



**Avonworth School District
COVID Update
Dr. Jeff Hadley, Superintendent**

November 29, 2021

Avonworth School District, 258 Josephs Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15237



Allegheny County Information

Avonworth School District, 258 Josephs Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15237



Thresholds for Community Transmission

Transition Level	Cases Per 100K Over the Most Recent 7 Days	<i>AND</i>	Percent Positivity Rate Over the Most 7 Days
Low	0 - 9	<i>AND</i>	< 5%
Moderate	10 - 49	<i>AND</i>	5% - 7.9%
Substantial	50 - 99	<i>AND</i>	8% - 9.9%
High	> 99	<i>AND</i>	> 9.9%



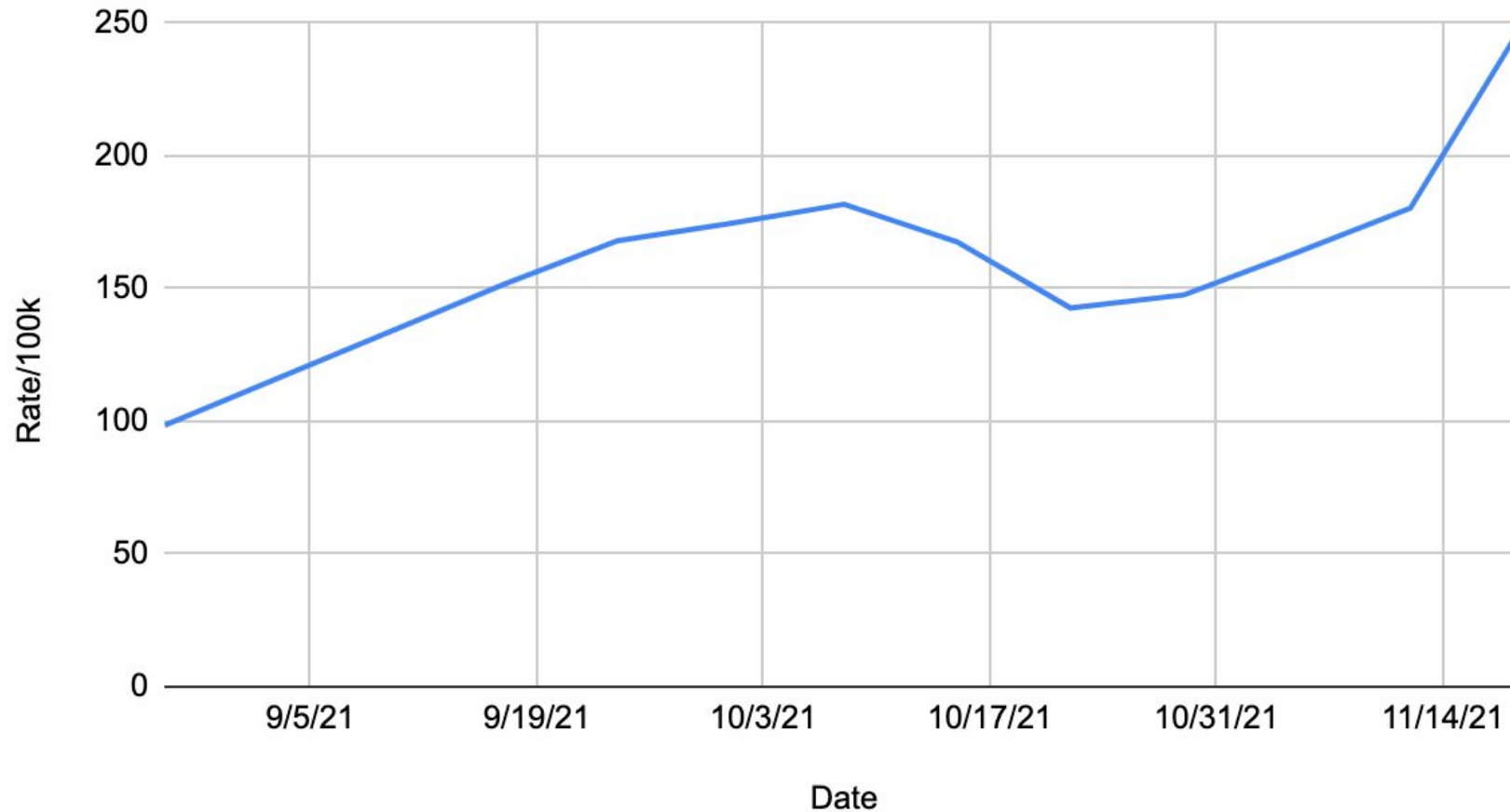
Allegheny County Transmission Levels

Criteria	10/22/2021	10/29/2021	11/05/2021	11/12/2021	11/19/2021
Incidence Rate Per 100K	142.7	147.6	163.6	180.3	250.0
PCR Percent Positivity	7.3%	7.6%	8.6%	9.3%	11.2%



