



Town of Glastonbury

Health Department

Memo

May 9, 2023

To: Jonathan Luiz
Town Manager

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

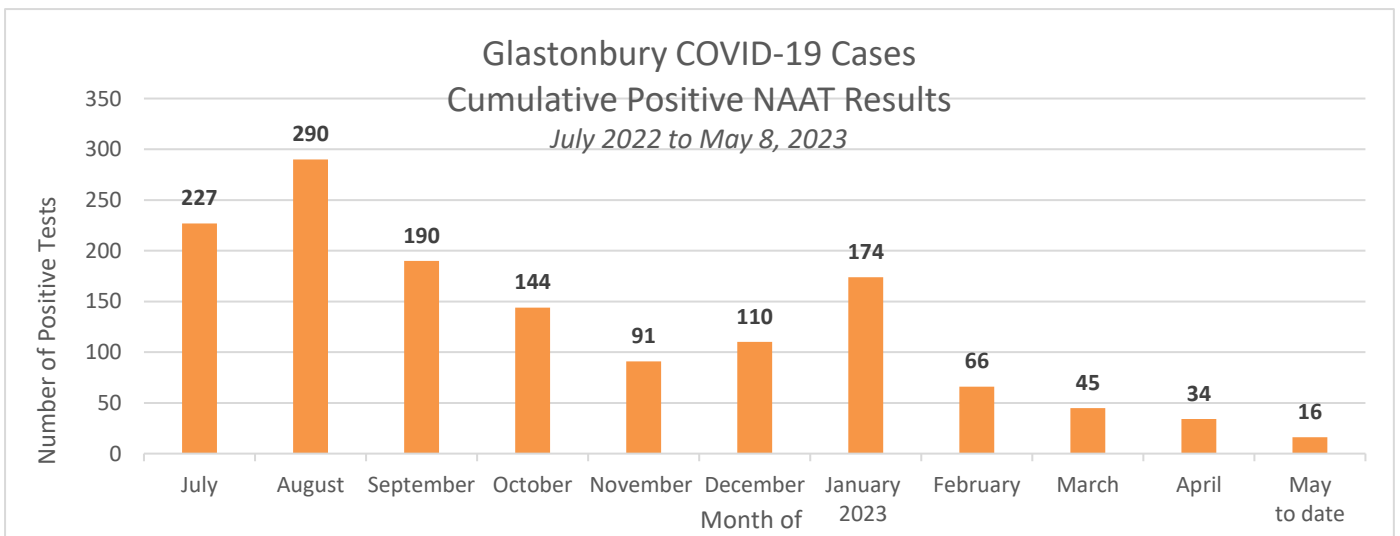
Re: COVID-19 update

President Biden officially ended the national public health emergency April 10, 2023. The Federal Public Health Emergency Declaration for COVID-19 is scheduled to end May 11, 2023. As such, Glastonbury's final weekly COVID-19 report will be issued the week of May 15, using the Connecticut Department of Public Health data from May 11, 2023.

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. The chart directly below shows data in approximate one-month intervals.

As per CT DPH data for May 8, 2023:

- A total of 138,178 tests have been administered to Glastonbury residents. (+92)
- Of the 138,178 tests administered, 7,959 were laboratory positive NAAT cases. (+10)
- No deaths were recorded for this week. The loss of Glastonbury residents stands at 131. (+0)

