

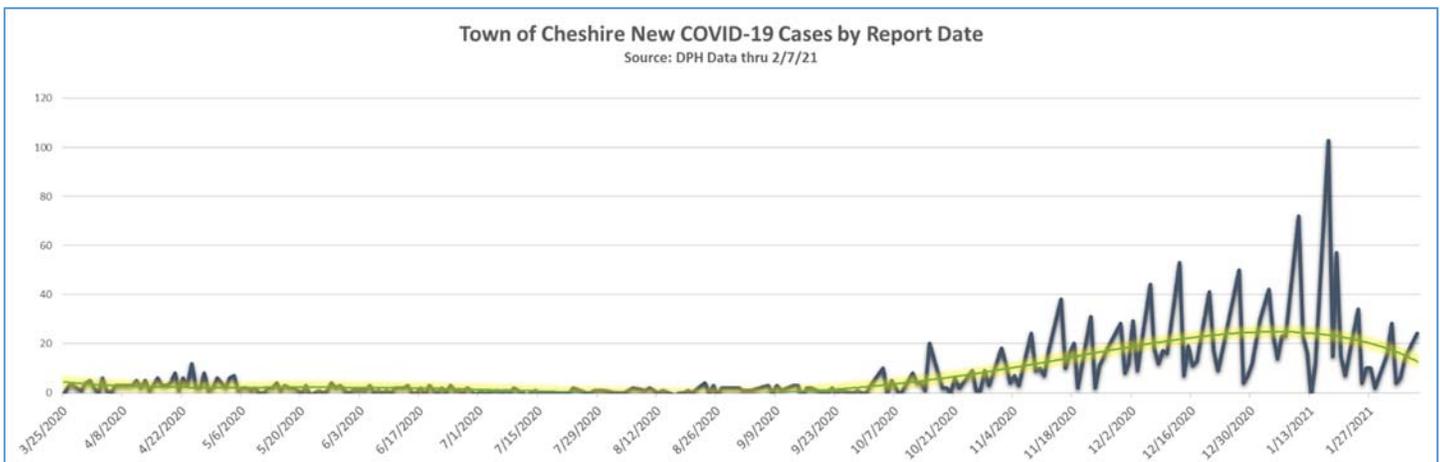


MEMORANDUM
TOWN OF CHESHIRE
84 SOUTH MAIN STREET, CHESHIRE, CONNECTICUT 06410
Telephone (203) 271-6660 FAX (203) 271-6639

TO: Town Council
FROM: Sean M. Kimball, Town Manager
SUBJECT: Town Manager's Report – February 2021
DATE: February 9, 2021

COVID-19 Pandemic Data and Vaccine Rollout

We continue to closely monitor local COVID case numbers which are beginning to trend in a positive direction following significant increases from November into early January. Our local positivity rate over the past seven DPH reporting days stands at 4.3% (112 positives in Cheshire out of 2,592 tests). As shown on the chart below, the total number of additional positive cases per reporting day is beginning to trend lower which is an encouraging sign that the ongoing vaccine distribution process is having a positive impact.

