

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, March 09 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 and Terry Clark (Commissioner Englund absent w/notice).
Staff: County Administrator Coates, Finance Director Trombly, Department of Corrections Superintendent Iosue, Sheriff Rivera, Grants Manager Bansley, and Assistant County Administrator Bouchard.
Guest(s):

At 8:33 AM, Commissioner Wozmak opened the meeting, and Administrator Coates conducted a roll-call with the Commissioners, Wozmak, and Clark, responding as "present."

Public Comment: None

At 8:32 AM, the Commissioners opened the floor for public comment and Department Head updates. Master Agenda Item #967: Semi-Annual report from the County Sheriff

Rivera said that the budget for 2022 is still in process and that both Chief Deputy Todd Faulkner and the Director of Communications, Arlene Crowell, are retiring in the next few months. He said that the Dispatch department would be restructured, and he is looking at the organizational structure of the Deputies. He then mentioned that one dispatcher recently resigned and that the department needs to hire another front office staff member.

He stated that he had been contacted by towns in County approaching the Sheriff's department to provide police services. He spoke to the difficulty of recruiting and hiring new personnel for the Sheriff's department and said the problem extends to all police departments in the County.

The projected staffing increases for the Sheriff's department to accommodate the town's police services requests were covered, and it was discussed how staffing for County Attorney's Regional Prosecutors office and the Sheriff's billing to towns need to be reviewed to ensure that the costs to the County are adequately covered. The structure of both programs was considered, and a meeting will be held to review the current configurations.

Rivera then said that in 2023 new contracts will be sent to all the towns currently being served by the department for police services. A further discussion began around salary and overhead costs. It was discussed that several deputies work for the County because of the higher quality of life because they are not required to work weekends holidays and undertake shift work. The change in County wages for both the Regional Prosecutor program and the police services from the Sheriff's department was reviewed as it may impact the costs for services.

The Sheriff's office's increasing number of court transports was then discussed. It was learned that the District Court is doing more of the transports than the Superior Court. Involuntary Emergency Admissions (IEA) have increased too. The Sheriff will coordinate with the hospital to understand why some of the transports require the Sheriff's department personnel to be involved in some transports. Master Agenda Item #968: Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant Agreement SFY23

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Action Expected Vote to accept and sign the grant agreement and associated documents for the VOCA grant for SFY23 from the New Hampshire Department of Justice for \$50,000, which requires \$12,500 in a match.

Bansley presented this annual grant for consideration, and Commissioner Wozmak moved to accept the grant as presented, and Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Master Agenda Item# 969: Cheshire County Drug Court SFY23 Grant Application
Action Expected: Vote to apply for a \$300,000 grant from the Office of the New Hampshire Drug Offender Program for operational funds for the Cheshire County Drug Court.

Bansley and Welsh spoke to the grant application in detail, and Commissioners Wozmak and Clark asked clarifying questions. **Following discussion, Commissioner Wozmak moved to submit the grant and was seconded by Commissioner Clark. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.**

Administrator Coates was then recognized for the Weekly Operations Report, and he presented the following information received from the Cheshire Medical Center for last week.

IP Update Week of 3/7/22

Total Tests Collected / Percent Positive: (per eDH)

	Detected	Not Detected	Grand Total	% Detected
2/4/2022 – 2/10/2022	103	401	504	20.4%
2/11/2022 – 2/17/2022	73	427	500	14.6%
2/18/2022 – 2/24/2022	37	361	398	9.3%
2/25/2022 – 3/3/2022	26	316	342	7.6%
Grand Totals since JAN2021	5,423	39,037	44,460	12.2%

