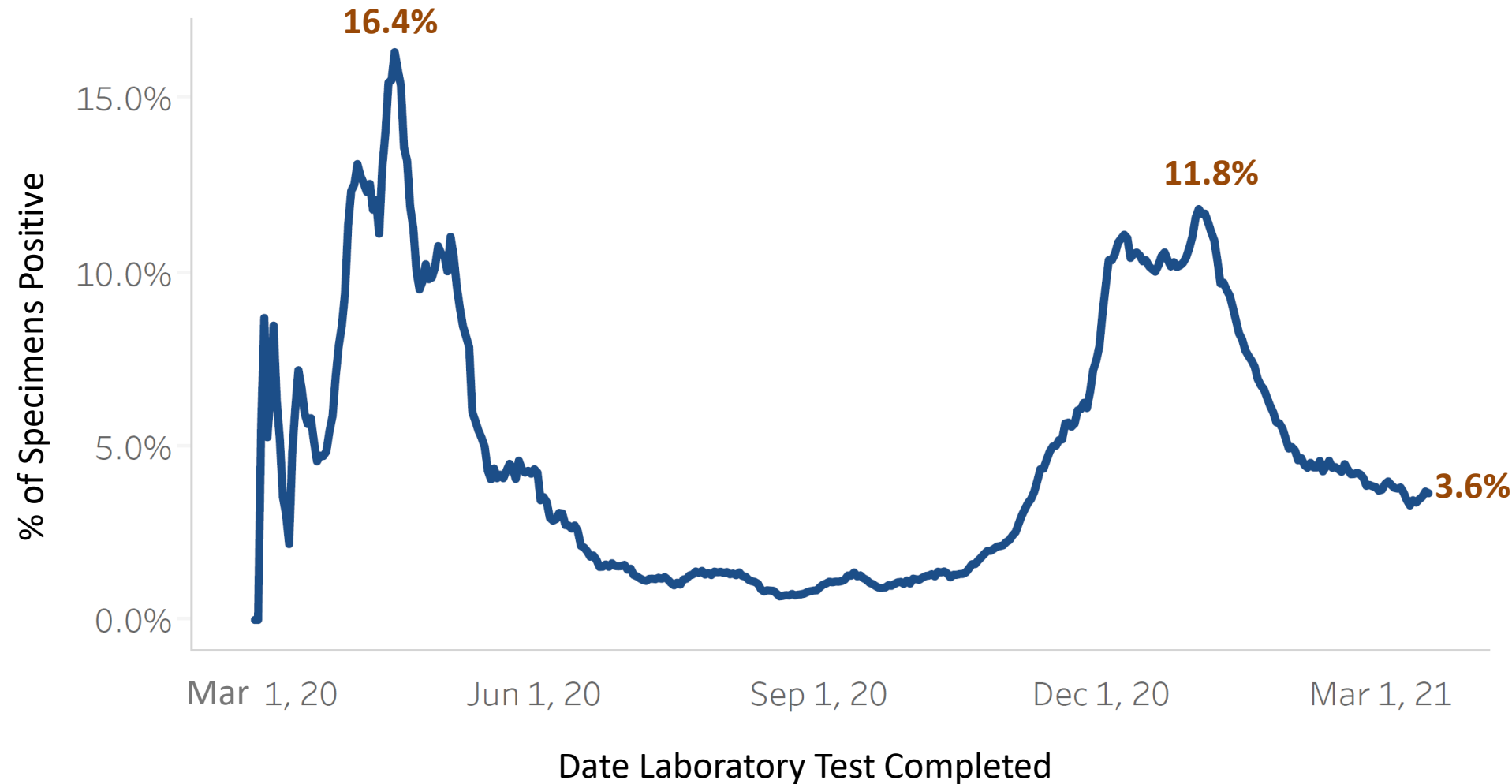
- More than 29.6 million cumulative cases in the U.S. (24% of all global infections)
- More than 538,000 deaths in the U.S. from COVID-19 (20% of all global deaths)

