



Town of Glastonbury

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Richard J. Johnson
Town Manager

ITEM #7
03-09-2021 Meeting

March 5, 2021

The Glastonbury Town Council
2155 Main Street
Glastonbury, CT 06033

Re: Town Manager's Report

Dear Council Members:

The following will keep you up to date on various topics.

1. COVID-19

Attached is a copy of the most recent weekly report and summary of Town operations.

2. Upcoming Programs

- A household hazardous waste collection day is scheduled from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Regional Collection Facility, 324 Olcott Street, Manchester on Saturday, April 3rd. Proof of residency is required.
- Compost bin and rain barrel pickup available April 10th and can now order on website.
- Free brush disposal days are scheduled for April 24th and May 15th.
- Extended daylight savings time hours begin at the Transfer Station on March 17th (7AM-7PM).

3. March Newsletter

A copy of the March 2021 newsletter – Glastonbury at a Glance is attached.

4. Coyotes

At the February 23rd meeting, Council Member Carroll asked a question regarding sighting of coyotes within the Glastonbury community. The Community Outreach Officer prepared the attached information. This will be broadly published to alert residents. Unless the animal appears sick or acts aggressively, there is no need to contact the ACO, however, property owners should stay clear and be protective of pets.

5. Meeting Protocol/Format

This is a question on expectations for Council meeting format for the foreseeable future. With information now available, the thought is to continue the remote meeting protocol through summer months. This will allow time for continued vaccinations and the opportunity to learn more about evolving health and safety precautions. The COVID situation will evolve over coming weeks and months and the best way forward will continue to be evaluated.

6. Slocomb Dam

Army Corp and DEEP permits are approved for additional sediment removal along Roaring Brook, upstream of the former dam. Removal to proceed beginning next month.

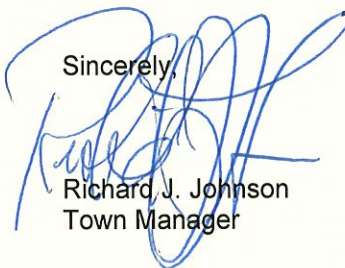
7. Cotton Hollow Preserve

To address overcrowding issues experienced over the 2020 season, several steps are planned for 2021:

- Parking limited to the 23± parking spaces located in the gravel parking area next to the entrance off Cotton Hollow Road.
- No parking allowed on street or in Grange Pool parking area.
- Entrance near Cotton Hollow Kitchen off Main Street/Route 17 for walk-ins only, no parking.
- Park Rangers on duty at both entrances on Saturday, Sunday and Monday holidays, generally from Memorial Day through mid-September.
- Monday through Friday coverage June through August at the Hopewell Road entrance.

After review of options for daily and seasonal passes, the thought is to proceed without formal permits and fees. Subject to experience through the early season, this can be adjusted if needed. Park Rangers will monitor parking and restrict items brought to the Preserve. The estimated cost of Park Rangers is \$14,000 for the season. Rangers will also be stationed at other locations (Riverfront Park, JB William, etc.) throughout active warmer months.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Johnson
Town Manager

RJJ/sal
Attachments

News

Weekly Town Manager COVID-19 Update - March 5, 2021

Post Date: 03/05/2021 9:14 AM

Recent COVID-19 updates for the Town of Glastonbury are summarized in this weekly update.

