

Online Originals: CarolinaEast seeing surge in hospitalized COVID patients, many aren't surviving as long

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Emily Cervarick

NEW BERN, N.C. (WNCT) — As COVID-19 variants continue to spread across our communities, coronavirus cases and hospitalizations are reaching heights we saw at the beginning of the pandemic. Local hospitals are trying to adjust to the spike.

Across the state, as of Monday:

- 3,509 patients are currently hospitalized with COVID-19 in the state.
- The daily percent positive is 14.5% for case coming back.
- 65% of the adult population in the state are partially vaccinated.
- 60% of the adult population in the state is fully vaccinated.

CarolinaEast Medical Center in New Bern recently **added another COVID unit**, which gives them 17 additional beds for critical patients. As of Tuesday, the hospital currently has **54** COVID inpatients, four in the ICU, and one is currently on a ventilator. Staff at CarolinaEast tell 9OYS it's the highest number they've had in months.

ICU Clinical Nurse Manager Melinda Houston said it's a constant struggle to ensure they have enough beds with adequate equipment to treat these patients. She also said they are coming in much sicker than in the past.

"Patients that are coming to the ICU are sicker. We had patients in the ICU with COVID that were sick for several months and we could get them through it with tracheostomies, feeding tubes, long term ventilation. Our patients now, they are not lasting two weeks on a ventilator, they are dying." Melinda Houston, ICU Clinical Nurse Manager

"This is a disease of the unvaccinated. 99.5% of the deaths are unvaccinated, how much clearer can that be? Over 97% of the hospitalizations are in the unvaccinated, how much clearer can that be?" Dr. Roy Everett, medical director of the intensive care unit at CarolinaEast

Everett urges people to get the vaccine as soon as they possibly can. He says it's heartbreaking to see people in the ICU dying from COVID-19, and they are asking for and want the vaccine, but it's too late.

A concern right now is if hospitals in the state rise to full capacity, what can be done this time around? Everett said it will likely mean more COVID-19 deaths.

Vidant Health officials discuss urgency surrounding rising COVID-19 cases

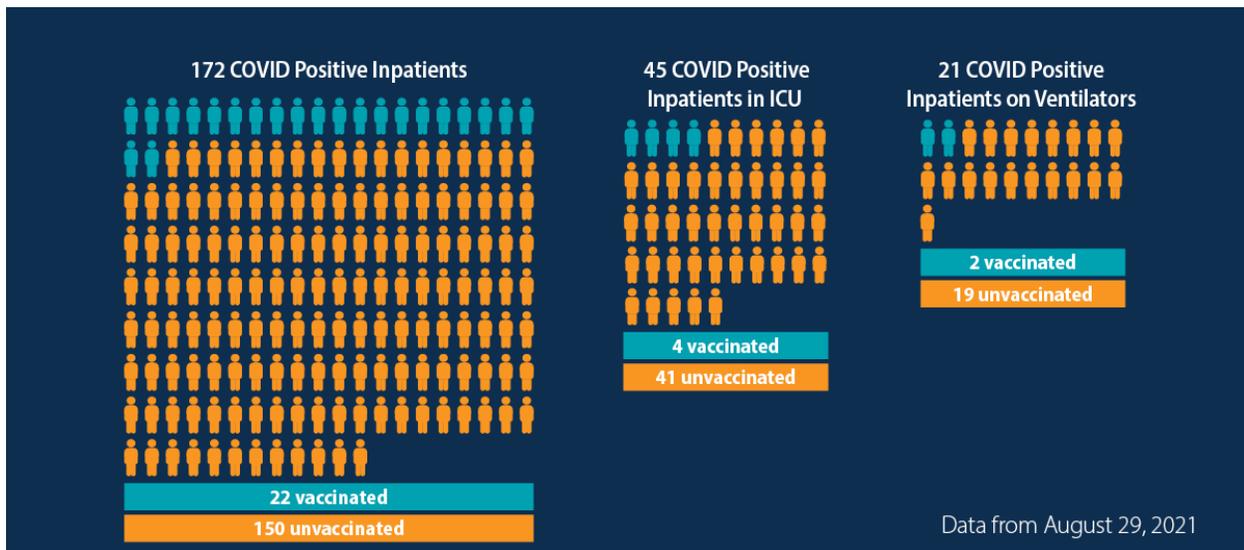
Amber Joseph, Jason Boyd August 30, 2021

GREENVILLE, N.C. (WNCT) — East Carolina University's Brody School of Medicine and Vidant Health on Monday released a public service announcement sharing their concerns related to COVID-19.

