

The City of Waterbury and Waterbury Public Schools continue to monitor local COVID-19 metrics. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) strongly encourages all eligible residents to be vaccinated and to receive booster doses.

**Prevention of COVID depends on four primary strategies: vaccination, regular testing, universal masking and social distancing.**




1. **Vaccines** are readily available at many convenient locations including doctors’ offices, pharmacies and at pop-up clinics in the community. Waterbury has made vaccination available to students through free clinics since the beginning of the year and this spring will continue to make vaccines available at convenient locations for parents.
2. **Weekly screening testing** is available for free to all Waterbury Public School children – sign up at the following link: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfch-yfuBij2DVZovwwwJHwDj48YukF\\_w\\_GMPILhssV0w1uqQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfch-yfuBij2DVZovwwwJHwDj48YukF_w_GMPILhssV0w1uqQ/viewform)
3. **Universal masking** in schools has allowed schools to have low levels of transmission since the beginning of the school year and remain a safe place for children to be during the pandemic. Wearing masks is not always comfortable or convenient – masks can make it difficult to be understood and may be irritating. However, masks are safe, inexpensive and are proven to interrupt transmission of COVID among students.
4. **Social distancing** rules for 6 feet between close contacts were loosened this past school year because of the ability to enforce universal masking.

In consultation with our medical advisors and best practices as defined by the CDC, there are several factors for consideration regarding mask wearing in our schools. **Our medical advisors have agreed that if we meet the threshold for two or more of these criteria, masks may be considered optional in schools.**

**Following the Data**

The State releases relevant COVID-19 data every Thursday and the Waterbury-specific numbers from that report will be shared on a weekly basis with parents, teachers and other stakeholders through this report posted on the Waterbury Public Schools website.

**The Three Factors: Vaccine Prevalence, Rate of Positivity in the Community, New Cases**

Vaccine Prevalence	Rate of Positivity in the Community	New Cases
		

**Vaccine prevalence.** It is recommended that 80% vaccination rate among children in schools would allow masks to come off for children without special health care needs.

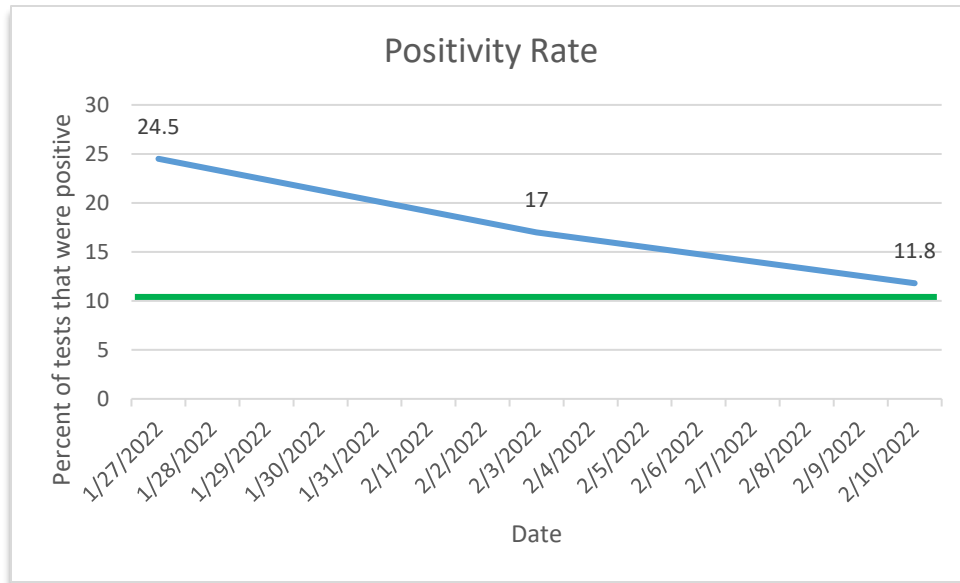
One J&J Vaccine dose or two mRNA doses of COVID vaccine among children 5-18		60.81%						
Up to Date with Vaccination = One J&J or two mRNA doses + a Booster dose among children 5-18		20.91%						
<b>Vaccine rates by Age Group</b>								
Age	% Initiated Vaccine	% Two Doses	% Up to Date	Schoolchildren % Two Doses	Schoolchildren % Up To Date	Total Two Doses	Total Up to Date	
5-11	22.16	14.06	0.05	31.9	2.9	60.81	20.91	
12-17	62.75	53.52	6.39					
18-24	65.63	54.76	11.74					
25-44	75.65	65.22	14.88					
45-64	85.02	77.79	32.86					
65+	96.59	88.96	51.69					