Glastonbury COVID-19 Figures

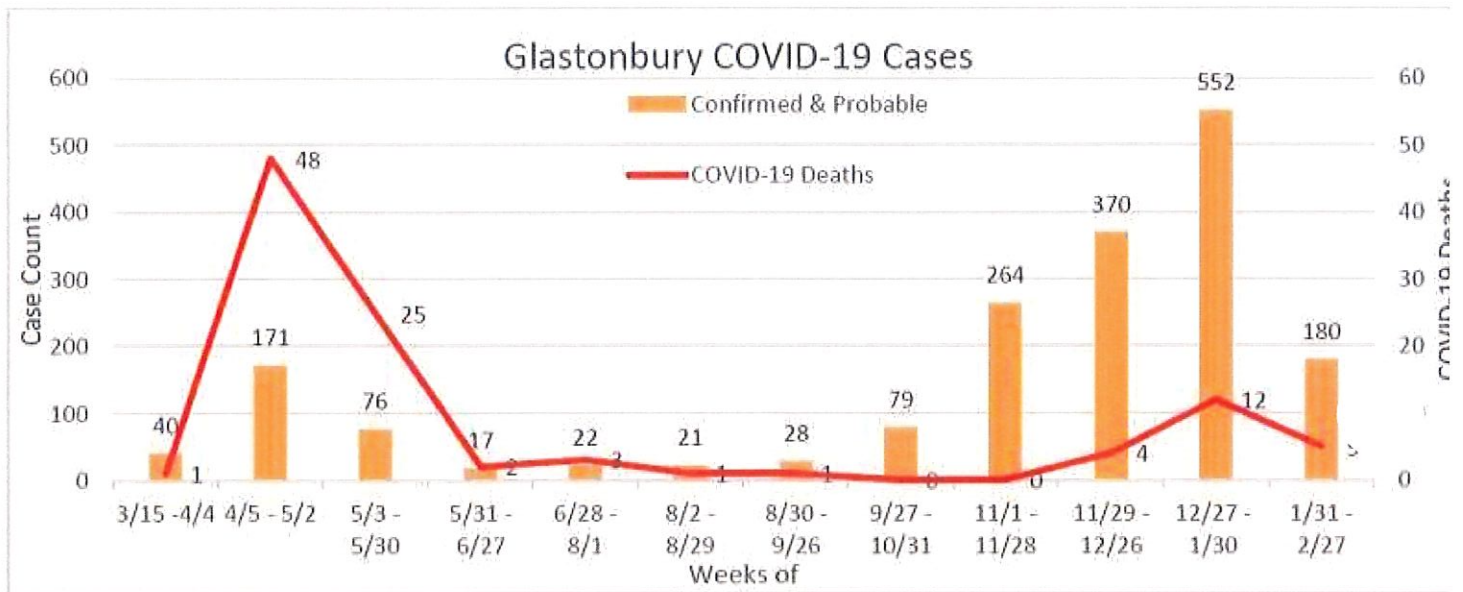
Numbers in (parentheses) indicate change from the previous week.

As per CT Department of Public Health (CT DPH) lab testing data available 2/27/21:

- 19,416 COVID-19 tests have been performed on residents (+355)
- Of the 19,416 tests, 1,820 (+100) are laboratory confirmed positive and probable cases of COVID-19*
- Deaths are recorded using information from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. One additional death was recorded this week, increasing the loss of residents to 102 (+1).
- By gender, a total of 956 female (+50) and 864 male (+50) positive cases have been reported.

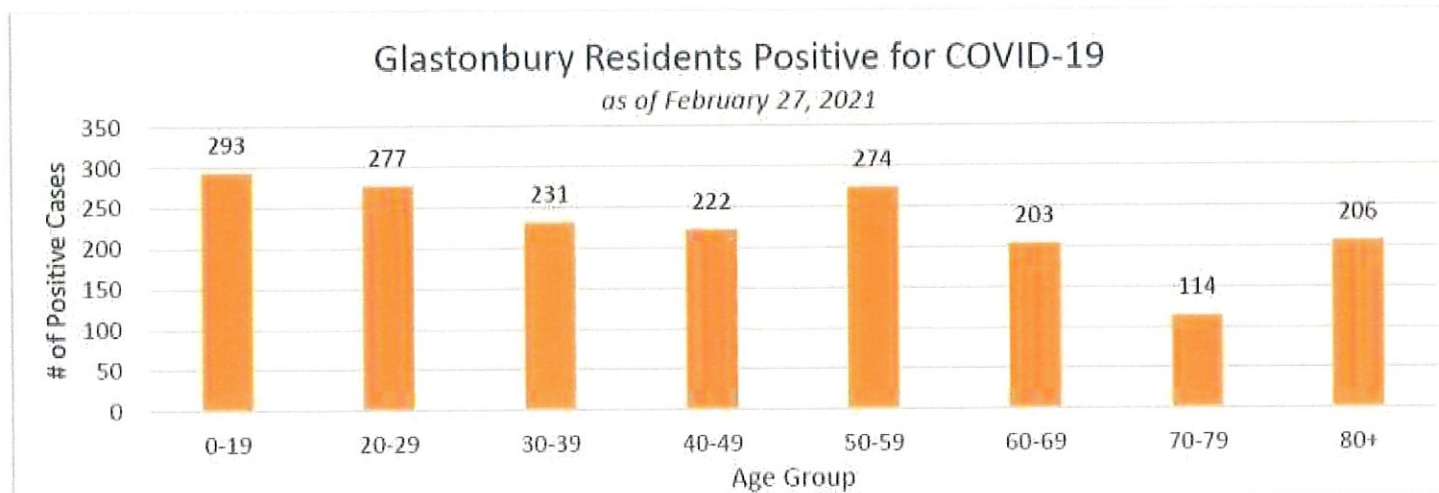
*The 100 new cases date back to November.

