

COVID-19 Crisis: Mapping the Way Forward

Wake County Manager David Ellis



@wakegov    

wakegov.com

Wake County COVID-19 overview



908

Total Confirmed Cases

[View Cases by Day](#)



20

Deaths

[View Cases Trend](#)



44

Average Age

[View Cases by Age](#)



59%
% Female



41%
% Male

[View Cases by Gender](#)

Prior day totals may change as more information is provided about cases. For example, person actually lives in another county.

5/4/2020 12:05:04 PM

Last Updated

(pages can take up to 1 hour to fully sync to latest data)

Mitigation strategy in effect

Focused on outbreaks among at-risk populations

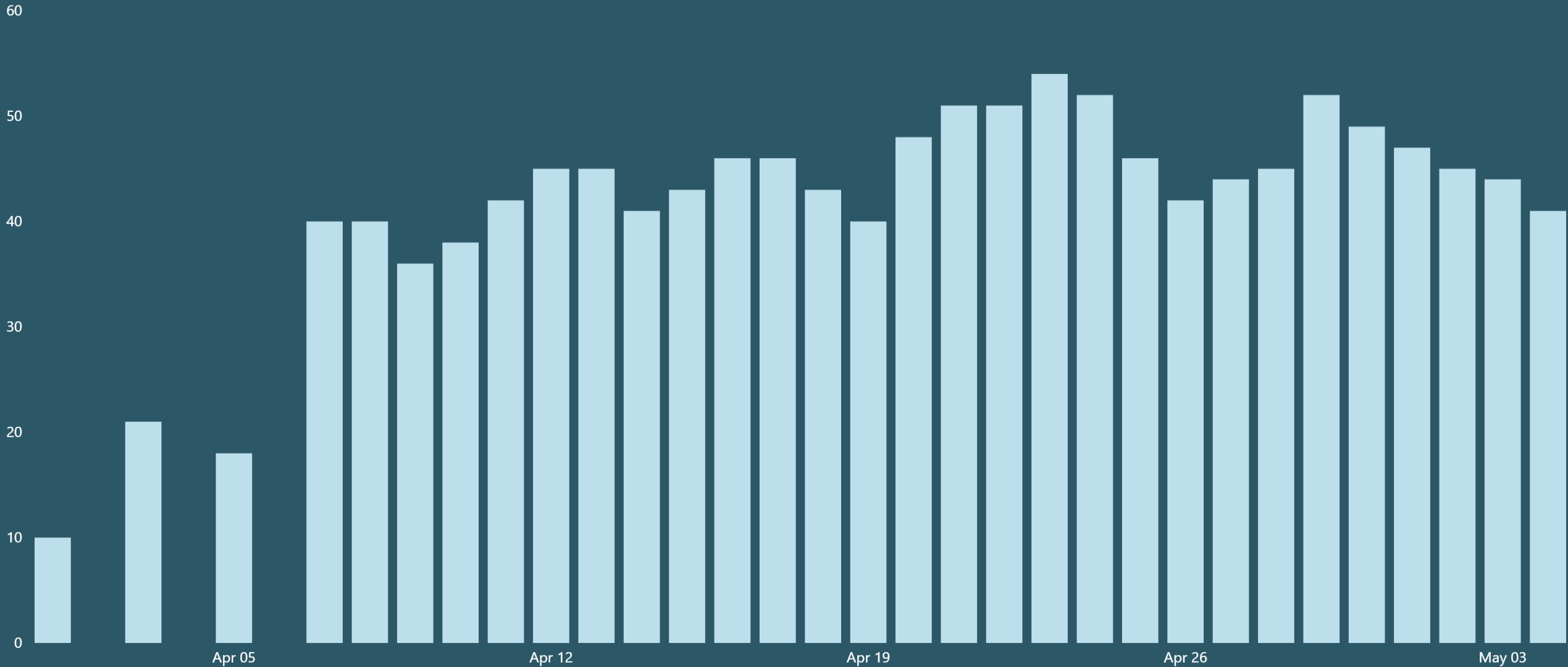
Steps taken

- Issued initial Stay-at-Home Order on March 26
- Worked with hospitals to increase ICU capacity, prep for surge of COVID-19 cases
- Increased capacity among private providers and labs
- Decompressed homeless shelters
- Conducted testing at congregant care sites

