

COMMUNITY UPDATE COVID-19

January 12, 2022:

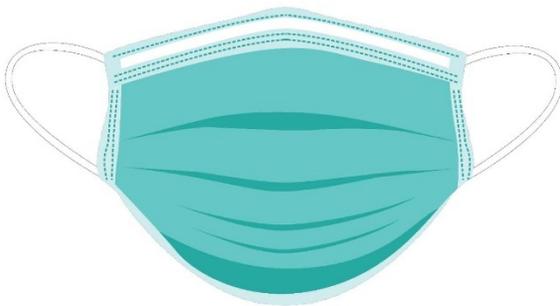
The Town of Mansfield continues its community update on our website with our up to date information and important tips for the public as it relates to the COVID-19 pandemic. For more complete information, please see the town [coronavirus webpage](#).

- **As of today, please see the below chart that represents our communities COVID-19 relates cases:**

<i>Mansfield Covid-19 Workflow</i>	#	
Positive COVID-19 under isolation	441	(updated 01/12 08:00)
Positive Cases recovered	2995	
Total tested positive since beginning:	3465	
Covid-19 Related Deaths	29	Last Covid death in Mansfield 12/20/21

- [Mask Mandate for all public spaces within Mansfield](#)

FACE MASK



REQUIRED

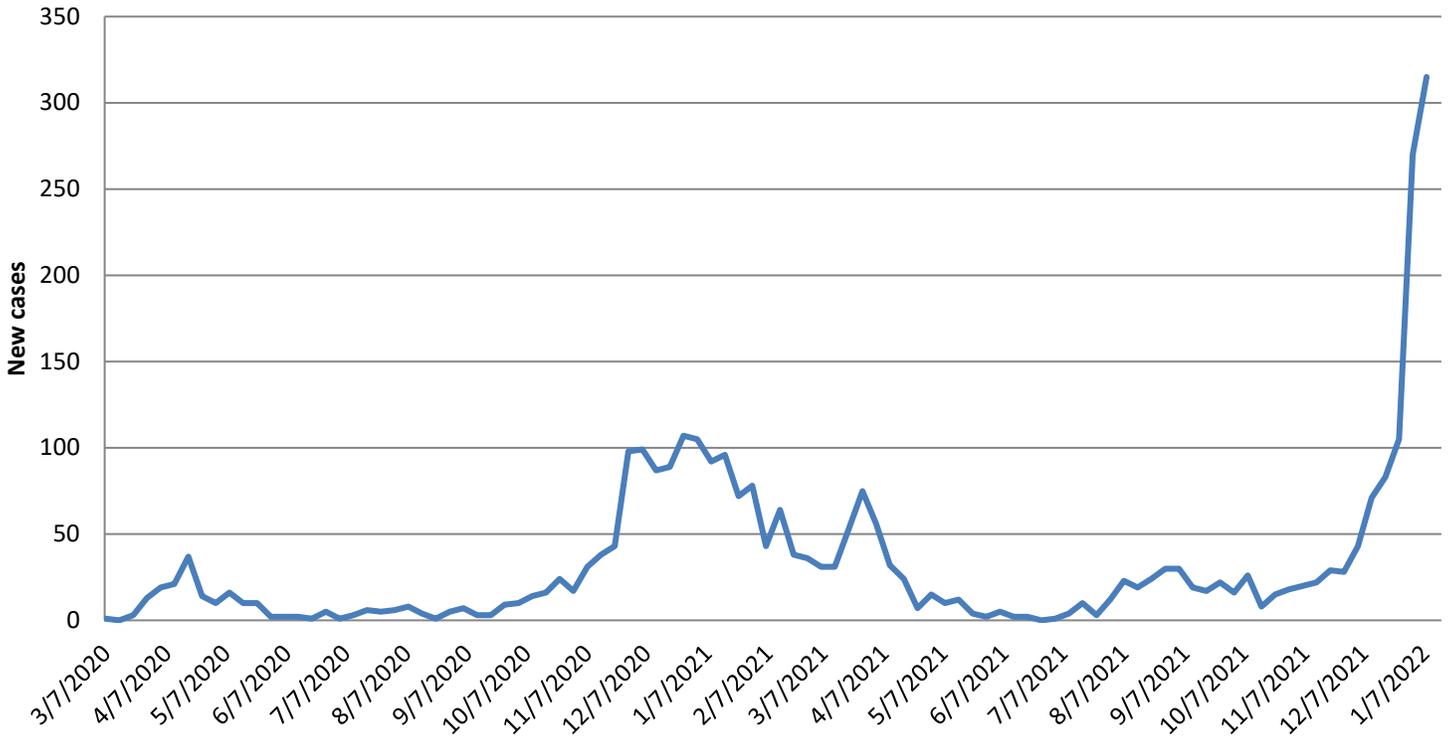
Per Order of the Mansfield Board of Health, effective January 12, 2022, anyone over the age of two entering this establishment must wear a face covering, regardless of vaccination status. Masks are to be worn to completely cover a person's nose and mouth.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Effective TODAY January 12, 2022: Due to the rapid rise in cases in the Town of Mansfield, the Mansfield Board of Health has enacted an emergency order requiring masks for all individuals aged two years and above in all indoor public spaces, places of worship, or private spaces open to the public except where an individual is unable to wear a face covering due to a medical condition or disability. This mandate will be in place until February 28, 2022.