The graph below shows a count of residents with confirmed positive and probable cases and COVID-19 related deaths in approximate one-month timeframes. The U.S. is now in what is arguably considered the third wave of this pandemic.



The CT DPH weekly color-coded [Town Alert System](#) map shows positive COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population using a 14 day average. (Please note, the map does not include cases among people who reside in nursing home, assisted living, or correctional facilities.) Glastonbury is currently in Red at 15.1 (-5.5) cases per 100,000. As of Thursday, 3/4, 104 (-12) of the 169 Connecticut cities and towns are in the Red zone with 15+ cases per 100,000 population.

The number of Glastonbury cases **by age group** is shown in the following chart:



- [View the Connecticut COVID-19 website, including resources & data points](#)
- [Latest COVID-19 Data on Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities](#)

Vaccine Information

As of March 1, individuals who are currently eligible to receive the vaccine under [Connecticut's COVID-19 vaccination program](#) include:

- All individuals age of 55+
- Healthcare personnel and medical first responders
- Residents & staff of long-term care facilities and select congregate settings
- PreK-12 school staff and professional childcare providers

Over the coming weeks, eligibility will expand based on age according to the following schedule:

- March 22, 2021: Ages 45 to 54
- April 12, 2021: Ages 35 to 44
- May 3, 2021: Ages 16 to 34

To find the nearest available vaccination clinics and schedule an appointment, visit ct.gov/covidvaccine and enter your zip code. From there, you will receive instructions on how to schedule an appointment at each specific clinic. Appointments can be scheduled over the internet or by telephone at **(877) 918-2224**.

Clinics: Residents are advised to follow the local news and visit ct.gov/covidvaccine for the latest updates on vaccine availability, or to contact the CT COVID Vaccine Appointment Assistance Line at **(877) 918-2224**. A list of vaccination locations is also available on the Town website at www.glastonburyct.gov/vaccine.

Wastewater Testing for COVID-19 in Glastonbury – as of 3/5/2021

UCONN is conducting ongoing wastewater testing in the Glastonbury community to help evaluate areas of potential COVID-19 infection. [Please click here to view the latest testing results \(March 5, 2021\).](#)

Governor Lamont to Ease Some COVID-19 Restrictions

On Thursday, 3/4, Governor Lamont announced plans to revise select COVID-19 requirements, particularly those relating to capacity levels and travel restrictions. All of the protocols regarding face coverings, social distancing, and cleaning measures will be maintained, and people and businesses are urged to continue adhering to those health and safety procedures.

Protocols that **will remain in effect** until further notice include:

- Face coverings & masks continue to be required
- Bars that only serve beverages continue to remain closed
- 11PM closing time remains in place for events at venues, restaurants, and entertainment
- Indoor theaters continue to have a 50% capacity

The **protocols that will be revised** in the coming days include:

Beginning Friday, March 19, 2021

- All capacity limits will be eliminated for the following businesses, while face coverings, social distancing, and other cleaning/disinfecting protocols will continue to be required:
 - Restaurants - 8-person table capacity and 11PM required closing time for dining rooms continues
 - Retail
 - Libraries
 - Personal services
 - Indoor recreation (excludes theaters, which will continue to have a 50% capacity)
 - Gyms/fitness centers
 - Museums, aquariums, and zoos
 - Offices
 - Houses of worship
- Gathering sizes will be revised to the following amounts:
 - Social and recreational gatherings at private residence – 25 indoors/100 outdoors
 - Social and recreational gatherings at commercial venues – 100 indoors/200 outdoors
- All sports will be allowed to practice & compete; all sports tournaments will be allowed (subject to DPH guidance)
- Connecticut's travel advisory will be modified from a requirement to recommended guidance

Beginning Monday, March 29, 2021

- Capacity limits on early childhood classes will increase from 16 to 20

Beginning Friday, April 2, 2021

- Outdoor amusement parks can open

- Outdoor event venues can increase to a 50% capacity, capped at 10,000 people
- Indoor stadiums can open at 10% capacity
- Summer camps and summer festivals are advised to begin the planning stages to open for the upcoming season

To learn more or read this press release online, [please click here](#).

