Town of Glastonbury

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Richard J. Johnson
Town Manager

ITEM #7
03-23-2021 Meeting

March 19, 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. This includes the current report by UConn on wastewater testing. To confirm prior discussions, I have attached a March 10th email by Kendra Maas of UConn regarding testing for variant strains of COVID. Work is under way to fine tune testing but as noted by Dr. Maas, this information is not yet available.

2. **Town Buildings – Ventilation**

   Council Member Beckett asked me a question concerning ultraviolet systems for ventilation systems at Town buildings, basically as a way to further improve the quality of air circulated through Town facilities. Some facilities are so equipped and all systems calibrated to achieve maximum air circulation. For those buildings without ultraviolet systems, this equipment will be installed over coming weeks.

3. **New London Turnpike Trees**

   A replanting plan for the median islands along New London Turnpike near Oak Street/William Street is developed as follows. This is the area damaged by a previous motor vehicle incident. The plan is to

   - remove large pear tree out of scale with the others (red flagging)
   - prune branches on selected trees (yellow flagging)
   - remove dead and dated shrubs - replace with mulch
   - replace five trees lost in the MV incident (selection pending)

   Staff reviewed concept plans with the Beautification Committee and consensus reached. $25,000 available from the driver's insurance company. Some Council members had previously asked for status and I wanted to provide this update.

4. **Town Staff Appreciation**

   Recent thank you notes to Town staff/departments are attached for your information.

   - Library – Unwrap Reading Program
   - Purchasing – Sustainable CT
   - Health Department – Vaccination Scheduling
   - Police Department – Various

5. Main Street – Residential/Commercial Proposal

TP&Z will hold a special meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 30th to hear a presentation by the applicant on the above-referenced project. This is for the sites on the west side of Main Street, generally across from the Center Green and Rankin Road. Immediately following the presentation and TP&Z discussion, the applicant will hold a "neighborhood" meeting for Council and others to comment. The meeting will be held by Zoom and I expect televised through public access. Additional information will be forwarded separately.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Johnson
Town Manager

