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COVID-19 Project Data Brief (WOU Community Health + Polk County), December 13, 2021

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COVID-19 Project

Data Brief

County Rankings of Incidence in the Last Week

Polk: 14th (was 14th)

Marion: 21st (was 20th)

*Out of 36 Counties; 1st = highest incidence



Cumulative Case Numbers:

Oregon: 400,188 • Polk: 8,464 • Marion: 40,612

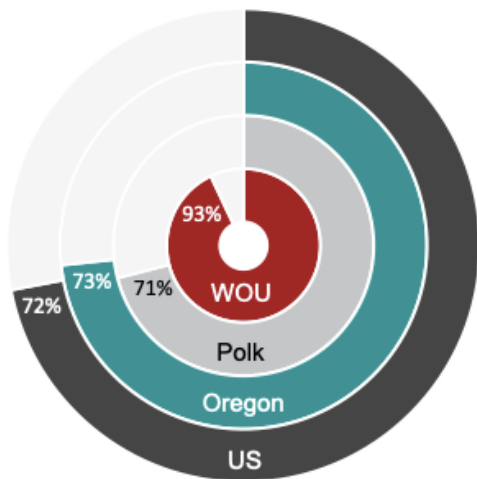
Individuals Currently Being Traced by WOU

Contact Tracing Team: **38**

As of 8:00am 12/13 (Last Week: 29)



Vaccinations Among Ages 18+ (Fully Vaccinated), by Community, as of December 10, 2021



Data Sources: WOU Health Services, OHA, New York Times

Main Takeaways:

- WOU students have a very high vaccine rate, making our campus one of the safest communities in Polk County.
- The percentage of Polk County adults who are vaccinated is a bit lower than Oregon (73%) and the US as a whole (72%).

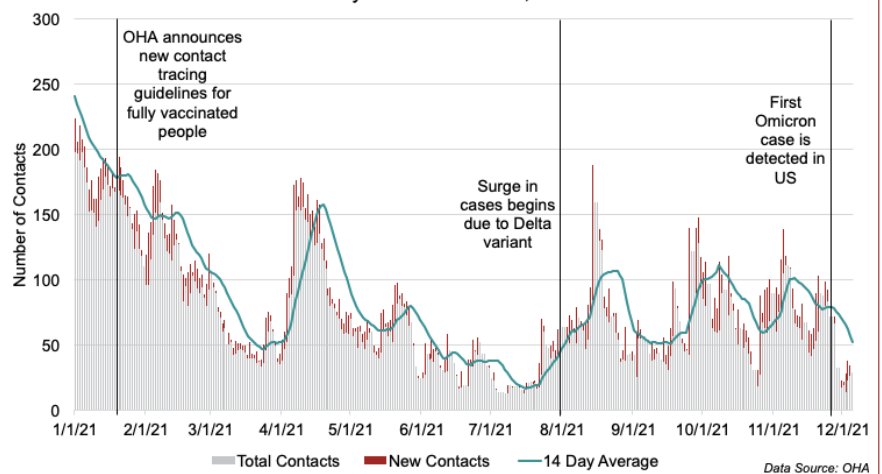
Vaccine Update:

- [Vaccination](#) remains the most effective tool to reduce the spread of COVID-19.
- Pfizer booster doses are available for ages 16-17 thanks to FDA authorization.
- Check out [this](#) resource for how to keep your holiday celebrations safe!