Allegheny County Cases/100K

Cases/100k in Allegheny County 8/27/21 to 11/19/21



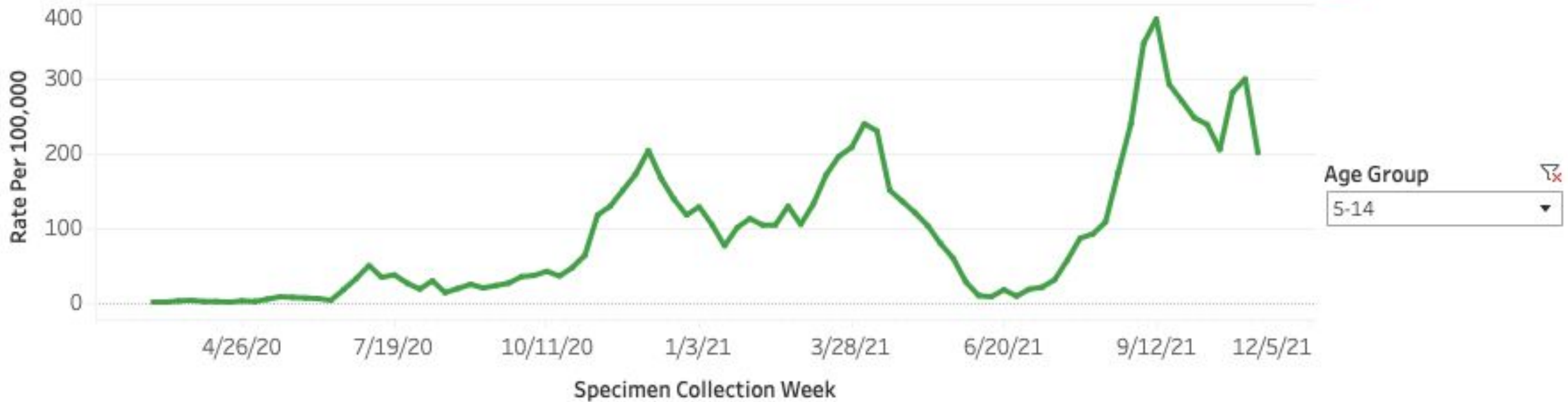


Allegheny County Cases Per 100K - Ages 5-14 (entire pandemic)

AGE

Time Period
All

Weekly Case Rate Per 100,000





Allegheny County Positive Cases by Age Group



Allegheny County
Health Department

Cases by age group

	0 to 4	5 to 11	12 to 18	19 to 24	25 to 49	50 to 64	65+	
September	399	1266	969	945	4487	1829	1433	11328
October	313	797	695	631	3447	1753	1574	9210
November	304	857	498	531	2779	1244	848	7061
<i>November second infections</i>	1	5	9	15	57	13	5	105

