



COVID-19 UPDATE

WALLINGFORD HEALTH DEPARTMENT

JULY 4TH, 2023

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EPIDEMIOLOGIST

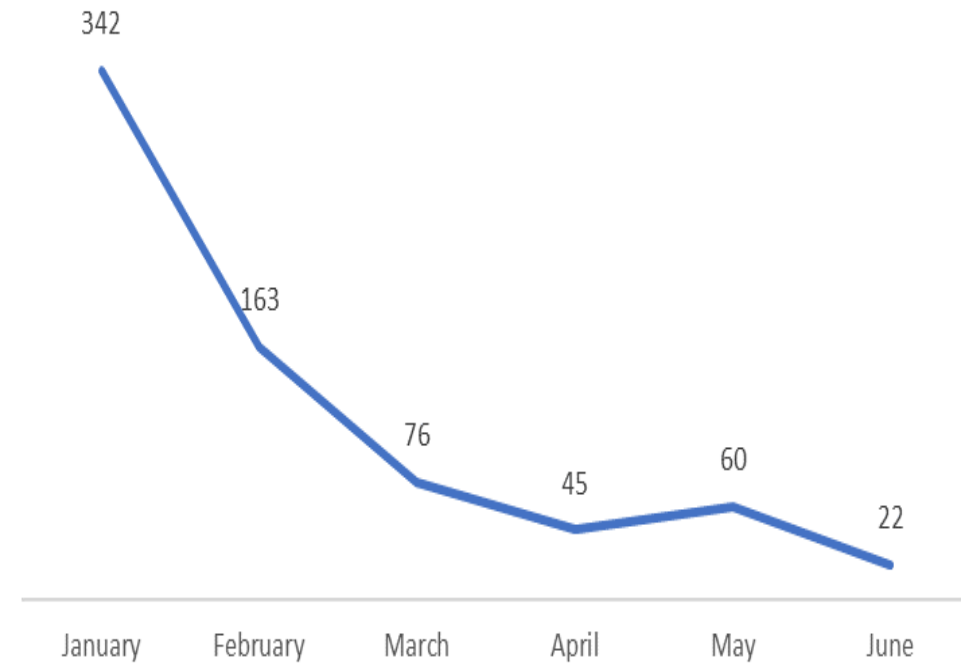
*All data is ongoing and subject to change



COVID-19 Cases in Wallingford

As of June 30th, 2023, Connecticut Department of Public Health reported a total of 708 COVID-19 cases in Wallingford (not including at-home tests).

COVID-19 Cases in Wallingford (2023)



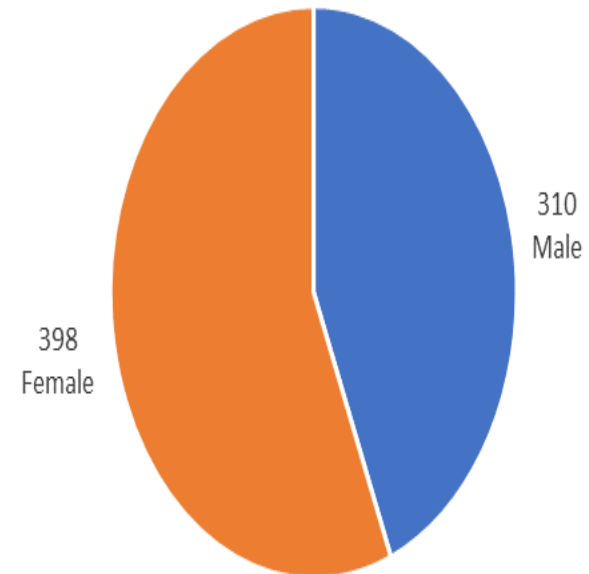
Source: LHD Portal



COVID-19 Cases by Gender

Three hundred ninety-eight cases are female and 310 are male.