Reminders:

- **Virtual COVID-19 Fatigue Support Group with Licensed Social workers** - 11:30AM on March 24 and April 21, 2021.
- **AARP Tax-Aide Program** - Due to COVID-19, this program will be provided on a modified and limited basis from prior years. To obtain this service, individuals must be residents of Glastonbury who meet a specific criteria. For eligibility and appointment details, please see page 9 of the [Sharing Tree Newsletter](#).
- **Vaccine Information and Resources**
 - General vaccine information - ct.gov/covidvaccine
 - VAMS Enrollment scheduling form: <https://dphsubmissions.ct.gov/OnlineVaccine>
 - CT COVID Vaccine Appointment Assistance Line – **(877) 918-2224** (8AM-8PM, 7 days/week)

For an overview of how the pandemic continues to affect Town operations and programming, please visit www.glastonburyct.gov/covid19 and click on the 3 document links under the introductory paragraph.

The Town will continue to provide any updates it receives through this weekly update and the Town website and Facebook page as applicable.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Johnson
Town Manager

[Return to full list >>](#)

Daily report on SARS-CoV2 Waste Water monitoring

Kendra Maas

2021-March-05

Covid19 levels non-UConn

Nov 23 The CDC has updated their guidance for both wastewater monitoring and interpreting that data.

UConn is pioneering a research method that allows us to regularly test waste water around campus to make an early determination on the presence of COVID-19. We are using two different measurements for COVID 19 in wastewater: E and N1 genes. We monitor 2 genes to increase the odds that we will be able to detect SARS-CoV2 even if there are strains that have mutated a mismatch of our probes. The graph below is a visual representation of the two different measurements we are using to test for COVID 19 in wastewater. A black mark indicates that a sample was taken and tested. A red or blue dot above it indicates the presence of COVID in the sample, as measured by E and N1 genes. The Y axis shows the relative concentration of the E and N1 genes (indicators of the COVID 19 virus) in the sample. A dot that is at or just above zero on the Y axis indicates that it is present but barely detectable. A black mark with no colored dot above it means that the sample had below detectable levels of COVID 19 indicators.

While there is no widely accepted threshold for what is a tolerable level of the virus in a given sample versus what indicates a possible outbreak. Finding low levels of the virus within samples is neither surprising nor cause for alarm given the presence of the virus in the state. Individuals recovering from COVID-19 will continue to 'shed' a non-infectious form of the virus for weeks or even months after initial infection.

While there may be a very small amount of viable virus in wastewater, the majority of the viral RNA that we are detecting is non-infectious "viral bits". Standard biosafety precautions that are used for working with wastewater should be sufficient even if COVID-19 is detected in a sample.

Commentary:

Mar 1: Covid levels in South continue dropping after last week's high. Levels in North increased.

Feb 22: Covid levels were low in both North and South. However, I view these with suspicion because I saw low levels in all viruses measured including the process control that we add to the samples. We saw this in a lot of samples Monday which I think may be due to either dilution from rain/snow melt or interference from salt mixed with the rain/snow melt.

Feb 17 - 19: Continued increases in South throughout the week. North holds steady.

Feb 16: South has another increase while North holds steady.

Feb 12: North continues to be very low. South increased again.

Feb 8 & 11: North increased Monday but dropped back down Thursday. South was low Monday and increased Thursday.

Feb 4: Another increase in North, South is holding steady.

Feb 2: Covid levels are remaining steady. Slight increase in North but still within baseline.

Jan 29: Covid levels are holding steady.

Jan 25: Covid levels in both North and South have decreased.

Jan 21: Covid levels in both North and South increased. South is nearly as high as North.

Jan 19: Levels continue dropping in North and holding steady in South.

Jan 14: Covid levels in North continue drop. North is still substantially higher than South.

Jan 11: North is still high but not as high as last week. South has increased.

Jan 7: Large increase in covid levels in North while south holds steady.

Jan 4: Covid levels remain steady in both north and south.

Dec 28 & 30: Some increase in South while North holds steady.

Dec 22 & 23: Both North and South decreased the 22nd and increased the 23rd.

Dec 21: North decreased while South increased, but overall holding steady.

Dec 18: North continues to increase while South decreases.

Dec 14: Generally both North and South held steady. North increased very slightly while South decreased very slightly, I think both these changes were just a bit of a shift around the baseline.

Dec 10: Both North and South increased, but South increased more significantly.

Dec 7: Covid levels in North dropped significantly while South decreased slightly. It is still early days in establishing a baseline trend.