- Adults in schools with COVID

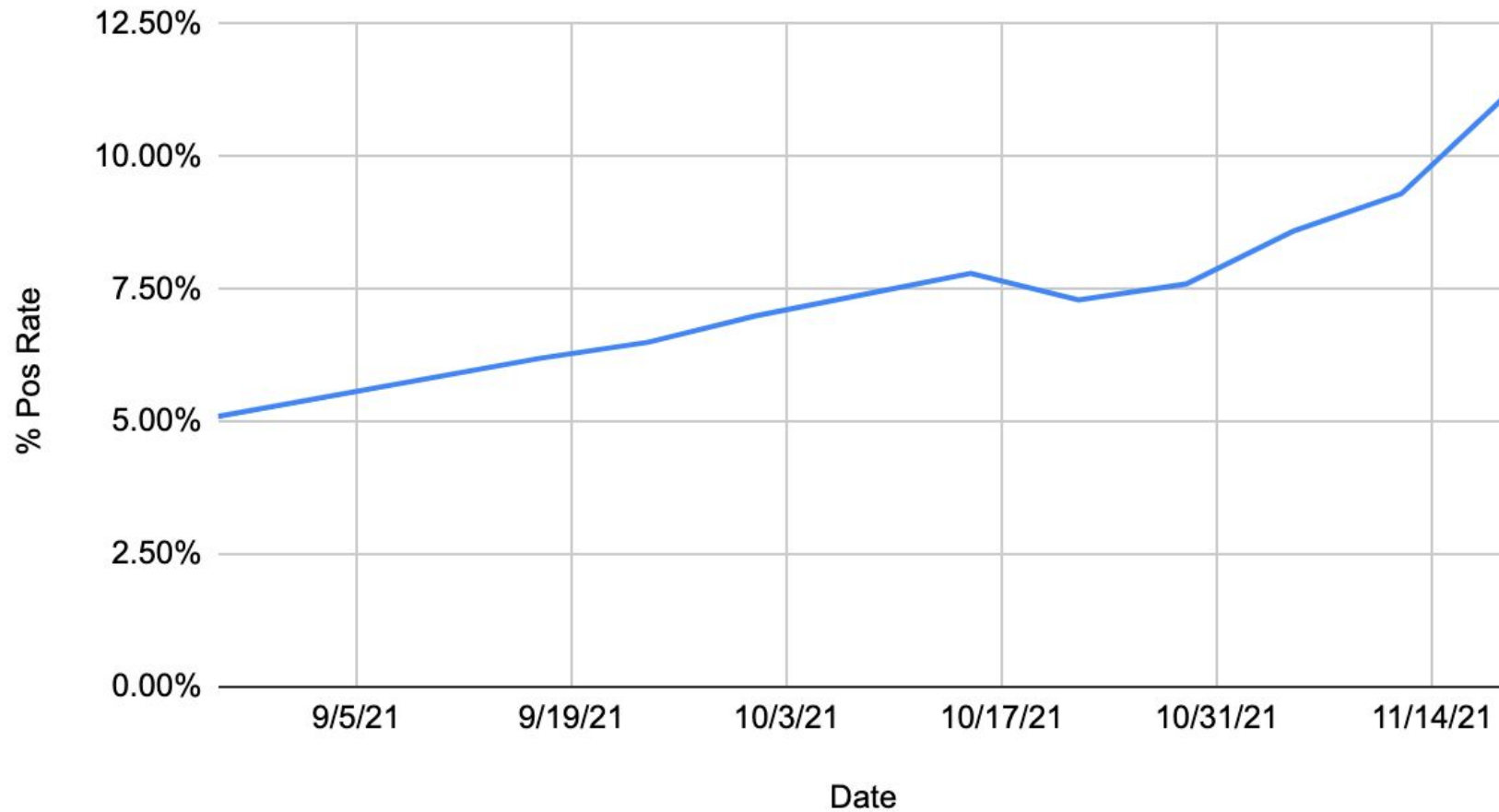
- 50 August
- 155 September
- 51 October
- 22 November

**Least Vaccinated Group
(of those with a
vaccine available)**



Allegheny County Percent Positivity Rate

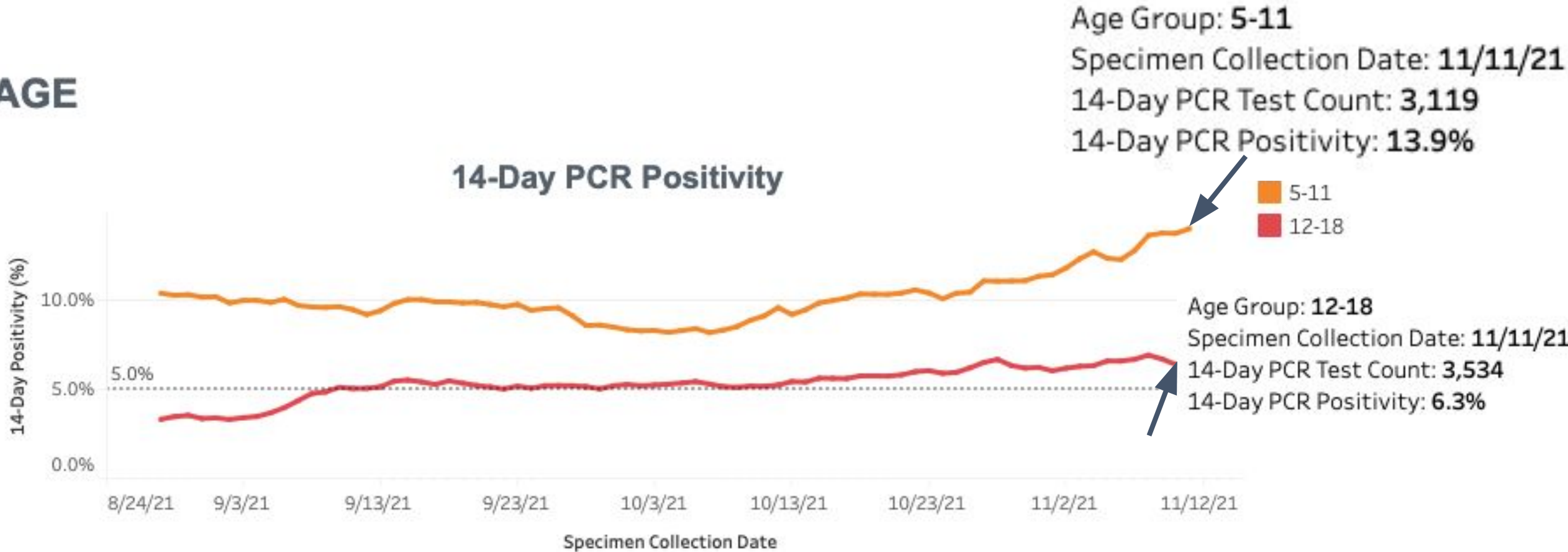
Percent Positivity Rate in Allegheny County 8/27/21 to 11/19/21