COVID-19 Cases by Gender



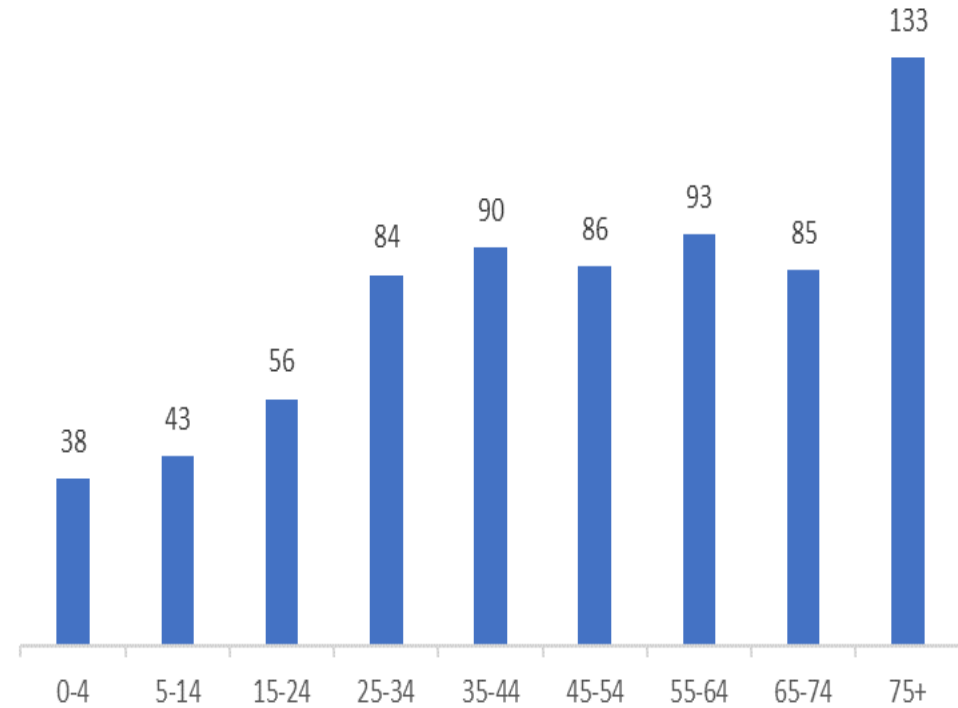
Source: LHD Portal



COVID-19 Cases by Age Group

In Wallingford, the age group with the highest number of cases since January 1st, 2023, is 75+ (133), followed by 55-64 (93), 35-44 (90), 45-54 (86), 65-74 (85), 25-34 (84), 15-24 (56), 5-14 (43) and 0-4 (38).

COVID-19 Cases by Age Group



Source: LHD Portal



COVID-19 2023 Update – Ending of the Public Health Emergency by CT DPH

As of June 1st, 2023, Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH) stopped reporting data for COVID-19. Please, see below for information and resources about COVID-19.

For the latest COVID-19 guidance, please visit the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website.](#)

With the nationally declared Public Health Emergency ending on May 11, the Connecticut Department of Public Health has announced the State's COVID-19 recovery plans and next steps. Please check back here for updates or e-mail any questions to: ASKDPH@ct.gov



COVID-19 2023 Update – Ending of the Public Health Emergency by CT DPH

Q: What does the end of the Public Health Emergency on May 11 mean?

A: Earlier this year, President Biden announced that the nationally declared Public Health Emergency, would expire on May 11, 2023. Under U.S. law, the President can declare a national emergency in response to a disaster or crisis. While the emergency declaration is in effect, the executive branch can exercise “emergency powers” to address the crisis, such as providing various types of relief to individuals, and to state and local governments. When the nationally declared emergency ends, those powers are lifted, and policies that the President enacted using emergency powers expire. Governor Ned Lamont’s declaration of a Public Health Emergency under Connecticut law provided that it would end at the same time as the nationally declared Public Health Emergency.



COVID-19 2023 Update – Ending of the Public Health Emergency by CT DPH

Q: Does this mean that COVID-19 is gone for good?

A: No. Ending the COVID-19 emergency declarations does not mean the virus has been eradicated. We can all stay healthy and live with COVID-19 and other viruses by getting fully vaccinated, staying home when we are sick, and practicing good hygiene. These same successful health prevention tools apply to many infectious diseases. It is why we have made so much progress in the past three years.



COVID-19 2023 Update – Ending of the Public Health Emergency by CT DPH

Q: What should I do to protect myself from COVID-19?

