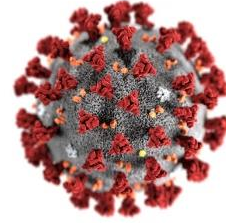




## Mayor Brindle's COVID-19 Update December 3, 2021



The new Omicron variant has been identified in five states to date, although health officials stress that much remains unknown about its severity and how current vaccines perform against it. In response to the new variant, President Biden has extended the mask requirement on all domestic flights and public transportation through March 18. In addition, all inbound international travelers will be required to test within one day of departure for the United States starting on Monday.

Today, New Jersey reported the highest number of positive tests in one day since April 2. In addition, statewide hospitalizations have climbed 59% since November 1, with nearly all of those currently hospitalized being unvaccinated.

Regional Health Officer Megan Avallone reports that four of the six regions in New Jersey (including our Central East region) are showing high levels of activity, and for the first time since mid-September, statewide activity is now listed as high.

For the month of November, there were 194 cases identified in Westfield (up from 93 in October). The age ranges are broken down as follows:

- Age 9 and under: 35 cases
- Age 10-19: 53 cases
- Age 20-29: 14 cases
- Age 30-39: 14 cases
- Age 40-49: 31 cases
- Age 50-59: 34 cases
- Age 60-69: 9 cases
- Age 70-79: 2 cases
- Age 80-89: 2 cases
- Age 90 and above: No cases

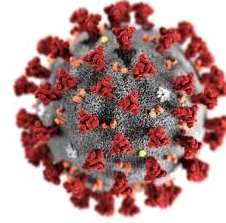
The state's seven-day average for new confirmed cases is up 36% from a week ago and 128% from a month ago, the highest average since April 24. The statewide transmission rate is 1.15.

Local health officials are continuing to monitor for the Omicron variant, as New York announced the identification of five cases on Thursday. Disease trends seen in the New York City area often emerge in our area at the same time.

Statewide, vaccination rates have increased just under 1% from last week's rate, with an average of 42.6K doses administered per day. More than 6.2 million New Jersey residents are fully vaccinated. More than 1.33 million people in the state have received third doses or boosters, and at least 145,000 doses have been administered to children between the ages of 5 and 11.



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In Union County, 68% of the population is fully vaccinated. In Westfield, 97% of adults and 77% of our entire population is fully vaccinated. Additional breakdowns by location and age group can be found at [nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019\\_dashboard.shtml](https://nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019_dashboard.shtml). Note that the fully vaccinated data does not include booster shot information.

The Health Department's immunization outreach continues with all three brands of vaccine. With numerous clinics held during November, they administered 809 COVID vaccinations during the month (up from 308 individuals vaccinated during October). They vaccinated 100 students this month in Westfield, and those children received their second dose this week, making them one of the first groups of 5-11 year olds to be fully vaccinated in the state.

Vaccine clinics, walk-in appointments, and home visits will continue to be offered throughout the winter. Any resident interested in receiving the vaccine can call 908-789-4070. All residents 18 and older who are six months past their last dose of Pfizer or Moderna, or two months past their dose of J&J, are highly encouraged to get a booster dose, as recommended by the CDC. The department is also offering free flu vaccinations for any adult 18 or older.

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