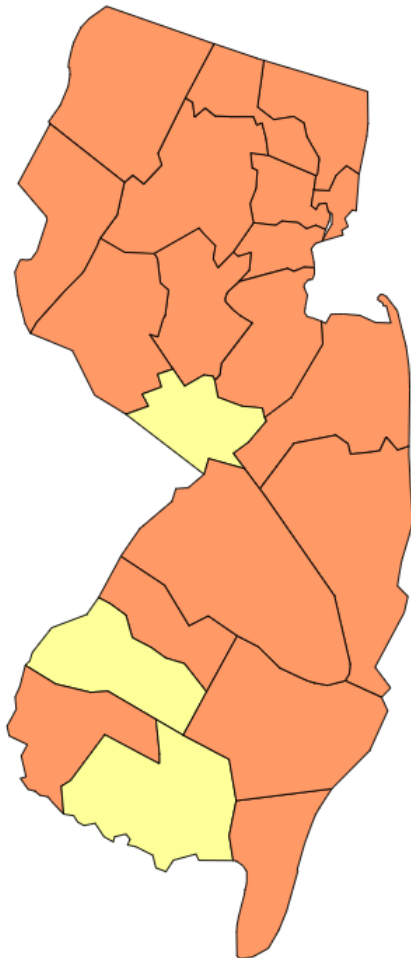


## Highlights

- CDC COVID-19 [Community Levels](#) for the week ending July 21, 2022:
  - High in 18 counties, Medium in 3 counties, and Low in 0 counties.
  - Since last week, Gloucester has shifted from High to Medium, and Hunterdon and Salem have shifted from Medium to High.
  - Compared to last week, 0 counties have had an increase in the rate of new hospital admissions. Hunterdon and Salem have had an increase in new COVID-19 cases, while Gloucester has had a decrease in new cases.
  - The percentage of inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients continues to be at Low levels for all counties.
- CDC COVID-19 [Community Transmission](#) levels used for healthcare settings are High in all counties as of July 21, 2022. Community transmission levels have not changed since the previous week.

## 1. COVID-19 Community Levels used for Most Settings



Layered prevention strategies can help limit severe disease and reduce potential strain on the healthcare system. [CDC COVID-19 Community Levels](#) are a tool to help communities and individuals determine what prevention measures to take.

The COVID-19 community level is determined by the higher of the new hospital admissions and inpatient beds metrics, based on the current level of new cases per 100,000 population in the past 7 days. COVID-19 community levels are classified as low, medium, or high as follows:

COVID-19 Community Levels				
New COVID-19 Cases Per 100,000 in the past 7 days	Hospitalization Indicators	Low	Medium	High
Fewer than 200	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	<10.0	10.0-19.9	≥20.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	<10.0%	10.0-14.9%	≥15.0%
200 or more	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	NA	<10.0	≥10.0

The following table includes recommendations for protecting yourself, your family, and communities. Additional information can be found at: [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html#anchor\\_47145](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html#anchor_47145).