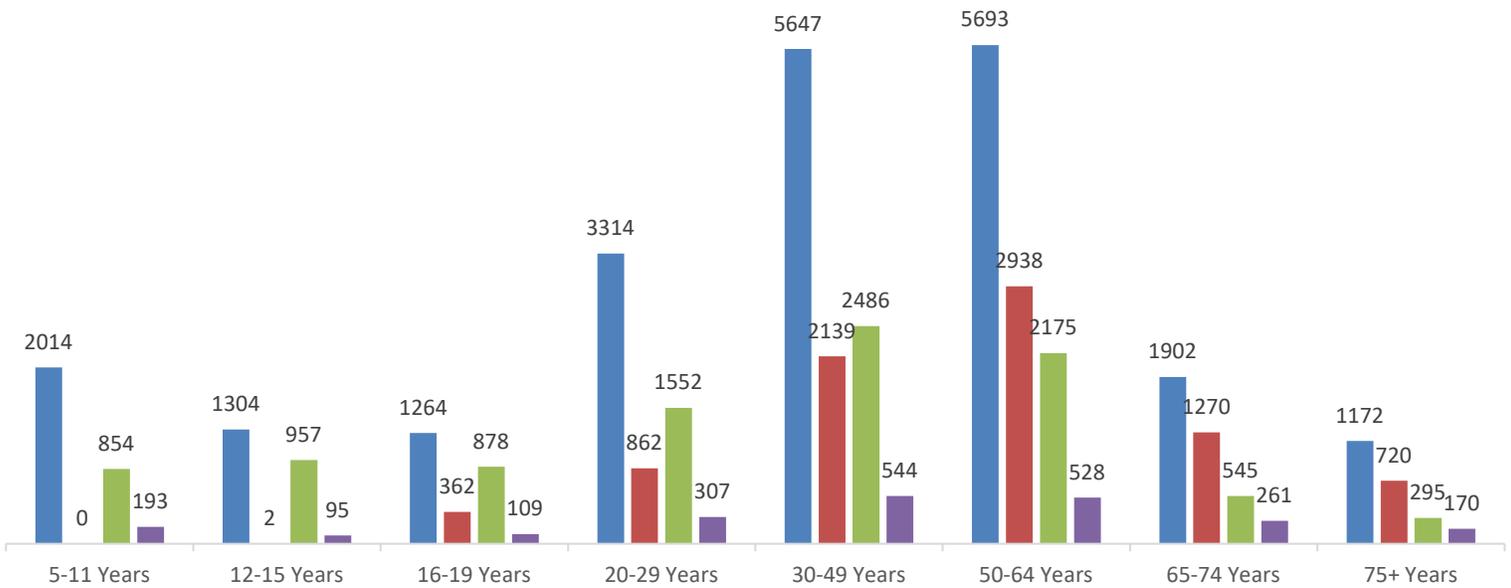
Additional information can be found on the Coronavirus webpage: [Coronavirus Information | Mansfield, MA \(mansfieldma.com\)](#)

New COVID-19 cases per week March 7, 2020 - January 8, 2022



Vaccine Distribution in Mansfield- data through January 4, 2021

■ Population
 ■ Individuals with booster doses
 ■ Fully vaccinated individual, no booster
 ■ Partially vaccinated individuals



Booster doses recommended for 16+

- [Public Health Advisory regarding COVID-19 Testing](#)

When should I get tested?

