

3-14-21

Dear Winchester & Ashuelot Residents,

The news keeps getting better! Case numbers are low and Winchester’s numbers of active cases are staying steady at 1-4. More than 21% of NH residents have received both vaccinations and 10% have received their first dose. Tens of thousands are being vaccinated each week. There are now more and more opportunities to get vaccinate. Please consider getting vaccinated. The state now has a plan to address housebound folks who want a vaccine. Please call 211 for assistance.

The state is in the 2A phase for vaccinations. This include persons 60+, teachers, caregivers, camp staff, and day care workers. Starting March 22nd signups for 2B will start. This will be for persons 50 years old and up. This now will cover a big portion of the state’s residents.

New guidance has been issued. Fully vaccinated persons now may visit indoors with others who are fully vaccinated. Vaccinated persons also will not be required to quarantine if they have unprotected exposure to the virus. This does not mean we should no longer follow standard protocols of social distancing, and mask wearing. The state has stated you are no longer required to quarantine if you have traveled out of state. Guidelines have loosened for retail stores with 100% occupancy, camps will be able to have more patrons and bars and restaurants now may offer some entertainment with limitations. But, we must still be conscious that this virus is still widespread and deadly and we need to continue to social distance. Many variants of the virus are still appearing. While this is expected and normal, this creates more work and concern. Cautiously, it is believed by summer life as we had known it will be somewhat back. The President said he believes the 4th of July will be a new Independence Day! Ball games, concerts and other large gatherings will begin to happen just at a lower occupancy.

It is still very important if you suspect you have COVID to get tested and quarantine. Call 354-6700 for an appointment or contact our Rite Aid Pharmacy. It still is not good to go into a crowed area such as a bar, a large indoor gathering, or small spaces with others without masks. Spring had been peeking through, we’ve gotten some nice warm days. Get outside for a hike or start some yard work. As you know fresh air and sunshine is the best thing you can do for yourself. I would expect outdoor dining will begin soon. Go visit your local restaurants, they have had a long winter. All our businesses need your support, just please wear a mask.

The Town Hall is back open to the public with safety guidelines in place. Always be aware of your own health, when not feeling and well stay home. Otherwise get out and enjoy, we need it.