Outcome = Slowed the spread of the virus

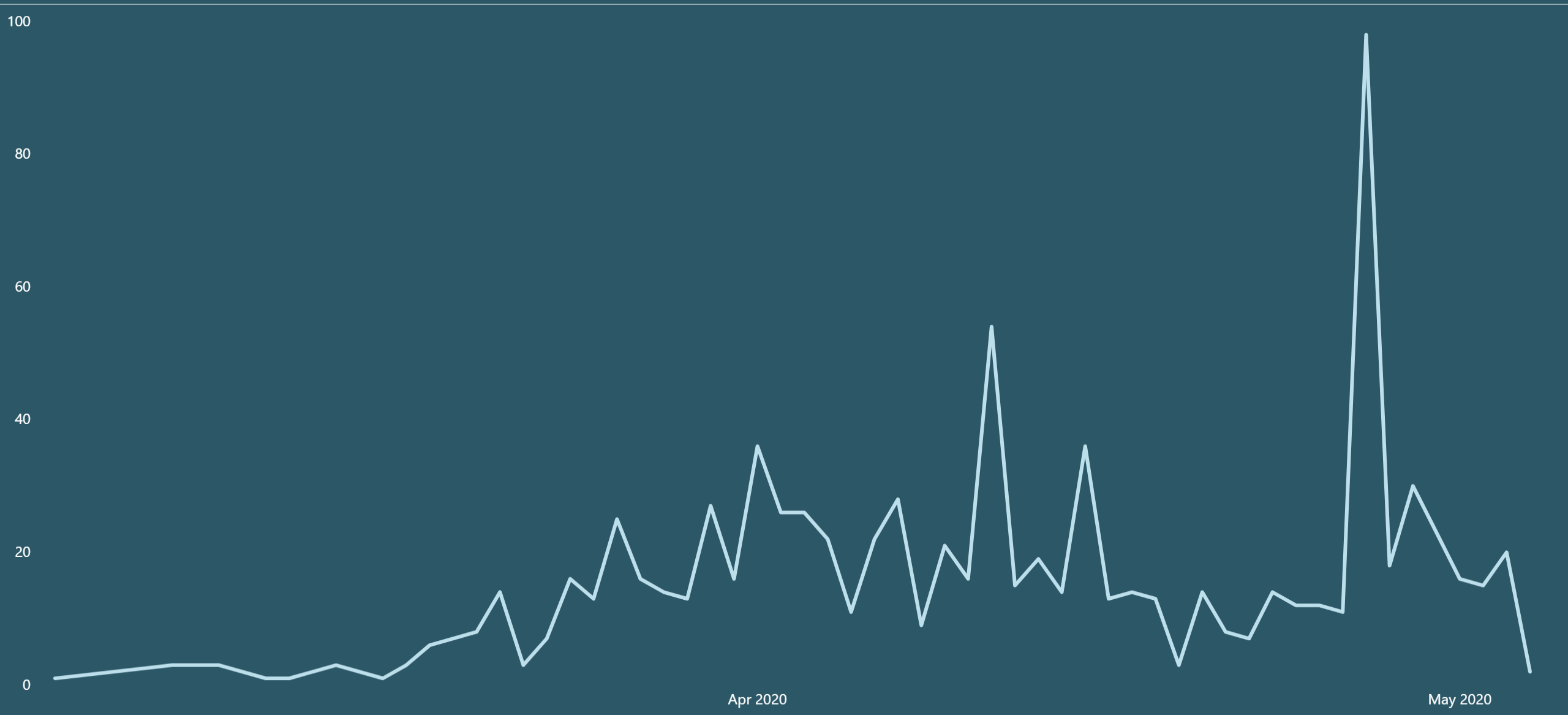
Wake County COVID-19 Patient Hospitalizations

