



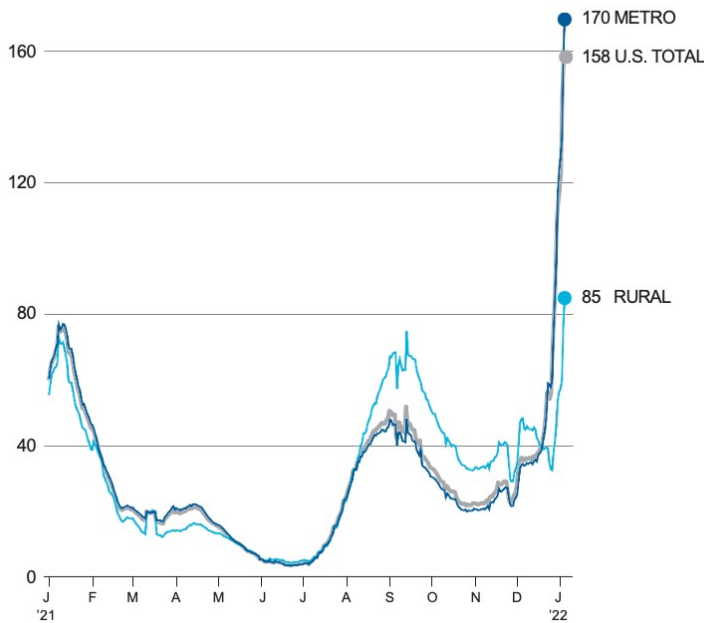
January 10, 2022

Urban areas seeing worst of Omicron surge

The Omicron wave of Covid-19 cases is hitting metropolitan counties twice as hard as rural counties, according to CDC data — a sharp contrast to last year’s winter surge. Data as of Jan. 4 shows case counts in both rural and metropolitan areas have soared, with a seven-day average of 170 new cases per 100,000 people in metropolitan areas and 85 cases per 100,000 in rural areas. That spike, however, has not led to death rates in metropolitan areas surpassing those in rural areas.

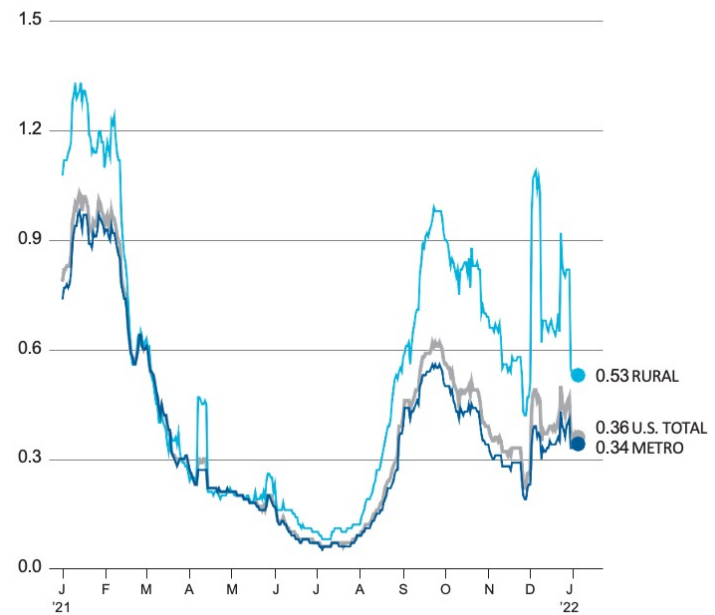
Metro areas lead in new per capita cases

NEW CASES PER 100,000 PEOPLE, SEVEN-DAY AVERAGE



Covid-19 deaths have been consistently higher for rural areas

NEW DEATHS PER 100,000 PEOPLE, SEVEN-DAY AVERAGE



Note: Metropolitan and non-metropolitan classifications are determined by the NCHS Urban-Rural classifications.
Source: CDC Covid Data Tracker