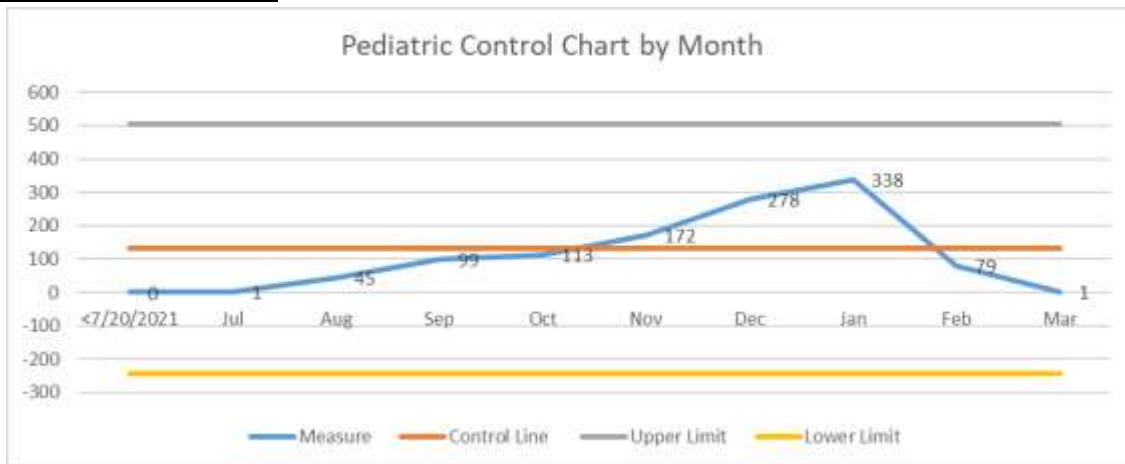
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Symptomatic vs. Asymptomatic Tests Collected – 21% asymptomatic, 10% symptomatic, and 69% unknown for 2/25/2022 – 3/3/2022.

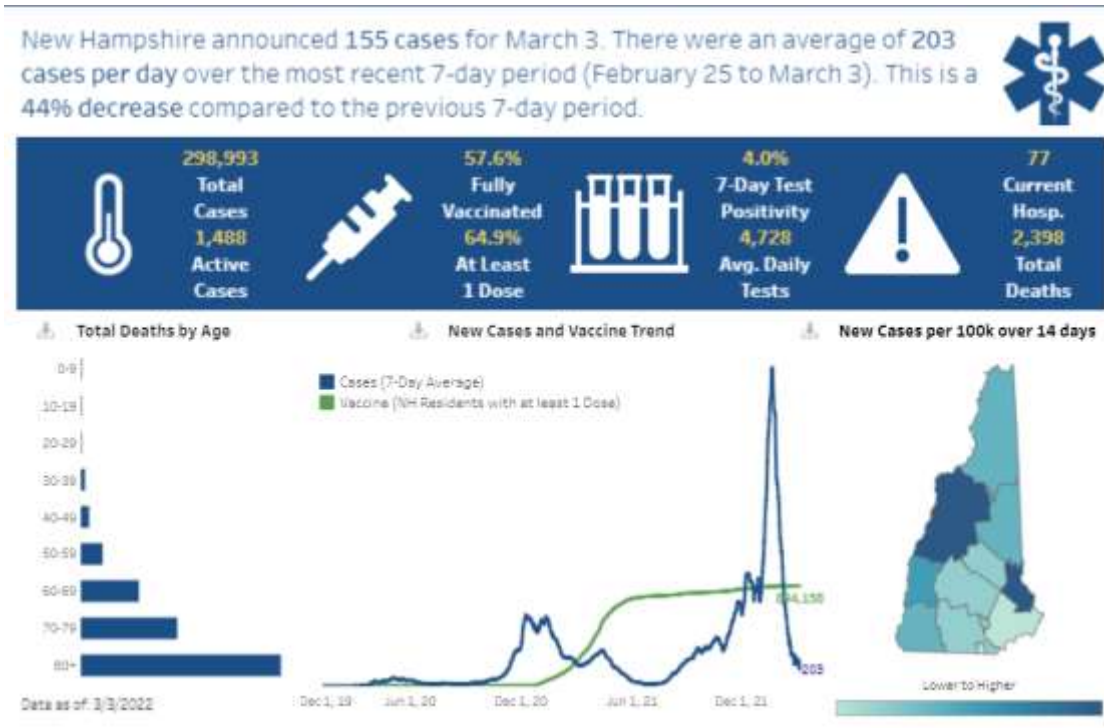
Pediatric Control Chart:



