

MINUTES
Cheshire County Commissioners Meeting
Wednesday, March 16 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, Bob Englund, and Terry Clark.

Staff: County Administrator Coates, Finance Director Trombly, and Assistant County Administrator Bouchard.

Guest(s):

At 8:36 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 none was received.

Coates was then recognized for the Weekly Operations Report.

Coates presented a request for a staff member to help a sibling settle the family business after the death of an immediate relative.

Following discussions, Commissioner Englund moved to approve the unpaid leave of absence, and Commissioner Clark seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Coates reminded the Commissioners that the Executive Committee would meet on Monday the 21, 2022, at 6:00 PM, and a Delegation meeting would follow at 7:00 PM.

Coates explained that he has been in contact with the Senatorial and Congressional offices of Sheehan, Hassan, and Kuster to ensure federal funding will be available to comply with CDC rules for ongoing testing at the Nursing Home due to federal requirements.

He reminded the Commissioners of the NH Association of Counties (NHAC) meeting this Friday at 10:00 AM in Concord at Primex and via Zoom.

Coates stated that he would be meeting with Keene State President Melinda Treadwell and Cheshire Medical Center CEO Don Caruso to continue the discussion on creating sustainable medical training centers for the County and beyond. The focus will be on creating more certified LNAs, LPNs, and RNs.

Coates then addressed the issue of HB1565, which is the Opiate abatement trust. He said that a funding bump-up from 15% to 30% for the Counties was under discussion. However, the motion has been tabled for the present time. A version from the NH Senate that mirrors some of the same elements is being considered that will cover Medication-assisted treatment (MAT) costs at the state jails.

Coates and Bouchard then reviewed the work ongoing at 33 West Street and the work about to start for the Copula and window restoration project. Discussion concerning the restoration of the exterior of the 1858 wing windows began, and it was presented as about a 6–8-week project.

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Coates then explained that Ellen Avery, Executive Director at Community Volunteer Transportation Company, will appear before the Executive Committee of Hillsborough County delegation to seek funds for transportation to supplement their current funding from Cheshire County as their coverage area has expanded into Hillsborough.

Coates related that the Monadnock Interfaith Council is establishing a coordinating meeting for housing that he will attend on March 23, 2022. The meeting will be held in the Delegation Meeting room at 12 Court Street.

Coates then said that funding to restore the Red Barn in Westmoreland is being considered to convert the building into an agricultural training and education center. Discussion of the use of the property and potential costs for the future were covered at length. Also covered was the work being done on the six-bay garage and Portico into the Assisted Living Facility (ALF) and the materials for the walkway around the RTUs on the roof of the nursing home.

Coates said that the County had received a letter from Congresswoman Kuster noting and praising the County's efforts to utilize American Relief Plan Act (ARPA) funds to assist small businesses and local non-profits.

He then presented the following information from the Cheshire Medical Center on the status of COVID-19.

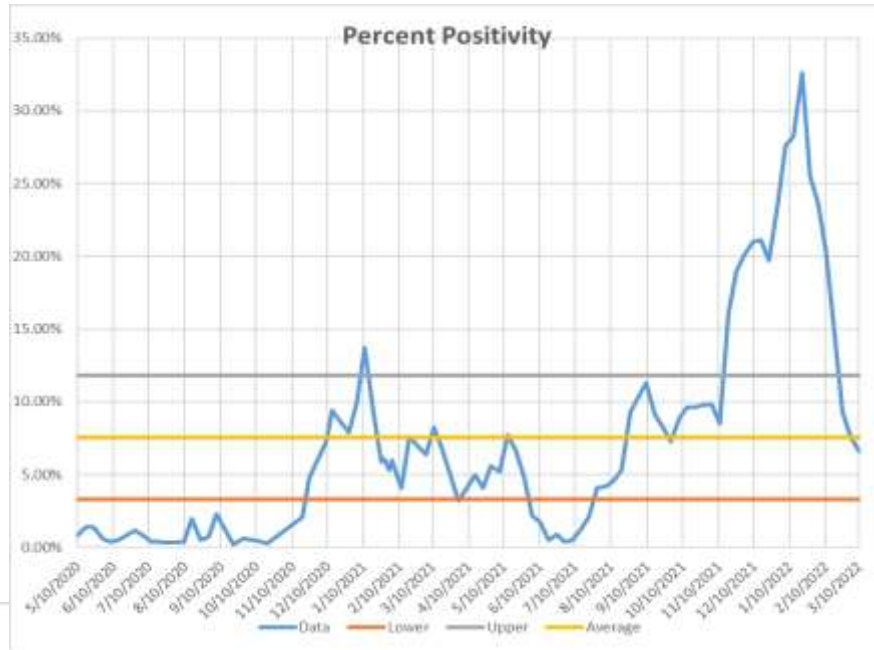
IP Update Week of 3/14/22

Total Tests Collected / Percent Positive: (per eDH)

