



Town of Glastonbury

Health Department

Memo

May 16, 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, and the Federal [Public Health Emergency Declaration for COVID-19](#) ended May 11, 2023. As such, this is the final weekly COVID-19 update report for the Town of Glastonbury.

The Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH) will transition its reporting on COVID-19 testing, hospitalizations, deaths, and vaccination rates to the same reporting period used under its seasonal respiratory surveillance reporting program, which typically begins each year in early October and ends in late May or early June. DPH will issue its final COVID-19 data report [here](#) for the 2022 – 2023 respiratory viral disease season on June 1, 2023. Archived COVID-19 data will remain available [here](#).

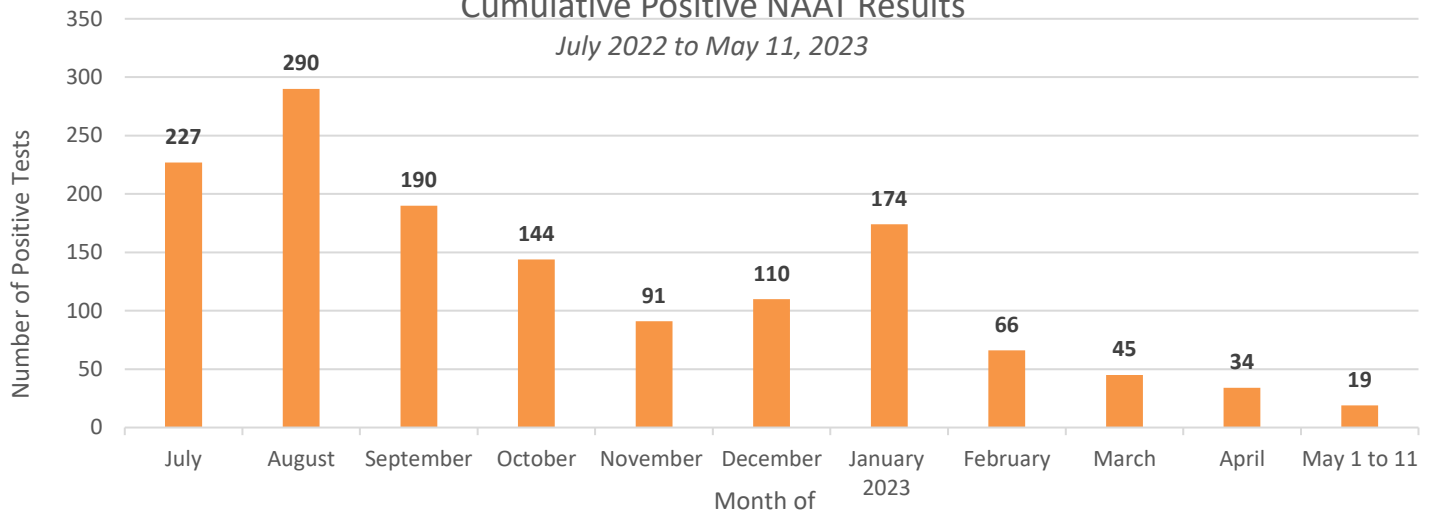
DPH's 2023 – 2024 seasonal respiratory disease surveillance reporting period will begin on October 5, 2023 and will include data relevant to COVID-19 disease activity and trends current at that time. The reporting will integrate COVID-19 with viral respiratory surveillance, including influenza. Glastonbury Health Department will continue to monitor COVID-19 as part of our routine surveillance of infectious diseases.

This report uses publicly available laboratory-confirmed results for COVID-19 data from 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 11, 2023:

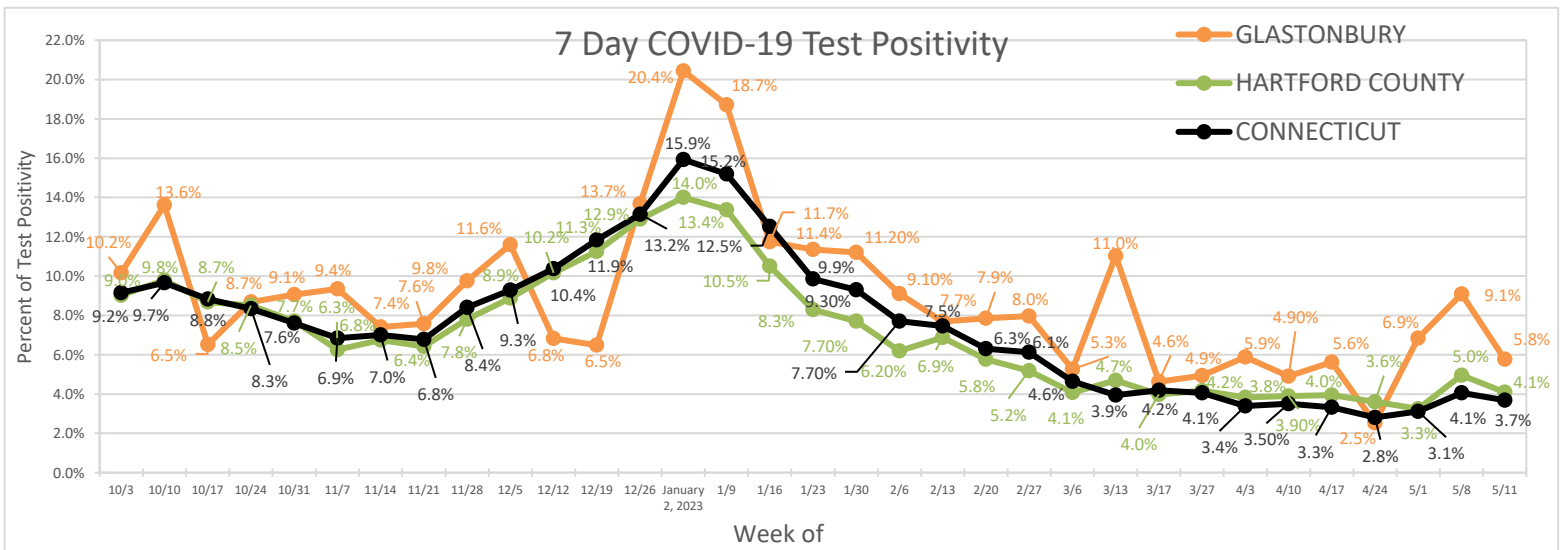
- This week's report captures positive NAAT results for Tuesday, May 9, through Thursday, May 11, reflecting the time between the previous report and the end of the Public Health Emergency Declaration for COVID-19. Readers of this report should consider that the chart below adds only three days of data since the last report, compared with seven days of data in previous reports.
- A total of 138,222 tests have been administered to Glastonbury residents. (+44)
- Of the 138,222 tests administered, 7,962 were laboratory positive [NAAT](#) cases. (+3)
- No deaths were recorded for this week. The loss of Glastonbury residents stands at 131. (+0)

Glastonbury COVID-19 Cases Cumulative Positive NAAT Results *July 2022 to May 11, 2023*



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 7-day test positivity reflects 7 full days, ending on May 11. Results are shown below for Glastonbury, Hartford County, and the state of Connecticut overall.

Seven-day test positivity for Glastonbury (5.8%) has fallen from last week, as have Hartford County's (4.1%) and Connecticut's (3.7%). Test positivity is calculated using the total number of people tested and the number of people in that group that test positive.



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

When are you up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines?

The CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) recommends that everyone 6 years and older receive an updated (bivalent) COVID-19 vaccine, regardless of whether they previously completed a (monovalent) primary series.

People 6 years and older who have already received an updated (bivalent) vaccine do not need to take any action unless they are 65 years or older or immunocompromised.

For young children, multiple doses continue to be recommended and will vary by age, vaccine, and which vaccines were previously received.

Visit [Stay Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines Including Boosters | CDC](#), to learn if you are up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines.

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.

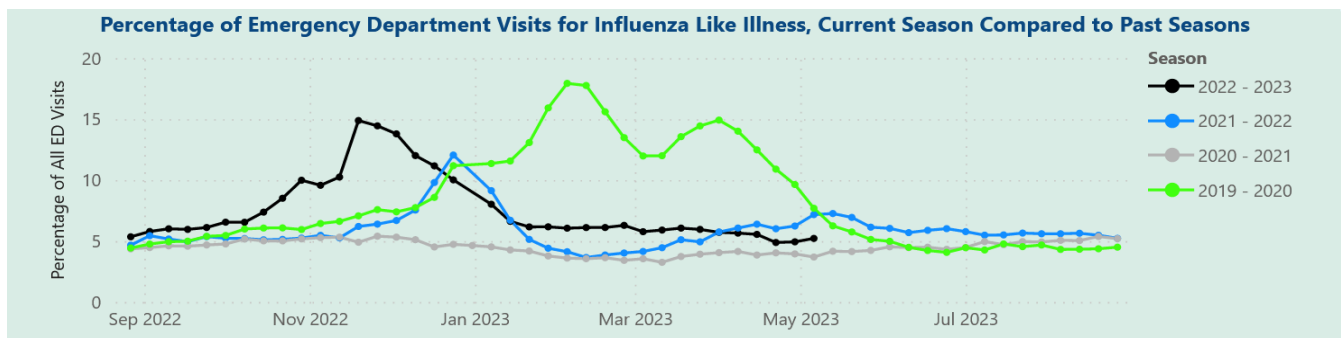
Community-based vaccination clinics can be found at www.vaccines.gov ; enter the zip code for the search area.

Extended shelf life of COVID-19 test kits

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.

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. 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 .

Although community and regional COVID-19 illness data will not be available during the summer, COVID-19 illness will continue. Persons with concern about community infection may wish to implement preventive strategies against respiratory viruses to 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
- Forego gatherings with friends and family or 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](#).