Allegheny County Percent Positivity Ages 5-11 and 12-18 (last 3 months)

AGE





Avonworth School District Information

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Avonworth School District Positive Cases: August - November

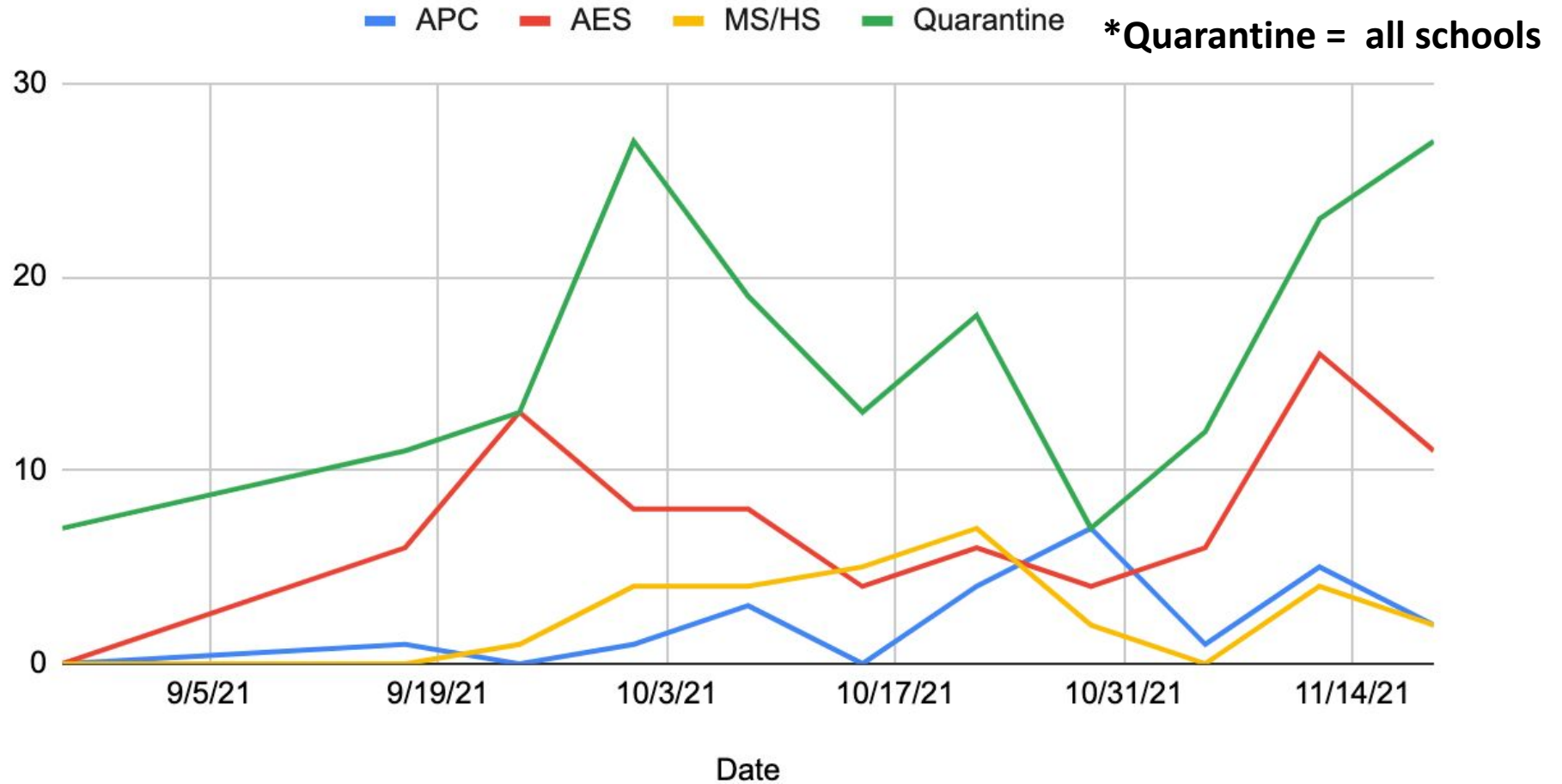
COVID Cases	APC	AES	MS/HS	Total
# of Confirmed Positive Cases	24	71	29	124

