

COVID-19 BRIEF

Changes in COVID-19 Cases, Hospitalizations, and Death Projections

UAMS

Fay W. Boozman
College of Public Health

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UAMS's College of Public Health (COPH) publishes periodic briefings designed to update 15- and 30-day COVID-19 projections of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths between each of the monthly releases of the *UAMS COPH COVID-19 Report*. Briefings also will be published when cases, hospitalizations, or deaths rapidly change during times between each monthly report.

Data used to prepare this briefing and were downloaded from the Arkansas Department of Health on Nov. 28, 2021.

Key Findings. COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths in Arkansas are once again increasing. The 30-day models, as shown in the figures on the next three pages, indicate we should expect increases, especially near the end of the month, on all three measures. Hospitalizations and deaths lag case counts. Consequently, the models are showing increases in hospitalizations and deaths will occur later in December.

In summary:

- The models are forecasting 11,482 new COVID-19 cases by Dec. 13 and 23,848 new cases by Dec. 28. New daily cases are expected to average over 750 per day.
- We should expect around 276 individuals to be newly hospitalized by Dec. 13 and 430 by Dec. 28. Daily hospitalizations average 16 per day.
- The models are forecasting 27 new COVID-19 deaths by Dec. 13 and 54 by Dec. 28, or around 2 deaths per day.

The models are indicating continued or new growth throughout the holiday season. The current projected trends could potentially reflect a new emerging third wave in Arkansas. Unlike 2020, this wave, if it occurs, is most likely to peak early in the first months of the new year, most likely February or early March.

We do not yet know enough about the new Omicron COVID-19 variant to forecast how it might impact cases, hospitalizations and deaths in the state. However, we do know the Delta variant, the dominant variant in Arkansas, is highly infectious and capable of causing severe illness in children and adults. We also know there are sufficient numbers of unvaccinated citizens in Arkansas to drive a third surge in the state.

Figures 1a & 1b & 1c. Forecasts of cumulative COVID-19 cases in Arkansas; 15- and 30-day daily changes for COVID-19 cases

Figure 1a



Figure 1b

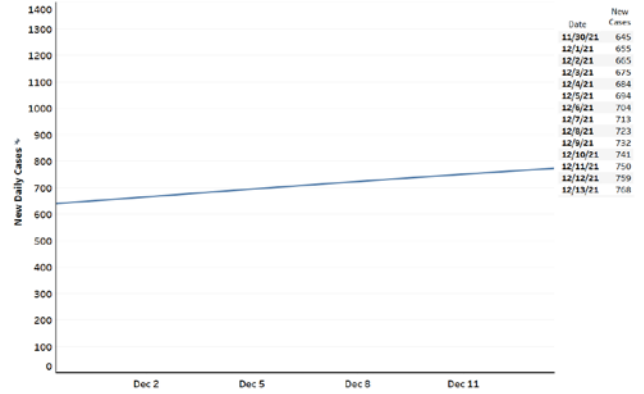
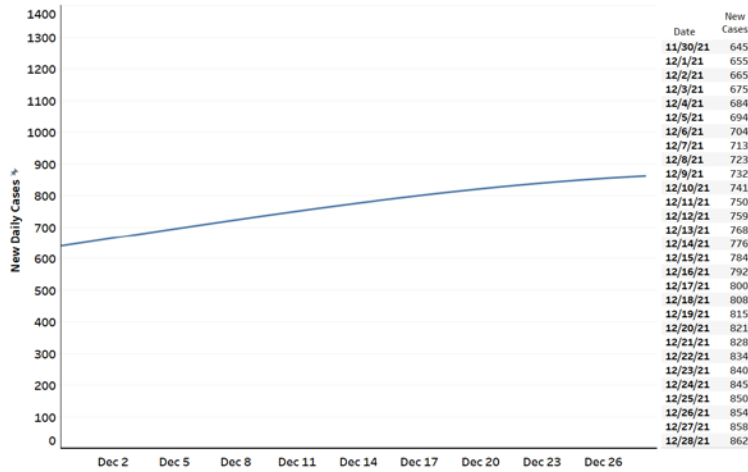


Figure 1c



Figures 2a & 2b & 2c. Forecasts of cumulative COVID-19 hospitalizations in Arkansas; 15- and 30-day daily changes in COVID-19 hospitalizations

