Weekly COVID-19 Update- March 26, 2021: Slight Uptick in Average Daily Cases; Newly Reported Deaths Continue to Decline

DOVER (March 26, 2021) – 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, March 25, 2021.

A total of 93,325 positive cases of COVID-19 among Delaware residents have been reported to DPH since March 18, 2020. The seven-day average of new positive cases increased to 235.1 as of Thursday, March 25.

The seven-day average for the percentage of persons who tested positive for COVID-19 as of Thursday, March 25, was 20.2%, an increase from 17.1% as of Thursday, March 18. DPH publishes both positivity rates – persons tested and total tests conducted – on its COVID-19 data portal. As of Tuesday, March 23, the seven-day average for the percentage of total tests that were positive was 4.5%, an increase from 3.9% as of Tuesday, March 16. 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, 116 individuals are currently hospitalized due to COVID-19 in Delaware, which is an increase of six as of this time last week. Eight of the hospitalized persons are critically ill, down one from last week.

A total of 1,536 Delawareans have passed away due to complications from COVID-19. The state reported 14 additional deaths since last week's update. The total number of individuals who have died from COVID-19 ranges in age from younger than 5 to 104 years old. Of those who have died, 769 were female and 767 were male. A total of 761 individuals were from New Castle County, 322 were from Kent County, and 453 were from Sussex County.

Update on COVID-19 Variant Cases in Delaware:
To date, the Division of Public Health has identified the following COVID-19 variants in Delaware through routine surveillance of test specimens. These variants are based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) list of Variants of Concern and Variants of Interest. The CDC recently added two variants – B.1.427 and B.1.429, both originating in California, to its list of Variants of Concern.

Variants of Concern				Variants of Interest		
Variant	**Origin**	**# of Cases**		**Variant**	**Origin**	**# of Cases**
B.1.1.7	United Kingdom	17		B.1.525	New York, US	1
B.1.351	South Africa	1		B.1.526	New York, US	23
B.1.427	California, US	2				
B.1.429	California, US	5				

In aggregate, the cases include 47 adults ranging in age from 18-74, as well as two individuals under the age of 18. Thirty-five individuals were from New Castle County, eight were from Kent County and six were from Sussex County.

The Delaware Public Health Laboratory has sequenced 1,152 specimens for COVID-19 variant strains to date, including 92 within the past week.

Virus mutation is common. Public health approach and treatments are currently not any different, but as these variants may be more contagious, it is even more important that individuals remain vigilant and continue taking the necessary steps to avoid spreading the virus – wear a mask, wash your hands, avoid gatherings.

For more information regarding CDC variant classifications, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/variant-surveillance/variant-info.html.

COVID-19 Vaccinations:
As of 12:01 a.m. March 26, a total of 414,657 administered doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been reported to the state's immunization information system, DelVAX. A total of 420,970 doses have been delivered to the state, and 91,265 doses have been delivered as part of the federal provider programs. Delaware's latest COVID-19 vaccination statistics can be found under the Vaccine Tracker dashboard at de.gov/healthycommunity.

Long-term Care Statistics:
As of 6 p.m. Thursday, March 25, there have been a total of 2,686 positive COVID-19 cases involving long-term care residents, and 726 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 (24)
Brackenville Center, Genesis Healthcare, Hockessin (23)
Brandywine Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Wilmington (37)
Brandywine Living at Seaside Pointe, Rehoboth Beach (5)
Brookdale Dover, Dover (15)
Cadia Healthcare Broadmeadow, Middletown (17)
Cadia Healthcare Capitol, Dover (21)
Cadia Healthcare Renaissance, Millsboro (11)
Cadia Healthcare North Wilmington/Silverside, Wilmington (33)
Cadia Healthcare Pike Creek, Pike Creek (3)
Churchman Village, Newark (21)
Country Rest Home, Greenwood (16)
Delaware Hospital for the Chronically Ill, Smyrna (15)
Delmar Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Delmar (2)
Dover Place, Dover (7)
Foulk Manor South, Wilmington (14)
Forwood Manor, Wilmington (8)
Governor Bacon Health Center, Delaware City (1)
HarborChase of Wilmington, Wilmington (4)
Harbor Healthcare and Rehabilitation, Lewes (46)
Harrison House Senior Living, Georgetown (47)
Hillside Center, Wilmington (9)
Ingleside Assisted Living, Wilmington (2)
Kentmere Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center, Wilmington (9)
Kutz Senior Living, Wilmington (10)
Little Sisters of the Poor, Newark (11)
Lofland Park Center, Genesis Healthcare, Seaford (6)
ManorCare Health Services, Wilmington (20)

ManorCare Health Services, Pike Creek (29)
Methodist Country House, Wilmington (4)
Millcroft, Newark (3)
Milford Center, Genesis Healthcare, Milford (49)
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 (39)
Regal Heights Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center, Hockessin (15)
Regency Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center, Wilmington (9)
Seaford Center, Genesis Healthcare, Seaford (4)
Shipley Manor, Wilmington (12)
Silver Lake Center, Genesis Healthcare, Dover (3)
Somerford House and Place, Newark (6)
State Street Assisted Living, Dover (4)
Summit Assisted Living, Hockessin (4)
Sunrise Assisted Living, Wilmington (2)
The Center at Eden Hill, Dover (9)
The Moorings at Lewes, Lewes (4)
Westminster Village, Dover (23)
WillowBrooke Court Skilled Center at Manor House, Seaford (12)
WillowBrooke Court at Cokesbury Village, Hockessin (4)
Four other New Castle County long-term care facilities (1 death at each facility)
One other Sussex County long-term care facility (1 death at this facility)

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.

DPH reminds Delawareans that 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 de.gov/gettested.

Delawareans 18 or older 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 with general 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.

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. Questions regarding unemployment claims should be emailed to: UIClaims@delaware.gov.

As a reminder, DPH recently announced it has created a pathway for the public to submit complaints if they believe a COVID-19 vaccination provider is violating vaccination requirements. Those complaints can be directed to HSPContact@delaware.gov.

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