A: You still should get vaccinated, get the updated vaccine, use at-home tests, stay home when you are sick, and wear a high-quality mask when respiratory viruses are circulating at high levels in your community. These are all ways we can continue to protect ourselves and manage this virus. We hope that COVID-19 will follow the trajectory of other seasonal illnesses and remain ready to ramp up our efforts during respiratory disease season which typically runs from October through April. Please visit the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention's website](#) for the latest COVID-19 guidance.



COVID-19 2023 Update – Ending of the Public Health Emergency by CT DPH

Q: Is there updated guidance available for PreK-12 Schools?

A: Yes. Please see this recent [document that includes FAQ's for PreK-12 Schools](#). This document has been distributed to answer some of the lingering questions DPH and the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) have received in the past several months, and to pivot our reference for COVID-19 guidance in the future to the CDC's main COVID-19 information page, which can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/covid19>



COVID-19 2023 Update – Ending of the Public Health Emergency by CT DPH

Q: Are there any updates on the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act?

A: Yes, on May 9, 2023, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, Xavier Becerra signed the 11th amendment to the declaration under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act for COVID-19 Medical Countermeasures. The Secretary issues this amendment to clarify that COVID-19 continues to pose a credible risk of a future public health emergency, add two new limitations on distribution, extend the time period of coverage for certain Covered Countermeasures and Covered Persons, clarify the time period of coverage for Covered Persons authorized under the Declaration, and extend the duration of the Declaration to December 31, 2024. Read full details of the amendment in the [Federal Register Notice online](#).



COVID-19 2023 Update – Ending of the Public Health Emergency by CT DPH

Q: What is going to happen to the COVID Alert CT app?

A: The COVID Alert CT app, which was developed for the Apple iPhone and Android platforms, was discontinued on May 11 per the Association of Public Health Laboratories, Apple and Google.



DPH Public Health Emergency Demobilization Plan

COVID-19 Testing

- State supported COVID-19 testing at four Community Health Centers ended on June 30, 2023.
- The CDC has developed a tool to search for COVID-19 testing locations: [Testing Location | CDC.gov](#)
- For additional COVID-19 testing options, please visit: [Community-Based Testing Sites for COVID-19 | HHS.gov](#)
- Self-test kits can be purchased at pharmacies and other retail outlets.



DPH Public Health Emergency Demobilization Plan

COVID-19 Vaccines

- The DPH mobile van clinic program officially ended on June 30, 2023.
- Connecticut residents who are homebound should contact their health care provider to receive the updated COVID-19 vaccine, just as they do for seasonal influenza vaccine and other preventative health care services.
- The federal government will continue to distribute COVID-19 vaccine to healthcare providers such as retail pharmacies, hospitals, and physician practices. 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.
 - To find a vaccine provider near you with COVID-19 vaccines and Flu vaccines, visit: [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov)
 - For more information about immunizations, visit: [General Public - Vaccine Information](#).



DPH Public Health Emergency Demobilization Plan

- 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 Vaccines for Children program; or directly by consumers.

COVID-19 Therapeutics

- Access to treatments such as Paxlovid and Lagevrio will still be available from providers and retail pharmacies.

Long-Term Care

- DPH will continue to support long-term care facilities in helping to identify and limit any COVID-19 outbreaks. DPH is committed to offering education and training for outbreak control which can affect the state's most vulnerable citizens

Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC)

- WIC program waivers will end 90 days after the Public Health Emergency ends (Aug. 9, 2023). More updates will follow.



DPH Public Health Emergency Demobilization Plan

Disease Surveillance and Reporting

- DPH issued its last COVID-19 report for the 2022-23 respiratory viral disease season on the Open Data Portal on June 1, 2023. Additional resources include:
 - [COVID-19 Data Resources](#)
 - [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)-Associated Hospitalization Surveillance Network \(COVID-NET\), CDC](#)
 - [Connecticut Data Collaborative Dashboards](#)
 - [DataHaven Dashboard](#)
 - [University of Connecticut Department of Geography Dashboard](#)
 - [Connecticut Conference of Municipalities Dashboard](#)
 - [Transportation Equity in the Age of COVID-19, CT DOT Govern for America Fellows](#)
 - [Wastewater surveillance, CDC](#)



DPH Public Health Emergency Demobilization Plan

- 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.