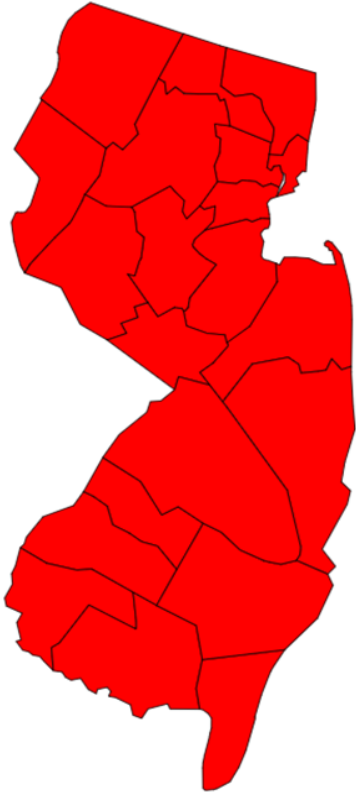
COVID-19 Community Level	Protect yourself and your family	Protect your communities, schools, and workplaces
Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay <a href="#">up to date</a> with COVID-19 vaccines and boosters.</li> <li>• Stay home if you are sick.</li> <li>• Follow <a href="#">isolation &amp; quarantine recommendations</a> and wear a mask through day 10.</li> <li>• Get tested if exposed to someone with COVID-19, if you develop COVID-19 <a href="#">symptoms</a>, and before/after travel.</li> <li>• Keep at-home tests on hand. Order them for free <a href="#">here</a>.</li> <li>• Look for ways to <a href="#">improve airflow when home</a> or indoors.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Wash your hands</a> frequently.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Clean and disinfect</a> your home.</li> <li>• If you are at high risk for severe disease, have a plan for rapid testing and talk to your healthcare provider about whether you are a candidate for treatments.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote equitable access to COVID-19 <a href="#">vaccines</a>, <a href="#">testing</a>, treatment, <a href="#">masks</a>, outreach, and support services, particularly for those at high risk of severe illness and vulnerable populations. Contact your <a href="#">local health department</a> for information.</li> <li>• Ensure <a href="#">isolation &amp; quarantine recommendations</a> are followed.</li> <li>• Maintain good indoor <a href="#">ventilation</a> and airflow.</li> <li>• Teach and reinforce importance of proper <a href="#">hand hygiene</a> and respiratory etiquette.</li> <li>• Ensure routine <a href="#">cleaning and disinfecting</a> of buildings and facilities.</li> <li>• Maintain screening testing infrastructure to allow for easier scale up when community levels are medium or high.</li> </ul>
Medium	<p><b>Follow recommendations for ‘Low’ above <u>and</u>:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you are at high risk for severe disease, talk to your healthcare provider about whether you should wear a <a href="#">mask</a> and take other precautions, such as testing.</li> <li>• If you spend time with someone at high risk for severe disease, consider self-testing before you see them and wearing a mask when indoors with them.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Follow recommendations for ‘Low’ above <u>and</u>:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement screening testing or other testing strategies for people exposed to COVID-19.</li> <li>• Implement enhanced prevention measures in high-risk congregate settings to identify cases early and prevent transmission during movement. Refer to <a href="#">CDC guidance for correctional facilities</a>.</li> <li>• Encourage physical distancing.</li> </ul>
High	<p><b>Follow recommendations for ‘Low’ and ‘Medium’ above <u>and</u>:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wear a <a href="#">mask</a> indoors regardless of vaccination status, particularly when in crowded areas with poor ventilation.</li> <li>• If you are at high risk for severe disease, wear a <a href="#">mask</a> or respirator that provides greater protection such as a N95 or KN95 and avoid indoor activities where you could be exposed.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Follow recommendations for ‘Low’ and ‘Medium’ above <u>and</u>:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement universal indoor <a href="#">masking</a> policies.</li> <li>• High-risk congregate settings, like shelters, should implement facility-wide, weekly screening testing.</li> <li>• Maximize physical distancing.</li> <li>• Implement cohorting in daycares, schools, among farm workers and in congregate settings.</li> </ul>