Dec 3: Covid levels in both North and South increased, North increased more significantly.

Nov 30: Covid levels dropped in both north and south again over last week's levels.

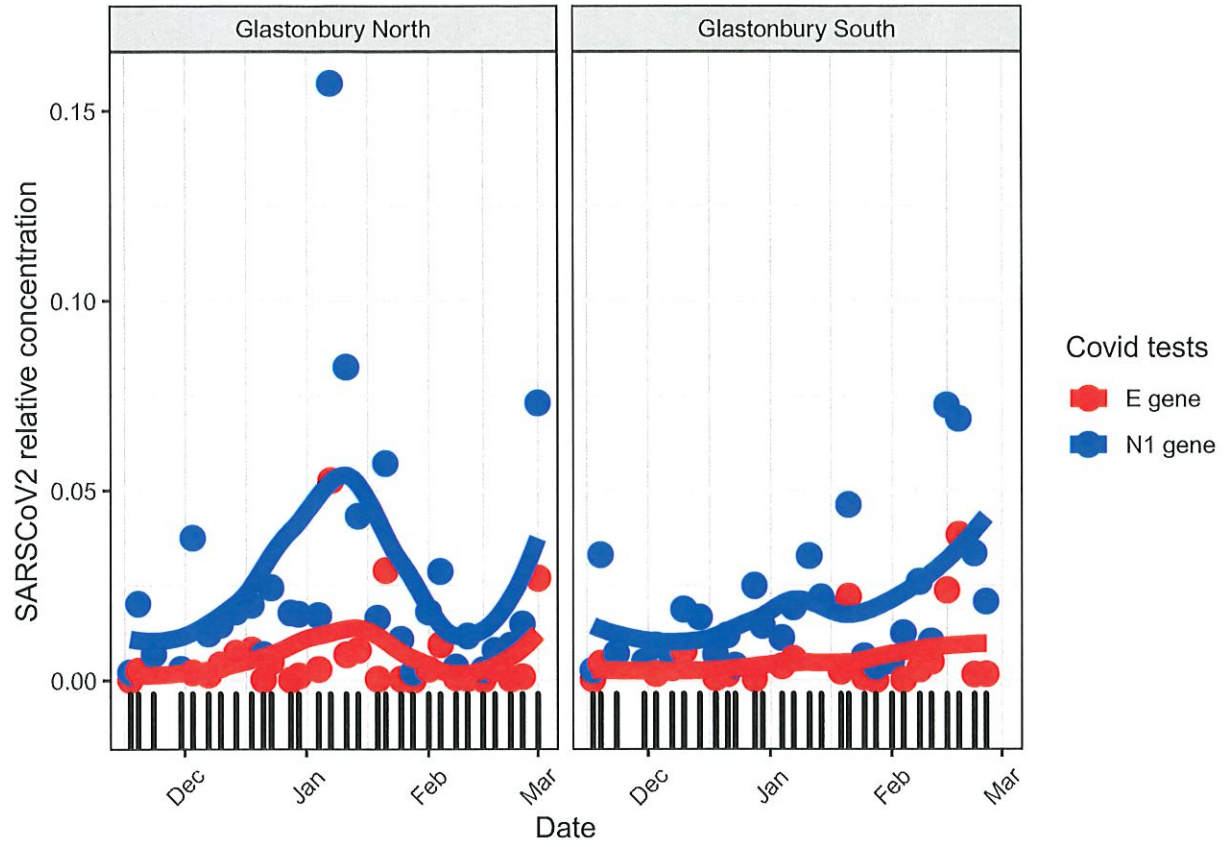
Nov 23: The covid level in both north and south Glastonbury have decreased over Friday.

Nov 16 & 19: Rather than one composite sample for the whole town, individual North and South samples were collected this week. The level of relative covid is increasing in both north and south. I've added a graph for the raw gene copies / L, this hasn't increased this week which could indicate a dilution effect or some variability in the fecal indicator virus.

Nov 12: Covid level has dropped back to the level we saw last week. More data will help us know what sort of range to expect for Glastonbury.

