

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, January 12, 2022
Department of Corrections
825 Marlboro Road, Keene, NH 03431

Conference Call Information
Phone Call-in Number: +1 646 558 8656
Meeting ID: 409 748 8803
Pin #: 6031233

Present: Commissioners Jack Wozmak, Robert Englund, and Terry Clark
Staff: County Administrator Coates, Finance Director Trombly, Department of Corrections Superintendent Iosue, and Assistant County Administrator Bouchard.
Guest(s):

At 8:37 AM, Commissioner Wozmak opened the meeting, and Administrator Coates conducted a roll-call with the Commissioners, Wozmak, Englund, and Clark, responding as "present."

At 8:38 AM, the Commissioners opened the floor for public comment and Department Head updates.

Public Comment: None

At 08:44 AM, Administrator Coates was then recognized for the Weekly Operations report.

Coates provided the following update from the Cheshire Medical Center staff on COVID-19 in the county.

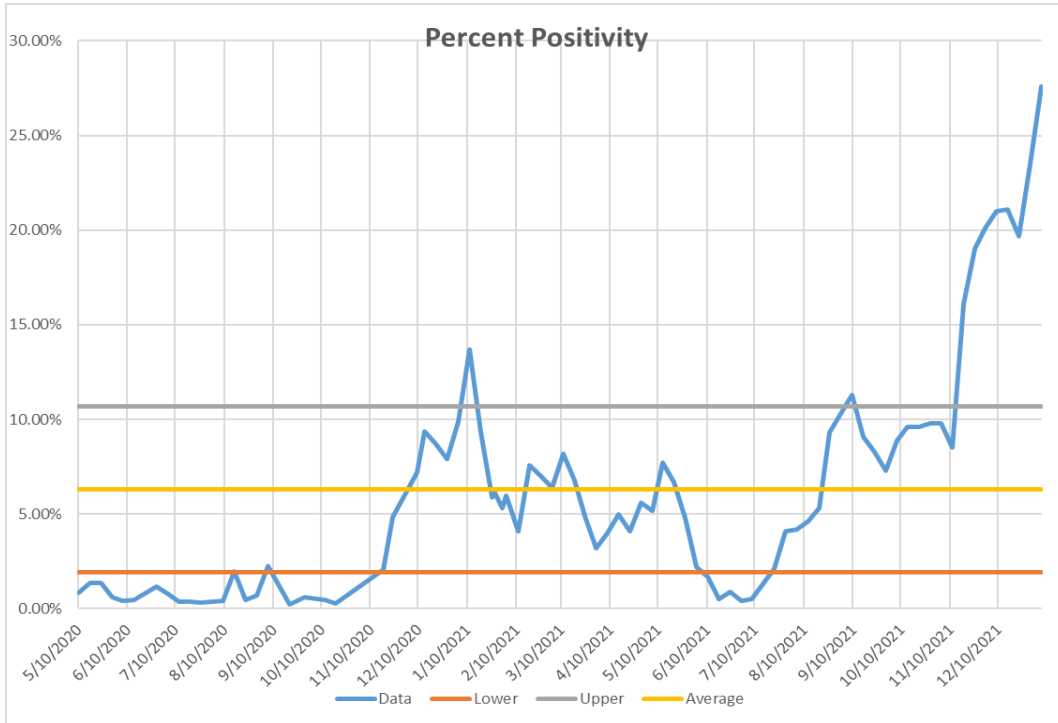
IP Update Week of 1/10/22

Total Tests Collected / Percent Positive: (per eDH)

	Detected	Not Detected	Grand Total	% Detected
12/10/21 – 12/16/21	271	1,011	1,282	21.1%
12/17/2021 - 12/23/2021	289	1,172	1,467	19.7%
12/24/2021 – 12/30/2021	291	947	1,238	23.5%
12/31/2021 – 01/6/2022	338	887	1,225	27.6%
Grand Totals since JAN2021	4,071	34,662	38,733	10.5%