**Table 1. COVID-19 Community Levels for current week ending July 21, 2022 and change since previous week.**

County	COVID Community Level			New COVID-19 Cases per 100,000			New Hospital Admissions per 100,000			Percentage of Inpatient Beds Occupied by COVID-19 patients		
	Current Level	Previous Week Level	Change since Previous Week	Current Value	Current Level	Change since Previous Week	Current Value	Current Level	Change since Previous Week	Current Value	Current Level	Change since Previous Week
Atlantic	High	High	(-)	291.6	200+	(-)	29.2	High	(-)	5.7%	Low	(-)
Bergen	High	High	(-)	327.6	200+	(-)	10.4	Medium	(-)	4.5%	Low	(-)
Burlington	High	High	(-)	243.6	200+	(-)	16.7	Medium	(-)	5%	Low	(-)
Camden	High	High	(-)	253.5	200+	(-)	16.7	Medium	(-)	5%	Low	(-)
Cape May	High	High	(-)	276	200+	(-)	29.2	High	(-)	5.7%	Low	(-)
Cumberland	Medium	Medium	(-)	311	200+	(-)	0	Low	(-)	7.9%	Low	(-)
Essex	High	High	(-)	329	200+	(-)	11.3	Medium	(-)	4.4%	Low	(-)
Gloucester	Medium	High	(↓)	192.4	<200	(↓)	16.7	Medium	(-)	5%	Low	(-)
Hudson	High	High	(-)	356.6	200+	(-)	10.4	Medium	(-)	4.5%	Low	(-)
Hunterdon	High	Medium	(↑)	217.1	200+	(↑)	12.6	Medium	(-)	4.5%	Low	(-)
Mercer	Medium	Medium	(-)	274.1	200+	(-)	7.9	Low	(-)	3.7%	Low	(-)
Middlesex	High	High	(-)	301.2	200+	(-)	11.3	Medium	(-)	4.4%	Low	(-)
Monmouth	High	High	(-)	280.7	200+	(-)	13.7	Medium	(-)	4.8%	Low	(-)
Morris	High	High	(-)	288.1	200+	(-)	14.9	Medium	(-)	3.8%	Low	(-)
Ocean	High	High	(-)	248.8	200+	(-)	13.7	Medium	(-)	4.8%	Low	(-)
Passaic	High	High	(-)	273.2	200+	(-)	10.4	Medium	(-)	4.5%	Low	(-)
Salem	High	Medium	(↑)	208.4	200+	(↑)	16.7	Medium	(-)	5%	Low	(-)
Somerset	High	High	(-)	264.5	200+	(-)	11.3	Medium	(-)	4.4%	Low	(-)
Sussex	High	High	(-)	216.4	200+	(-)	14.9	Medium	(-)	3.8%	Low	(-)
Union	High	High	(-)	299.6	200+	(-)	11.3	Medium	(-)	4.4%	Low	(-)
Warren	High	High	(-)	213.7	200+	(-)	12.6	Medium	(-)	4.5%	Low	(-)

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. COVID Data Tracker. Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC; 2022, July 21. <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker>

## 2. Community Transmission Levels used for Healthcare Settings



COVID-19 Community Levels should not be used to inform decision-making in healthcare settings, such as hospitals and nursing homes. The CDC and NJDOH recommend the use of [CDC Community Transmission levels](#) for healthcare settings to assess risk of COVID-19 transmission to inform mitigation measures.

Two indicators, case rate and percent positivity, are used to determine the level of SARS-CoV-2 transmission for a county. If the two indicators suggest different transmission levels, the higher level is selected.

Community transmission risk is classified as low, moderate, substantial, or high as follows:

Community Transmission Levels				
Indicator	Low	Moderate	Substantial	High
New cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days	<10	10 - 49.99	50 - 99.99	≥100
Percentage of positive NAAT tests in the past 7 days	<5%	5 - 7.99%	8 - 9.99%	≥10.0%

**Table 2. COVID-19 Transmission Levels as of July 21, 2022**

County	Community Transmission Level	New cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days		Percentage of positive NAAT tests in the past 7 days	
Atlantic	High	291.65	High	15.88	High
Bergen	High	327.61	High	13.81	High
Burlington	High	243.63	High	12.37	High
Camden	High	253.52	High	12.82	High
Cape May	High	275.97	High	11.04	High
Cumberland	High	310.98	High	9.22	Substantial
Essex	High	329.05	High	13.24	High
Gloucester	High	192.36	High	12.5	High
Hudson	High	356.64	High	14.33	High
Hunterdon	High	217.09	High	10.79	High
Mercer	High	274.07	High	8.38	Substantial
Middlesex	High	301.19	High	15.8	High
Monmouth	High	280.71	High	14.07	High
Morris	High	288.1	High	14.91	High
Ocean	High	248.85	High	11.4	High
Passaic	High	273.2	High	13.76	High
Salem	High	208.38	High	12.35	High
Somerset	High	264.49	High	14	High
Sussex	High	216.39	High	12.34	High
Union	High	299.64	High	12.29	High
Warren	High	213.74	High	12.08	High