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health advises all residents to seek COVID-19 tests when exhibiting [COVID symptoms](#), or five days following a known close contact with someone diagnosed with COVID pursuant to MA DPH quarantine and isolation protocols, updated in accordance with the new CDC guidance.

The new isolation protocols released on December 29 do not require a COVID-19 test to exit isolation after having COVID. This general rule also applies to childcare and K-12. Additional information on [testing protocols for specific situations in childcare can be found here](#) and for [K-12 can be found here](#).

The new quarantine protocols recommend, but do not require, all exposed individuals get a test five days after exposure. Exposed individuals do not need to quarantine in the following circumstances:

- If fully vaccinated and not yet eligible to receive a booster OR
- If fully vaccinated and have received their booster OR
- If they had COVID and it is less than 90 days since they were diagnosed. For more details visit [About COVID-19 Symptoms](#).

What kind of test should I get?

There are two types of COVID-19 tests that are widely available to the public: rapid antigen tests, which are available as take-home tests and can be self-administered, and PCR tests, which are a clinically administered test, such as those at the Commonwealth's Stop the Spread testing sites.

DPH advises that rapid antigen tests are an acceptable alternative to a PCR test in most situations, including in the following scenarios:

- To exit isolation or quarantine, in line with DPH guidance
- To receive therapeutics like monoclonal antibodies or antiviral medications if the patient is at high risk for severe outcomes

DPH advises that a positive COVID-19 rapid antigen does not need to be confirmed with a PCR test.

DPH recommends individuals that have COVID symptoms and test negative with a rapid antigen test should isolate and either repeat an antigen test or get a PCR test in 24-48 hours if they continue to exhibit symptoms.

DPH advises that employers, or schools and childcare providers should not require a test as a condition of returning to work, school, or childcare.

Please refer to DESE or EEC protocols to determine appropriate use for tests in those settings. If an employer chooses to require testing, a PCR should not be required. For some workers at nursing homes or other long-term care facilities, a PCR test is required. (Workers should check with their employer.)

Some countries require a negative PCR test for entry. Travelers should check requirements prior to travel.

What is the difference between PCR tests and rapid tests?

While PCR tests were the first tests available and the most commonly used COVID-19 diagnostic tool up to this point, rapid antigen tests are now more widely available, and have clear advantages over PCR tests in many contexts.

Rapid antigen tests (such as at-home testing kits) can be easily used, and the results are available in as few as 15 minutes. Because antigen tests can be done anywhere and do not require laboratory analysis or trained personnel to collect the sample, they are convenient and accessible.

Antigen tests are well suited for diagnostic testing in people who are symptomatic or who have been exposed to COVID-19 and as screening tests for asymptomatic people in specific settings (e.g., K-12 schools or daycare settings). PCR tests can also be used for these purposes but may indicate a positive result long after someone has stopped being infectious. As a result, PCR tests are not recommended for use when making decisions about returning to work or school or when making decisions about whether someone without known exposure or new symptoms should isolate.

Rapid antigen tests have a low rate of false positives. As a result, a person who tests positive on a rapid antigen test, almost certainly has COVID-19 and must follow isolation guidance. **A PCR test is not necessary or recommended to confirm a positive result on a rapid antigen test.** If a person with COVID-19-like symptoms tests negative on a rapid antigen test, DPH recommends repeating an antigen test in the next 24-48 hours. Alternatively, these individuals could consider getting a PCR test. In the meantime, while waiting to take the additional rapid test or while waiting for the PCR results (which can take 24-72 hours) these individuals should assume they are positive and follow the isolation guidance.