Number of New COVID-19 Cases per Day in NH

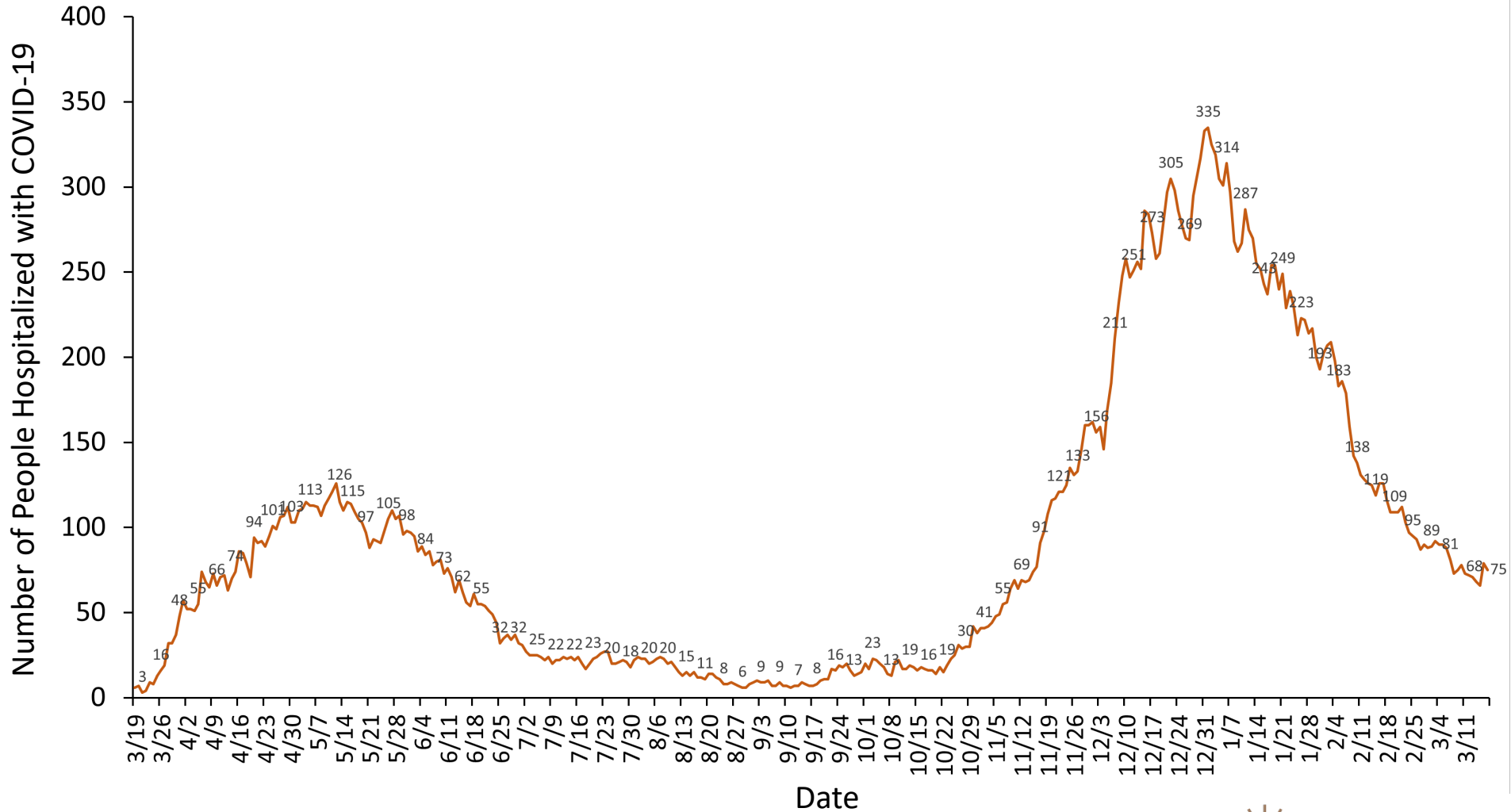


<https://www.nh.gov/covid19/dashboard/overview.htm#dash>

% of Tests (Antigen and PCR) Positive for COVID-19 (7-Day Average)

