



NHPS Health & Safety Mask Mandate Considerations

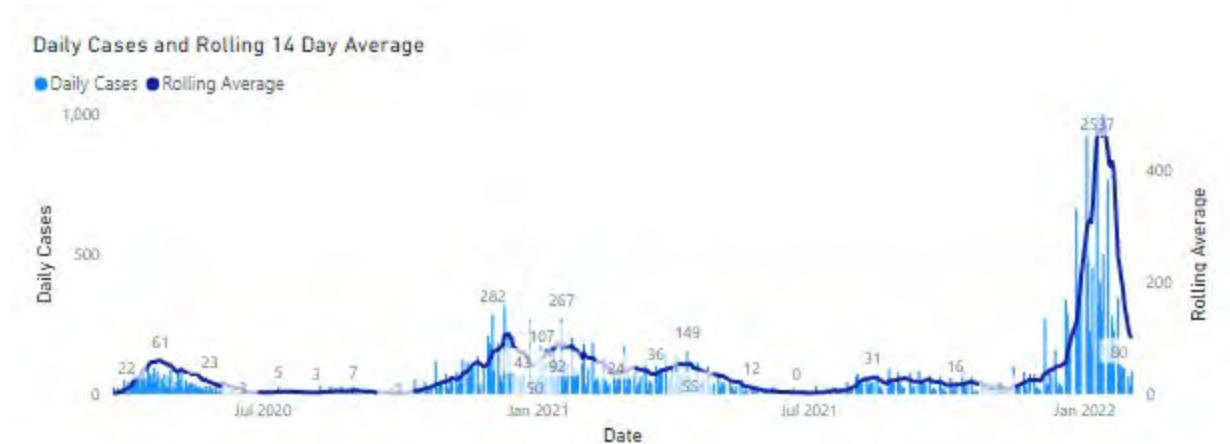
Maritza Bond, MPH
Director of Health
New Haven Health Department

Overview

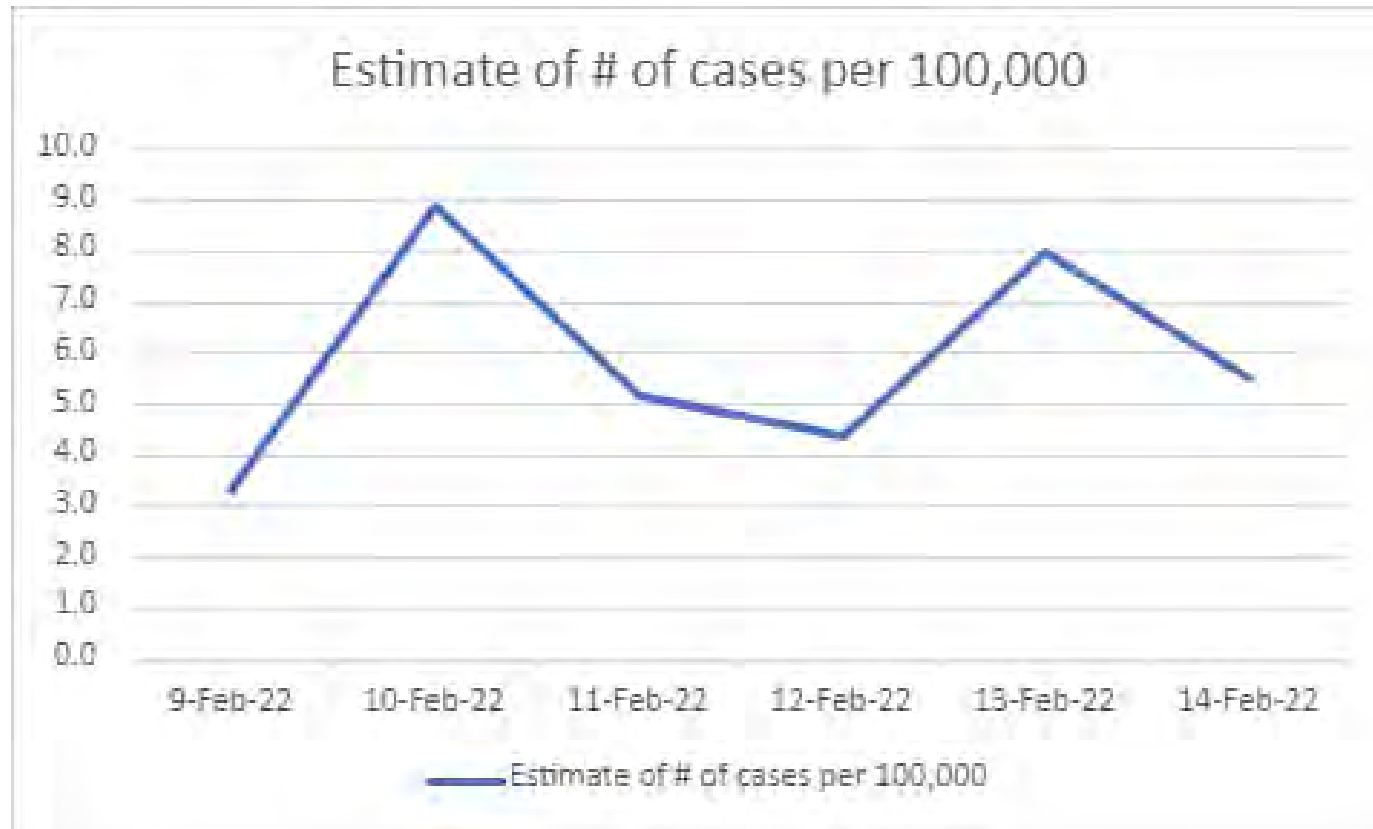
- Situational Awareness
- Variants of Concern (BA2)
- CT DPH Newly Issued School Guidance
- City of New Haven Executive Order