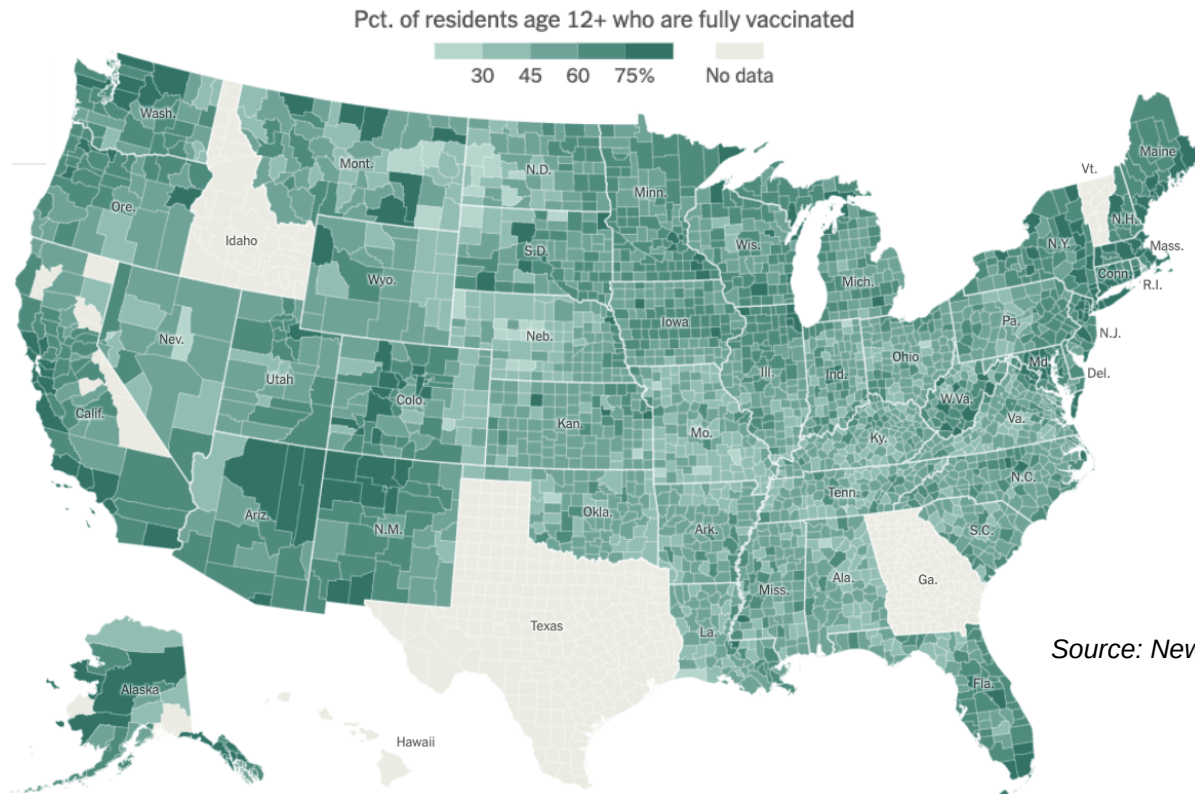
2021 Polk County Contact Tracing:

- In January, OHA announced that fully vaccinated individuals without symptoms may not need to quarantine.
 - Testing is still recommended, and quarantine needed if symptoms occur.
- While Covid-19 cases increased in the fall due to the Delta variant, contact tracing followed a different trajectory due to OHA guidelines for fully vaccinated individuals.
- Similarly, contact tracing numbers are lower this winter relative to last year due to more vaccinated individuals.
- Our WOU Community Health + Polk County Covid-19 Project still provides all contact tracing for Polk County. To learn more about our team, visit our [website](#).

New and Total Contacts Monitored by WOU Contact Tracing Team: January 1 - December 12, 2021



US Covid-19 Vaccinations, as of December 10, 2021



International Good News

- Preliminary studies of the Omicron variant in [Germany and South Africa](#) show that boosters increase the effectiveness of vaccines to levels seen against other variants--i.e., we have evidence that being fully vaccinated AND having a booster dose is effective against this new variant.
- While the emergence of the Omicron variant doesn't qualify as good news, the discovery of the variant in [Southern Africa](#) resulted from a highly advanced, collaborative surveillance system and the Botswana Harvard Partnership Lab. Researchers in the lab have performed virus sequencing throughout the pandemic and were, therefore, able to quickly identify the new variant and notify global health authorities.
- A study in [Israel](#) found that booster doses decreased death rates by 90%. Relative to individuals who had received only the initial two doses of the Covid-19 vaccine, Israelis who received boosters were much less likely to die from infections caused by the Delta variant. With Delta still the dominant variant in many countries, and mounting evidence that boosters are also effective against the new Omicron variant, experts urge everyone eligible to get their boosters.