

COVID-19 Week in Review

Tentative Upcoming COVID-19 Testing Clinics:

> March 15th, 17th, 19th 2021 at Total Health Chiropractic (Bridgewater)

• [Register](#)

> March 14, 2021 at Franklin Middle School

• [Register](#)

> March 18, 2021 at Peapack- Gladstone Municipal Building

• [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:

> COVID-19 Vaccine: Fears, Hesitation, and Access, What the Black Community Needs to know

• [Register](#)

> Quality, Speed & Equity: Delivering COVID-19 Vaccines to the World

• [Register](#)

> Building Resiliency: Emergency Water Treatment System

• [Register](#)

Somerset County 7 Day Summary (3/6/21 – 3/12/21)		
7 Day Total (CDC)	Decreasing	217.37 per 100k (-2.59% Change)
Percent Positivity (CDC)	Increasing	7.04 (+0.79% Change)
Testing Volume (CDC)	Decreasing	2768 per 100k (-13.04% Change)
Hospital COVID-19 Admissions (NJHA Healthcare Coalition Dashboard)	Decreasing	21 (-22% Change)
Percent Beds Used (COVID) (NJHA Healthcare Coalition Dashboard - Total 323 beds)	Decreasing	6.50% (-4% Change)
Percent ICU Beds Used (COVID) (NJHA Healthcare Coalition Dashboard - Total 46 beds)	Decreasing	10.86% (-20% Change)
Vaccinations (NJ COVID Data Dashboard)	Increasing	22,183 new, 114,180 total Vaccinated
(CovidActNow 3/12/2021)		22.2% of Somerset County Residents have received the first dose 11.6% have received the second dose

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

News

“N.J. drugmaker Merck reports new antiviral COVID drug quickly reduces virus” (3/6/21) Experimental antiviral drug showed a quick reduction of the virus in a study among participants with early COVID-19 in outpatient & hospital settings. Merck also will help J&J produce their vaccine to expand supply more quickly. [Article](#)

“N.J. confirms 1st case of more contagious South African COVID variant. Total variant cases up to 145” (3/10/21) Hudson County reported the first identified South African variant in New Jersey. As of 3/10, 3 cases in Somerset County were identified as the U.K. variant. [Article](#)

“Fact-checking vaccine claims in alleged disinformation campaign by Russian intelligence” (3/9/21) Online publications have been used to spread disinformation that undermines public confidence in COVID-19 vaccines. [Article](#)

“The vaccines are working. That's why we shouldn't panic about variants” (3/8/21) “The vaccines are performing well” but that only heightens the need to lower high case rates. [Article](#)

“Pfizer vaccine neutralizes Brazilian virus variant in new study” (3/9/21) High neutralizing activity seen against all strains tested, including P.1 Brazilian variant [Article](#)

“Europe waits for Covid vaccines ‘like pioneers in a Western’ as third wave sees cases rocket 50% amid EU job shambles” (3/11/21) [Article](#)

“A ticking plastic bomb’: 3 million face masks are thrown out every minute, researchers warn” (3/11/21) [Article](#)

Updates

CDC:

Vaccinated persons are less likely to become infected and potentially less likely to spread the virus to others.

- Visit with other fully vaccinated people indoors without wearing masks or distancing
- Visit with unvaccinated people from a single household who are at low risk for severe COVID-19 disease indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing
- Refrain from quarantine and testing following a known exposure to COVID-19 if asymptomatic.
- Masks should be worn in public, social distancing and continue to take precautions with those at high risk for serious illness.
- Local and private policies may supersede these guidelines

New Jersey Gathering & Capacity Changes:

Limits	Currently	3/19/21
Indoor Gathering Limit (Persons)	10	25
Outdoor Gathering Limit (Persons)	25	50
Capacity limits: restaurants, bars, gyms, personal care & amusement venues (does not include employees)	35%	50%

The new indoor and outdoor limits do not apply to religious services or ceremonies, political events, weddings, funerals or memorial services since they have higher limits — or none, in some cases — for indoor and outdoor gatherings.

Please email [SCEOC](#) if you have any COVID-19 related questions or suggestions for future articles.

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