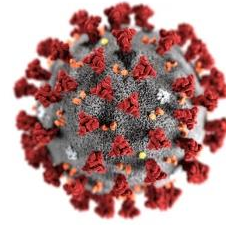




Mayor Brindle's COVID-19 Update April 8, 2022



According to the New Jersey Department of Health, our region continues to show moderate COVID activity. As health officials continue to watch BA2, which now accounts for the majority of cases in the US, we are seeing an increase statewide in reported cases of 51% in the past two weeks.

The state's average for daily confirmed cases is up 40% from a week ago, and also up 40% from a month ago. The rate of transmission is currently 1.15. Union County had an average of 76 cases reported per day over the past two weeks, and Overlook Medical Center reports five patients hospitalized with COVID.

For the month of March, there were 127 COVID cases reported in Westfield (down from 137 in February), 51 (40%) of which were in those age 19 and younger. The pediatric cases can be broken down as follows:

- Under age 5: 8 cases
- Ages 5-9: 17 cases
- Ages 10-14: 17 cases
- Ages 15-19: 9 cases

Statewide, daily immunizations more than doubled over last week and averaged 16.4K a day. Currently, 79.7% of all New Jersey residents age five and older are fully vaccinated. In Westfield, 55% of children age 5-11 are fully vaccinated (up from 53% from last month). 71% of those who are eligible for a booster dose have received one (up from 69% last month).

Additional breakdowns of vaccination statistics by location and age group can be found at nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019_dashboard.shtml.

Last week, the FDA authorized second booster shots for those who are age 50 and above, and for those who are age 12 and above with certain conditions that compromise the immune system. The Westfield Regional Health Department reminds residents that second booster shots are especially important for those over 50 who have underlying health conditions that put them at risk for severe COVID disease, and for those over the age of 65. Second boosters can be given four months after the first booster dose. You can find additional details about booster recommendations at www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/do-i-qualify-covid-19-vaccine-booster-and-which-one.

During the month of March, 71 vaccinations were given by the Health Department, and they continue to provide vaccines through home visits, pop-up clinics, and appointments (schedule at westfieldnj.gov/vaccine-appointments or by calling 908-789-4070).

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