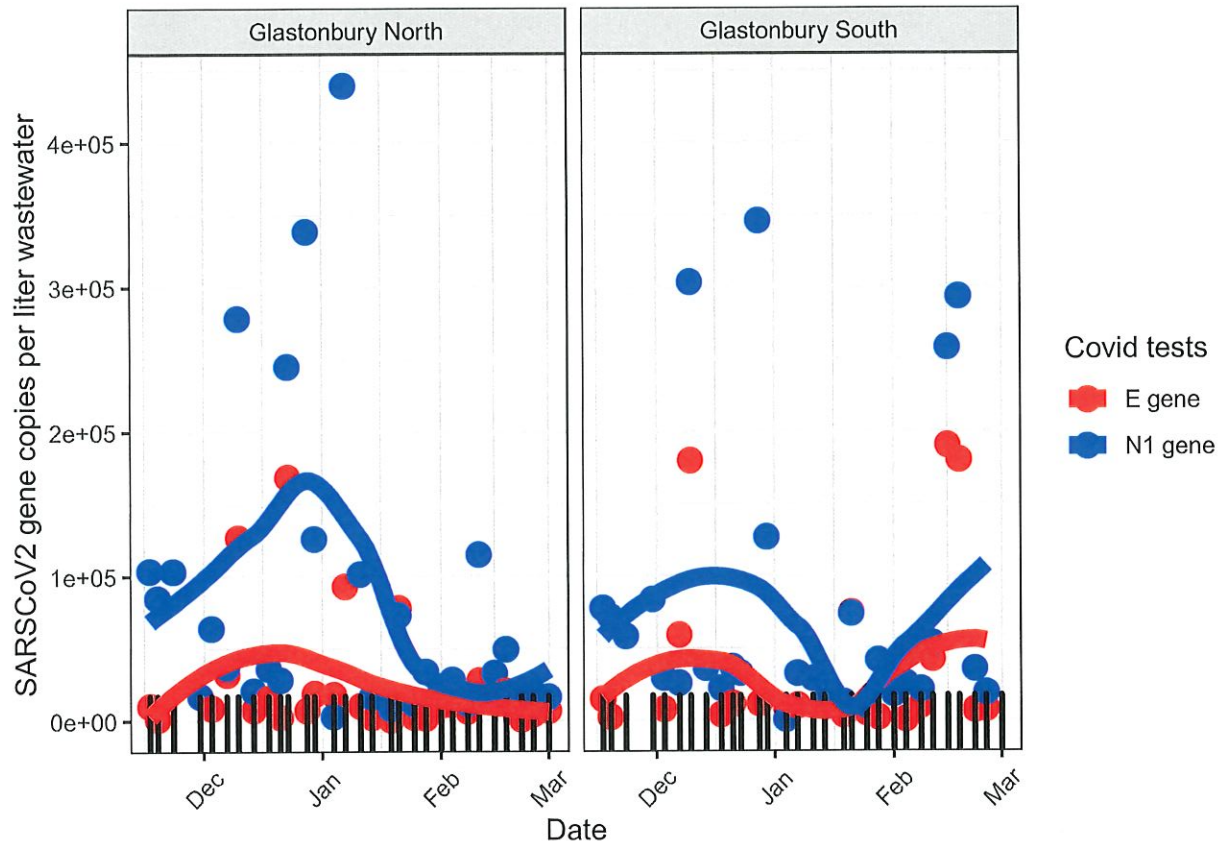
Nov 10: The relative Covid level increased in Glastonbury but is still low (compared to what I'm seeing elsewhere). Only one of the 2 genes was detectable in today's sample. Researchers are still trying to understand what it means when the covid genes are not detected at similar levels-a couple possibilities are breaking down virus particles, different strains could have small mutations that effect its detection.

Nov 5: Relative Covid levels in Glastonbury are quantifiable but low. ### add bargraph.



Raw Covid19 concentrations

While I think the relativized data is the most informative because it allows us to normalize the data by the amount of fecal matter in the sample, many groups are reporting Covid19 genome copies per liter of wastewater. Here are plots of the raw Covid19 concentration. Note, I changed the y-axis on Dec 3 to linear rather than log.





GLASTONBURY AT A GLANCE

MARCH 2021

UPCOMING EVENTS

The list below is a SAMPLING of upcoming events. To view the FULL events calendar or find more information about any of the programs below, please view the Town Events Calendar at www.glastonburyct.gov/events or the Sharing Tree Newsletter at www.glastonburyct.gov/sharingtree.

