

12-11-21

Dear Winchester & Ashuelot Residents,

The holidays are here. We are gathering with friends and family to celebrate the season. There is no reason you shouldn’t if you are fully vaccinated. In this a time of reflection, we need to accept that the COVID virus will be with us for a long time. The odds are that most of us with get the virus and feel ill. In all probability how sick we get is dependent upon if we are vaccinated or not. You can enjoy sharing the holidays with dinners and parties, it is just safer being vaccinated, keeping a distance, washing your hands and wearing a mask when in close quarters. It really isn’t that difficult. Let’s not be broken hearted in a few weeks when someone in your family dies because of covid that you may have passed on to them unknowingly.

Today Covid rates are at the highest **ever** in our state. Winchester fully vaccinated rate is only 38.9%. This rate is one of the lowest in the state and country. Why is that? The vaccine is available to everyone, its safe and is free. Please consider getting vaccinated or a booster, if not for you, do it for your loved ones. The state positivity rate is 11.6%, this is the highest in the country. There are almost 11,000 active cases and 479 persons are hospitalized in the NH. Winchester has 40 active cases reported today. The odds are this number is much higher. Our hospitals are not doing any procedures unless it’s an emergency. The hospitals and long-term care facilities are low on beds, are short staffed and they are overworked and exhausted. Please say thank you to them. Help them by getting vaccinated and following prevention protocols. Yesterday the Governor called in the National Guard for help in our hospitals and long-term care facilities. Covid is not a joke, it is not political and is not going away any time soon.

Our hope is the New Year brings more stability in the ups and downs of covid case loads and that we begin to heal from this awful pandemic. Only we as a society can do this by working together for the greater good of mankind. Wishing all of you a safe and happy holiday season!