Daily Bed Census of COVID-19 Patients
March 2020 - April 2020



Wake County Positive Cases per Day

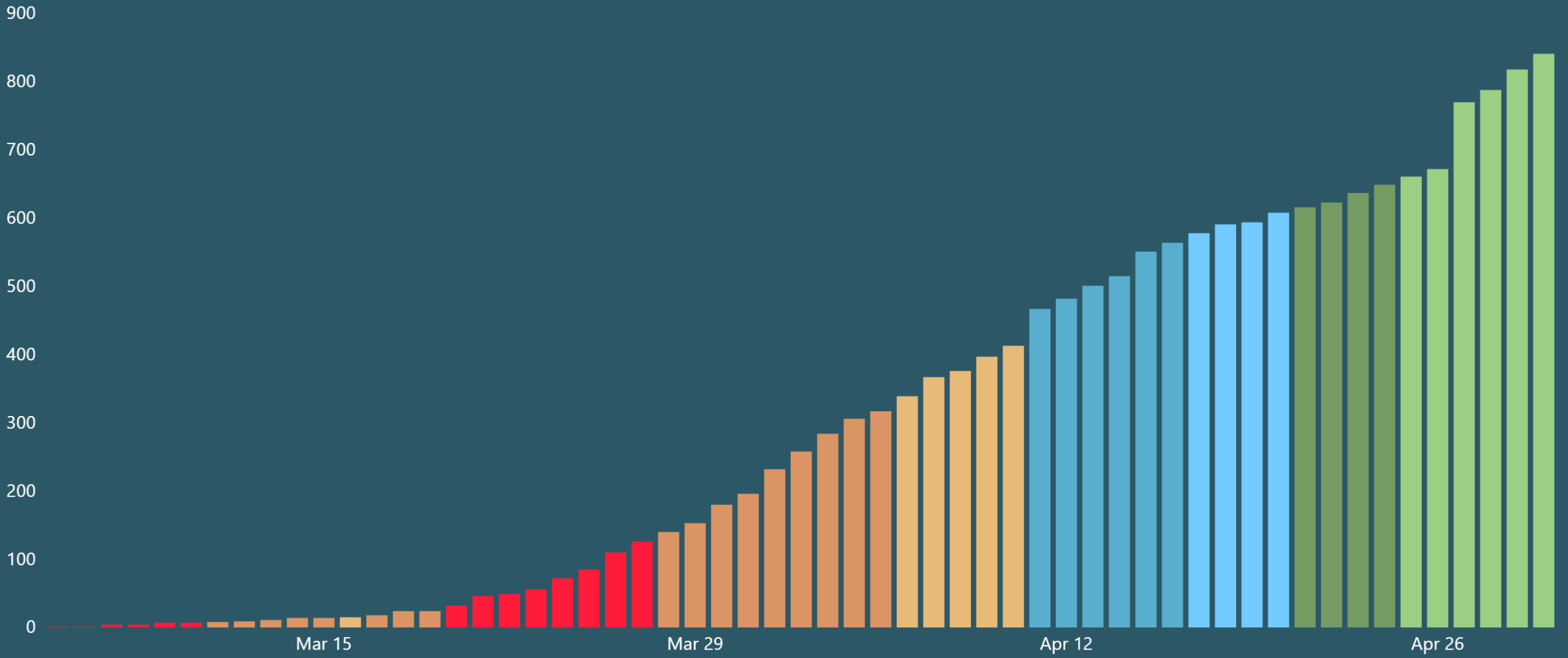
March 2020 - April 2020



Wake County Rate of Acceleration

Positive Case Doubling Rate

● 3 or Fewer ● 4 - 6 Days ● 7 - 9 Days ● 10 - 12 Days ● 13 - 15 Days ● 16 - 18 Days ● 18 + Days



Gov. Cooper's Three-Phase Plan for Reopening NC

Phase 1

- Stay-at-Home Order remains in place
- Residents can leave home for commercial activity
- Parks reopen
- Gatherings of more than 10 people not allowed
- Restrictions remain in place for long-term care facilities

Gov. Cooper's Three-Phase Plan for Reopening NC

Phase 2

Will occur at least 2-3 weeks after Phase 1

- Lifts the Stay-at-Home Order
- Limited opening of bars, restaurants and fitness centers
- Reopens places of worship at reduced capacity
- Reopens playgrounds
- Restrictions remain in place for long-term care facilities

Gov. Cooper's Three-Phase Plan for Reopening NC

Phase 3

Will occur at least 4-6 weeks after Phase 2

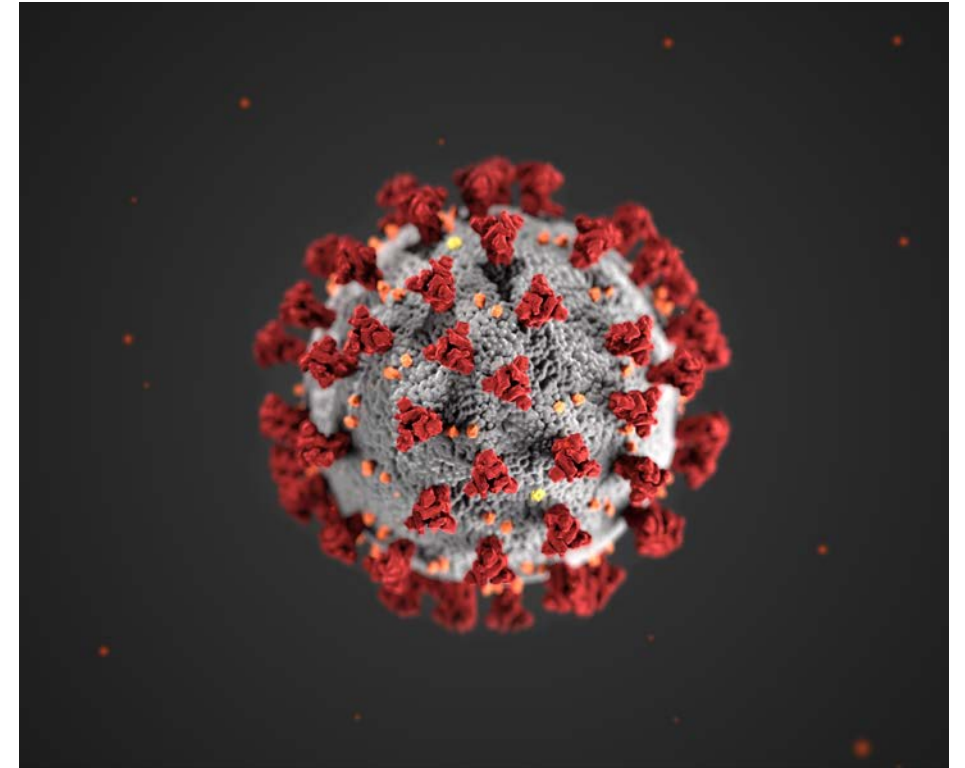
- Increases capacity for bars, restaurants, religious centers and entertainment venues
- Increases the size of gatherings
- Restrictions remain in place for long-term care facilities