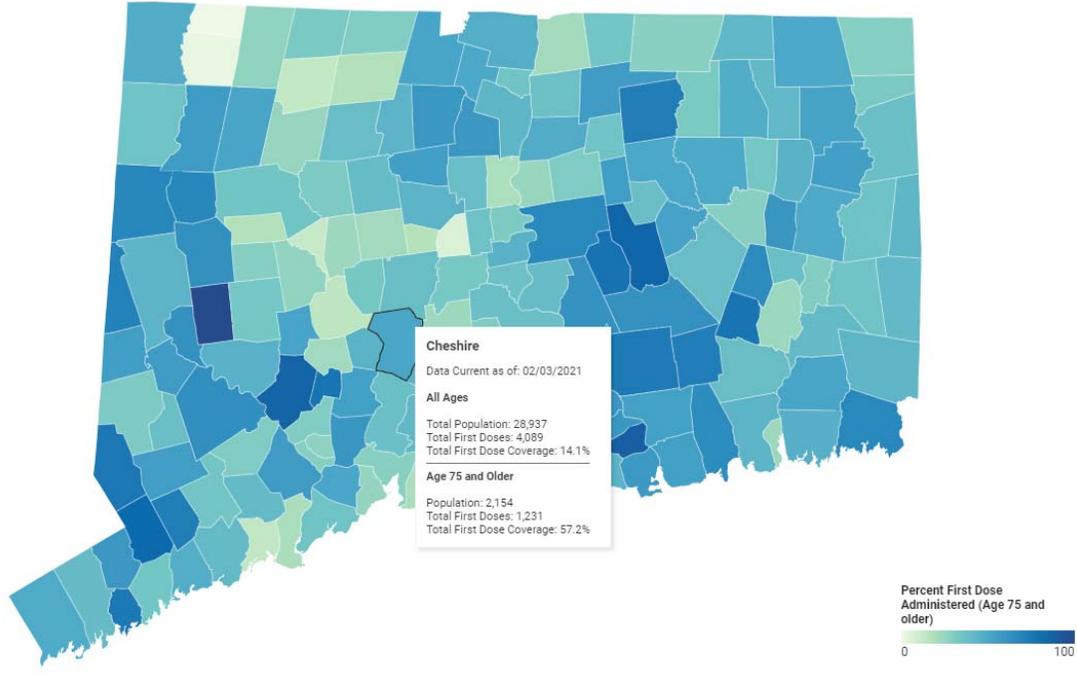


Cheshire has hosted 10 vaccination clinics (8 first dose and 2 second dose) at the Community Pool since the beginning of January. Following state guidelines, eligibility began with Phase 1A medical and first responders followed by 75+ beginning with our 1/21 clinic. Chesprocott has given a total of approximately 1,808 vaccines to date with more clinics planned including tomorrow and Thursday of this week.

As additional pharmacy and mass-vaccination sites come online, we are working with Chesprocott to transition to smaller clinics at the respective senior centers of the three member towns in order to better target eligible residents who may have accessibility or technology access issues.

Percent of Population Age 75 and Older With the First COVID Vaccine Dose Administered

As reported to the CT Immunization Registry (CT WIZ)



FY 2022 Town Operating Budget Development and State Budget Timeline

I am in the process of preparing the Town Manager's FY 2022 Recommended Operating and Capital Budgets. Last week the Board of Education advanced the superintendent's proposed operating budget unmodified which requests an increase of approximately \$3.9 million or 5.22%.

The Governor is expected to release his state budget proposal tomorrow and we will be closely monitoring and evaluating the potential impact on Cheshire revenues from state aid.

The deadline for the transmittal of the recommended budget to the Town Council for consideration is Wednesday, March 10th. The deadline for Cheshire Town Council budget adoption is Friday, April 30th.

2021 Bond Sale and Potential Clean Water Fund Re-Funding

I have been working closely with Jim Jaskot and the Town's financial advisor Matt Spoerndle from Phoenix Advisors on timing for this year's bond issuance to fund previously approved capital projects. This year due to the historically low interest rate environment we are trying to time the sale with a potential opportunity to re-fund approximately \$20 million of existing Clean Water Fund debt from past Sewer Treatment Plant upgrades as well as two of our oldest General Obligation bonds. The State's CWF Revolving Fund pegs the rate on CWF bonds at 2.00%, however we project that a refunding based on our bond rating could provide for an even lower interest rate which we project could save between \$750,000-\$1,000,000 over the next 15 years if interest rates remain low.

2021 State Road Resurfacing Schedule

The state is planning to continue the road resurfacing work on South Main Street (Route 10) northward from where they finished last year with an additional .59 miles this summer from approximately King Rd. to the Route 42/North Brooksvale Rd. intersection.

Eversource Tree Trimming

Eversource plans to conduct tree trimming in the following areas of town beginning in March or possibly late-February weather depending:

- South Main Street area (south of Mansion Rd.) including Mansion, Sunset, Rabideau, King, Bradford, Fenn, Mt. Sanford, Old Lane, Orchard Hill
- Allen Ave. area including Allen Ct.

Public Building Commission Project Completion Report

Please see the attached Project Completion report from the PBC regarding the Cafeteria Renovations at Highland School (Loading Dock/Government Freezer) project.

Upcoming Town Council & Sub-Committee Meetings

Town Council Regular Meeting
March 9, 2021 – 7:00 pm

School Modernization Committee
February 10, 2021 – 7:00 pm

School Modernization Committee
February 17, 2021 – 7:00 pm

School Modernization Committee
March 1, 2021 – 7:00 pm