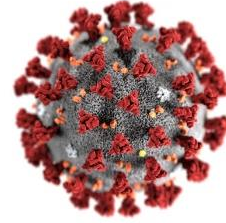




Mayor Brindle's COVID-19 Update August 6, 2021



As you know, the CDC now recommends that fully vaccinated people wear masks indoors in public if they live in an area with substantial or high transmission levels. Union County is currently categorized as having a substantial level of transmission. Those who aren't fully vaccinated are urged to wear masks in those settings, regardless of transmission level.

Regional Health Officer Megan Avallone reports that all six regions in New Jersey now show moderate levels of activity, with each region showing an increase in case rate and percent positivity from the week before. Locally, regionally, and statewide, the numbers are unfortunately trending in the wrong direction. Additionally, this week's variant report shows that 83.9% of COVID-19 samples sequenced over the last four weeks were of the Delta variant. As a result, Governor Murphy announced today that all children in grades K-12 will be required to mask while in school.

Locally, 48 cases were identified in Westfield during the month of July, up from 19 cases in June. Of these 48 cases, the age ranges are broken down as follows:

- Age 9 and under: Five cases
- Age 10-19: Four cases
- Age 20-29: Nine cases
- Age 30-39: Ten cases
- Age 40-49: Four cases
- Age 50-59: Seven cases
- Age 60-69: Seven cases
- Age 70-79: No cases
- Age 80-89: One case
- Age 90 and above: One case

21 of these cases were in residents who were identified as being fully vaccinated. It is worth noting that all 21 of these breakthrough cases had mild symptoms or remained asymptomatic. And while breakthrough cases are occurring, the CDC has stated that the unvaccinated are still eight times more likely to get infected, and 25 times more likely to be hospitalized from COVID.

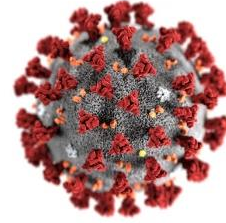
I'm also saddened to report an additional death -- a hospitalized 80 year-old, unvaccinated resident.

While we are seeing increases in cases from last month, the 48 cases for July 2021 is markedly lower than the 108 cases we reported one year ago in July 2020, due largely to the vaccination levels in the community.

The state's seven-day average for new confirmed cases is up 36% from a week ago and up 423% from a month ago -- the highest rate since May 10 -- and the statewide transmission rate is 1.37.



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Statewide, vaccination rates have increased 16% from last week's rate, with an average of 20.1K doses administered per day. More than 5.3 million New Jersey residents are fully vaccinated. About 58% of New Jersey's population is inoculated, ranking seventh in the country, compared to the 51% national average.

In Union County, 356,123 (64% of the total population) have received one dose of vaccine, and 315,737 (56.7% of the total population) are fully vaccinated. This week, Union County saw an average of 55 new COVID cases a day (up from 12 cases a day four weeks ago).

In Westfield, 95% of those 65 and older, 94% of those 30 and older, 96% of the adult population (18+), and 75% of the entire population has been vaccinated with at least one dose. Fortunately, the percentage of fully vaccinated residents continues to increase, reflecting 91% of those 65 and older, 89% of those 30 and older, 90% of adults (18+), and 70% of the entire population.

In addition, we now have access to vaccination data in the 12-17 age group for the first vaccination dose only, which is currently 60% in Westfield.

Immunization outreach efforts by the Health Department are in full swing, as they continue to meet people where they are. In total, the department administered 43 COVID vaccinations during the month of July, and they are continuing to offer vaccinations in homes and offices for those 12 and above. Any resident interested in receiving the vaccine can call 908-789-4070. The Health Department has also sent a notification to all child care centers informing them that they will come to their center to vaccinate interested parents and staff. Additionally, they are hosting a vaccination clinic in Westfield on August 11, from 4:00 - 7:00 PM, at Town Hall for anyone age 12 and up. No pre-registration is needed and they will offer both the Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson vaccines.

Lastly, and importantly, the department continues to monitor cases and will be working with the schools to ensure that each district is ready to fully reopen in September.

The full update detailing other topics in Town is available [here](#).