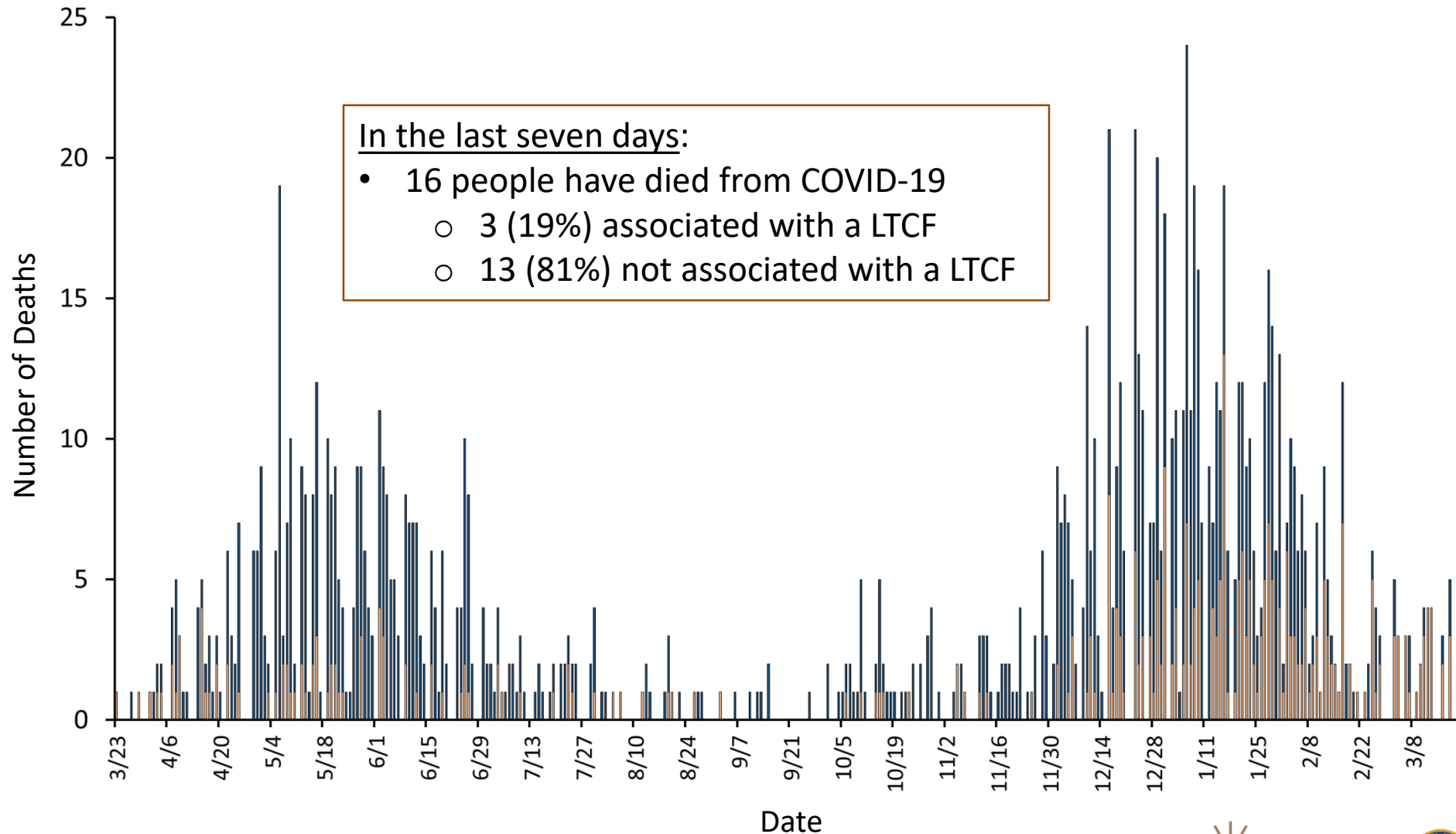


Number of People Hospitalized with COVID-19 Each Day in NH (Hospital Census)



