



## **WILTON HEALTH OFFICER UPDATE ON COVID 19 MARCH 23, 2021**

### **Coronavirus in Wilton**

Since the pandemic began Wilton has seen 167 cases, of which 7 are active as of the date of this report. Phase 2B vaccinations are underway for people 50 years of age and older. The state's new registration site became clogged on the first day of operation due to individuals signing in two hours before the site officially opened, causing it to freeze for a while. However some reports indicate that N.H. residents who did get an appointment actually were inoculated the same day or got an appointment within a few days.

The CDC has issued new guidelines, and although some states have relaxed their restrictions regarding face covering and social distancing, New Hampshire continues to follow strict protocols.

The highest risk of infection with COVID-19 appears to be from gatherings where different households are meeting with few or no preventive measures.

Let's look at a few scenarios:

1. Vaccinated people and infections -- the CDC has recognized that vaccinated people can become infected, yet it is unlikely that they can successfully transfer the virus to others.
2. Vaccinated people and exposure to positive cases -- the CDC has recommended that vaccinated people do not need to quarantine after exposure to a positive case.
3. Contact tracing after exposure – an employee is concerned that a family member who works at a local retail store may become positive and then expose others in the community. If the business is following the retail guidance

document of using distance barriers, face coverings and other preventive actions, the risk of community transmission should be low.

On a more local level, residents are asking when the Town Hall will be open for public business transaction. In particular it has been noted that surrounding towns have opened their Town Clerk/Tax Collector office and we have not. This is not just a decision by the Health Officer but one where the Town Clerk feels comfortable in doing so with all COVID-19 protocols in place. Although Wilton has not seen any of the new coronavirus variants, we are experiencing an increase in cases which causes concern. We think it is safe to say that once we see a zero case load for 14 days then discussions on re-opening will begin.

Respectfully,

Paul Branscombe  
Wilton Health Officer