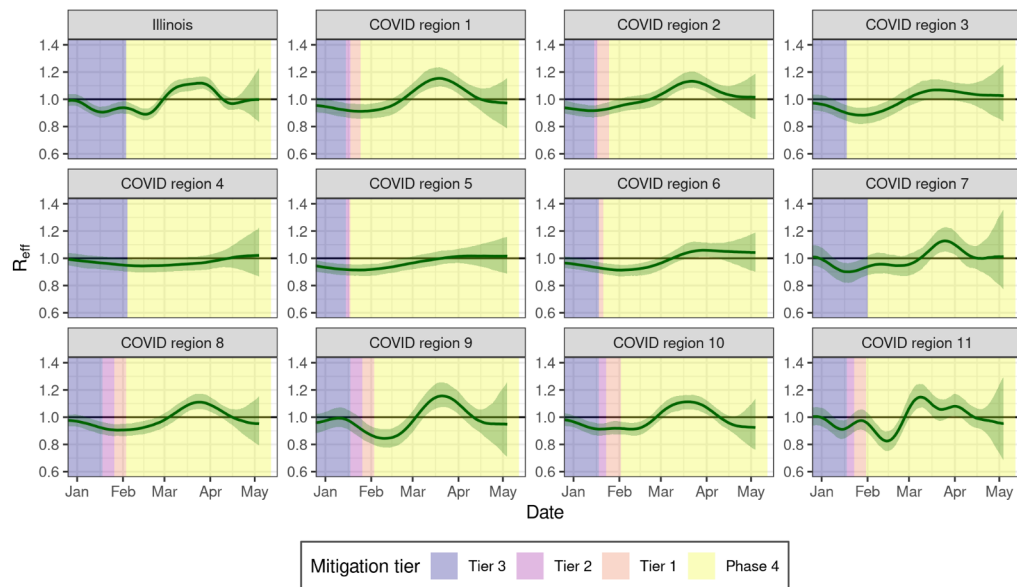
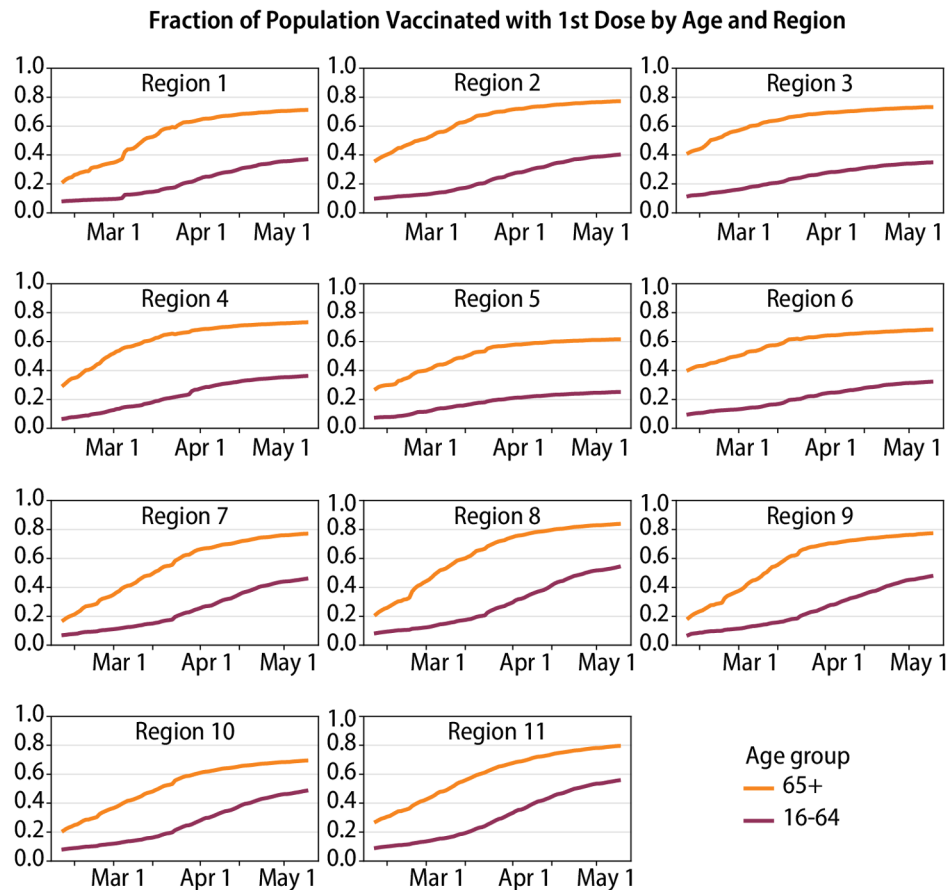


- As of May 3, R_{eff} was at or slightly above 1 in regions 2–7. **Recent hospitalization trends suggest that R_{eff} may still be above 1 in region 6.**
- Statewide, R_{eff} is at 1. Even modest changes in behavior (e.g., **from less masking among unvaccinated people**) and contact rates have the potential to push epidemic growth into an exponential phase.
- Increasing vaccination rates is critical to counter potential increases in transmission** from more transmissible variants and changes in behavior.



Northwestern University

- R_t has decreased to approximately 1 at the state level, but remains heterogeneous across the regions.
 - R_t for Regions 3, 5, 6, 7, and 9 remains above 1.
- In most regions, between 35% to 50% of the region's total population has received their first dose.
 - Vaccination rates are plateauing across the state, but at extremely low levels in Regions 5 and 6.
- Stagnating vaccination rates must be addressed as Illinois enters Bridge Phase this week.
 - Mask-wearing and social distancing in risky environments are still necessary while vaccination rates remain insufficient to contain new outbreaks.
 - Vaccination rates for those under 65 must accelerate.
 - Increased vaccinations will help prevent uncontrolled transmission of variants amidst reopenings.



May 14, 2021