

Good afternoon. It is Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and this is Director of Health Jenn Eielson with a coronavirus testing and vaccination update.

## **WEEKLY COVID-19 REPORT**

This week the town has 2 reported COVID 19 positive cases which is a decrease from the 4 reported positive cases last week. For a breakdown of reported positive cases by age and week please go to the town website at [Welcome to New Canaan, CT](#).

Today marks the end of the national Public Health Emergency originally declared in 2020. Governor Ned Lamont's declaration of a Public Health Emergency under Connecticut law will end at the same time as the nationally declared Public Health Emergency. **Today will also be the last COVID 19 weekly update from the New Canaan Health Department however, the weekly chart will continue to be updated on the town website each week.**

The May 11<sup>th</sup> ending of the Public Health Emergency does not mean the end of the COVID-19 virus. We still have the best tools available to stay healthy and that's why as a state, and as a community, we have made so much progress from where we were three years ago. Although the public health emergency is ending, eligible residents of New Canaan should still get vaccinated, get the updated booster if eligible, use at-home tests, and stay home when they're sick.

"We have the necessary tools to continue to protect ourselves and live with this virus," added **DPH Commissioner Manisha Juthani, MD**. "We hope that COVID-19 will follow the trajectory of other seasonal illnesses and certainly expect to once again ramp up our efforts during respiratory disease season which typically runs from October through April."

### **COVID-19 Testing**

- There continues to be **free rapid COVID-19 antigen testing available** during regular business hours with our Health Department located at **Vine Cottage** (yellow house next to Town Hall-77 Main Street) for symptomatic New Canaan residents by appointment. Please call the Health Department during regular business hours 7:30AM-3:30PM Monday through Thursday, and Friday hours are

7:30AM-12:30PM to schedule a FREE rapid test at 203-594-3037. **This service will continue with no changes.**

### **COVID-19 Vaccines**

- **NEW: CDC/FDA/DPH has approved a second bivalent booster for those aged 65 and over and for those immune comprised provided it has been at least 4 months since the last bivalent booster.** Next week, the Health Department has scheduled an all-ages 5+ COVID 19 vaccination clinic for **Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at our office located at 61 Main Street in Vine Cottage next to Town Hall from 12:00 to 3:30 pm.** All clinics will continue to be held at Vine Cottage.
- The registration link for the **Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at our office located in Vine Cottage (61 Main Street-yellow house next to Town Hall)** : <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/NCHDCOVIDVAXMAY18TH>
- The federal government will continue to distribute vaccine to vaccine providers such as retail pharmacies and health care providers. After the public health emergency ends, the federal government will continue to distribute all available vaccines in their inventory, free to U.S. residents, until that inventory is depleted or expires.
- Once the federal government exhausts its inventory of COVID-19 vaccines, they will be made available commercially like other vaccines, such as flu vaccines, through an individual's private insurance plan; through publicly funded programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, and the DPH Vaccines for Children program; or directly by consumers.

### **Disease Surveillance and Reporting**

- State DPH will issue its last COVID-19 report for the 2022-23 respiratory viral disease season on the Open Data Portal on June 1, 2023.
- New Canaan will continue to update the COVID 19 page on the town health department page on the town website with the weekly COVID 19 positive case chart found at [Welcome to New Canaan, CT](#)
- State DPH COVID-19 public data reporting will resume on Oct. 5, 2023, and continue through the winter months, as part of DPH's respiratory surveillance reporting program. This new COVID-19 report will include data that are relevant

to current COVID-19 disease activity and trends and integrate COVID-19 with viral respiratory surveillance reporting, including influenza.

I would like to thank all of our New Canaan residents for their patience, cooperation, due diligence and assistance throughout the COVID 19 pandemic. Please be assured the New Canaan Health Department is still here to address your needs of vaccinations, guidance and rapid testing. Stay healthy New Canaan!

*Jenn Eielson, MPH, REHS/RS*

**Director of Health**

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