The state will measure trends in 4 criteria to make phasing decisions

- 1 Cases with COVID-19-like symptoms
- 2 Positive COVID-19 cases confirmed by a lab each day
- 3 Percentage of tests that were positive out of all tests administered
- 4 Hospitalizations of COVID-19 positive patients

What will the state need to see to determine when to shift phases?

- ▶ 14-day downward trend
_____ or _____
- ▶ **Sustained leveling off**
in those 4 criteria



When will the state shift to Phase 1?

Right now, we don't know.

- ▶ **Waiting on the state to announce its decision**
- ▶ **Could be as early as this weekend**



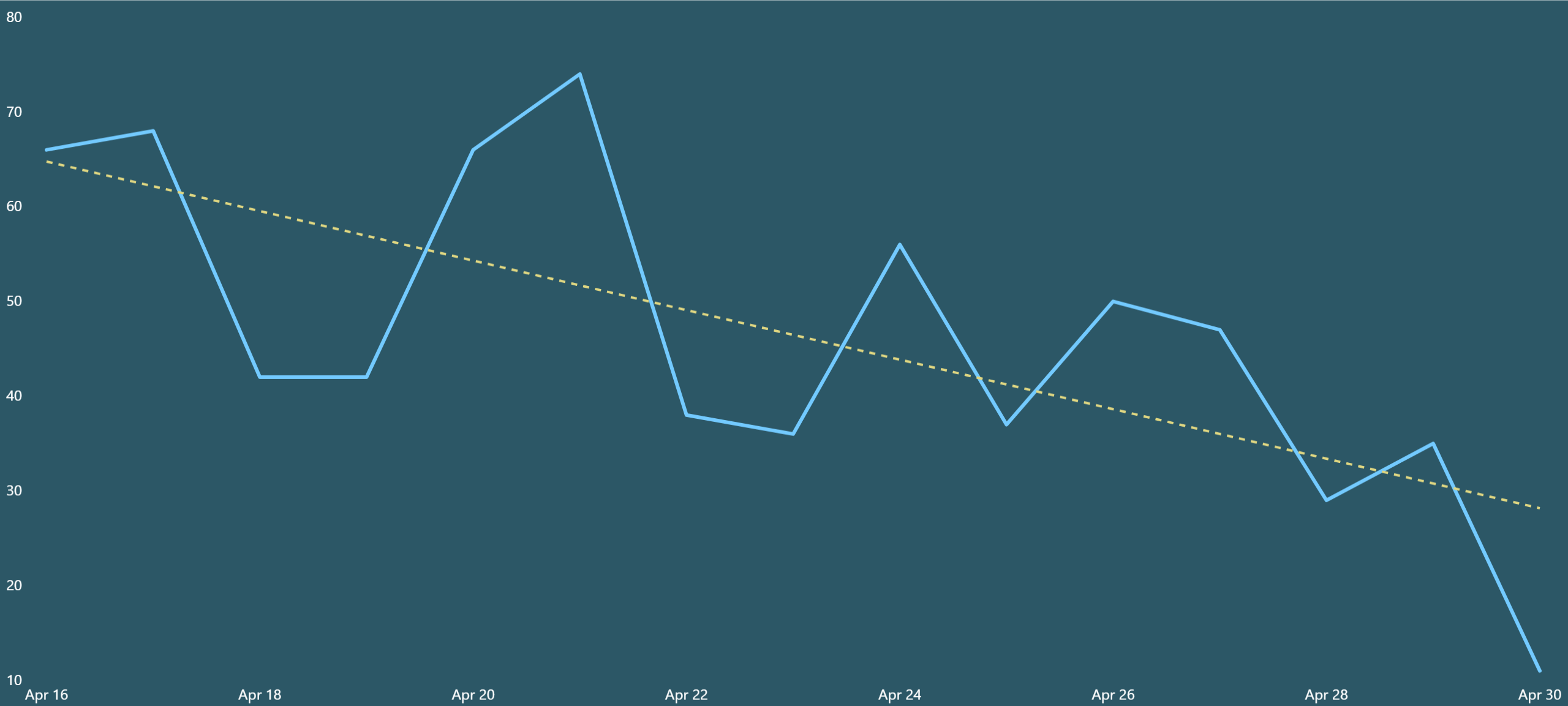
Wake County will monitor the same criteria