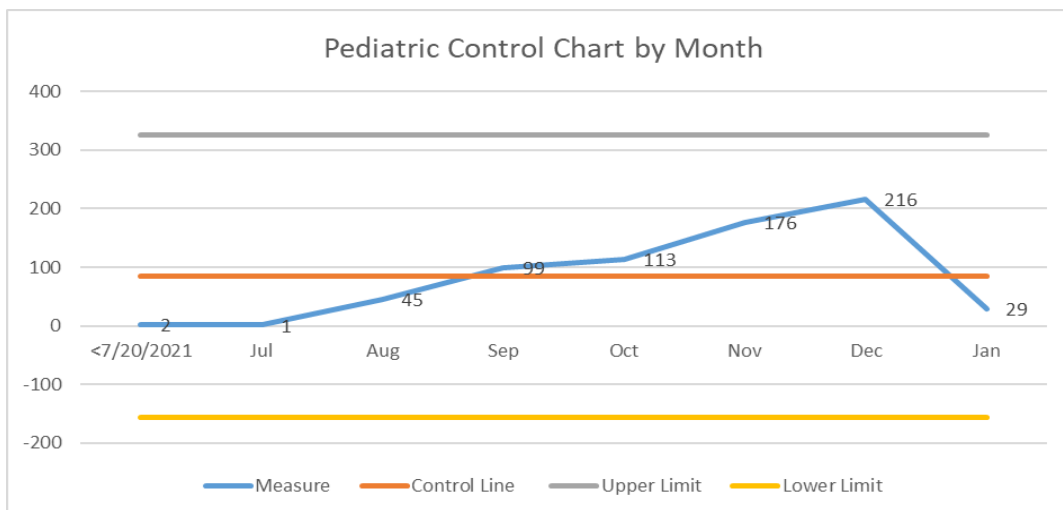
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Symptomatic vs. Asymptomatic Tests Collected – 26% asymptomatic, 12% symptomatic, and 62% unknown for 12/31/2021 – 1/6/2022.

Pediatric Control Chart:

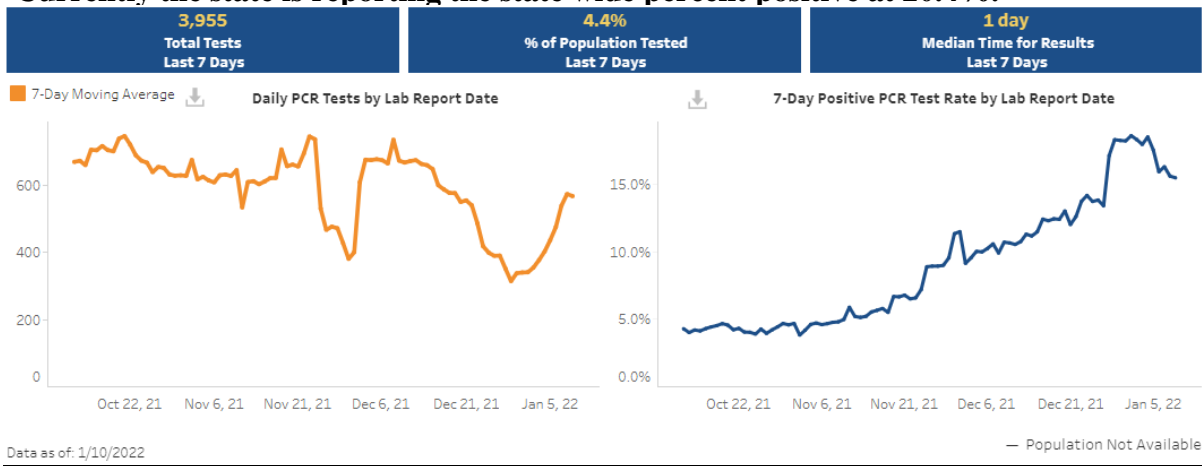


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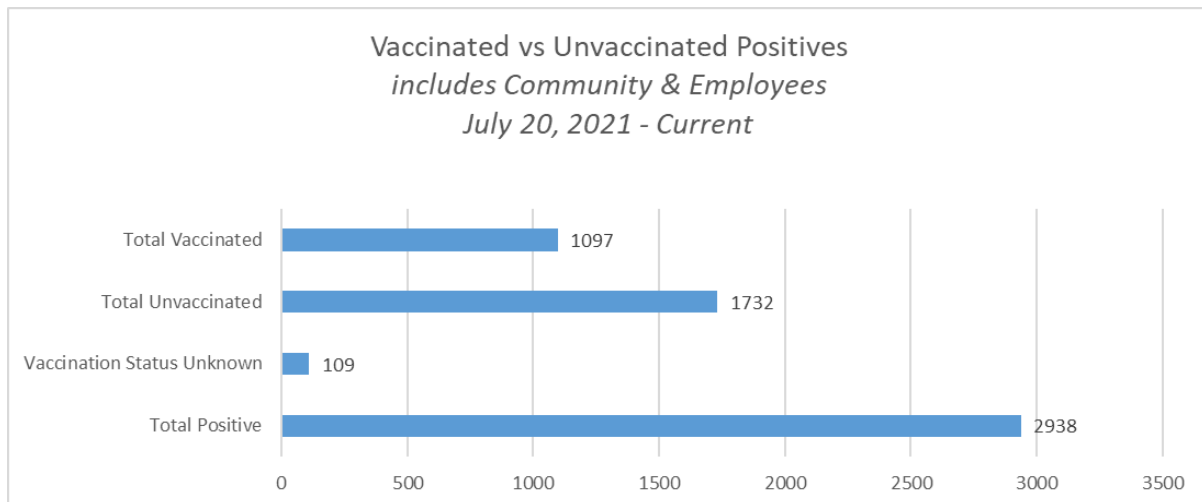
State Data for Cheshire County: Our State transmission is **substantial** with Cheshire County at **substantial** as well, with a percent positivity of **14.2%** and **1,578.5** new cases per 100k over 14 days, as of 1/10/22. With college campuses resuming their surveillance testing, we expect to see the State's percent positivity lower due to the mass of tests being collected. These large numbers of tests being collected by our higher education dilute the State percent positivity.