RJJ/sal
Attachments

News

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

Post Date: 03/19/2021 8:58 AM

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

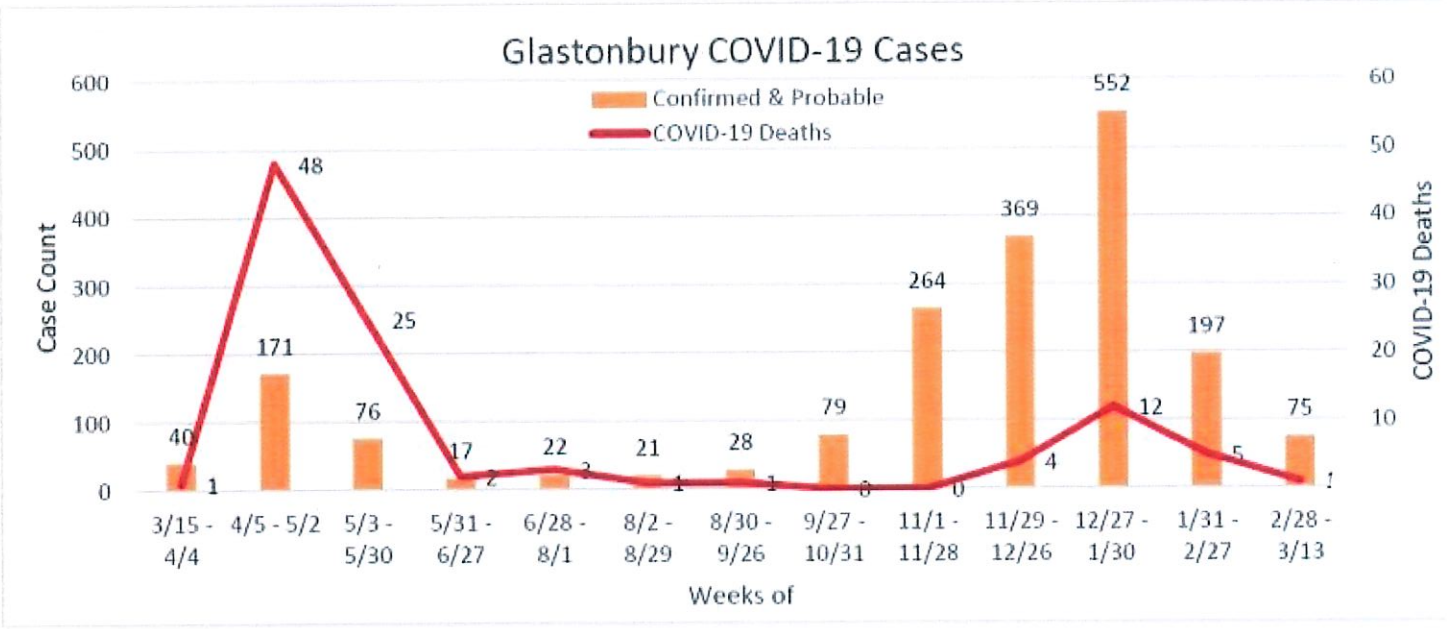
Glastonbury COVID-19 Figures

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

As per CT Department of Public Health (CT DPH) lab testing data available 3/13/21:

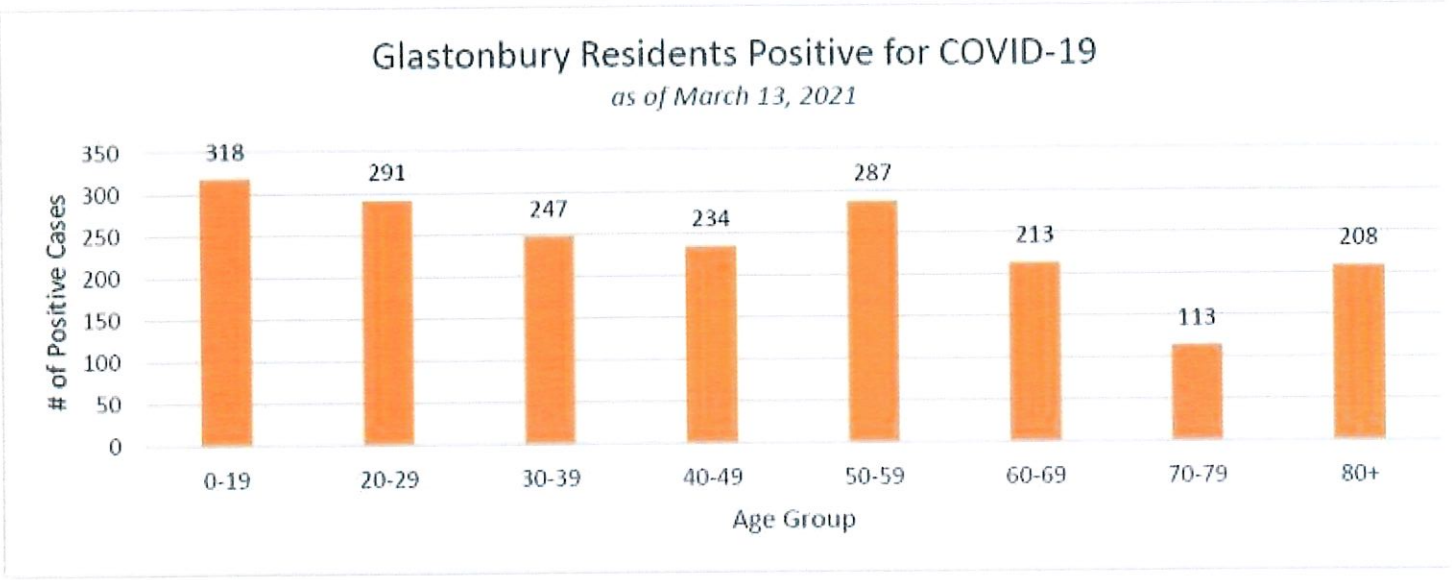
- 20,006 COVID-19 tests have been performed on residents (+312)
- Of the 20,006 tests, 1,911 (+42) are laboratory confirmed positive and probable cases of COVID-19
- Deaths are recorded using information from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. One additional death was recorded last week, and the loss of Glastonbury residents has risen to 103 (+1).
- By gender, a total of 1,001 female (+18) and 910 male (+24) positive cases have been reported.

