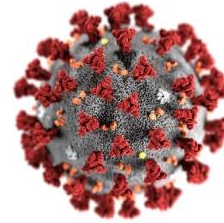




Mayor Brindle's COVID-19 Update November 19, 2021



This morning, the Food and Drug Administration granted emergency use authorization for a third dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines for fully vaccinated people age 18 and older. Those who received the Pfizer or Moderna immunizations for their first two doses would be eligible for a booster six months after their second shot, while those who got the Johnson & Johnson vaccine would be eligible for a booster two months after their first shot. The recommendation was also unanimously approved by the CDC's committee of independent experts this afternoon. Once final approval is granted by the CDC Director, the booster shots could become widely available right away.

Regional Health Officer Megan Avallone reports that, once again, one of the six regions in New Jersey (our Central East region) is showing high levels of activity.

Locally, health officials continue to see an increase in cases, especially in school aged children. There were 51 cases identified in Westfield between November 12 and November 18 (up from 38 last week). The age ranges are broken down as follows:

- Age 9 and under: 8 cases
- Age 10-19: 8 cases
- Age 20-29: 5 cases
- Age 30-39: 5 cases
- Age 40-49: 11 cases
- Age 50-59: 11 cases
- Age 60-69: 3 cases
- Age 70-79: No cases
- Age 80-89: No cases
- Age 90 and above: No cases

The state's seven-day average for new confirmed cases is up 31% from a week ago and 27% from a month ago. The statewide transmission rate is 1.17.

Statewide, vaccination rates have increased 32% from last week's rate, with an average of 51.1K doses administered per day. As of Monday, more than 47,000 children between ages 5-11 statewide had received vaccine doses since the Pfizer shots were approved for that age group. More than 6.2 million New Jersey residents are fully vaccinated.

In Union County, 66.5% of the population is fully vaccinated. In Westfield, 96% of adults and 76% 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.

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, please remember to take the appropriate precautions, especially for those who are unvaccinated. The CDC has provided some detailed guidance for keeping gatherings safe at cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/gatherings.html.

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