60.81% of eligible residents in Waterbury have received two doses of the vaccine. Only 20.91% are up to date with their COVID vaccination, meaning they have received all doses of the vaccine and boosters.

31.9% of children 5-17 eligible for the vaccine have received two doses and only 2.7% of children eligible for boosters have received them.

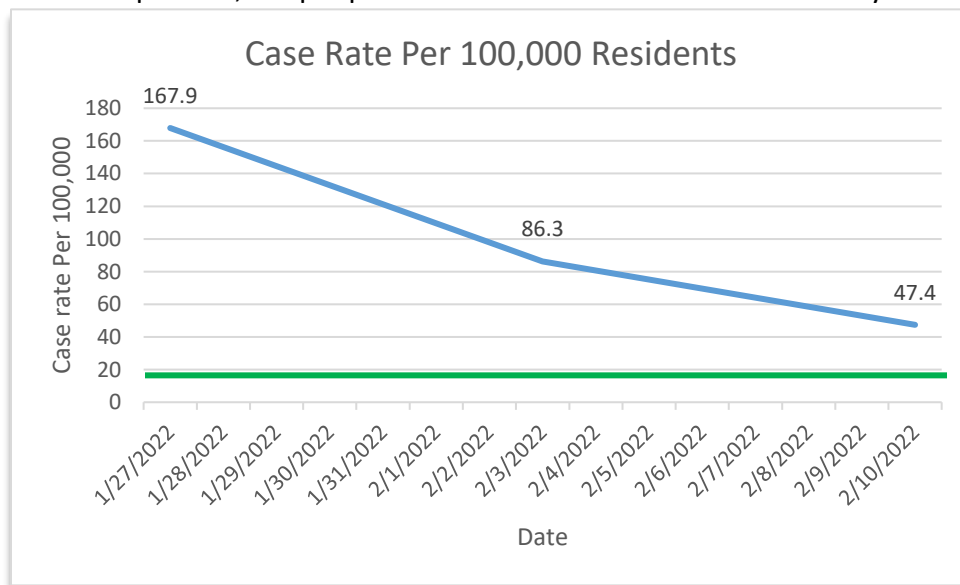
**This factor has NOT been met to permit a mask optional condition.**

**Current rate of positivity in the community.** Connecticut posts the positivity rate each Thursday evening. It is recommended that a 10% positivity rate is a threshold for concern. The chart below illustrates the current positivity rate and historical data. While we are getting close to meeting the 10% positivity rate threshold, we are still above it.



This factor has NOT YET been met to meet the mask optional option but is getting close.

**New cases per 100,000 population.** Waterbury is at **47.4 cases per 100,000 population**. The target rate for cases per 100,000 people has been set at 15 for our community.



This factor has NOT been met to permit a mask optional condition.

**Data Analysis Outcome:**

**Having met none of the three factors of consideration, masks are required to be worn.**

The State releases relevant COVID-19 data every Thursday evening and that data will be shared with the community on the Waterbury Public Schools website through this weekly report.

**Masks will continue to be required for individuals identified as close contacts or those returning to school from quarantine post-infection or close contact.**

COVID-19 Vaccinations by Town and Age Group, Case Rate Per 100,000 and 14-Day Positivity Rate by Town are all published weekly on Thursdays- Data available here [COVID-19 data resources | Connecticut Data](#)