Town of Glastonbury

Health Department

Memo

December 21, 2022

To: Richard J. Johnson
Town Manager

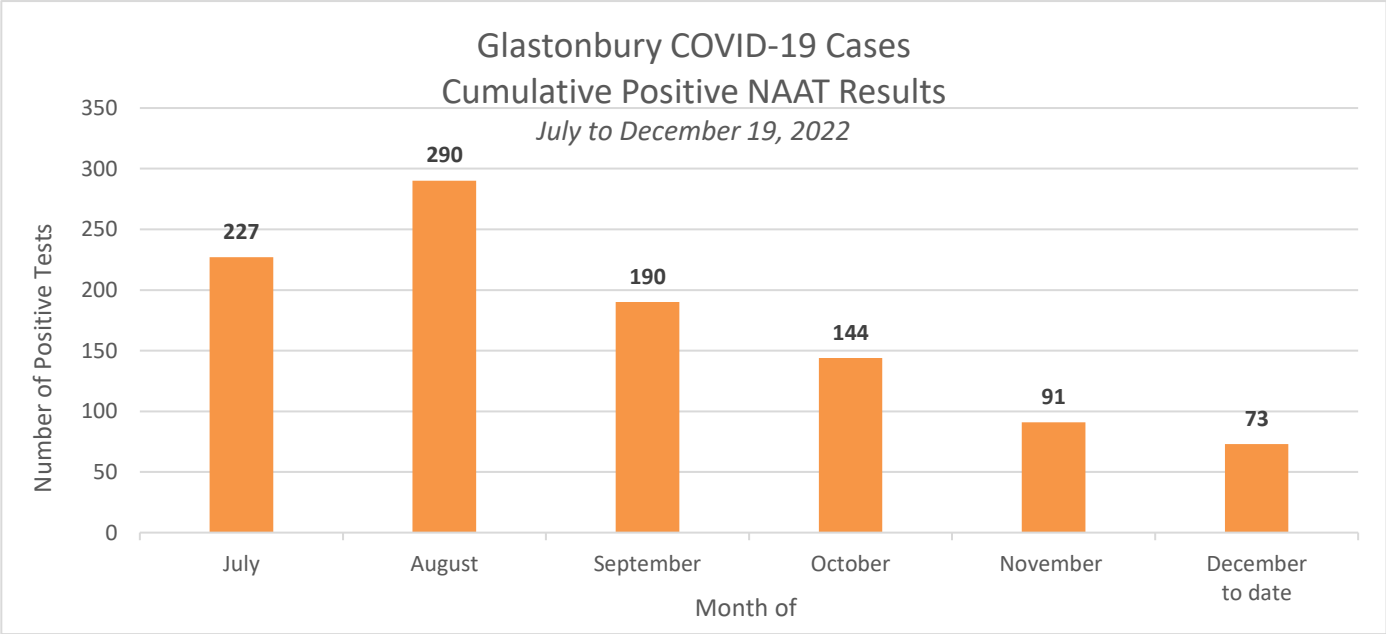
Fr: Wendy S. Mis *WSM*
Director of Health

Re: COVID-19 update

This report uses publicly available laboratory-confirmed results for COVID-19 data from Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH) for local, county, and Connecticut overall. At-home test results are not included, so information and graphs demonstrate trends rather than a full accounting of cases. Numbers in (parentheses) indicate change from the previous week. Both charts in this report have recently been adjusted to show data in approximate one-month intervals.

As per CT DPH data from December 19, 2022:

- A total of 134,670 tests have been administered to Glastonbury residents. (+265)
- Of the 134,670 tests administered, 7,587 were laboratory positive NAAT cases. (+19)
- Two additional deaths have been recorded this month, bringing the loss of Glastonbury residents to 124. (+2)



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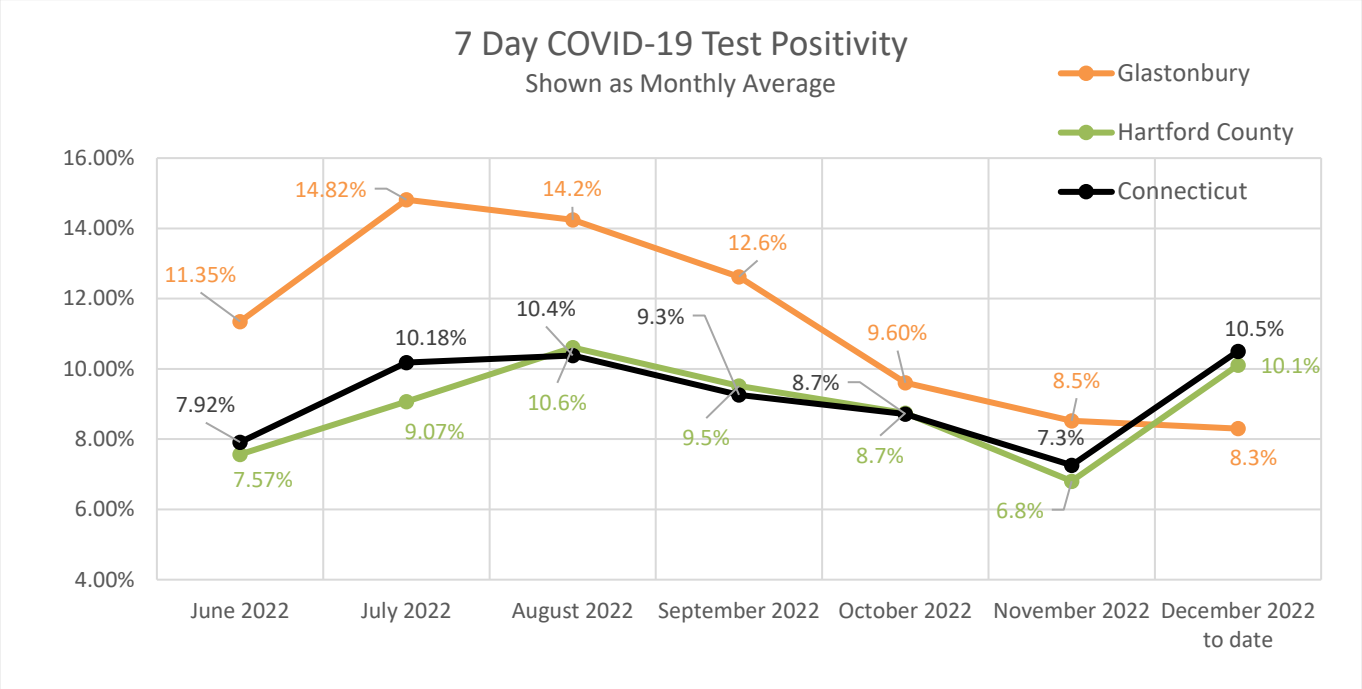
Test positivity is calculated as a rolling 7-day test positivity by specimen collection date; all positive molecular (PCR/NAAT) test results are divided by all molecular (PCR/NAAT) test results (positive and negative) for the last 7 days and multiplied by 100 to reach a percentage. Results are shown below for Glastonbury, Hartford County, and the state of Connecticut overall. The graph shows an average of the month's weekly data, and as such, may not be accurate for any specific week of the month.