- Allows us to detect any upward trends in our community
- Enables us to then take the appropriate corrective actions

Goal = Use data to make decisions that protect our residents' health and safety

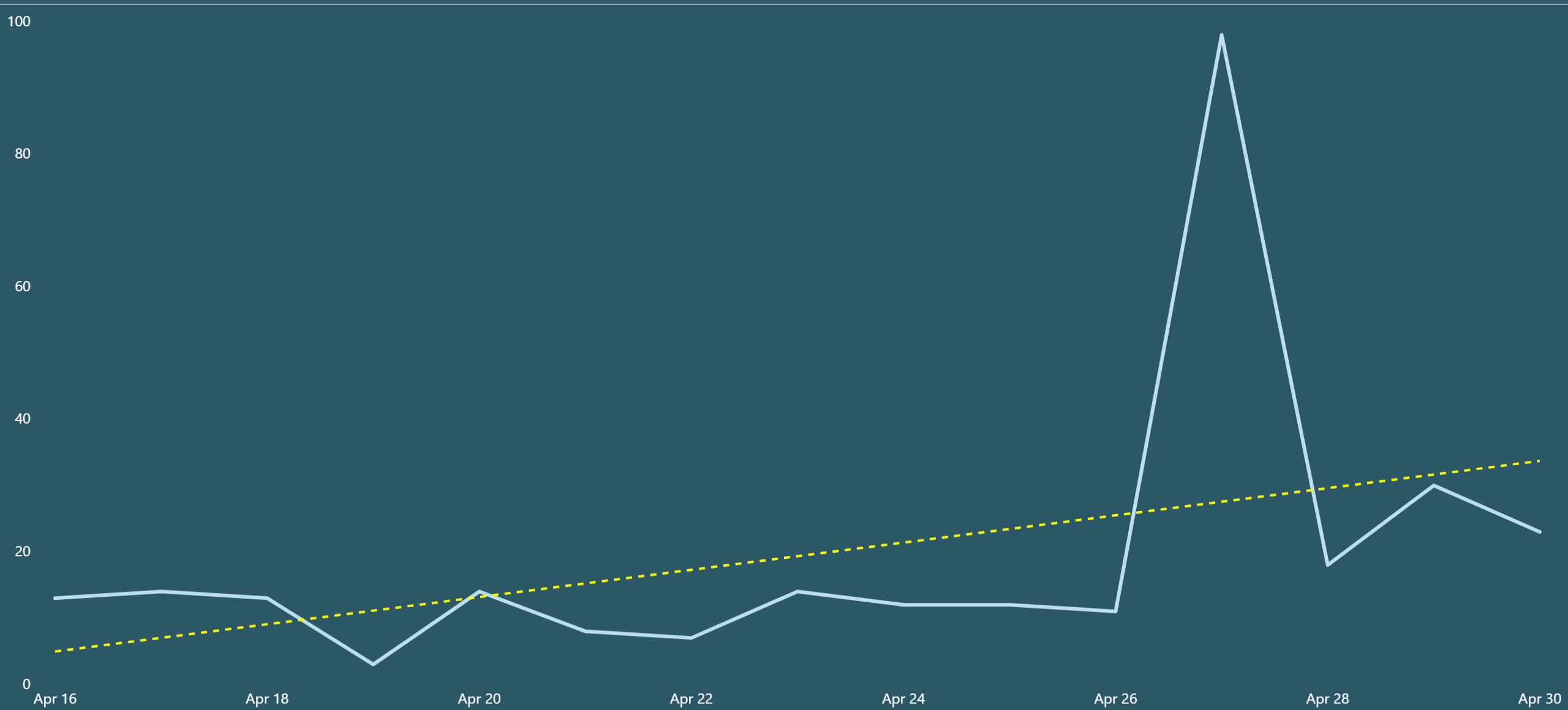
Wake County Trajectory of COVID-like Syndromic Cases

