



## Mayor Brindle's COVID-19 Update March 5, 2021



The Department of Health reports 31 new cases of COVID-19 from March 1-4. While we normally report these numbers on a weekly basis, this past Tuesday's report for the full month of February included the numbers from last Friday through Sunday (February 26-28, which totaled 13 cases).

Of the 31 new cases reported:

- 7 were unable to be reached
- 7 had a positive household contact
- 6 had no known exposure
- 5 are still under investigation
- 2 were exposed at work
- 2 were travel associated cases
- 2 had a known exposure

The ages of this week's cases ranged from 1 to 97 years old, broken down as follows:

- Age 9 and under: 4 cases
- Age 10-19: 7 cases
- Age 20-29: 2 cases
- Age 30-39: 3 cases
- Age 40-49: 6 cases
- Age 50-59: 5 cases
- Age 60-69: 1 cases
- Age 70-79: no cases
- Age 80-89: 2 cases
- Age 90 and above: 1 case

Regional Health Officer Megan Avallone reports that this week, New Jersey was the highest in the nation in per capita confirmed COVID cases, up from second in the nation last week. New Jersey also has the highest death rate per capita in the nation, at 262 deaths per 100,000. Our region in the state (Central East region) continues to show a high level of activity, although Westfield is currently in the moderate activity category. The most highly impacted age group remains between 10 and 19 this week, representing 23% of the newly reported cases.

The State's seven-day average for new confirmed cases is up 12% from a week ago and down 11% from a month ago. The statewide rate of transmission has increased to 1.04, up slightly from 1.01 on Thursday after weeks of remaining below 1.

Statewide, vaccination rates are up 41% over last week's rate, and over 1.5 million New Jersey residents have received at least one dose, with 788,782 second doses administered. The single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine began to be administered today as well, and Governor Murphy said this week that he expects a drastic increase in the amount of vaccine New Jersey receives in the upcoming weeks.

In Union County, 78,159 (14% of the population) have received one dose, and 37,007 (6.6% of the population) have received both doses. 42% of the Union County residents that have been vaccinated are 65 years of age and older.

Today, CVS added more than 100 additional New Jersey locations where residents can sign up for a COVID vaccine appointment, which can be done online at [cvs.com/immunizations/covid-19-vaccine](https://cvs.com/immunizations/covid-19-vaccine), on the CVS Pharmacy app, or by phone at (800) 746-7287.

The COVID Community Corps (CCC) is an initiative from the New Jersey Department of Health that trains trusted community members to educate and deliver COVID-19 vaccination information and navigation support to underserved communities across the state. If you would like to volunteer for this effort, please register online to take a training workshop.

In addition, the Westfield Regional Board of Health will be hosting a vaccination webinar on Tuesday, March 9, at 7:00PM, about the COVID-19 vaccine. Dr. Janice Baker and Dr. Brittini Alexander from Overlook Family Practice will join the Health Department in this open forum. Registration is now open at <https://bit.ly/3uU5eB1>.

As we head into a full year of this pandemic, I know everyone is incredibly weary of COVID restrictions and the related impacts on our lives, and I join all of you in looking forward to resuming as much normalcy as we can. With the increase in vaccine production and availability in the coming weeks and months, we will get there. In the meantime, please don't let your guard down with social distancing and face coverings, which remain as important as ever.

Thank you once again for your ongoing resilience. Have a wonderful weekend!