### Recommendations for Healthcare Settings

Information from this table is adopted from CDC [Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019](#) (COVID-19) Pandemic, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid services (CMS) & NJDOH.

*This table does not supersede any federal or state requirements.*

<b>Low</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement source control and physical distancing measures. Certain allowances could be considered to forgo use of well-fitting source control and physical distancing in counties with low community transmission.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Healthcare personnel (HCP) should wear source control when they are in areas of the healthcare facility where they could encounter patients (e.g., hospital cafeteria, common halls/corridors).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Encourage everyone to remain <a href="#">up to date</a> with all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses.</li> <li>• Establish a process to identify and manage individuals with suspected or confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection.</li> <li>• Optimize the use of engineering controls and indoor air quality.</li> <li>• Create a process to respond to SARS-CoV-2 exposures among HCP and others.</li> <li>• Actively evaluate patients/residents at least daily for fever and other signs of COVID-19 or an acute respiratory infection.</li> <li>• Facilities might elect to use a risk-based approach for determining which residents require quarantine upon admission.</li> <li>• Per <a href="#">CMS QSO-20-38 NH</a>: In <a href="#">nursing homes</a> located in counties with low community transmission, expanded screening testing for asymptomatic HCP, regardless of vaccination status, is not recommended.</li> </ul>
<b>Moderate</b>	<p>Follow considerations for 'Low' above and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Per <a href="#">CMS QSO-20-38 NH</a>: In <a href="#">nursing homes</a> located in counties with moderate community transmission, HCP not up to date with vaccination, should be tested weekly.</li> </ul>
<b>Substantial</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Source control and physical distancing (when physical distancing is feasible and will not interfere with provision of care) are recommended for <b>everyone in a healthcare setting</b>. This is particularly important for individuals, regardless of their vaccination status, who live or work in counties with substantial to high community transmission.</li> <li>• Facilities must have a plan for implementing universal use of PPE. This includes consideration for implementing universal use of NIOSH-approved N95 or equivalent for HCP during all patient encounters or specific areas of the facility at higher risk for SARS-CoV-2 transmission.</li> <li>• In situations when patients who are not up to date with all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses could be in the same space (e.g., waiting rooms, cafeterias, dialysis treatment room), arrange seating so that patients can sit at least 6 feet apart, especially in counties with substantial or high transmission. This might require scheduling appointments to limit the number of patients in waiting rooms, treatment areas, or participating in group activities.</li> <li>• Use a N95 or higher-level respirator for aerosol generating procedures in dental settings.</li> <li>• Consider increasing the frequency of daily patient/resident monitoring for fever and other signs of COVID-19 or an acute respiratory infection.</li> <li>• Per <a href="#">ED-21-012</a> &amp; <a href="#">CMS QSO-20-39-NH</a>: Provide testing to visitors or encourage visitors to test on their own within 2-3 days before coming to facility (Note: Visitors are not required to be tested as a condition of visitation)</li> <li>• Per <a href="#">CMS QSO-20-38 NH</a>: In <a href="#">nursing homes</a> located in counties with substantial to high community transmission, HCP not up to date with vaccination, should have a viral test twice a week.</li> </ul>
<b>High</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow considerations for 'Substantial' above.</li> </ul>

This report will be updated weekly, on Thursdays, and posted at:

<https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/statistics/covid/index.shtml>.

For additional information visit:

[NJDOH Communicable Disease Service: COVID-19](#)

[NJ COVID-19 Information Hub](#)