Source: <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Communications/Health-Topics/COVID-19-2023-Update---Ending-of-the-Public-Health-Emergency>



AT-HOME COVID-19 TESTS

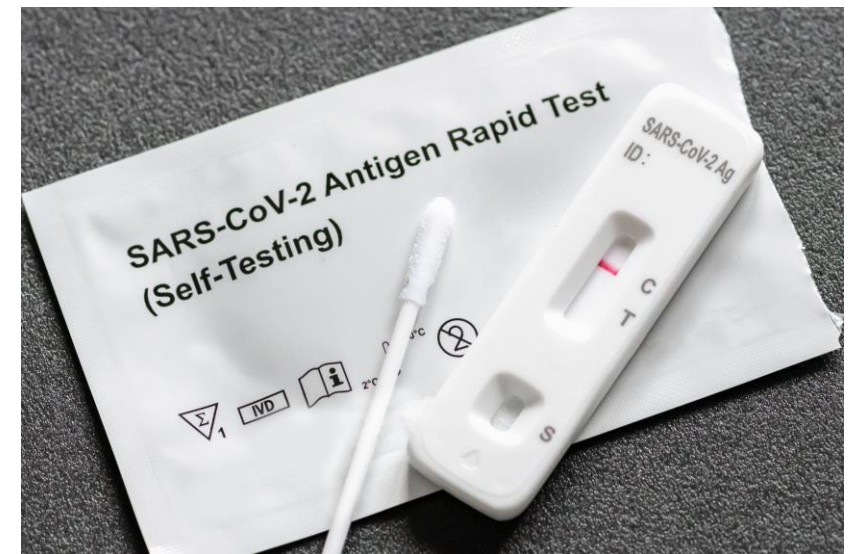
Beginning June 1: Ordering through the COVIDtests.gov program has been suspended to preserve remaining supply. The program is no longer accepting orders. All orders placed before 11:59pm PDT on May 31 will be delivered.

The COVIDtests.gov program has distributed over 755 million tests directly to more than two-thirds of American households, 310 million of which went to households in underserved communities.

The U.S. government will continue to make COVID-19 tests available to uninsured individuals and underserved communities through existing outreach programs. Please contact a [HRSA health center](#), [Test to Treat](#) site, or [ICATT location](#) near you to learn how to access low- or no-cost COVID-19 tests provided by the federal government.

At-Home Tests at Retailers and Pharmacies: At-home tests are available for sale around the U.S. Check with local retailers and pharmacies to see where at-home tests are available.

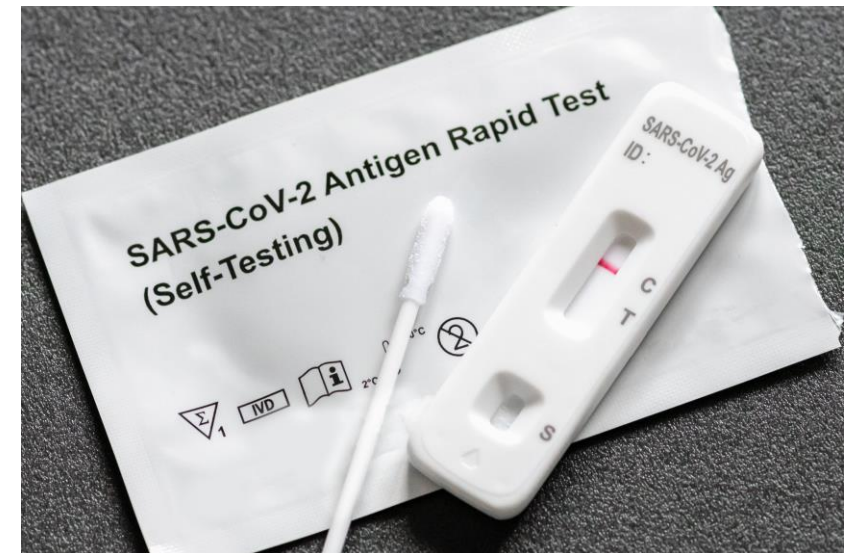
Source: <https://www.covid.gov/tests>





BEFORE YOU THROW OUT “EXPIRED” TESTS

Check to see if your COVID-19 tests' expiration dates have been extended at <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-covid-19-and-medical-devices/home-otc-covid-19-diagnostic-tests#list> or call the Health Department at (203) 294-2065





