



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DPH ISSUES PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT REGARDING COVID-19:

ALL CT RESIDENTS URGED TO CONTINUE MASK WEARING, SOCIAL DISTANCING

***VACCINE DISTRIBUTION SEEING CONTINUED SUCCESS,
BUT MITIGATION MEASURES REMAIN CRITICAL***

HARTFORD, CT – The State Department of Public Health is reminding residents to remain vigilant against COVID-19 as case rates have risen over the last two weeks. DPH has moved several Connecticut towns that had been seeing falling or stable COVID-19 case rates back into Red Alert status, as the average daily case rate for COVID-19 has increased statewide to 25 cases/100,000 residents per day. Over 90% of the Connecticut population lives in a town with an average daily case rate of over 15 cases per 100,000 residents (e.g. red alert towns). It is estimated that 40% of these new cases are the B.1.1.7 variant.

While case rates have decreased among persons age 70 and older, they have plateaued or increased among all other age groups. The age group with the highest case rates are 20–29 year olds.

The county with the highest case rate is New Haven County at 31.8/100,000. The towns with the highest case rates are located in the Waterbury/Naugatuck Valley area; Waterbury has the second highest case rate in the state at 43.4/100,000. For the latest town map and other COVID-19-related data, click [here](#).

For the week of 3/14-3/20, the COVID-19 census was 401. COVID-19 hospitalizations have increased over the last week with 456 people currently hospitalized with COVID-19 as of today.

Variants of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, including those known to be more transmissible, are circulating in Connecticut and put people who are not fully vaccinated at increased risk of infection, serious illness, and death.

Continued vigilance and adherence to mitigation measures including masks and social distancing is key. In addition, Connecticut residents considering travelling during the upcoming spring break season are urged to review [CDC's travel guidance](#), which continues to recommend against traveling at this time.

Get vaccinated if you are eligible or when you become eligible. Remember that you are not fully vaccinated until 14 days after the entire vaccination regimen.

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