Currently the state is reporting the state wide percent positive at 20.4%.



Visitor Status: RED

Positives Compared to Vaccination Status (as of 1/1/22 this data includes community positives and employee positives only. Historic inpatients will remain.) **38.75%** vaccinated / **57.36%** unvaccinated / **3.89%** unknown



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Inpatients (7 day average, age range, and vaccination status) **32.14%** vaccinated / **61.11%** unvaccinated / **6.75%** unknown

12/24/21 – 12/30/21: total of **191** active COVID patients over 7 days, an average of **27** patients per day. This week we had **10** newly admitted, with ages ranging from **20-29, 50-59, 60-69,** and **80+**; **4** of which were fully vaccinated, **5** were not vaccinated, and **1** had an unknown vaccination status.

12/31/21 – 1/6/22: total of **171** active COVID patients over 7 days, an average of **24** patients per day. This week we had **20** newly admitted, with ages ranging from **40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79,** and **80+**; **5** of which were fully vaccinated, **11** were not vaccinated, and **4** had an unknown vaccination status.

A discussion of the outbreaks in the staff and at the Nursing Home and Department of Corrections was had. It was learned that thus far, there have not been any life-threatening severe events. Coates said that in a discussion with Cheshire Medical Center personnel he learned that it is believed that we may be at or near the peak and subsidence of infections is expected in the next few weeks.

Coates reminded the Commissioners that Monday is a holiday and there will not be a delegation budget review meeting next week.

Coates then brought up the topic of outside funding for various community agencies and a conversation began around the fallacy of “double-dipping” by agencies. It was said that the human service agencies all have fixed overhead costs and no one funding source is capable of meeting the financial needs of these agencies. It requires the agencies to seek funding from multiple sources to be able to continue to provide services and support to the neediest populations in our communities. Going to multiple funding sources for support to be able to cover overhead and operational expenses cannot and should not, be categorized as “double-dipping”. It was discussed that it is important to make this distinction as the term is pejorative and false.

Coates then said that a lease agreement for the temporary lease of office space to allow the completion of the HVAC energy work at the 33 West St. Administration building has not been received but is expected shortly. He went on to say that the IT technician that supports the Registry of Deeds will be meeting with Bouchard on Monday to create a work scope and operational plan to move the department to the temporary space and then back again once the work in the building is complete in about two months’ time.

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Coates has spoken with the two senatorial offices concerning expediting the County Medicare application for the new Emergency Medical Services (EMS) department once the completed application has been filed.

Trombly then spoke to a discussion with attorneys concerning the draft of the EMS Medicare application that will allow the county to bill for EMS services and said that the process is moving forward but will require more work to obtain final certification.

At 9:12 AM, Commissioner Wozmak moved to enter RSA 91-A:3, II(d) Consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community and was seconded by Commissioner Englund. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

At 10:19 AM the Commissioner voted unanimously to return to the public session.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Consent Agenda: Minutes of 01/05/2022 and Manifests for the week. Commissioner Englund moved the consent agenda and was seconded by Commissioner Clark. The motion passed with unanimous consent upon roll call vote.

General Discussion:

10:39 AM, there being no further public business to conduct, Commissioner Englund moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Commissioner Clark. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Recorded and edited by:
R. Bouchard
Assistant County Administrator

Reviewed and submitted by:
Terry Clark
Clerk, Board of Commissioners