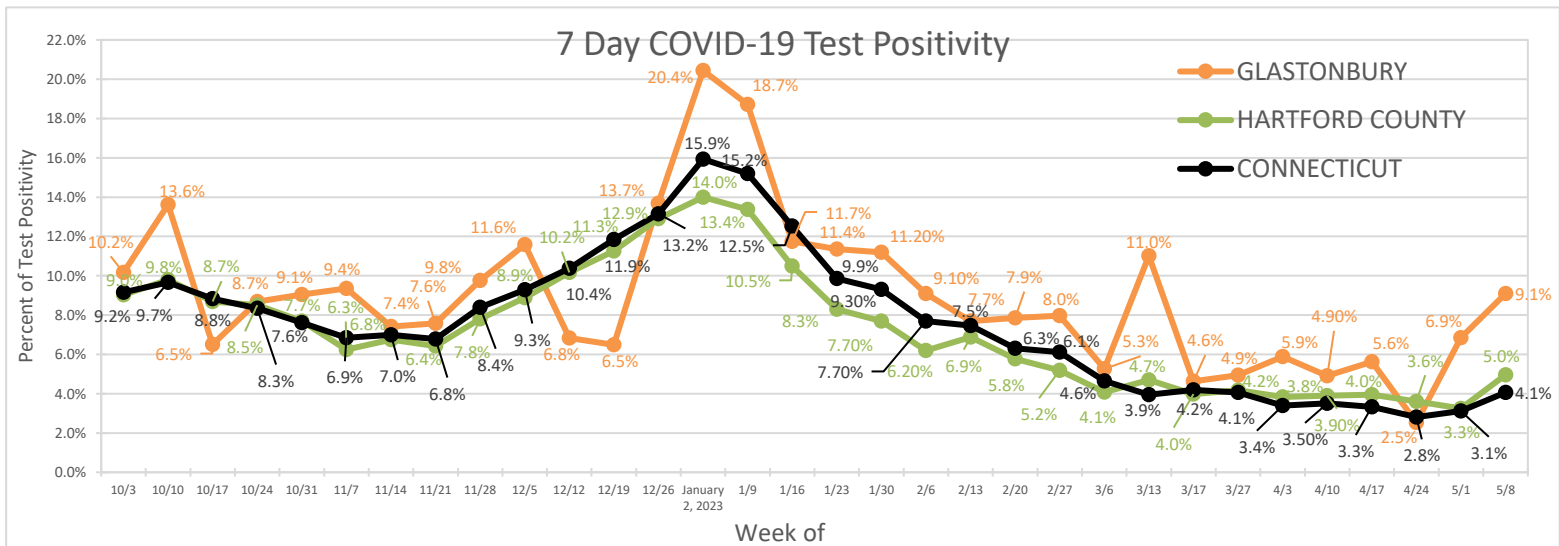


Test positivity is calculated as a rolling 7-day test positivity by specimen collection date; all positive molecular (PCR/NAAT) test results are divided by all molecular (PCR/NAAT) test results (positive and negative) for the last 7 days and multiplied by 100 to reach a percentage. Results are shown below for Glastonbury, Hartford County, and the state of Connecticut overall.

Seven-day test positivity for Glastonbury (9.1%) has risen again from last week, as have Hartford County's (5.0%) and Connecticut's (4.1%). Test positivity is calculated using the total number of people tested and the number of people in that group that test positive.

Taking note of increased cases, caution should be used during upcoming gatherings that include susceptible friends and family members such as Mother's Day and other get-togethers. In order to prevent the spread of COVID 19 and other respiratory viruses, **prevention strategies against respiratory viruses**, as detailed below, are recommended.

A recent COVID 19 Omicron strain, XBB.1.16, nicknamed "Arcturus", is emerging nationwide and in Connecticut. While it is very contagious, it *does not seem to be more severe than other variants*. Arcturus has been linked to conjunctivitis, or pink eye. Arcturus is projected to outpace the current dominant strain in circulation (XBB.1.5) and take the lead by summer. Persons experiencing red and itchy eyes beyond typical seasonal and allergic reactions may wish to get tested for COVID-19.



COVID-19 Vaccine

COVID-19 vaccines are available for individuals ages 6 months and up.

The Connecticut **Homebound COVID-19 Vaccination Program** will end soon.

- The online intake form will stop taking requests on Monday, June 19, 2023.
- The program will cease operations on Friday, June 30, 2023.
- If you want to schedule a home visit for vaccination against COVID-19 for yourself or a family member, [click here](#) and complete the form.

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

The U.S. government still has at home test kits available to residential households for no cost. An order includes four (4) individual rapid antigen COVID-19 tests. The tests are completely free.

- Tests are currently available and can be ordered at <https://special.usps.com/testkits>
- Tests with enhanced [accessibility for blind or low vision people](https://special.usps.com/testkits/accessible) can be ordered at <https://special.usps.com/testkits/accessible>

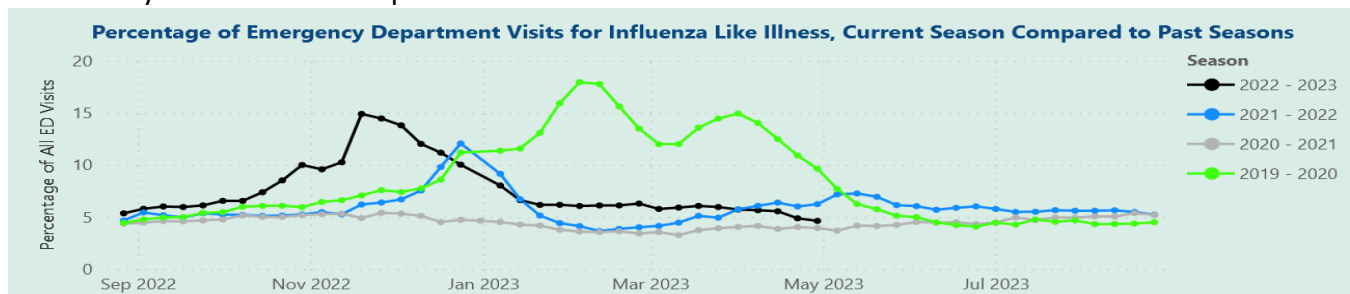
The expiration dates of many at home test kits have been extended. Go to [this website](#) to check the updated expiration date of kits in your home.

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.

Respiratory illness

Two basic types of influenza virus circulate in the U.S., flu group A and flu group B. A typical flu season starts with Flu A infections, followed by a second wave of Flu B infections. The first wave (Flu A) has peaked, and it appears we will not see a second wave (Flu B) this year. CT DPH statewide data continues to show a downward trend in Emergency Department visits for influenza like illness. Risk of flu in the community is minimal at this point.



Source: [CT DPH](#)

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

During periods of increased community infection, **prevention strategies against respiratory viruses** can help reduce spread of COVID-19. Individual strategies include:

- 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, particularly the elderly and others with increased susceptibility to disease
- Wash your hands often
- Clean and disinfect surfaces regularly
- Get your flu vaccine and COVID-19 booster

Data for this report is gathered from publicly available data at <https://data.ct.gov/stories/s/COVID-19-data/wa3q-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](#).