Cases as of November 21, 2021



Avonworth School District Cases & Quarantines 8/27 to 11/19

APC, AES, MS/HS COVID Cases and Quarantine 8/27/21 to 11/19/21





Mitigations - Health & Safety Plan

- **Goal:**
 - Keep our students in school and keep schools open
- **Mitigations Are Effective To:**
 - Limit spread of COVID in the schools
 - Limit spread of COVID in our community
 - Keep students in school and keep schools open for in-person learning



Current Mitigations - Health & Safety Plan

Mitigations:

- Universal Masking (bus and school)
- 3 ft distancing in classrooms to the extent possible
- Lunch: 6 ft distancing
 - Using gym spaces to allow for distancing
- Vaccination Clinics
- Rapid testing program

Impact:

- Displacement of physical education classes
- Custodians needed to break down tables daily for after school athletics
- Displacement of programs that use gyms in the evening



Close Contact

Health Department/CDC:

- **Close Contact:** A person is considered a close contact if within 6 ft of an infectious person for 15 consecutive minutes in an indoor school setting with or without wearing a face covering.
- **Exception:** Students are Not a Close Contact in a School Setting if:
 - 3 ft or more and
 - wearing a face covering



Quarantine

Health Department/CDC:

- If identified as a close contact, a student does not need to quarantine if:
 - Fully vaccinated and not symptomatic
 - Had COVID in the last 90 days, completed isolation, and recovered
- Quarantine ends after 10 days with no symptoms or can end after day 7 if a test 5 days after exposure is negative

[Flow Chart](#)



Quarantine Instruction

APC/AES:

- Quarantine teacher at each building
 - Students have been in quarantine every day of this school year (60 days)
 - APC: 1-16 students attending online; avg 6.33/day
 - AES: 2-29 students attending online; avg 12.05/day

MS/HS:

- Teachers turn on camera/microphone for students learning from home due to quarantine



COVID Working Group Input

- **COVID Working Group Members:**

- Dr. David Rottinghaus, Chief Medical Officer, Butler Health System
- Dr. Megan Freeman, Infectious Disease Fellow, Children's Hospital
- Dr. Jeff Hadley, Superintendent
- Mr. Mike Hall, Middle School Principal, District Safety Coordinator
- Mrs. Colleen Barcaskey, MS/HS Nurse
- Mrs. Amanda Lemon, APC/AES Nurse
- Mr. John Brandt, Board Member
- Mrs. Yu-Ling Cheng, Board Member

- **Recommendation from November 10 Meeting:**

- Maintain current mitigation measures
- Markers to consider for future decision-making:
 - high vaccination rates (75%-80%)
 - local transmission to improve



Recommendation for Moving Forward

- At this time, maintain the current mitigations per the District's Health and Safety Plan to allow for
 - Getting beyond the holiday season
 - Students in the 5-11 age group to become fully vaccinated if they wish to receive a vaccine
 - Monitoring of the current high number of cases and % positivity in Allegheny County
 - Seeing if CDC/Health Department guidance changes due to vaccination availability
 - Observing the impact of the most recent variant - Omicron
- Reevaluate in January



Concerns Related to Optional Masking

- Concerns for making masks optional under current CDC and Health Department guidance:
 - Contact tracing circle moves to 6 ft without face coverings, resulting in an additional number of students identified as close contacts
 - Significantly higher time required by nurses/administrators to conduct contract tracing for the larger contact circle
 - Higher number of quarantined students due to more close contacts and loss of masking exception
 - Need for additional quarantine teachers at APC & AES as the number of quarantined students increases