Weekly COVID-19 Update: November 20, 2020: Highest Single-Day Total of New Cases Reported, Hospitalizations Increase

DOVER (Nov. 20, 2020) – The Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH) is providing an update on the most recent statistics related to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Delaware, as of 6 p.m. Thursday, November 19, 2020. Delaware saw its largest single-day case total since the pandemic began with 649 new cases reported on Thursday, Nov. 19.

A total of 30,816 positive cases of COVID-19 among Delaware residents have been reported to DPH since March 11, 2020, including 15,534 individuals who are considered recovered. The number of new daily cases each day this week has remained elevated with the seven-day average increasing to 398.9 as of Thursday, Nov. 19.

The seven-day average for the percentage of persons who tested positive for COVID-19 increased from 12.9% as of Nov. 12, to 14.8% as of Thursday, Nov. 19. DPH now publishes both positivity rates – persons tested and total tests conducted – on its COVID-19 data portal. As of Tuesday, Nov. 17, the seven-day average for the percentage of total tests that were positive was 5.9%, up from 4.7% as of Nov. 10. There is a two-day lag for presenting data related to percent of tests that are positive to account for the time delay between the date of the test and the date that DPH receives the test result.

In addition, 170 individuals are currently hospitalized due to COVID-19 in Delaware, an increase of 40 from the total as of last Friday's update. Twenty-six of the hospitalized persons are critically ill, up four from last week.

The Division of Public Health recommends Delawareans take the following actions to prevent further spread of infection in the community:

Only dine socially (at home and in restaurants) with those who live with you
Don't spend time socially with people outside your household
Don't plan on holding holiday dinners with those outside your household – even family

DPH COVID-19 Holiday Guidance can be found at: https://coronavirus.delaware.gov/holiday-guidance/.

A total of 746 Delawareans have passed away due to complications from COVID-19. The state reported 12 additional deaths since last week's update, including two as a result of a review of Vital Statistics records. The total number of individuals who have died from COVID-19 ranges in age from 21 to 104 years old. Of those who have died, 382 were female and 364 were male. A total of 370 individuals were from New Castle County, 123 were from Kent County, and 253 were from Sussex County.

To protect personal health information, DPH will not confirm specific information about any individual case, even if other persons or entities disclose it independently.

Additional Updates

Update on COVID-19 Outbreaks in Long-term Care Facilities: The Division of Public Health continues to investigate COVID-19 outbreaks in long-term care facilities throughout the state. The following facilities have experienced significant ongoing outbreaks since late September. Resident and staff tallies represent cumulative case totals between Sept. 25, 2020, and Nov. 19, 2020:

– Kentmere Rehabilitation and Health Care Center in Wilmington; 54 residents and 44 staff members
– Cadia Healthcare Silverside in Wilmington; 48 residents and 36 staff members.
– Country Rest Home in Greenwood; 31 residents and 20 staff members
– Regency Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center in Wilmington; 74 residents and 38 staff
– Lofland Park in Seaford, 19 residents and 11 staff
– Cadia Healthcare Capitol in Dover; 44 residents and 22 staff
– Delmar Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Delmar; 34 residents and 29 staff
– The Moorings at Lewes in Lewes; 14 residents and 17 staff
– Oak Bridge Terrace at Cokesbury Village in Hockessin; 14 residents and 11 staff

*Staff members may include health care and non-health care personnel, such as facility vendors or other individuals working in the long-term care facility who may not be full-time facility employees.

DHSS Updates Long-Term Care Reopening Plan and Visitation Guidance: As part of ongoing efforts to address the impact of increasing cases of COVID-19 cases on Delaware's long-term care facilities, the Department of Health and Social Services' Division of Health Care Quality (DHCQ) issued an updated reopening plan and visitation guidance today (Nov. 20) for those facilities. Highlights of the guidance include:

– Recommending against residents leaving LTC facilities during this period because of the potential increased risk for exposure to COVID-19 in the community. The guidance urges facilities to educate residents and families/friends about the risks of leaving the facility, the steps they should take to reduce the risk of contracting COVID-19, embracing such alternative means of communication as phone calls and virtual visits, and visiting residents at the facility as permitted based on the facility status.