Employers, schools, and daycare settings should not require PCR tests to return to those settings. Employees, students, and children may return to these settings when they have met the state guidelines for isolation or quarantine. Please refer to DESE or EEC protocols for appropriate use of tests in those settings. Current DPH guidance is that people in quarantine are recommended, but not required, to get a viral test (rapid antigen or PCR) on Day 5 of their quarantine and only exit quarantine if negative. **The Department of Public Health's protocols do not require a return to work or school letter for anyone returning from isolation or quarantine; clearance letters are not necessary, and this requirement is discouraged.** Neither local boards of health nor the Department of Public Health provide these letters and, if required, employees would need to obtain any return to work letters from their health care provider.

COVID-19 vaccines and vaccine boosters are the most effective tool for protecting against serious illness, hospitalization, and death if infection does occur. Every individual who is eligible is strongly urged to get vaccinated and boosted according to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations](#). Those who live, work, or study in Massachusetts can receive free vaccine and booster at hundreds of [sites](#) across the Commonwealth.

Other important public health measures to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, including the Omicron variant, include:

- Staying home when sick and testing for COVID-19;

- [Wearing a face mask](#) that covers the nose and mouth consistently when indoors and around other people;
- Isolating if test positive for COVID-19 (or if test results are pending) and notifying close contacts;
- Quarantining if not vaccinated and boosted and have been exposed to COVID-19.
- Increasing ventilation by bringing fresh outdoor air inside when weather permits;
- Covering coughs and sneezes; and
- Practicing good hand hygiene by washing hands frequently with soap and water, if soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol; and
- Enabling [MassNotify](#) on a personal smartphone to receive messages when a potential exposure has occurred and alert others if tested positive.

Important Links for Testing:

- CDC's online COVID-19 Viral Testing Tool: <https://bit.ly/covid-testing-tool>
- MA DPH COVID-19 Testing information: <https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-testing>
- Find a COVID-19 Test: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/find-a-covid-19-test>
- Using a COVID-19 Self-Test: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/using-a-covid-19-self-test>
- CDC COVID-19 Testing: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/testing/index.html>

The Town of Mansfield does not have any public testing or self-test kits available at this time. Please check the [Mansfield Health Department Coronavirus Information webpage](#) for updates.

- [Get Vaccinated Against COVID-19 for individuals age 5+](#)

People age 5+ who live, work or study in Massachusetts can be vaccinated. Use [VaxFinder.mass.gov](https://vaxfinder.mass.gov) to search for appointments at pharmacies, health care providers, and other community locations.

Council on Aging staff is available to assist any vaccine-eligible seniors who need help navigating the scheduling process. Please call 508-261-7368.

- [COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shots](#)

CDC has expanded recommendations for COVID-19 vaccine booster shots to now include everyone ages 12 years and older. At this time, only the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is authorized and recommended for teens ages 12 to 17. Learn more: <https://bit.ly/3HHFQ70>

Find out when you are eligible for a COVID-19 Booster:

- You can check if you're eligible for a booster at <http://mass.gov/BoosterCheck>
- If you are eligible, visit <http://vaxfinder.mass.gov> for a list of locations to receive a booster (or call 2-1-1)
- More info on the boosters can be found at [COVID-19 booster frequently asked questions | Mass.gov](#).

COVID-19 BOOSTER Clinic

Wednesday, January 19, 2022
Mansfield High School Cafeteria, 255 East Street
2:00pm - 7:00 pm

Mansfield Public Schools is partnering with Mansfield EMTs to provide a
Pfizer COVID-19 Booster Clinic.

All students and family members age 12 and over are eligible to receive a free
Pfizer COVID-19 booster 5 months after the last vaccine.
COVID-19 boosters are free, safe, & effective.

Parents/Guardians must accompany students between 12-18 years old.

Please complete attached link: <https://home.color.com/vaccine/register/mansfield>

No insurance? No problem. All vaccinations are free. Questions? Please contact MPS
Director of Health Services, Christine Dooling at 508-261-7559.



For Mansfield Public School students and their families, click [here to register](#) for the clinic.

- [Bristol county identified as an area of high transmission](#)

Bristol county has been identified by the CDC as an area of high transmission for COVID-19. The CDC recommends all people, no matter their vaccination status, wear masks indoors and in crowded outdoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission. More information can be found [here](#).