The graph below shows a count of residents with confirmed positive and probable cases and COVID-19 related deaths in approximate one-month timeframes. *Notes: COVID-19 deaths are depicted on a secondary Y axis with a separate (right hand) scale. The data in the last column is only for the week of 2/28 – 3/13.*



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 18.8 (+0.2) cases per 100,000. As of Thursday, 3/18, 108 (+5) of the 169 Connecticut cities and towns are in the Red 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

Governor Lamont Expands Vaccine Availability to Ages 16+ beginning April 5

This week, "Governor Ned Lamont announced that he's accelerating the state's age-based rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine. The revised schedule tentatively plans for the vaccine to expand to all adults over the age of 16 by April 5." Please note: Only the Pfizer vaccine is currently approved for individuals 16+ years of age. The Moderna and Johnson and Johnson vaccines are approved for 18+ years. The Glastonbury Health Department will not be receiving any Pfizer vaccine due to its special handling requirements, therefore the Town will NOT be vaccinating individuals ages 16 and 17. Parents are advised to seek Pfizer clinics for their teenagers. As a reminder, any clinics scheduled by the Glastonbury Health Department will be posted to the state VAMS website. Registration for Town clinics, or any vaccination clinics state-wide, must be done through the state VAMS website, or by calling **(877) 918-2224.** Read more here.

COVID Travel Restrictions Lifted – Mandate Repealed

The Governor has signed an executive order that "repeals the previously issued mandatory travel advisory and quarantine requirements, effective Friday, March 19, 2021. The CT Department of Public Health continues to recommend limiting travel to prevent the transmission of COVID-19." Read the release here.

CDC Guidance for Vaccinated Individuals

Last week, the CDC issued its "Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully vaccinated People", outlining what restrictions can and cannot be relaxed for individuals who have been fully vaccinated. Read their recommendations here: https://www.cdc.gov/.../fully-vaccinated-guidance.html

Vaccine Scams

"Governor Ned Lamont and Attorney General (AG) William Tong are warning Connecticut residents to be on alert for potential scams related to COVID-19 vaccines. The Office of the AG and the CT Department of Consumer Protection have recently learned of a new scam in which fraudsters, posing as COVID-19 vaccine manufacturers Moderna and Pfizer, sent consumers a "COVID-19 survey" offering rewards for their opinions about the vaccine. To obtain the so-called reward, consumers are required to provide their credit card information, supposedly for "shipping purposes." State officials are warning residents not to be fooled – this is a scam designed to rip people off for money.

State officials are offering the following tips for consumers to protect themselves against vaccine-related scams:

- **Do not pay anything to sign up for the COVID-19 vaccine**. Additionally, do not trust promotional offers related to the vaccine.
- **Ignore sales ads related to the vaccine**. The vaccine cannot be purchased anywhere.
- **Beware of unsolicited emails or texts concerning the vaccine, including offers of rewards or payments**. While some people may receive emails or texts from their healthcare providers or authorized vaccine providers, those contacts only come after they have signed up for them. If you receive a contact that seems suspicious, consumers can contact their healthcare or vaccine provider.
- **Do not share personal, financial, or health information with unfamiliar people**. Nobody from a vaccine distribution site, healthcare provider, pharmacy, or health care payer alike a private insurance company or Medicare will call, text, or email consumers asking for their Social Security number, credit card number, or bank account number in connection with the vaccine"

Read more about recent vaccine scams through the Governor's press release here. Glastonbury Community Officer Michael Magrey with the Police Department is hosting an informational seminar on April 13th to discuss current COVID and other scams and how to protect yourself and your family. More information here.

Wastewater Testing for COVID-19 in Glastonbury – as of 3/18/2021

UCONN is conducting ongoing wastewater testing in the Glastonbury community to help evaluate areas of potential COVID-19 infection. Click here to view the latest testing results (March 18, 2021).

Reminders:

- **Vaccination Clinics** - 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 appointment. Appointments can be scheduled online or over the phone at **877-918-2224.**
- **Virtual COVID-19 Fatigue Support Group with Licensed Social workers** - 11:30 AM on Wednesday, March 24 and April 21, 2021.
- **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** (8 AM - 8 PM, 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/Facebook page as

applicable.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Johnson
Town Manager

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Daily report on SARS-CoV2 Waste Water monitoring

Kendra Maas

2021-March-18

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 15: North levels continue to increase slightly, South has dropped.

Mar 11: Both North and South have increased slightly.