VIRTUAL Programs

- **3/1** - Tales from Connecticut's Aviation History with John Cilio - 6:00 PM
- **3/10** - Health Seminar: Understanding Arthritis with Evan Gross, Exercise Physiologist from HHC Good Life Fitness - 11:30 AM
- **3/12** - IMPROV Show with Matt Snyder and Friends - 3:00 PM
- **3/16** - Discussion with Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator - 1:00 PM
- **3/17** - St. Patrick's Day Celebration with Mulcahy Irish Dance Students
- **3/18** - WTML Renovation & Expansion Update - 11:30 AM
- **3/26** - Sing-along with Dr. Uke - 2:00 PM
- **3/31** - 'Name That Tune' Sing-along - 2:30 PM

Weekly VIRTUAL Programs

- **Mondays** - Wee Rock at Home, Music & Movement Class - 10:00 AM
- **Mondays** - Virtual Word Search - 2:00 PM
- **Wednesdays & Fridays (March - June)** - Senior Fitness Classes on Zoom
- **Wednesdays @ 5:30 PM & Thursdays @ 11:30 AM** - Tremble Clefs Therapeutic Singing for Individuals with Parkinson's Disease
- **Thursdays, 3/11 and 3/18** - How to Play the Ukulele for Teens - 4:00 PM

IN-PERSON, OUTDOOR PROGRAMS

- **March 15 - April 23** - Senior Walking Challenge. Contact Senior Services for more information.
- **March 24** - Egg-cellent Story Stroll - Outdoor, spring-themed stroll for families and pre-school & elementary aged children. Pre-registration required. Contact Glastonbury Parks & Recreation for more information.

COVID-19 RESOURCES

Vaccination resources are available online through the [Vaccine Administration Management System \(VAMS\)](#) or by phone by contacting the CT COVID-19 Vaccine Appointment Assistance Line, (877) 918-2224 (Open 8:00AM - 8:00PM, 7 days/week). Additional information and resources are available on the state website at ct.gov/covidvaccine. Visit www.glastonburyct.gov/covid19 for the latest Town of Glastonbury COVID-19 updates.

Please share these resources with anyone you think may find them useful.

COVID-19 FATIGUE SUPPORT GROUP

Glastonbury Youth & Family Services is hosting a virtual weekly support group for parents/guardians experiencing "COVID-19 fatigue". Join them virtually at 5:00PM on Wednesdays and support one other through pandemic exhaustion and navigating role changes and/or shifts in family routines. Contact Y&FS for more info at (860) 652-7660.

SANTA'S RUN REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 1

Santa's Run is scheduled for Sunday, May 23! The plan is to have waves begin every 5 minutes beginning at 11:00 AM. \$20 per person. ONLINE registrations only accepted beginning 3/1 at 8:00 AM thru Noon on 5/21. No Day-of registration. [Click here to register.](#)

AGING MASTERY PROGRAM

Glastonbury Senior Services and the CT Healthy Living Collective will host a virtual 'Aging Mastery Program' beginning March 10. The Zoom program will be held on Wednesdays from 10:00 - 11:30 AM from March 10 to May 19. For more information, call (860) 652-7646 or register by emailing diana.patterson@glastonbury-ct.gov.

TAXES

The 2019 Grand List (GL) Supplemental Motor Vehicle (SMV) bills, as well as the second half of the 2019 Grand List Real Estate (RE) taxes and 2019 Grand List Personal Property (business) taxes, became due January 1, 2021. As a result of the Town Council's initial adoption of the Tax Deferment Program, the 2019 GL SMV bills, the second half of the 2019 GL Personal Property taxes, and the second half of non-escrowed and landlord approved 2019 GL RE taxes are payable by April 1, 2021. These unpaid taxes will be considered delinquent as of April 2, 2021. Interest will be charged at a rate of 6.0% on April 2, 2021 on any unpaid balance (1.5% per month back to the due date of January 1, 2021) in accordance with the provisions of C.G.S. Sec 12-146. For more information on deadlines and payment options, please visit the [Revenue Collection section](#) of the Town website.

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING HOMEOWNERS TAX RELIEF PROGRAM

The Homeowners Tax Relief program is available to Glastonbury homeowners who turned 65 prior to December 31, 2020 and whose 2020 income was \$59,740 or less. NEW applicants must apply by the May 14, 2021 filing deadline. The application and detailed instructions are available at www.glastonburyct.gov/taxrelief.

Due to the Governor's Executive Order 10 in response to the COVID 19 pandemic, the requirement to reapply for the Homeowners Tax Relief Program has been suspended. Applicants who were required to reapply for the program during the February 1, 2021-May 14, 2021 filing period do NOT need to reapply and will maintain their benefits for the 2020 and 2021 Grand Lists. Tax benefit recipients will not need to reapply until the 2022 Grand List (application period February 1, 2023 - May 15, 2023).

