



Mayor Brindle's COVID-19 Update January 12, 2021



(COVID related remarks from the January 12, 2021 Town Council Meeting)

COVID-19 UPDATES

- On a statewide basis, the COVID-19 rate of transmission declined slightly for the first time in a week to 1.08, while hospitalizations for the virus rose for the third consecutive day. The seven-day average for daily positive tests in New Jersey is up 18% from a week ago and 7% from a month ago, when the state was witnessing an increase in cases after Thanksgiving. Governor Murphy warned that the impact of indoor Christmas and New Year's Eve gatherings will continue to be seen in the coming days.
- The most recent positivity rate reported, on Thursday, for tests administered statewide was 11.32%. The positivity rate has been at 10% or higher since December 22.
- More locally, COVID-related hospitalizations at Overlook are up approximately 11% since the beginning of January, but thankfully have not climbed back to the mid-December levels seen post-Thanksgiving. Here in Westfield, the total number of cases reported to date by the Department of Health is 1,260 as of January 6. As I shared in my Friday update, the first week of January unfortunately brought the highest number of weekly cases, at 137, seen since the start of the pandemic. I will continue to report the latest numbers from the Health Department each Friday, and more detailed information about statewide numbers (which now also includes antigen/rapid tests) is available on the NJ COVID-19 Dashboard.
- On the vaccination front, New Jersey has received 651,000 doses of coronavirus vaccines, with 233,555 doses administered to date -- 212,069 first doses and 21,289 second doses. Currently, only health care workers, people who live in congregant settings and police and fire professionals are eligible to receive shots in New Jersey. The NJ Department of Health anticipates the vaccine should be available for the general public by April or May, with the hope of vaccinating 70% of adult residents by the end of May. More information about vaccination plans, including a link to pre-register, can be found at <https://covid19.nj.gov/vaccine>.