

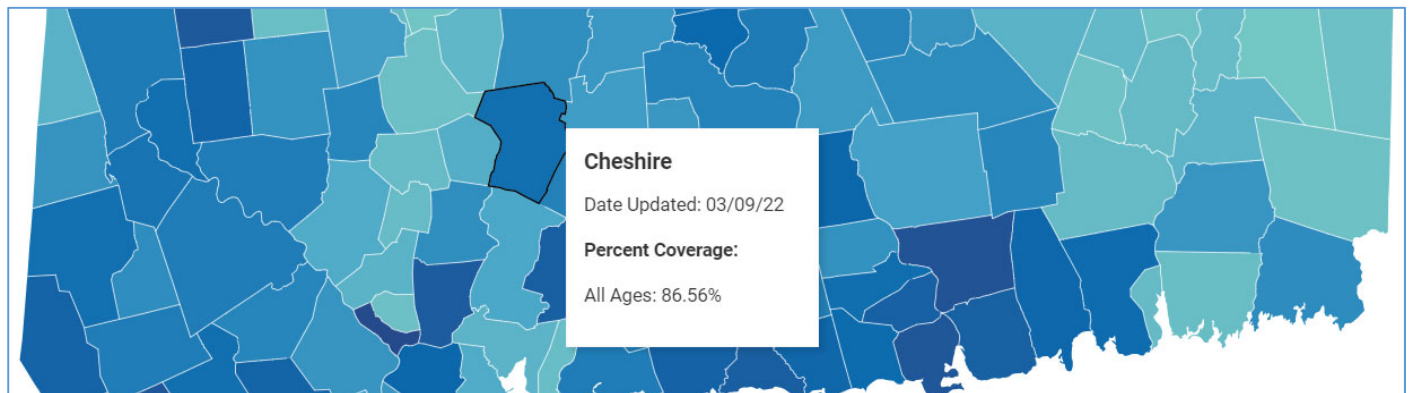


TOWN OF CHESHIRE
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Current Community Spread Metrics and Mask Policy for Town of Cheshire Municipal Buildings
(Including Updated Data as of 3/10/2022)

Masks are welcomed, but no longer required in Town of Cheshire municipal buildings, for all individuals regardless of vaccinated status.

COVID cases and local positivity rate numbers have fallen rapidly since late-January, as seen in the data presented further below. Most importantly, numbers of hospitalizations and deaths have fallen statewide and the data shows that these critical metrics did not rise as rapidly as overall cases during the December-January Omicron variant wave. Combined with Cheshire's high local vaccination rate (86.56% of Cheshire residents of all ages), we are well on our way to transitioning back to more normal times.



On February 17th, the Town announced that masks would no longer be required for vaccinated visitors and employees in any municipal facilities beginning February 28th.

On February 25th the [CDC released revised mask guidance](#) based upon county-level analysis of data collected nationwide. New Haven County is presently designated in the “low” risk category. As detailed further below, this week Cheshire has finally returned below both the 10.0% local positivity rate threshold as well as the 15 new daily cases per 100,000 population threshold.

As a result, masks are no longer be required for any visitor or employee in Town of Cheshire municipal buildings regardless of vaccinated status. We continue to welcome mask wearing by all individuals who choose to do so, and encourage everyone to wear a mask when meeting closely with others when social distancing cannot be maintained.