– Urging long-term care facility staff, volunteers and vendors to use extra caution, especially during the holidays, by keeping their at-home gatherings to their immediate households so they don't become asymptomatic carriers of the virus when they return to the facilities.

– Emphasizing outdoor visitation for families and friends over indoor visitation whenever practicable to reduce the risk of transmission through the improved ventilation and increased space.

– Supporting compassionate care visitation for family members and others beyond end-of-life situations, including a new resident who is struggling with the change in environment and lack of family support; a resident who is grieving the loss of a family member or friend; a resident who needs encouragement with eating or drinking, which was previously provided by a family member or caregiver; or a resident who used to talk and interact with others and now is seldom speaking or is experiencing another form of emotional distress.

Family members who have questions about the new guidance should contact the facility where their loved one is living. Read the full guidance at: https://coronavirus.delaware.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/177/2020/11/Memorandum-Revised-Reopening-Guidance-11-20-20.pdf.

Delaware COVID-19 Data:

The latest Delaware COVID-19 case statistics* cumulatively since March 11, provided as of 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19, include:
– 30,816 total positive cases
– New Castle County cases: 16,900
– Kent County cases: 4,324

– Sussex County cases: 9,493
– Unknown County: 99
– Females: 16,607; Males: 14,158; Unknown Sex: 51
– Age range: 0 to 104
– Currently hospitalized: 170; Critically ill: 26 (This data represents individuals currently hospitalized in a Delaware hospital regardless of residence, and is not cumulative.)
– Delawareans recovered: 15,534
– 362,466 negative cases**
– 659,454 total tests administered as of Nov. 17, 2020
*Data are provisional and subject to change.
**Data on negative cases are preliminary, based on negative results reported to DPH by state and commercial laboratories performing analysis.

Generally, Delaware considers patients recovered after at least 24 hours have passed since the resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and/or improvement in symptoms, and at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared. Individuals who tested positive who have not had any symptoms are considered recovered after at least 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive COVID-19 test with no subsequent illness.

Aggregate K-12 School-Related COVID-19 Statistics:

The Division of Public Health is providing statewide aggregate data on the total number of COVID-19 positive cases among students and staff who were in-person at a school or child care facility while potentially infectious, reported to DPH since Sept. 1, 2020. To determine the start of the infectious period, or when others may have been exposed to someone infectious, DPH looks 48 hours prior to the onset of symptoms or 48 hours prior to testing for those individuals who had no symptoms. These data only indicate potential exposure to COVID-19 in these settings, not whether exposure actually occurred. Please note, these figures do not indicate that the infections were caused from being in the school setting.

Total number of COVID-19 positive students and staff, statewide, who were in-person at a school or child care facility while potentially infectious, reported to DPH between Sept. 1, 2020, and Nov. 18, 2020**:

	Weekly Total, 11/12/20 – 11/18/20	**Weekly Total, 11/12/20 – 11/18/20**	**Weekly Total, 9/1/20 – 11/18/20**	**Weekly Total, 9/1/20 – 11/18/20**
Setting	**Staff Cases**	**Student Cases**	**Staff Cases**	**Student Cases**
Child care facility	17	21	69	66
Private K-12	*	*	44	103
Public K-12	42	45	183	131

**To protect personal health information, totals less than 10 are not shown.*
***Data is preliminary and subject to change.*

Long-term Care Statistics:

Information related to positive cases and deaths among residents at long-term care facilities will be updated weekly each Friday, using information reported as of 6 p.m. Thursday. There have been a total of 1,591 positive COVID-19 cases cumulatively involving long-term care residents, and 426 residents of Delaware long-term care facilities have died from complications related to COVID-19.

