



WILTON HEALTH OFFICER UPDATE ON COVID-19 April 19, 2021

COVID-19 virus in Wilton and new guidance from the CDC

Coronavirus cases in Wilton are on the rise. Last month 28 positive cases were reported and to date for April we have 27 positive cases in town. Since the pandemic began our total number of cases has reached 203.

According to an update on April 5, 2021, the CDC has clarified the risk of surface transmission of COVID-19 is low.

The CDC states, "The principal mode by which people are infected with SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) is through exposure to respiratory droplets carrying infectious virus. It is possible for people to be infected through contact with contaminated surfaces or objects (fomites), but the risk is generally considered to be low." Additionally, the CDC reports the following findings based on recent studies:

- **Transmission:** Studies suggest that the risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection via the fomite transmission route is low, and generally less than 1 in 10,000.
- **Surface Survival:** On porous surfaces, studies report inability to detect viable virus within minutes to hours; on non-porous surfaces, viable virus can be detected for days to weeks. When accounting for both surface survival data and real-world transmission factors, the risk of fomite transmission after a person with COVID-19 has been in an indoor space is minor after 3 days (72 hours).
- **Effectiveness of Cleaning and Disinfection:** Routine cleaning performed effectively with soap or detergent, at least once per day, can substantially reduce virus levels on surfaces. Disinfection is recommended in indoor community settings where there has been a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 within the last 24 hours.

Also, pursuant to the Safer at Home Universal Guidelines, you do not need to quarantine for 10 days or get tested for COVID-19 if either of the following apply:

- You are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and more than 14 days have passed since you received the second dose of your COVID-19 vaccine (or one inoculation in the case of Johnson & Johnson).
- You have tested positive for COVID-19 infection twice in the last 90 days.

The Town Hall is under some pressure to re-open to the public and this topic is on the Select Board agenda for their meeting on April 19th. Any decisions on changes to Town Hall procedures will be posted on the town website and Facebook page.

Respectfully

Paul Branscombe
Health Officer