Mar 4 & 8: Levels in both North and South were low last week. Both have increased slightly this week.

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 os 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.

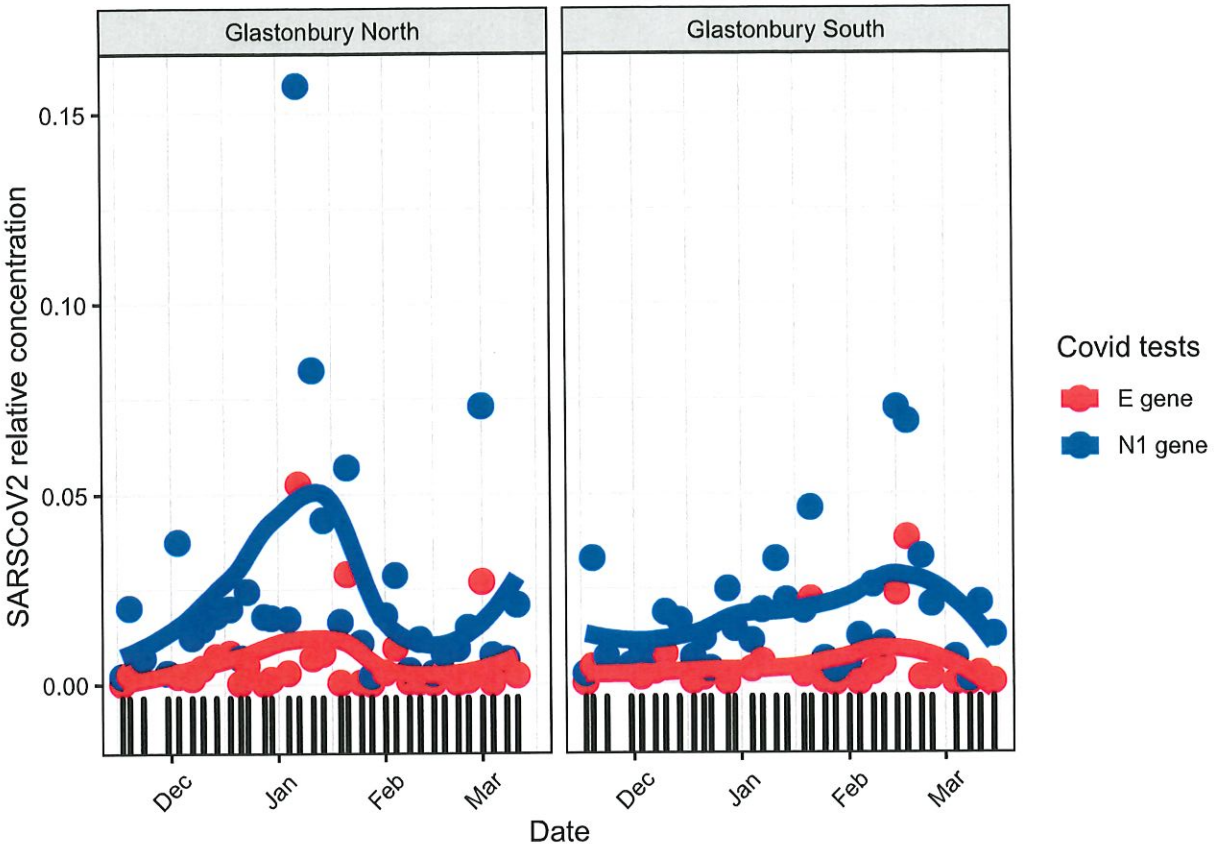
Nov 23: The covid level in both north and south Glastonbury have decreased over Friday.

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.