The locations and number of deaths involving residents of long-term care facilities are:

- Atlantic Shores Rehabilitation and Health Center, Millsboro (17)
- Brackenville Center, Genesis Healthcare, Hockessin (18)
- Brandywine Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Wilmington (34)
- Brandywine Living at Seaside Pointe, Rehoboth Beach (2)
- Cadia Healthcare Broadmeadow, Middletown (11)
- Cadia Healthcare Capitol, Dover (15)
- Cadia Healthcare Renaissance, Millsboro (9)
- Cadia Healthcare North Wilmington/Silverside, Wilmington (20)
- Country Rest Home, Greenwood (10)
- Delaware Hospital for the Chronically Ill, Smyrna (11)
- Governor Bacon Health Center, Delaware City (1)
- HarborChase of Wilmington, Wilmington (4)
- Harbor Healthcare and Rehabilitation, Lewes (23)
- Harrison House Senior Living, Georgetown (42)
- Hillside Center, Wilmington (3)
- Kentmere Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center, Wilmington (8)
- Kutz Senior Living, Wilmington (2)
- Little Sisters of the Poor, Newark (11)
- Lofland Park Center, Genesis Healthcare, Seaford (5)
- ManorCare Health Services, Wilmington (13)
- ManorCare Health Services, Pike Creek (23)
- Methodist Country House, Wilmington (4)
- Millcroft, Newark (2)
- Milford Center, Genesis Healthcare, Milford (37)
- New Castle Health and Rehabilitation Center, New Castle (12)
- Newark Manor Nursing Home, Newark (11)
- Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation, Wilmington (26)
- Pinnacle Rehabilitation and Health Center, Smyrna (24)
- Regal Heights Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center, Hockessin (6)
- Regency Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center, Wilmington (2)
- Summit Assisted Living, Hockessin (3)
- Sunrise Assisted Living, Wilmington (2)
- The Moorings at Lewes, Lewes (3)
- Westminster Village, Dover (7)
- Five other New Castle County long-term care facilities (1 death at each facility)

Additional demographic data on COVID-19 cases and deaths, including race/ethnicity, more age-specific data and rates information by ZIP code, and information on Delaware's contact tracing efforts can be found on the Division of Public Health's My Healthy Community data portal at de.gov/healthycommunity.

If you are sick with any of the following symptoms, stay home: fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, muscle aches, fatigue, chills, shaking with chills, loss of smell or taste, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, or headache or congestion or runny

nose without a known cause such as allergies. Other symptoms such as abdominal pain or lack of appetite have been identified as potential symptoms related to COVID-19 and may prompt further screening, action or investigation by a primary care provider. If you are sick and need essential supplies, ask someone else to go to the grocery store or the pharmacy to get what you need.

If you believe you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, or have symptoms of illness, make sure to distance yourself from others, particularly vulnerable populations. Older adults and people of any age with serious underlying medical conditions – including serious heart conditions, chronic lung conditions, including moderate to severe asthma, severe obesity and those who are immunocompromised, including through cancer treatment – may have a higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

Information about testing events, including community testing sites, permanent fixed testing sites, and free-standing sites operated by the health care systems and hospitals, will be listed on the testing section of the Delaware coronavirus website at: coronavirus.delaware.gov/testing/.

Delawareans over the age of 18 are encouraged to download COVID Alert DE, Delaware's free exposure notification app to help protect your neighbors while ensuring your privacy. Download on the App Store or Google Play.

Individuals who have complaints about individuals violating public gathering restrictions should contact state or local law enforcement. Concerns that a business may be violating operating restrictions should be directed to: HSPContact@delaware.gov. Questions related to business re-openings or operations as businesses re-open should go to COVID19FAQ@delaware.gov.

Individuals with questions about COVID-19 should call Delaware 2-1-1, individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing can text their ZIP code to 898-211, or email delaware211@uwde.org. Hours of operation are 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday through Friday; 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Medically related questions regarding testing, symptoms, and health-related guidance can be submitted by email at DPHCall@delaware.gov. Questions regarding unemployment claims should be emailed to: UIClaims@delaware.gov.

In addition, the Division of Public Health asks any Delaware health care, long-term care, residential, or other high-risk facility with questions or concerns to email: DPH_PAC@delaware.gov or call the DPH Call Center at 1-866-408-1899 and press ext. 2.

DPH will continue to update the public as more information becomes available. For the latest on Delaware's response, go to de.gov/coronavirus.