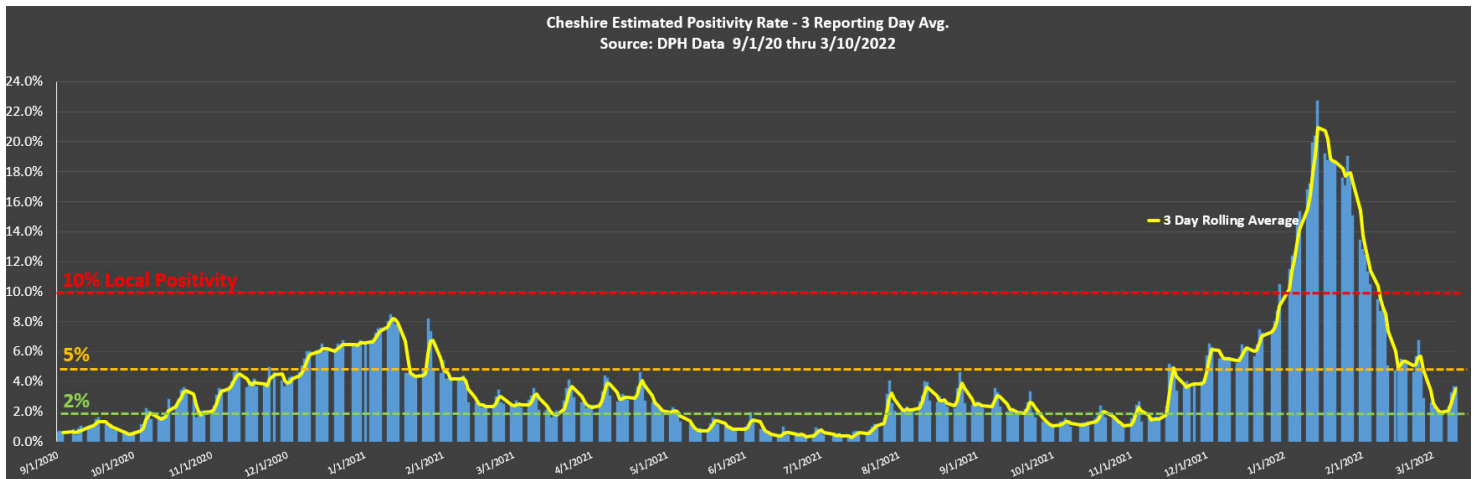
MASKS

- **Masks and face coverings will continue to be welcomed and encouraged indoors in all Town buildings and facilities for those who wish to use them.**
- **Vaccinated and unvaccinated visitors and employees** are not required to wear face coverings in Town buildings.
- Masks remain required for patrons and operators of public transportation such as Senior Center Minibuses.

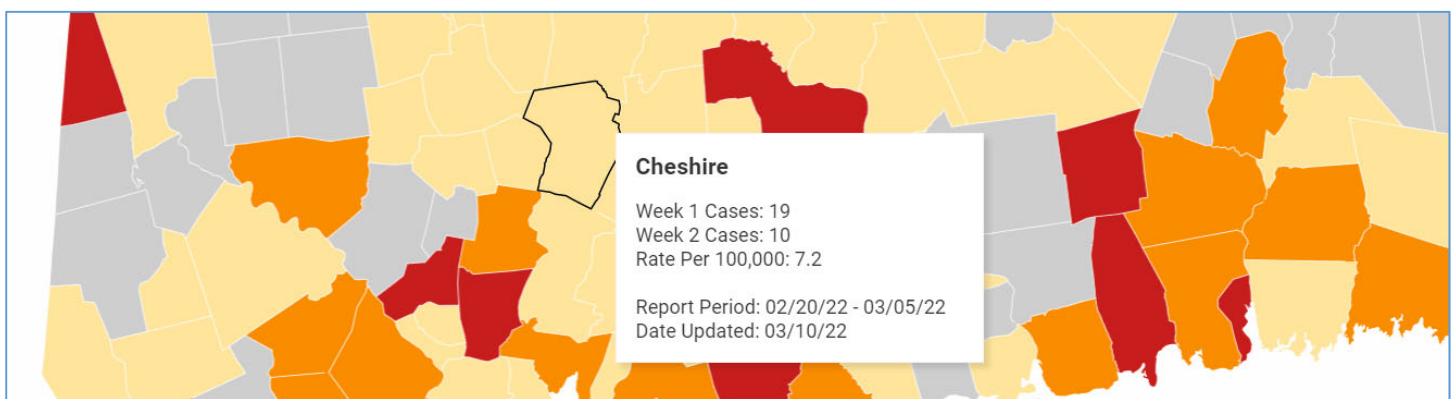
Community Spread Metrics

For the past two years, the Town of Cheshire has been monitoring metrics such as local positivity rate and daily case rate per 100,000 residents to determine whether masks will be required indoors. In consultation with the Chesprocott Health District, the Town has updated our local positivity metric target to 10% or higher when factoring in the Town's high vaccination rates and the evolving understanding of the relatively low severity of the most recent Omicron variant of COVID-19.

This data is released every weekday from [CT DPH](#). As of March 10th, Cheshire's estimated average positivity rate was **3.6%** (77 positives out of 2,132 tests over 7 days) and the rolling 3-day average of this reported metric (yellow line below) stands at **3.5%** (up from **2.1%** last week):



An additional key metric we monitor is the average daily rate of new cases per 100,000 population by town. We have identified a goal of falling back below a 15.0 case level, also known as the “Red” designation on the state map below. Updated data is released by the State every Thursday afternoon, and as of March 10th the Town of Cheshire was reported at **7.2** average daily cases per 100,000 population (“Yellow” level designation), down from 13.1 last week, and 26.9 the week before.



Updated Data Available: <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Data-Tracker>

We will continue to closely monitor these metrics and others along with guidance from public health experts when making determinations regarding future masking and other protocols.

Availability of Public Facilities

All town facilities, rooms and meeting spaces that are traditionally available for public gatherings should now be available for rent or reservation at this time, with some restrictions on capacity and type of activity.