This report contains cumulative data from laboratory-confirmed results of nucleic acid amplification tests (NAAT) and antigen tests from March 21, 2020, to present time. At home tests are not included in this data, so information and graphs demonstrate trends rather than a full accounting of cases. Numbers in parenthesis show the change in the number of tests from the previous week.

Test positivity is calculated as a rolling 7-day test positivity by specimen collection date; all positive molecular (PCR/NAAT) test results are divided by all molecular (PCR/NAAT) test results (positive and negative) for the last 7 days and multiplied by 100 to reach a percentage. This does not include laboratory confirmed antigen tests.

For this reporting week, NAAT percent positivity for Central Connecticut Health District (10.5%), Hartford County (7.7%), and the state of Connecticut (7.6%) can be found in Table 1 along with NAAT percent positivity for previous weeks. Additional results for Berlin, Newington, Rocky Hill and Wethersfield are shown in Table 2.

Data for the Weekly COVID-19 Positivity Report is collected every Monday. The data for this report was collected on Oct 31, 2022, from https://data.ct.gov.

**Berlin (population 20,436)**
- A cumulative number of 79,042 (+202) have been administered to Berlin residents.
- Of the tests administered 4,628 (+37) were laboratory positive.
- NAAT rolling 7-day test positivity was 14.7%.
- No additional deaths were recorded this week. The loss of Berlin residents remains at 54.

**Newington (population 30,014)**
- A cumulative number of 136,266 (+382) have been administered to Newington residents.
- Of the tests administered, 7,563 (+37) were laboratory positive.
- NAAT rolling 7-day test positivity was 7.1%.
- One death was recorded this week. The loss of Newington residents is now at 141.

**Rocky Hill (population 20,115)**
- A cumulative number of 97,072 (+167) have been administered to Rocky Hill residents.
- Of the tests administered, 4,867 (+24) were laboratory positive.
- NAAT rolling 7-day test positivity was 14.0%.
- No additional deaths were recorded this week. The loss of Rocky Hill residents remains at 153.

**Wethersfield (population 26,008)**
- A cumulative number of 113,294 (+266) tests have been administered to Wethersfield residents.
- Of the tests administered, 6,676 (+27) were laboratory positive.
- NAAT rolling 7-day positivity was 6.2%.
- No additional deaths were recorded this week. The loss of Wethersfield residents remains at 59.
CDC Community Level and Variant Genomic Surveillance

**CDC Community Level**

As of October 31, 2022, Hartford County, which includes the towns within Central Connecticut Health District (Berlin, Newington, Rocky Hill and Wethersfield) has a **MEDIUM COVID-19 Community Level**. When counties are indicated as medium (yellow) for community level individuals should:

- Talk to their healthcare provider about whether wearing a mask and taking other precautions are necessary if you are at high risk for severe illness.
- Stay up to date with vaccines.
- Get tested if you are experiencing any symptoms.

If you test positive be sure to follow proper isolation guidance. You can follow the most up to date guidance here: [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/isolation.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/isolation.html)


**Genomic Surveillance**

The virus that causes COVID-19, SARS-CoV-2, is continuously accumulating mutations (or alterations) in its genetic code as it continuously circulates around the globe. New variants of SARS-CoV-2 are likely to continue to emerge. The CDC has a national genomic surveillance system that collects SARS-CoV-2 specimens for sequencing through the National SARS-CoV-2 Strain Surveillance (NS3) program, as well as SARS-CoV-2 sequences generated by commercial or academic laboratories contracted by CDC and State of local public health laboratories. This surveillance system allows scientists and public health officials determine whether COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines will work against emerging variants. You can read more information on genomic surveillance here: [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/variant-surveillance.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/variant-surveillance.html)

The figure to the right shows the regional proportion from specimens collected the week ending 10/29/2022. Omicron is the only variant circulating at this time in Region 1. The figure illustrates the proportion of Omicron’s lineages (and sub-lineages).
The Central Connecticut Health District, other local health departments, and the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health are seeing increased numbers of respiratory viruses circulating among our local childcare and school communities. Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), Enteroviruses (HEV), Rhinoviruses (HRV), Human Parainfluenza Viruses, Influenza, and COVID-19 are spreading earlier in the season than normal and straining hospital and health center resources.

The graph below illustrates the number of pediatric children being seen in hospitals and urgent cares in Connecticut between 0 and 4 years of age per day (data from EpiCenter).

As a response, the Health District is providing the following recommendations to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses:

- Wash hands often (for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, or with an alcohol-based sanitizer if soap and water is not available, especially before eating and after using the bathroom or blowing the nose)
- Avoid touching the mouth, nose, and eyes (teach children)
- Clean frequently touched surfaces (toys, doorknobs, desks, etc.) at least daily
- Stay home when you are feeling sick and keep your children home if they are sick (even if COVID tests are negative)
- Cough and sneeze into the elbow or tissue (wash hands after)

For more data and information regarding RSV and Influenza please visit the links below:

- CDC’s RSV Trend Data by State:  https://www.cdc.gov/surveillance/nrevss/rsv/state.html#CT
- CDC Fluview Data:  https://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/index.htm