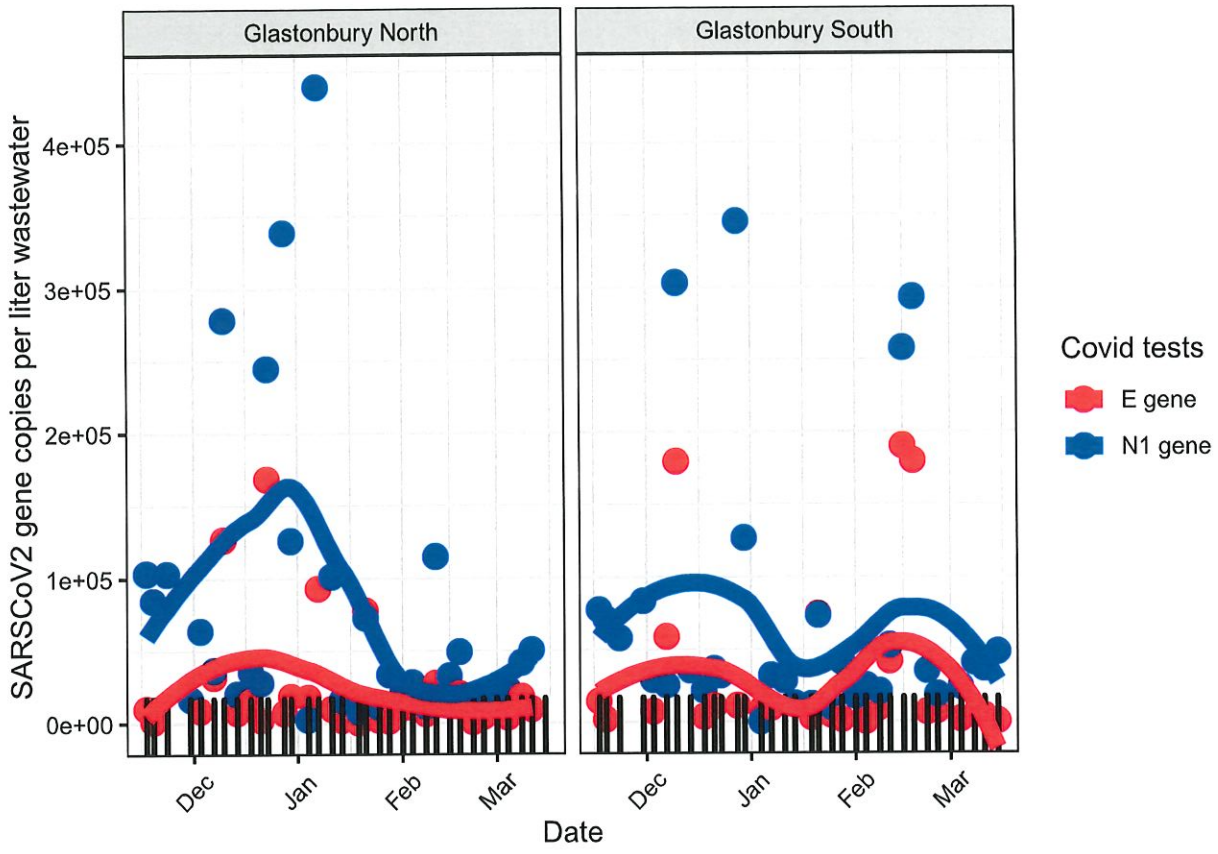
Nov 10: The relative Covid level increased in Glastonbury but is still low (compared to what I'm seeing elsewhere). Only one of the 2 genes was detectable in today's sample. Researchers are still trying to understand what it means when the covid genes are not detected at similar levels-a couple possibilities 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.


Glastonbury North
Glastonbury South
SARSCoV2 relative concentration
0.15
0.10
0.05
0.00
Dec
Jan
Feb
Mar
Date
Covid tests
E gene
N1 gene

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.



From: Maas, Kendra <kendra.maas@uconn.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 9:39 AM
To: Richard Johnson <richard.johnson@glastonbury-ct.gov>; wendy mis <wendy.mis@glastonbury-ct.gov>
Cc: Mike Bisi <Mike.Bisi@glastonbury-ct.gov>; chuck bohaboy <chuck.bohaboy@glastonbury-ct.gov>; Brett Aston <Brett.Aston@glastonbury-ct.gov>
Subject: RE: Sampling Test Data

Hi Richard

Both myself and Jordan Peccia's lab at Yale are trying to get at variants in water treatment plants. But neither of us have a method that we think will detect low levels of a variant (which is what we'd expect given the low level of detection in clinical samples in CT right now). I have seen press releases from companies and municipalities saying that they are detecting the variants, however I haven't been able to get protocol details from any of them to know how far I'd trust that data.

We are continuing to work on method development for this, I'll let you know as soon as I find something promising. If you see news releases of people looking for variants in wastewater, feel free to forward them to me because I may have missed it. All leads are good when searching for a new method.

Kendra

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