Figure 2a

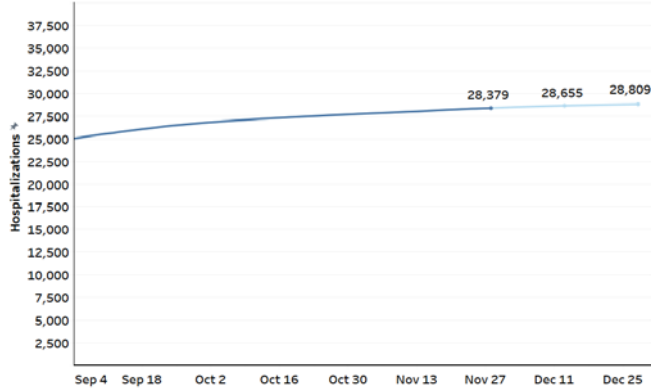


Figure 2b

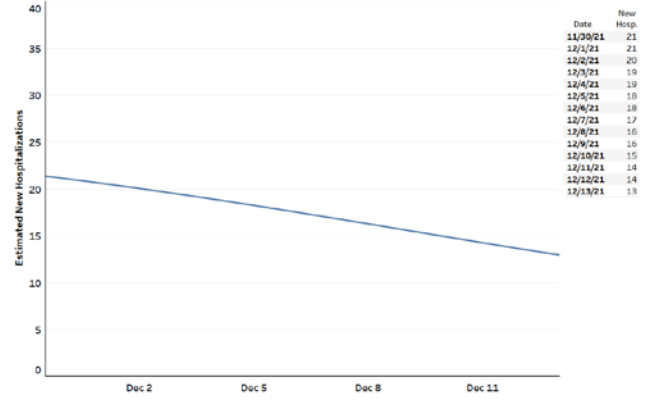
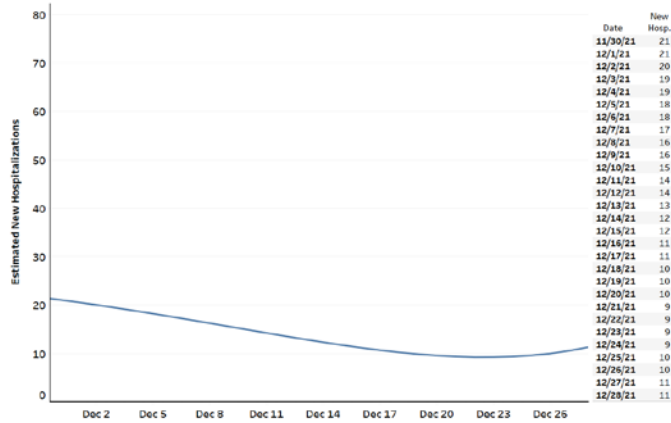


Figure 2c



Figures 3a & 3b & 3c. Forecasts of cumulative COVID-deaths cases in Arkansas; 15- and 30-day daily changes for COVID-19 deaths

Figure 3a

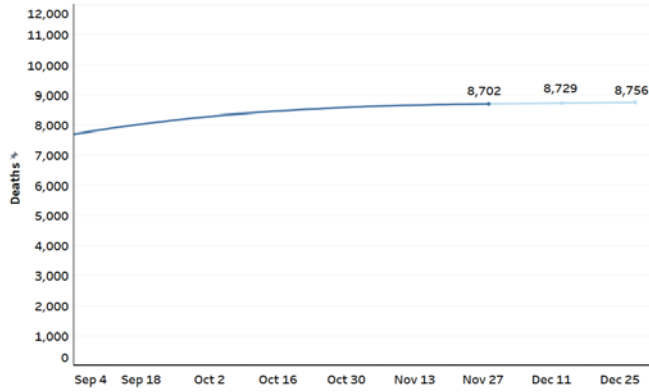


Figure 3b

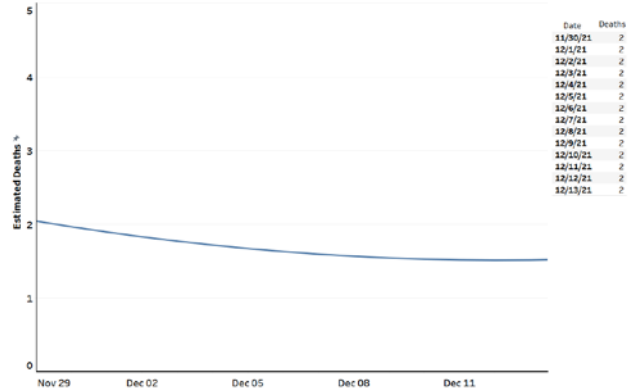


Figure 3c