	Detected	Not Detected	Grand Total	% Detected
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%
3/4/2022 – 3/10/2022	24	337	361	6.6%
Grand Totals since JAN2021	5,444	39,398	44,842	12.1%

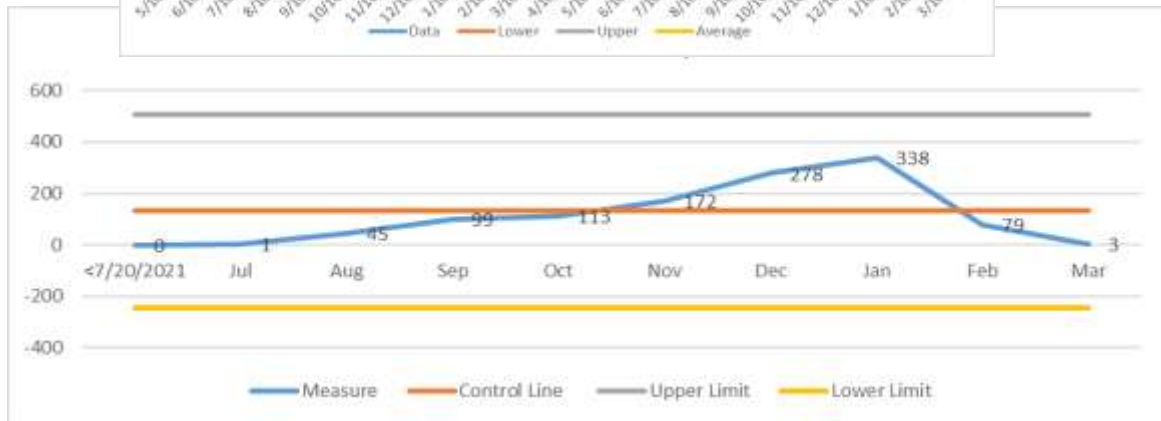
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Pediatric

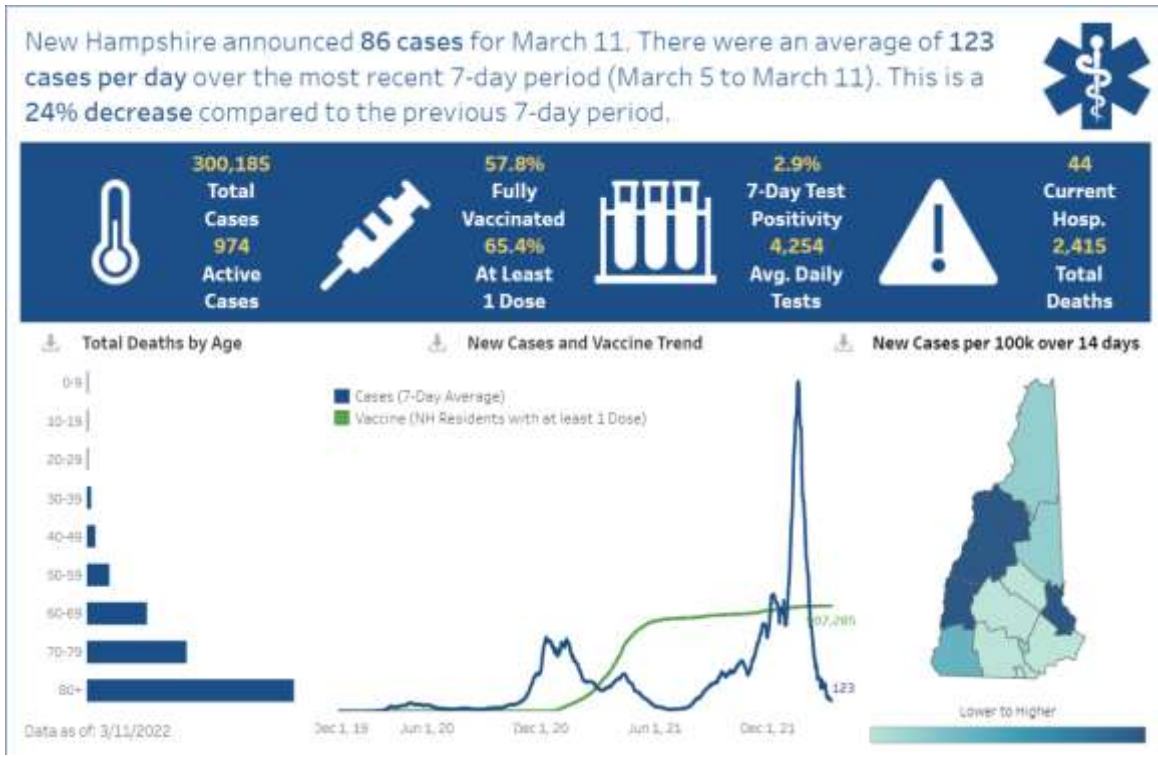
Control Chart:



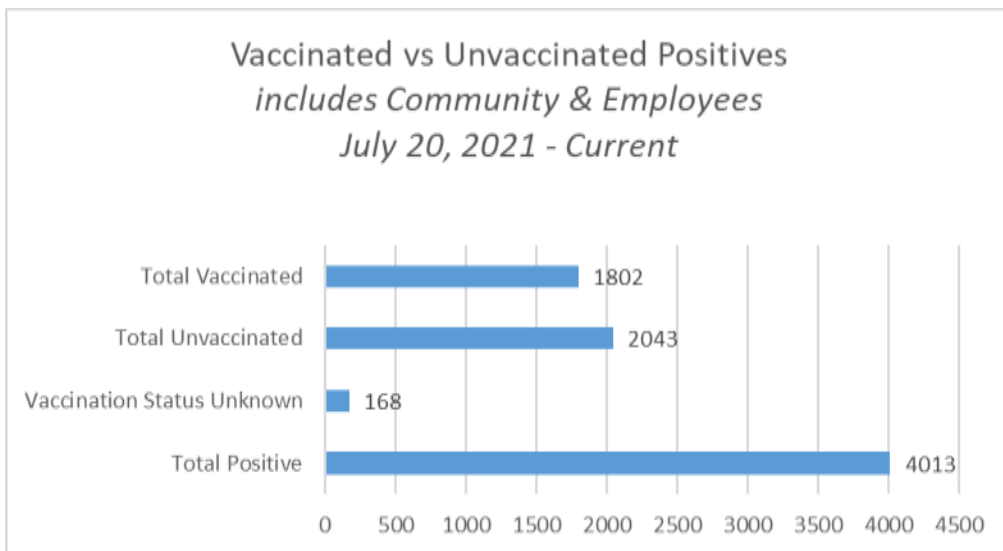
State Data for Cheshire County: As of 3/11/22, Cheshire County's percent positive is 4.3%, with a new case rate per 100k of 160. Cheshire County is noted to be at a low level of transmission per the CDC. See the State overview below:

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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.) **44.90% vaccinated / 50.91% unvaccinated / 4.19% unknown.**



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Inpatients (7 day average, age range, and vaccination status) **37.09% vaccinated / 54.30% unvaccinated / 8.61% unknown**

2/25/22 – 3/3/22: a 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)

3/4/22 – 3/10/22: total of **27** active COVID patients over 7 days, an average of **3.9** patients per day. This week we had **8** newly admitted, with ages ranging from **50-59, 60-69, 70-79, and 80+**; **3** of which were fully vaccinated, **3** were not vaccinated, and **2** had an unknown vaccination status.

Of the **8** newly admitted:

- Confirmed and admitted due to COVID – 6 (3 vaccinated, 3 unvaccinated, 0 unknown)
- Confirmed asymptomatic and admitted due to other etiology – 2 (0 vaccinated, 0 unvaccinated, 2 unknown)

At 9:41 AM, Commissioner Wozmak moved to enter a non-public session Pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(e) Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed against this board or any subdivision thereof, or against any member thereof because of his or her membership therein until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled. Commissioner Clark seconded the motion, and upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

As a result of deliberations in a non-public session, no decisions were made, and no vote was taken.

At 10:43 AM, The Commissioners voted unanimously to return to the public session.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Consent Agenda: Minutes of 03/09/2022 and Manifests for the week. Commissioner Englund moved the consent agenda and was seconded by Commissioner Clark. Upon roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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General Discussion:

At 10:46 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