SEARCH FOR A LOCATION THAT OFFERS COVID-19 TESTING

- Search for a location that offers COVID-19 testing: <https://testinglocator.cdc.gov/>
- CVS Health: <https://www.cvs.com/minuteclinic/covid-19-testing>
- Local independent pharmacies: <https://doineedacovid19test.com/>
- Rite Aid: <https://www.riteaid.com/pharmacy/services/covid-19-testing>
- Walgreens: <https://www.walgreens.com/findcare/covid19/testing>
- Walmart in partnership with Quest Diagnostics: <https://patient.questdiagnostics.com/no-cost-covid-test>
- Find a health center near you: <https://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov/>
- For local testing information, visit the [Connecticut health department's website](#) or [Community-Based Testing Sites for COVID-19 | HHS.gov](#)

Source: <https://www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/community-based-testing-sites/index.html>



COVID-19 VACCINES

- **DPH Yellow Van**

The Connecticut Department of Public Health mobile clinic program officially ended on June 30, 2023.

Source: https://portal.ct.gov/vaccine-portal/DPH-van-clinics?language=en_US

- **Access** <https://www.vaccines.gov/> find a COVID-19 Vaccine near you at



CALL 2-1-1 UNITED WAY OF CONNECTICUT

2-1-1 is a free, confidential information and referral service that connects people to essential health and human services 24 hours a day, seven days a week online and over the phone. For more information on COVID-19, call 2-1-1 or access the CT Virtual Assistant. They are available 24 hours, 7 days a week. In other languages as well.

If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, contact your healthcare provider.

Source: <https://www.211ct.org/>



COVID-19 TEST-TO-TREAT LOCATIONS

COVID-19 medications are now available through your doctor, local pharmacies, and health clinics. If you have COVID-19 symptoms and test positive, do not wait to get treated. You must take oral COVID-19 medication within 5 days of your first COVID-19 symptoms. Access <https://covid-19-test-to-treat-locator-dhhs.hub.arcgis.com/> to find a location that is right for you. In addition to the FQHCs, the nationwide [Test to Treat](#) initiative provides testing for COVID-19 and treatments from a health care provider, all in one location. Connecticut currently has more than 40 Test to Treat sites, which are located at select pharmacies and urgent care centers throughout the state.

- [Charter Oak Health Center Inc, 21 Grand St, Hartford](#)
- [Fair Haven Community Health Clinic, 374 Grand Ave, New Haven](#)
- [Family Centers Health Care, 111 Wilbur Peck Court, Greenwich](#)
- [Southwest Community Health Center, 1020 Fairfield Ave, Bridgeport](#) COVID-19

Source: <https://aspr.hhs.gov/TestToTreat/Pages/default.aspx>



COVID-19 FUNERAL ASSISTANCE

The COVID-19 incident period ended on May 11, 2023. FEMA will continue to provide funeral assistance until Sept. 30, 2025, to those who have lost loved ones due to this pandemic.

If you are covering the cost of a COVID-19 funeral, FEMA may be able to help. You may qualify for up to \$9,000 in financial assistance through FEMA's COVID-19 Funeral Assistance program. Call FEMA's COVID-19 Funeral Assistance Helpline at 844-684-6333 to apply. (Monday-Friday, from 9AM to 9PM Eastern Time)(Multilingual services are available).

For more information: <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance>

ARE YOU COVERING THE COST OF A COVID-19 FUNERAL?

844.684.6333

You could qualify for up to \$9,000. THERE IS HELP FOR YOU!

FEMA

The advertisement is split into two panels. The left panel has a grey, textured background with bold black text asking if the viewer is covering the cost of a COVID-19 funeral, followed by a red banner with the phone number 844.684.6333. The right panel has a blue background with a group of diverse people. It features bold white text stating that up to \$9,000 in help is available, with the FEMA logo below.



Questions and Concerns?

If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, contact your healthcare provider.

If you have any questions and concerns, contact the Wallingford Health Department:

Call: (203) 294-2065, or

E-mail: health@wallingfordct.gov

Wallingford Health Department Website:

<https://www.wallingfordct.gov/government/departments/health-department/>