Number of COVID-19 Deaths in NH by Report Date

■ Non-LTCF Associated ■ LTCF Associated

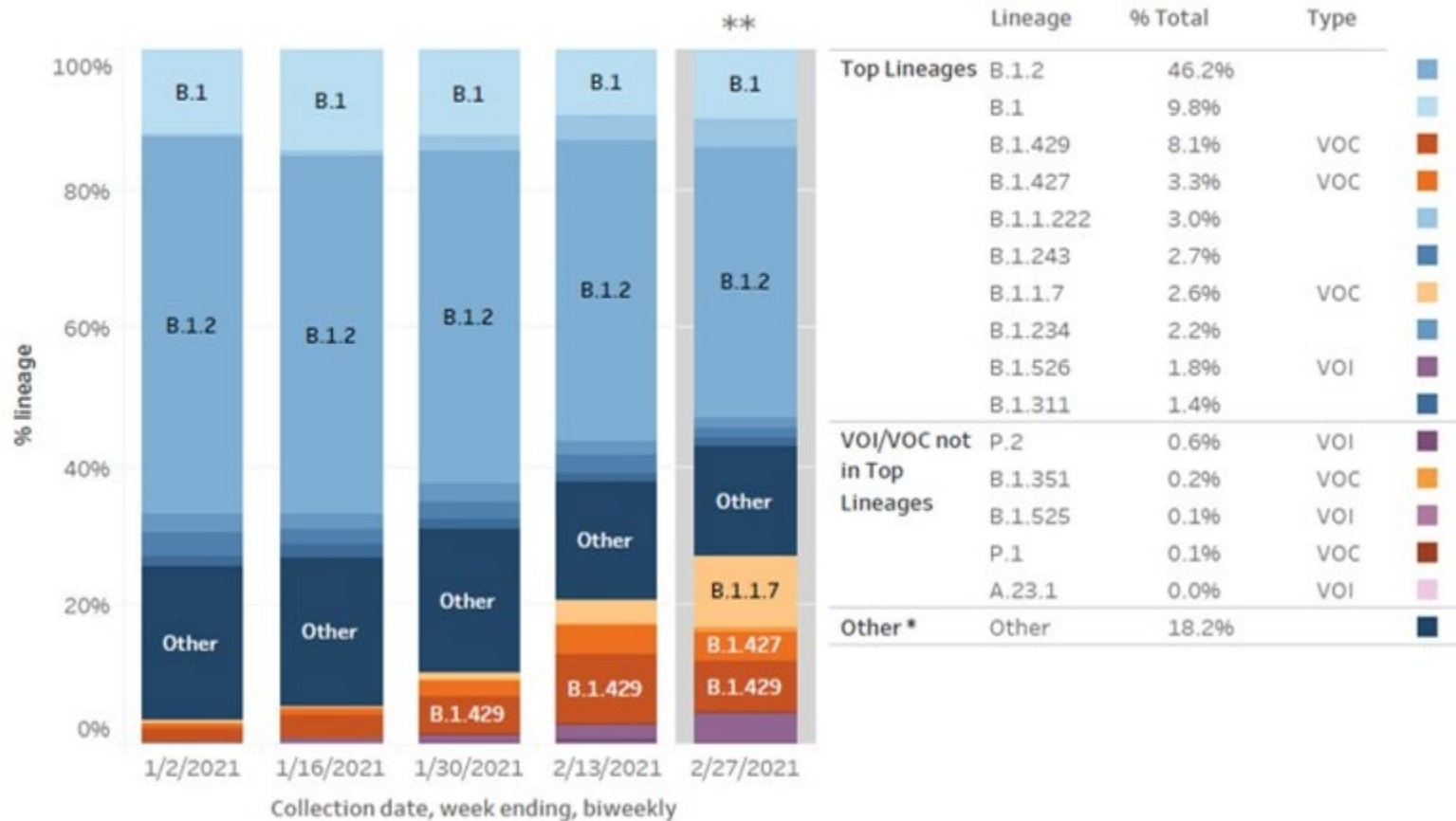


New CDC Variant of Concern Website

- Classification of [SARS-CoV-2 Variants](#)
 - Define “Variant of Interest,” “Variant of concern,” and “variant of High Consequence”
 - Variants of Concern include: B.1.1.7, P.1, B.1.351, and now also B.1.427 and B.1.429 (California variants with L452R and D614G mutations)
 - Helpful tables of variant attributes
- [Variant Proportions in the U.S.](#)

Variant Proportions in the U.S.