Covid-19 in New Haven, CT

- **7-DAY CASE RATE:**
12 cases / 100,000
- **7-DAY TEST POSITIVITY:**
2.5%
- **HOSPITALIZATIONS:**
42
(ICU Capacity- 74%)



Wastewater Estimates



VACCINATION RATES BY AGE GROUP

Ages 5-11

- First Dose: 30.51%
- Second Dose: 23.14%

Ages 12-17

- First Dose: 63.28%
- Second Dose: 55.2%

Total Rate Ages 5-17

- **First Dose: 46% (10,421 individuals)**
- **Second Dose: 38% (8,691 individuals)**

VACCINATION RATES BY AGE GROUP BY TOWN

	New Haven	Hamden	North Haven	West Haven	Woodbridge
Ages 5-11					
• First Dose	30.51%	44.1%	49.25%	29.65%	67.19%
• Second Dose	23.14%	38.72%	44.16%	22.86%	62.83%
Ages 12-17					
• First Dose	63.28%	59.61%	76.73%	59.41%	95.21%
• Second Dose	55.2%	55.75%	73.15%	54.51%	91.07%
Total Rate Ages 5-17					
• First Dose	46%	52%	63%	46%	81%
• Second Dose	38%	48%	59%	40%	76%

HIGH RISK STUDENTS IN NHPS DISTRICT

Medical Condition	# in District	% (Total: 12,204)
Asthma*	3755	31%
Diabetes, Type I and II*	88	.7%
Life-Threatening Food Allergy**	931	8%
TOTAL	4774	39%

*Asthma and Diabetes mellitus, type 1 and 2 are underlying medical conditions associated with higher risk for severe COVID-19.

**We include Life-Threatening Food Allergy as children with this type of allergy may be less likely to get vaccinated.

Source: [Underlying Medical Conditions Associated with Higher Risk for Severe COVID-19: Information for Healthcare Professionals | CDC](#)

Variant of Concern: BA. 2

- Surveillance and monitoring efforts of other variants & their severity continue
- Newest variant being monitored: **BA. 2**
- BA.2 is:
 - Highly contagious (*more contagious than the original version of omicron, BA.1*)
 - Spreading in the U.S.
 - Responsible for about 4% of new infections nationwide
 - Can re-infect individuals who've previously had omicron
- **CT**: As of 2/24/22 there are have been **32 BA.2 cases in CT**

Newly Issued CT DPH Considerations

- ✓ **Community and district data** - prevalence and transmission of COVID-19
- ✓ Risk tolerance for increasing case numbers, quarantine and isolation for students and staff
- ✓ **Vaccination status of students and staff**
 - within individual schools
 - across the district
 - surrounding community
- ✓ Additional planning to address needs of high-risk students and staff
- ✓ Contingency planning for potential surges and/or outbreaks

Newly Issued CT DPH Guidelines: Routine Strategies

- COVID-19 vaccination for all eligible students and staff, including booster
- Following isolation guidelines for students/staff who have symptoms or have tested positive for, COVID-19.
- Following quarantine guidance for students/staff who have been notified of higher-risk close contact exposures (e.g., household, crowded social gatherings).
- Recommending prevention strategies, including testing (self-testing and/or at provider sites) following illness or exposures to COVID-19 cases.
- Continuing to advise parents to report all cases to the school and schools reporting to their local health department and CTDPH.
- Being prepared to respond quickly to rapid increases in cases or clusters of cases in schools (including increases in absenteeism due to respiratory illness)

Newly Issued CT DPH Guidelines: Outbreak Strategies

- **Universal masking policy** for students and staff
- **Cohorting** during meals, recess, and other gathering times to limit spread
- Limiting outside visitors to the school
- **Notifying potentially exposed students and staff and recommend testing**
- **Offer testing**
 - State supported programs (e.g., Project COVID DeteCT)
 - Distribution of purchased self-test kits.
 - **Testing of a group of students and/or staff associated with an outbreak should occur as soon as possible after the suspected outbreak is detected.**

**Enhanced mitigation strategies in response to worsening COVID-19 transmission conditions:
Spacing, Ventilation, Cleaning, and Communication**

Masks Continue to be an Effective Tool

CDC MMWR

- Consistent use of a face mask or respirator in indoor public settings was associated with lower odds of a positive SARS-CoV-2 test result (adjusted odds ratio = 0.44).
- Use of respirators with higher filtration capacity was associated with the most protection, compared with no mask use.



NHHD Recommendations

- Recommend continuing with mask mandate to unforeseeable future due to:
 - Low vaccination rate for age group 5-17 as compared to surrounding towns
 - Significant percent of high-risk students in the district – 40%
 - Masks have been shown to be effective should there be another surge
- Ongoing Surveillance & Monitoring