COVID-19 Vaccine

CDC recently expanded the use of updated (bivalent) COVID-19 vaccines for children ages 6 months through 5 years. Children ages 6 months through 5 years who previously completed a Moderna primary series are eligible to receive a Moderna bivalent booster 2 months after their final primary series dose. Children ages 6 months through 4 years who are currently completing a Pfizer primary series will receive a Pfizer bivalent vaccine as their third primary dose.

The COVID-19 bivalent booster vaccine is available if it has been at least two months since an individual's last COVID-19 vaccine (whether the primary series or any booster). More **vaccination and booster information** is available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Additional clinics can be found at **www.vaccines.gov** and entering the zip code for the search area.

Free at home COVID-19 test kits; extended shelf life of test kits

Starting this week, the U.S. government has again made at home test kits available to residential households for no cost. The order includes four (4) individual rapid antigen COVID-19 tests. The tests are completely free. Tests can be ordered at **https://special.usps.com/testkits** .

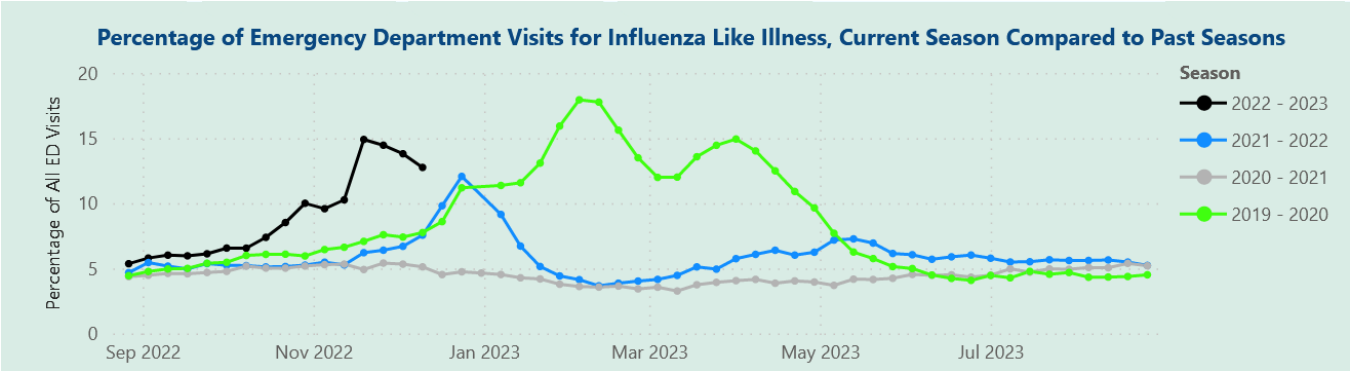
The expiration dates of many at home test kits have been extended. Go to **this website** to check the updated expiration date of kits in your home.

COVID-19 Testing locations

CLICK HERE for the 2-1-1 of Connecticut online site to search for COVID-19 testing. Users may refine their search by zip code, type of test and key demographics of individual to be tested.

Widespread respiratory illness

Connecticut, like many other states in the nation, is experiencing widespread respiratory illness. Cases of COVID-19, seasonal influenza, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) are affecting people of all ages. Seasonal flu is appearing much earlier than usual. CT residents are going to Emergency Departments with influenza like symptoms much earlier in the season than previous years, as seen in this chart from CT DPH.



Source: CT DPH

Flu shots are readily available in the community. Pharmacies and other locations providing flu shots as well as the vaccines available can be found at **www.vaccines.gov** .

While COVID-19, seasonal flu, and RSV may be addressed with slightly different medical treatments, **prevention strategies against respiratory viruses are similar:**

- Wash your hands often
- Clean and disinfect surfaces regularly
- Get your flu vaccine and COVID-19 booster
- Stay home when you are sick
- Wear a mask in crowded public areas, or near others who may be sick
- Wear a mask around others when you have respiratory illness symptoms

Data for this report is gathered from publicly available data at https://data.ct.gov/stories/s/COVID-19-data/wa3g-tfvc/
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. All data are preliminary and subject to change. Data from previous dates are routinely updated. CT DPH data reporting changes have been summarized and can be read here.