

COVID-19 Week in Review

Tentative Upcoming COVID-19 Testing Clinics:

> March 10th & 12th, 2021 at Total Health Chiropractic (Bridgewater)

• [Register](#)

> March 10, 2021 at El Imperial (Franklin)

• [Register](#)

> March 11, 2021 at Robert Morris School (SBB)

• [Register](#)

> March 11, 2021 at Bernards Township Community Center

• [Register](#)

> Other Testing Locations

- 24 Private Locations in Somerset County: [Link](#)
- Mobile testing available upon request. If interested contact SCEOC (SCEOC@co.somerset.nj.us) for more information.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

The following types of PPE are available to the municipalities upon request. Requests can be sent to the [SCEOC](#).

- Respirators (KN95/N95)
- Surgical Masks
- Eye Protection
- Protective suits/gowns
- Bleach
- Hand Sanitizer

COVID-19 Emergency Management Webinars:

> Emergency Management Preparedness Manual for People with Disabilities

• [Register](#)

> Creating a Culture of Preparedness in Diverse Populations

• [Register](#)

Somerset County 7 Day Summary (2/27/21 – 3/5/21)

7 Day Total (CDC)	Increasing	223.15 per 100k (+8.42% Change)
Percent Positivity (CDC)	Stable	6.23 (-0.01% Change)
Testing Volume (CDC)	Decreasing	2840 per 100k (-8.52% Change)
New Hospital Admissions (COVID) (NJHA Healthcare Coalition Dashboard)	Decreasing	11.96 per 100 beds (-34.15% Change)
Percent Beds Used (COVID) (NJHA Healthcare Coalition Dashboard - Total 323 beds)	Decreasing	8.35% (-4.33% Change)
Percent ICU Beds Used (COVID) (NJHA Healthcare Coalition Dashboard - Total 46 beds)	Decreasing	13.04% (-8.70% Change)
Vaccinations (NJ COVID Data Dashboard)	Increasing	27,729 new, 91,997 total Vaccinated
(CovidActNow 3/5/2021)		18.2% of Somerset County Residents have received the first dose 9.6% have received the second dose

Sources: [CDC COVID Data Tracker](#) [NJ COVID Data Dashboard](#) [CovidActNow](#) [Somerset County Coronavirus Hub](#)

News

“When will it end?”: How a changing virus is reshaping scientists’ views on COVID-19” (3/3/21) Scientists had been hopeful that herd immunity could be achieved with the use of vaccines. The rise in variants may cause the fall in the current vaccine efficacy. COVID-19 will continue to circulate in communities and will likely cause a significant burden of illness and death into the future. The forecast through 6/1/2021 assumes there will be 62,000 more U.S. deaths. This model includes assumptions about vaccination rates and variant transmissibility. [Article](#)

“How does the Johnson & Johnson vaccine work? When is it available? What to know about the new shot.” (3/2/21) J&J vaccine is a one dose of an adenovirus vector vaccine, which the population may be more aware of and more comfortable with. This vaccine completely prevented hospitalization and death, including in South Africa against a variant, and was 85% effective at protecting against severe cases. [Article](#) [Press Release](#)

“CDC chief warns of ‘potential fourth surge’ and urges US to keep Covid rules.” If measures are relaxed another wave could occur before a majority of the population is vaccinated. Daily case numbers fell steeply after a peak in January but started to increase again. However, Vaccine distribution had rebounded after winter storms affected deliveries. [Article](#)

“N.J. quietly added 11 medical conditions, including being overweight, asthma, to COVID vaccine eligibility list”(3/3/21) [Article](#)

“Improper Use of Thermal Imaging Devices: FDA Safety Communication” (3/4/21)

Thermal imaging systems are shown to not be accurate when taking the temperature of multiple people at once and should not be used for "mass temperature screening." Thermal imaging systems should not be used to diagnose COVID-19, but one method for initial assessment as part of a larger approach to risk management. [Press Release](#)

Updates

March 15th Vaccine Eligibility:

- Teachers/Education staff (Pre-K - 12th grade)
- Child care workers
- Transportation workers
- Public safety personnel
- Members of tribal communities
- Migrant farmworkers
- Homeless/Living in a shelter

March 29th Vaccine Eligibility:

- Restaurant/Food production, Distribution, Agriculture
- Eldercare and support
- Grocery personnel
- Warehouse and logistics workers
- Hospitality
- Social services support staff
- Election/Judicial system personnel
- Clergy

Although more individuals will be eligible, appointment availability is subject to supply. [Press Release](#)

Please email SCEOC if you have any COVID-19 related questions or suggestions for future articles.

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