The PSA comes as health leaders continue to voice their concern about coronavirus and capacity issues at Vidant due to the number of patients there with COVID-19. In a press conference on Monday, health officials called on the public to do its part to help relieve the hospital system.

Online Originals: Surge in hospitalized COVID patients, medical professionals say they aren't surviving as long

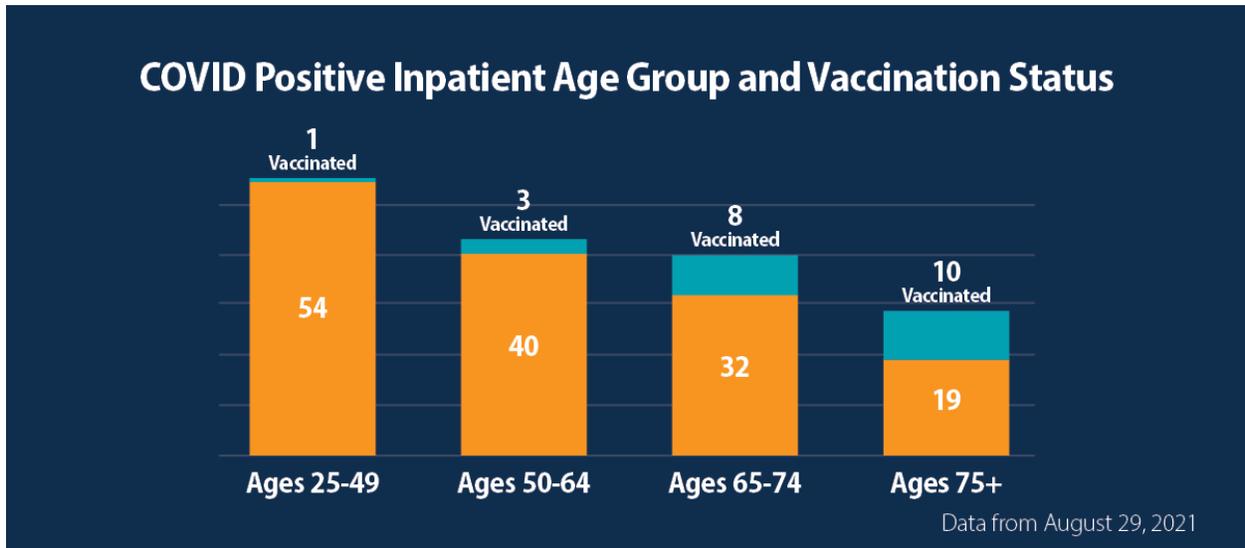
"We are currently seeing record numbers presenting to the emergency department seeking care," said Dr. Leigh Patterson, emergency medical physician with Vidant Medical Center. "We are seeing record numbers of children, more children than we have seen at any point in the pandemic."



VidantHealth.com/Vaccinate

Last week, [Vidant officials said they were at capacity](#) in the hospital's intensive care unit due to the number of COVID-19 cases. Vidant is reviewing all elective surgeries to see which ones they can postpone.

Vidant officials said younger adults ages 25-49 make up the largest group of patients at the hospital and are almost all unvaccinated. They also spoke about the myth of children not being impacted by COVID-19.



[VidantHealth.com/Vaccinate](https://www.vidanthealth.com/vaccinate)

“We are seeing on a regular basis children being admitted to the intensive care unit both with the inflammatory process that we saw in the first wave, and that affects all the organs and gets children incredibly sick,” said Dr. Matthew Ledoux, a pediatrician with Vidant Medica. “We’re also seeing acute COVID infections on the rise.”

One of the things that Vidant and ECU’s Brody School of Medicine are doing to spread the word is release a PSA. It will air on TV and online to encourage people to get the COVID-19 vaccine and to follow COVID protocols to stay healthy like wearing a mask and washing your hands.

https://www.wnct.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/99/2021/08/PSA-Vaccine_Rough_v2.mp4

