



Mayor Brindle's COVID-19 Update December 4, 2020



The Department of Health reports 39 new cases of COVID-19 from December 1-3. While we normally report these numbers on a weekly basis, this past Tuesday's report for the full month of November included the numbers from last Friday through Monday (November 27 - November 30, which totaled 56 cases).

Of the 39 new cases reported:

- 14 remain under investigation
- 8 had a positive household contact
- 6 were unable to be reached
- 5 had friend or family exposure
- 4 had unknown exposure
- 1 had work exposure
- 1 was travel associated

The ages of these cases ranged from 1 to 90, broken down as follows:

- Age 9 and under: 4 cases
- Age 10-19: 6 cases
- Age 20-29: 8 cases
- Age 30-39: 5 cases
- Age 40-49: 2 cases
- Age 50-59: 4 cases
- Age 60-69: 7 cases
- Age 70-79: No cases
- Age 80-89: 1 case
- Age 90 and above: 2 cases

As a reminder, I am continuing to use my Friday updates strictly for the purposes of COVID data, with my more expansive updates to be posted every Tuesday. I am now only reporting the Health Department's COVID numbers, inclusive of rapid tests, as they are a more accurate reflection of community spread. Details on the official statewide numbers, which do not include rapid tests, can always be found on the NJ Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard.

As you know, cases continue to surge. Today, New Jersey reported a record number of new cases for the second consecutive day, as hospitalizations also increased for the sixth straight day to reach the highest number since May. The State's seven-day average for new cases is now 147% higher than it was just a month ago. In addition, the positivity rate State-wide has been over 10% for six days, although Governor Murphy advised today that we aren't likely to start seeing the impact of Thanksgiving gatherings and travel for several more days, due to incubation times and testing turnaround times. Please, if you haven't already, adjust your holiday plans to avoid indoor gatherings so that we can avoid a worsening trend.

In better news, Regional Health Officer Megan Avallone reports that her team is preparing its vaccination plans in coordination with the County, who will be overseeing the distribution and planning of this massive public health initiative. The first vaccines could arrive in New Jersey by the end of the month, which will be administered first to long-term care residents and employees, as well as to certain health care workers.

In the meantime, please stay vigilant and make responsible choices -- as difficult as they may be -- that protect not just our own health, but also that of our families, friends, neighbors, and small businesses. Thank you for continuing to do your part.