Source: NC Detect



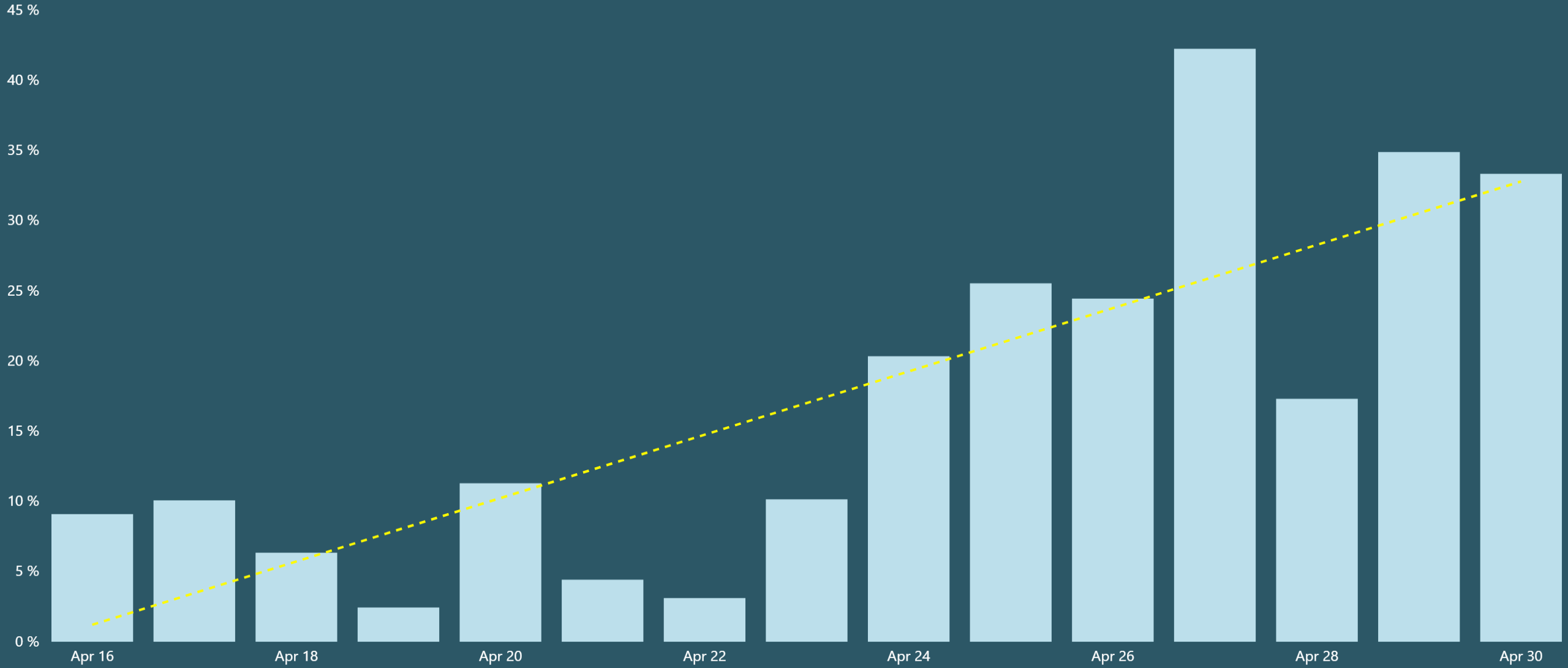
Wake County Trajectory of Positive Cases per Day

Last 14 Days



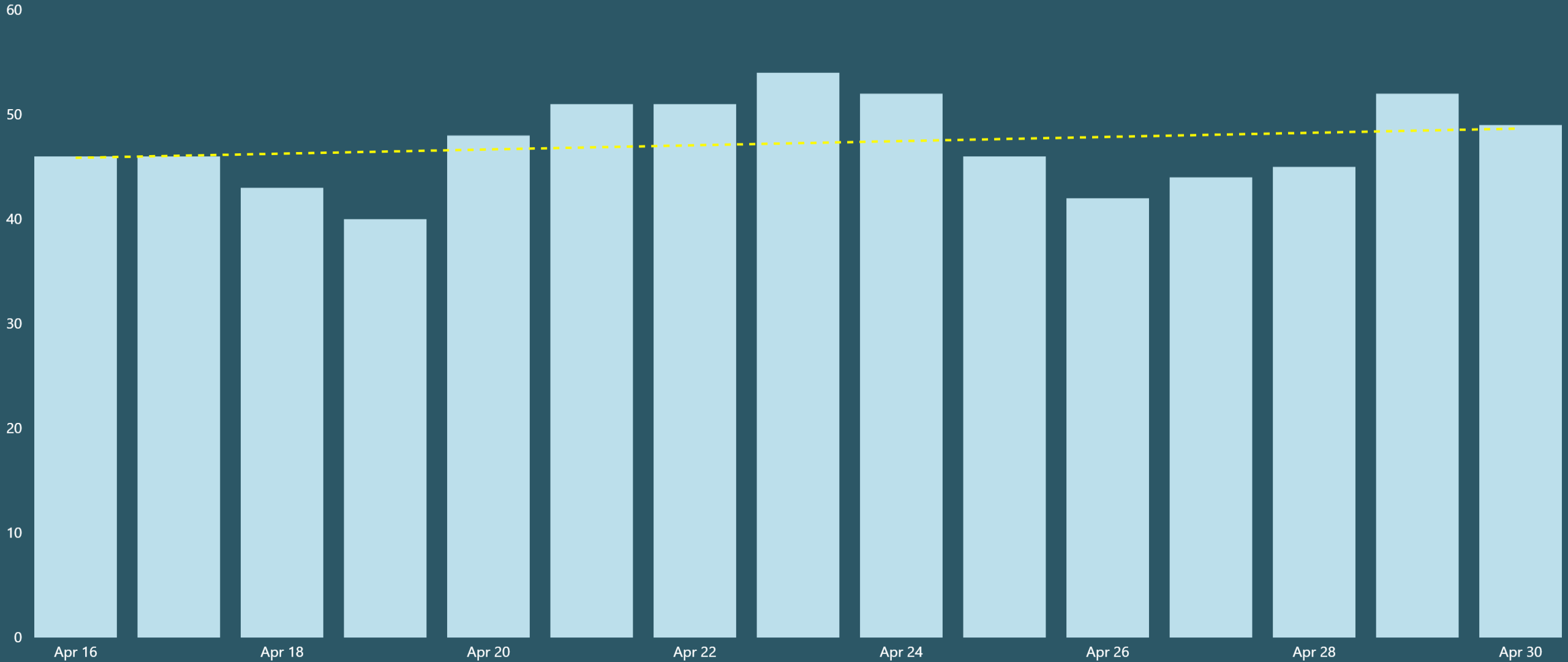
Wake County Trajectory % of Tests that are Positive