Questions should be directed to the Glastonbury Assessor's office at (860) 652-7600 or assessor@glastonburyct.gov.

COMPOST BIN/RAIN BARREL SALE & PICKUP EVENT

The Town's third annual compost bin & rain barrel sale is happening now! Purchase your composting/sustainable items for 50% discounts off retail prices between now and April 8th for pick up in the Academy parking lot between 10am and Noon on April 10. [More details here.](#)

PASSPORT TO PARKS

Become a Park Explorer and visit all of Glastonbury's beautiful parks and facilities! With 1,250+ acres of hiking trails, waterfalls, playgrounds, and more, there's something for everyone to explore! Beginning March 1, visit www.glastonburyct.gov/passport2parks and download a Passport Booklet to use as your guide to the Town's 28 different locations. At each site, look for the punch you will need to punch your passport. (Clues in your Passport Booklet.) Make sure to complete the checklist, challenge activities, and sticker pages in each region. Get all your punches and earn yourself a fabulous t-shirt! Just snap a photo of your completed punch pages from each region and e-mail it to anna.park@glastonbury-ct.gov with the subject line "Completed Parks Passport". Be sure to include your name, address and t-shirt size! Have fun on your adventures and tag [@glastonburyparkrec](#) on Facebook or [@glastonbury_park_and_rec](#) on Instagram.

SPECIAL SPRING WEDDING PACKAGE AT BOATHOUSE

The Glastonbury Boathouse is offering a special Wedding Ceremony or Vow Renewal package to kick off the spring season! The March 21, \$500 package includes a 1 hour Vow Renewal or Wedding Ceremony and your special event essentials - ceremony arch, officiant, and guest chairs! Total party size must comply with current CDC and state guidelines. Reservations are available beginning at 2:00 PM on Sunday, March 21, 2021 only. [Click here to learn more.](#)

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Coyote problems

By Officer Michael Magrey

Glastonbury Police Department

Community Outreach Officer

We have recently been hearing about coyote sightings from citizens. Many times people are not certain if they should be concerned if they see coyotes wandering about their property and will call in to report the sighting. I checked with our Animal Control Officer who gave me the following advice:

January through March is mating season for coyotes, as well as most other wildlife. Coyotes stay with the same mate until one of them dies. They travel together within their territories sizing up potential den sites. Yearlings that have left their parents travel far and wide to establish territories and find mates of their own.

Conflicts between people and coyotes are rare. They have learned to live alongside us but have no interest in interacting with humans. However, they are opportunistic hunters and if they spot a potential meal they see “food” and do not understand the difference between a squirrel and your beloved pet.

The Connecticut coyote is at the top of the food chain and has no natural predators, meaning they can heartily reproduce and survive based on food supply. Our town and surrounding towns are saturated with coyotes and they have learned to thrive on what is available.

A coyote sighting does not need to be reported to animal control, we’re acutely aware of their presence in town, but please notify us about a sick/injured coyote, a coyote that has attacked a farm animal or pet or an unusually bold coyote that is stalking or approaching people.

Tips on Preventing Conflicts with Coyotes

- DO NOT allow pets to run free! Keep cats indoors, particularly at night, and dogs on a leash or under close supervision at all times. The installation of a kennel or coyote-proof fencing is a long-term solution for protecting pets. A variety of livestock fencing and small animal pen designs can protect farm animals.
- NEVER feed coyotes! DO NOT place food out for any mammals. Clean up bird seed below feeders, pet foods, and fallen fruit. Secure garbage and compost in animal-proof containers.
- Always walk dogs on a leash. If approached by a coyote while walking your dog, keep the dog under control and calmly leave the area. DO NOT run or turn your back. Coyotes are territorial and many reports of bold coyotes visiting yards, howling, or threatening larger dogs can often be attributed to this territorial behavior.
- Attempt to frighten away coyotes by making loud noises (e.g., shouting, air horn) and

acting aggressively (e.g., waving your arms, throwing sticks, spraying with a hose).

- Daytime activity is not uncommon and does not necessarily indicate rabies.
- Teach children to recognize coyotes and to go inside the house (do not run) or climb up on a swing or deck and yell if they are approached.
- Close off crawl spaces under porches and sheds that coyotes or other animals may use.
- Educate your neighbors. Ask them to follow these same steps.
- Contact the DEEP Wildlife Division at 860-424-3011 for more information on coyotes or other wildlife problems.

Hopefully you find these tips helpful and easy to follow. Have a great week and remain vigilant!