



Mayor Brindle's COVID-19 Update December 18, 2020



The Department of Health reports 71 new cases of COVID-19 in Westfield from December 11 - 17. Of these cases:

- 21 cases had no known exposure
- 14 cases had a positive household contact
- 13 cases were unable to be reached
- 12 cases remain under investigation
- 6 cases had known exposure
- 2 were hospitalized (ages 79 and 72)
- 2 cases were exposed by a friend
- case refused the interview

The ages of these cases ranged from 2 months old to 79, broken down as follows:

- Age 9 and under: 6 cases
- Age 10-19: 6 cases
- Age 20-29: 13 cases
- Age 30-39: 9 cases
- Age 40-49: 10 cases
- Age 50-59: 13 cases
- Age 60-69: 9 cases
- Age 70-79: 4 cases
- Age 80-89: No cases
- Age 90 and above: No cases
- Age unconfirmed: 1 case

These numbers reflect the Health Department's COVID numbers, inclusive of rapid tests, as they are a more accurate reflection of community spread than what is being reported by the state reporting system. 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.

The state's seven-day average for new cases is down 3.5% from a week ago, but 27.6% higher than a month ago. Today, Governor Murphy reported that statewide hospitalizations, transmission rate, and positivity rate all decreased -- not yet over enough consecutive days to form a trend, but moving in the right direction.

The Governor also reported that New Jersey is on schedule to open six vaccine "mega sites" across the state in early January to vaccinate the frontline health care workers who are part of Category 1A in the following locations:

Bergen County: Meadowlands Complex

Morris County: Rockaway Townsquare Mall

Middlesex County: New Jersey Convention and Exposition Center

Burlington County: Moorestown Mall

Gloucester County: Rowan College of South Jersey
Atlantic County: Atlantic City Convention Center

These sites are also expected to accommodate the 1B category of essential workers, before moving to the 1C category of adults 65+ with high-risk medical conditions. In addition, 200+ satellite vaccination sites are expected to open over time in hospitals, federally qualified health centers, urgent care centers, chain pharmacies, and localized sites created in coordination with county and local health departments.

The state is also in final preparations to administer vaccinations to staff and residents at long-term care facilities beginning December 28.

At a more local level, Regional Health Officer Megan Avallone reports the wonderful news that Union County could receive the initial doses of the vaccine as early as next week. Once the vaccine is received, Union County will begin rolling out its vaccination plan for the 1A category of health care workers.

It's important to remember that the state's plan aspires to a 70% vaccination level, which will take time. Please continue to keep up with best practices like social distancing, avoiding indoor gatherings, and wearing a face covering -- all of which remain critically important in helping to slow the spread while we wait for the vaccine.

Thank you for continuing to do your part. Have a great weekend everyone!