% positive for SARS-COV-2 by date of report to ELR Labs
Last 14 Days



Wake County Trajectory of Patient Hospitalizations

Daily Bed Census of COVID-19 Patients
Last 14 Days



Additional sources we use to inform our decisions

- Social distancing index provided by the Maryland Transportation Institute
- EMS clinical impression data of flu-like illnesses
- Emergency calls coming into our 911 call center associated with the pandemic

Additional factors we're focusing on

Shift from a mitigation strategy back to a containment strategy requires:

- Ability to test 3% of our population (1,112 people)
- Staff and training needed to conduct contact tracing
- 30-day supply of PPE

COVID-19 Testing Capacity Expansion Plan

Goal = Test 1,112 people per day



Will work with 4 labs:

- NC State Public Health Lab
- LabCorp
- Vero Diagnostics
- Aspirar Diagnostics

COVID-19 Testing Capacity Expansion Plan

- Labs to provide a total of **2,600 test kits** per day
- Have **4,000 test kits** that we purchased and assembled
- Have the capacity needed to process our goal of **1,112 tests** per day



COVID-19 Contact Tracing and Monitoring Plan

- Lists the facility space, equipment and staff needed
- Includes job descriptions for the positions managing the contact tracing teams
- Developing a training curriculum

Will initially train
a minimum of
**100 librarians to
be contact
tracers**
but can scale up

Increasing our PPE supply



- Targeting a 6-month supply
- Placed orders to hit that goal
- Shipments are coming in
- Difficulties getting isolation gowns and gloves
- As available, provide supplies to county first responders, municipal partners

PPE conservation plan

Innovative project with WCPSS

- Borrowed UV light cabinets from school science labs
- Installed them in 42 locations
- First responders use them to sterilize their masks
- Extends the life of masks by 5 uses



PPE conservation plan

Innovative partnership with local business

- Hired PSB Pro Services to sew new straps on old masks
- Elastic no longer breaks when first responders put them on
- Bolsters our supply of masks
- Prevents layoffs for business



Providing shelter for people experiencing homelessness

EOC is operating **3 hotels** as alternative housing sites

Hotel #1

For those who test positive or are awaiting results

- 51 people have used it to date
- 6 were positive for COVID-19
- 3 people housed there now

