Weekly COVID-19 Report
December 12, 2022
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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.

Data for COVID-19 Weekly Report is collected every Monday from https://data.ct.gov. Data for this Weekly COVID-19 Report was collected on Monday, December 12, 2022. All data in this report is preliminary and is subject to change.

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. Numbers in parenthesis show the change in the number of tests from the previous week.

For this reporting week, NAAT percent positivity for Central Connecticut Health District (12.5%), Hartford County (10.2%), and the state of Connecticut (10.4%) can be found in Figure 1 along with NAAT percent positivity for previous weeks. Additional results for Berlin, Newington, Rocky Hill and Wethersfield are shown in Figure 2.

Berlin (population 20,436)

- A cumulative number of 80,468 (+190) have been administered to Berlin residents.
- Of the tests administered 4,760 (+19) were laboratory positive.
- NAAT rolling 7-day test positivity was 13.7%.
- No additional deaths were recorded this week. The loss of Berlin residents remains at 54.

Newington (population 30,014)

- A cumulative number of 138,635 (+421) have been administered to Newington residents.
- Of the tests administered, 7,766 (+25) were laboratory positive.
- NAAT rolling 7-day test positivity was 11.6%.
- No additional deaths were recorded this past week. The loss of Newington residents remains at 141.

Rocky Hill (population 20,115)

- A cumulative number of 95,410 (+266) have been administered to Rocky Hill residents.
- Of the tests administered, 4,975 (+22) were laboratory positive.
- NAAT rolling 7-day test positivity was 10.2%.
- No additional deaths were recorded this week. The loss of Rocky Hill residents remains at 153.
Wethersfield (population 26,008)

- A cumulative number of 114,769 (+286) tests have been administered to Wethersfield residents.
- Of the tests administered, 6,826 (+41) were laboratory positive.
- NAAT rolling 7-day positivity was 14.4%.
- No additional deaths were recorded this week. The loss of Wethersfield residents remains at 59.

Figure 1

![Figure 1](image1.png)

Figure 4

![Figure 4](image4.png)
CDC Community Level

As of December 8, 2022, Hartford County, which includes the towns within Central Connecticut Health District (Berlin, Newington, Rocky Hill and Wethersfield) is still at the MEDIUM COVID-19 Community Level. When counties are indicated as Medium (yellow) individuals should:

- Consult with their healthcare provider about wearing a mask.
- Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines
- Get tested if you are experiencing any symptoms.
- Wear a mask if you have symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19

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

You can read more about the CDC Community Levels here: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html

Genomic Surveillance

The following figure shows the regional proportion from specimens collected the week ending 12/10/2022. Omicron is the only variant circulating at this time in Region 1. The figure illustrates the proportion of Omicron’s lineages (and sub-lineages). In Connecticut, BA.5 was tested in 43.6% of samples, while BQ.1 was tested in 19.2%, and BQ1.1 in 17.3%. Other lineages that were typed in less than 10% of samples included: XBB, BF.7, BA.4.6, and BA.5.2.6. You can read more information on genomic surveillance here: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/variant-surveillance.html
In a research letter published on December 7, 2022 in The New England Journal of Medicine (https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc2214302), it was found that Omicron BQ.1.1 and XBB SARS-CoV-2 subvariants evade the monoclonal antibodies imdevimab, casirivimab, tixagevimab, cilgavimab, bebtelovimab, and S309—but not the antiviral drugs remdesivir, molnupiravir, and nirmatrelvir (Paxlovid). With the increase in BQ.1, BQ.1.1 and XBB on the rise in Connecticut, if you test positive and are at risk for serious disease, talk to your primary care provider and see if treatment with antiviral drugs is appropriate for you.

Throughout the Nation and the State, we are continuing to see an unprecedented amount of respiratory illness circulating throughout communities. The figure below illustrates the number of hospital visits due to influenza-like illness with fever.

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)
- Get vaccinated against COVID and influenza

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