SARS-CoV-2 Variants Circulating in the United States



NH COVID-19 HAN Update #38

THIS IS AN OFFICIAL NH DHHS HEALTH ALERT

Distributed by the NH Health Alert Network
Health.Alert@nh.gov
March 17, 2021 Time 1630 (4:30 PM EDT)
NH-HAN 20210317



Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Outbreak, Update # 38 *Updated Travel Guidance* *Quarantine Guidance for Schools*

Updated NH Travel Guidance

- Domestic travel within the U.S. no longer requires quarantine upon return to NH (regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status), this includes travel to Hawaii, Alaska, and U.S. Territories
- People who travel internationally or on a cruise ship are still required to quarantine upon arrival to NH, unless they:
 - Fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (14 days beyond completion of vaccination – see [HAN Update #37](#) for full definition), or
 - Previously diagnosed with a SARS-CoV-2 infection in the 90 days prior to travel, or
 - Traveled specifically to/from Canada for “essential travel” purposes

Updated NH Travel Guidance

- There is still a “test out” of travel-quarantine option to end quarantine after 7 full days
 - This requires that the person remains asymptomatic and has a respiratory specimen collected on days 6-7 of quarantine that returns negative
 - This applies to “travel-quarantine” and should not routinely be adopted to shorten quarantine after close-contact exposure to a person with COVID-19 (10-day quarantine)
- All people participating in international and domestic travel who are NOT required to quarantine are recommended to get a PCR test on day 3-5 after travel to test for asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infection (see [CDC travel guidance](#))

General Travel Guidance Still Applies

- Avoid public transportation, if possible
- Avoid crowds and group gatherings while traveling
- Keep a distance of at least 6 feet from others
- Wear a [well-fitted, multi-layered face mask](#)
- Practice frequent hand hygiene
- Pay attention to requirements in other States and U.S. Territories for travel/entry requirements

Employer Travel, Screening, and Exclusion Guidance

- We continue to recommend symptom and risk factor screening of employees entering buildings (also applies to patients/customers in other circumstances – see [Safer at Home guidance](#))
- Screening questions have been updated (see [Employer Travel, Screening, and Exclusion Guidance](#) and NH [Universal Guidelines](#))
- The “essential travel” exception to quarantine has largely gone away (except for essential travel specifically to/from Canada)
- There continues to be “exceptions to quarantine requirements” for “critical infrastructure sector essential employees” (no major changes to that guidance)

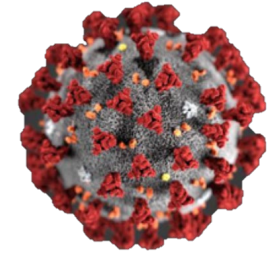
Existing Public Health Recommendations for Schools

- NH continues to allow for a minimum of 3 feet of physical spacing between students/staff in classrooms (goal is still to maximize physical distancing to the extent possible)
 - When face masks are taken off (e.g., when eating lunch) students should ideally be spaced at least 6 feet apart
 - If wind instruments and singing are involved in a classroom activity, the NH [arts & music education guidance](#) still applies, and students and staff should be separated by the recommended 8-10 feet of physical distance
- Face mask use continues to be strongly recommended in all educational settings (including classrooms), especially if students are spaced within 3-6 feet of each other
- See CDC guidance on wearing [well-fitted, multi-layered face masks](#)

New Public Health Quarantine Recommendations for Schools

- NH public health will not recommend quarantine for students or staff if an exposure occurs in the classroom setting where students and staff are seated and spaced at least 3 feet apart with consistent and appropriate face mask use
- This guidance only applies to controlled and monitored educational classroom settings (including K-12 schools, colleges, and universities)
- In other settings (i.e., un-controlled movement or un-monitored settings), NH DPHS will continue to recommend quarantine for persons within 6 feet of someone with COVID-19 for a cumulative time of 10 minutes or longer during the person's infectious period, regardless of mask use

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