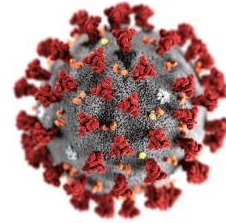




Mayor Brindle's COVID-19 Update January 21, 2022



On the COVID front, this most recent surge is continuing to recede. In New Jersey, hospitalizations fell below 5,000 today, the transmission rate continues to drop, and the state's seven-day average for new confirmed positive tests dropped for the 11th consecutive day. While this is indeed very good news, it's important to remember that the case totals statewide still remain above those seen prior to the omicron surge. Please continue to mask up in public places and get boosted if you have not already done so. Governor Murphy reported this week that the rates of infection and hospitalization for those with boosters is more than three times lower than for those who have only a primary vaccination.

This week, the federal government announced that every household can order up to four rapid tests by visiting [covidtests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov). In addition, Governor Murphy has signed an executive order mandating that all employees of health care facilities and high risk congregate settings obtain their first dose of vaccine by January 27.

According to the New Jersey Department of Health, all but one region in the state (the Southeast Region) continues to show very high activity levels, although health officials state that the omicron variant has likely peaked in the state, as rates of transmission and positivity rates decline. New Jersey's statewide transmission rate declined today to 0.78, marking the fourth straight day it was below the key benchmark of 1.0.

For the week of January 14 through January 20, there were 118 cases identified in Westfield (down from 177 last week), 48 of which were in those age 19 and younger.

Statewide, vaccination rates have decreased by 10% from last week's rate, with an average of 36.3K doses administered per day. More than 6.5 million New Jersey residents are fully vaccinated, and more than 2.6 million have received third doses or boosters.

In Union County, 71.5% of the population is fully vaccinated. In Westfield, 99% of adults and 79% of our entire population is fully vaccinated. In addition, 55% of children ages 5-11 in Westfield have received at least one dose of vaccine, and, of those eligible, booster coverage by age group is as follows:

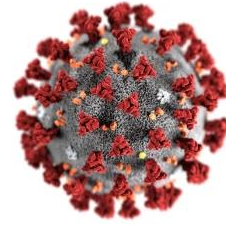
- Ages 12-15: 9%
- Ages 16-17: 33%
- Ages 18-29: 49%
- Ages 30-49: 64%
- Ages 50-64: 67%
- Ages 65-79: 77%
- Ages 80+: 76%

Additional breakdowns by location and age group can be found on the [NJ COVID-19 Dashboard](#).

The Health Department will continue to offer COVID vaccination clinics, walk-in appointments, and home visits throughout the winter – in addition to free flu vaccinations for any adult 18 or



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older. There are two local COVID vaccination clinics scheduled over the next week – one tomorrow in Summit, and one on January 28 in New Providence. Please see the attached fliers for full details.

All residents over the age of 12 who are five 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. Any resident interested in receiving the vaccine can call 908-789-4070.

The full Mayor's update is available [here](#).