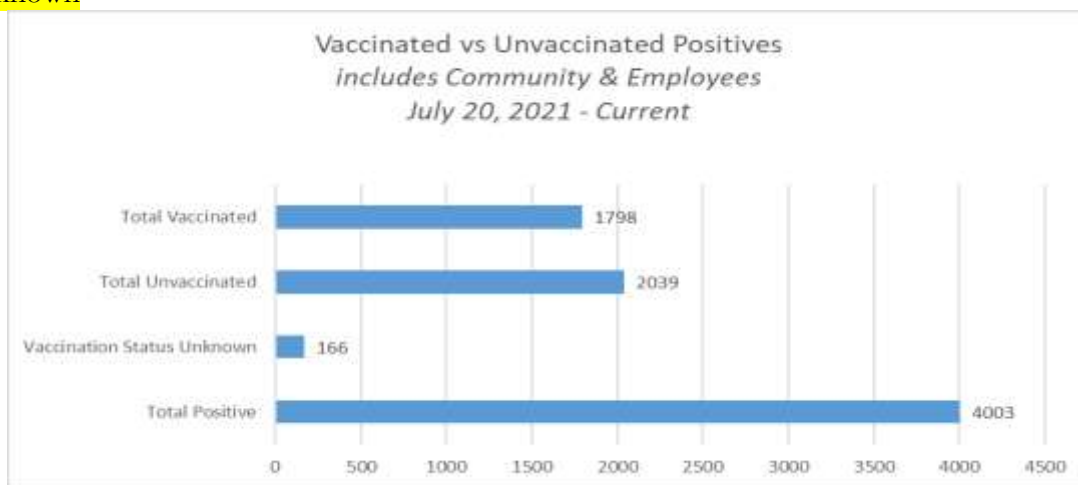
State Data for Cheshire County: As of 3/3/22, Cheshire County’s percent positive is 4.3%, with 241 new cases per 100k over the last 14 days. Cheshire County is still noted to be at a substantial level of transmission. See the State overview below:

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Positives Compared to Vaccination Status (as of 1/1/22 this data includes community positives and employee positives only. Historic inpatients will remain.) **44.92% vaccinated / 50.94% unvaccinated / 4.15% unknown**



Inpatients (7 day average, age range, and vaccination status) **37.27% vaccinated / 54.85% unvaccinated / 7.88% unknown**

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2/18/22 – 2/24/22: total of **47** active COVID patients over 7 days, an average of **6.7** patients per day. This week we had **4** newly admitted, with ages ranging from **40-49, 50-59, and 80+**; **1** of which were fully vaccinated, **2** were not vaccinated, and **1** had an unknown vaccination status.

Of the **4** newly admitted:

- Confirmed and admitted due to COVID – 3 (1 vaccinated, 1 unvaccinated, 1 unknown)
- Confirmed asymptomatic and admitted due to other etiology – 1 (0 vaccinated, 1 unvaccinated, 0 unknown)

2/25/22 – 3/3/22: total of **61** active COVID patients over 7 days, an average of **8.7** patients per day. This week we had **3** newly admitted, with ages ranging from **20-29, 50-49, and 60-69**; **2** of which were fully vaccinated, and **1** was not vaccinated.

Of the **3** newly admitted:

- Confirmed and admitted due to COVID – 2 (2 vaccinated)
- Confirmed asymptomatic and admitted due to other etiology – 1 (1 unvaccinated)

Coates asked that masks be made optional for the Keene campus.

Wozmak moved to make the use of masks optional to be determined by the department managers. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion, and upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Coates reminded the Commissioners that on March 21st at 6:00, the Executive Committee would meet for final 2022 budget items and that the full Delegation will meet to consider the budget at 7:00 PM.

Coates then said that during a presentation to the State Legislators, an Associate State Attorney had stated that the Counties had not expended the previously allocated opiate funds. Several Counties immediately pushed back with detailed statements showing how the money had been used and corrected the misstatement. Coates stated he sent an email to the Ways and Means Committee outlining how Cheshire County was using the funds and went on to describe how the County had used American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for programs dealing with Substance Abuse.

Coates then informed the Commissioners that Detact Diagnostics would be moving to Keene after meeting with local business and civic groups. They said they decided to choose Keene over several other locations because of the positive and supportive meetings they attended here. They stated that they would create a laboratory facility in Keene over the next six months and collaborate with the Hanna Grimes Center and Keene State College.

Coates then said that meetings with himself, Maplewood Administrator Kindopp, Cheshire Medical Center CEO Don Caruso, and Keene State President Melinda Treadwell have resulted in the agreement to develop a Keene-based feeder system for the development of LPN and RN programs will be with the

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participation of Keene State College, River Valley Community College, Cheshire Medical Center and the County. A second meeting is scheduled to begin studying the project's implementation phase.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Consent Agenda: Minutes of 02/23/2022 and Manifests for the week. Commissioner Clark moved the consent agenda and was seconded by Commissioner Wozmak. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

General Discussion:

09:45 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:
3R. Bouchard
Assistant County Administrator

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