Providing shelter for people experiencing homelessness

EOC is operating **3 hotels** as alternative housing sites

Hotels #2 and #3

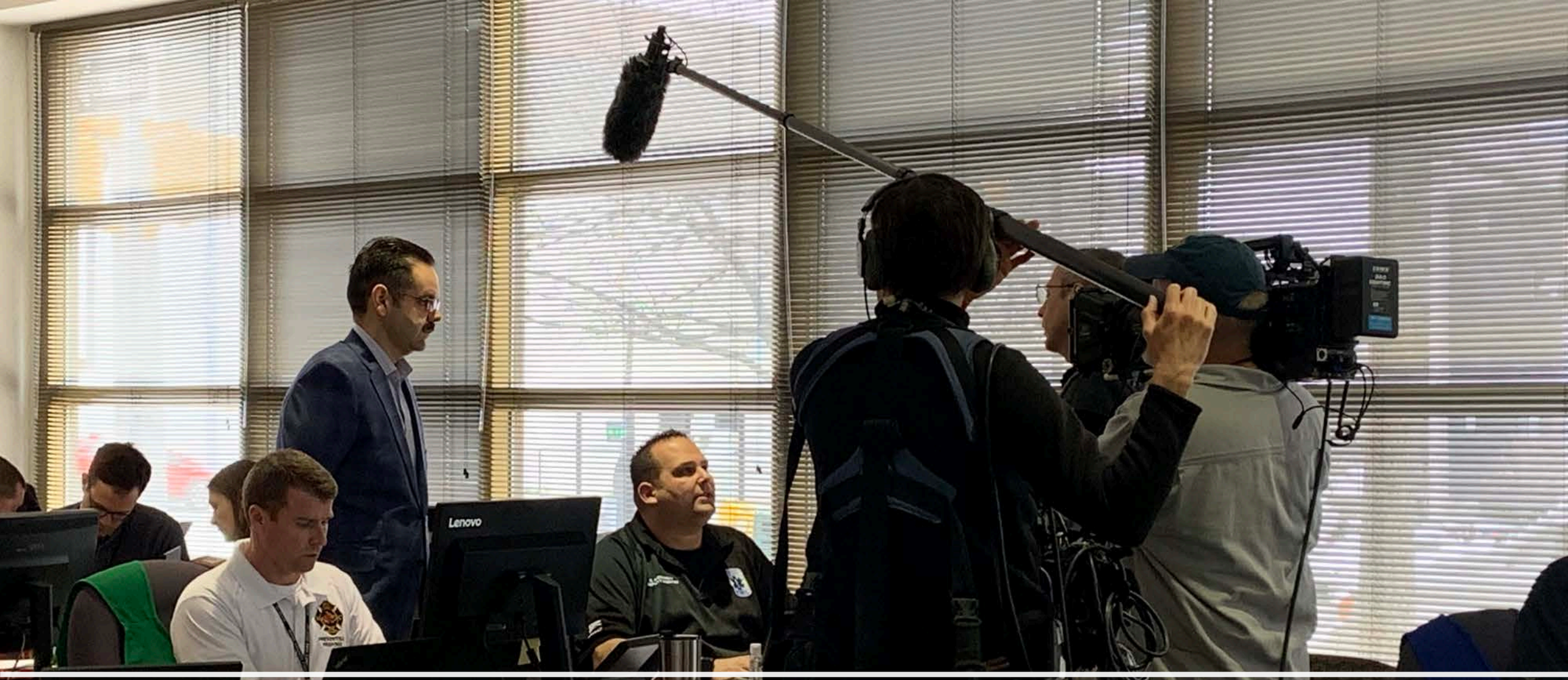
For homeless people without symptoms but are at high risk

- 214 people have used it to date
- 0 positive for COVID-19
- 141 people housed there now
- Variety of health, behavioral health resources available

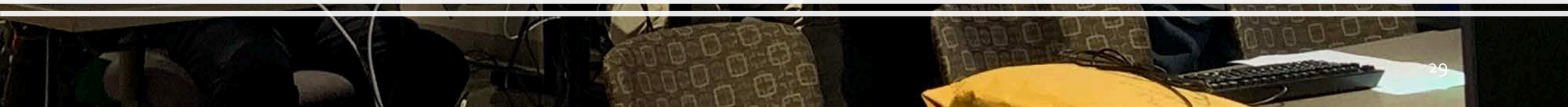
Long-term COVID-19 housing plan



- Currently **being finalized** by our Housing Department
- Will provide a more sustainable and practical **long-term solution** than hotels
- Will use **CARES Act funds**



Communications and public outreach efforts



March/April data shows success of communications strategy

- Sent **61 news releases**
- Resulted in **1,914 stories**
- Covered by local, state and national news media
- Coverage reached **17.7 million people**
- Publicity value = **\$1.23 million**
- Responded to **200+ media inquiries**



March/April data shows success of communications strategy



Twitter

- Sent 740 tweets
- Added 4,000 followers
- 3.7 million impressions



Facebook

- Posted 171 messages
- Added 4,700 followers
- Reached 1 million people

March/April data shows success of communications strategy

Used **video** to reach residents



Examples:

- Storytime Anytime
 - Census 2020 profiles
- } **34,000 views**

-
- Shooting a video this week targeting faith communities

March/April data shows success of communications strategy

Statistics for wakegov.com:

- **1.9+ million pageviews** in March alone
- **34% increase** over Feb.
- COVID-19 page was **most frequently viewed**



Launching multilingual COVID-19 public outreach effort

Focus:

Non-English-speaking residents, minority communities

- ✓ Translated COVID-19 website into top 10 most commonly spoken languages in Wake County



Launching multilingual COVID-19 public outreach effort

Next steps:

- Creating tool kits for organizations in these communities
- Will include translated fact sheets, graphics to share in newsletters, websites and social media
- Will pay to advertise in publications that cater to specific target audiences

Our COVID-19 response is extensive

DATA DEVELOPMENT

Working hard to create good metrics

Help us:

- Monitor the situation
- Make the best decisions

ADAPTING TO CHANGE

Evolving situation

- Responding appropriately to outbreaks
- Preparing for phased reopening

CONTINUED COMMUNICATION

Focused on keeping the community informed

- Will provide the board with updates on significant issues

COVID-19