County	COVID transmission level
Barnstable	High
Berkshire	High
Bristol	High
Dukes	High
Essex	High
Franklin	High
Hampden	High
Hampshire	High
Middlesex	High
Nantucket	High
Norfolk	High
Plymouth	High
Suffolk	High
Worcester	High

Bristol County, Massachusetts

[State Health Department](#)

7-day Metrics | [7-day Percent Change](#)

Community Transmission ● High

Everyone in **Bristol County, Massachusetts** should wear a mask in public, indoor settings. Mask requirements might vary from place to place. Make sure you follow local laws, rules, regulations or guidance.

[How is community transmission calculated?](#)

January 12, 2022

Cases	12,063
Case Rate per 100k	2,134.22
% Positivity	N/A
Deaths	49
% of population ≥ 5 years of age fully vaccinated	65.6%
New Hospital Admissions	254

Data from [CDC COVID Data Tracker](#)

- [Isolation and Quarantine Guidance for the General Public](#)

If you test positive for COVID-19 (isolate)

Everyone, regardless of vaccination status:

- Stay home for 5 days.
- If you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving after 5 days, you can leave your house.
- Continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.

If you have a fever, continue to stay home until your fever resolves

If you were exposed to someone with COVID-19 (quarantine)

If you:

Have been boosted

OR

Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months

OR

Completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months

- Wear a mask around others for 10 days.
- Test on day 5, if possible.

If you develop symptoms get a test and stay home.

If you:

Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine over 6 months ago and are not boosted

OR

Completed the primary series of J&J over 2 months ago and are not boosted

OR

Are unvaccinated

- Stay home for 5 days. After that continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.
- If you can't quarantine you must wear a mask for 10 days.
- Test on day 5, if possible.

If you develop symptoms get a test and stay home

Addition information about isolation and quarantine can be found at [Covid Information | Mansfield, MA \(mansfieldma.com\)](#)

- [Mansfield Public School COVID information and dashboard](#)

For information about the schools and COVID, please see their School Health and COVID Information webpage: <https://sites.google.com/mansfieldschools.com/covid-19/home>

For more information about how to keep kids safe in school: [School Settings | COVID-19 | CDC](#)

- [Enable MassNotify on your smartphone](#)

Add your phone to the fight. Know if you've been exposed and help stop the spread of COVID-19.

MassNotify is a tool that works through smartphones, with a focus on privacy, to alert users who may have been exposed to COVID-19. You can enable MassNotify on your iPhone or Android phone to add another tool to our fight against the spread of COVID-19.

- By opting in, your device will share anonymous codes with other MassNotify users using your phone's Bluetooth.
- MassNotify codes contain no personal information or location data and are completely anonymous.
- If another user you've been near tests positive for COVID-19 within a 14-day period, you will be notified. If you test positive, you can easily and anonymously notify others to stop the spread of COVID-19.

[Learn how to enable MassNotify on your phone.](#)

- [Digital Vaccine Card](#)

People who received their vaccination in Massachusetts can now access their own vaccination history and generate a COVID-19 digital vaccine card, which would contain similar vaccination information to a paper CDC card. The new tool, called My Vax Records, can be accessed at [MyVaxRecords.Mass.Gov](#).

The new tool is easy to use: a person enters their name, date of birth, and mobile phone number or email associated with their vaccine record. After creating a 4-digit PIN, the user receives a link to their vaccine record that will open upon re-entry of the PIN.

The electronic record shows the same information as a paper CDC vaccine card: name, date of birth, date of vaccinations, and vaccine manufacturer. It also includes a QR code that makes these same details readable by a QR scanner, including smartphone apps. Once the SMART Health Card is received, users are able to save the QR code to their phone, such as the Apple Wallet, screenshot the information and save it to their phone's photos, or print out a copy for a paper record. The system follows national standards for security and privacy.

My Vax Records is just one way residents can obtain their COVID vaccination record. Pharmacies that administered the COVID vaccine and many health care providers also are making SMART Health Cards available, or are providing additional options. [Learn more.](#)