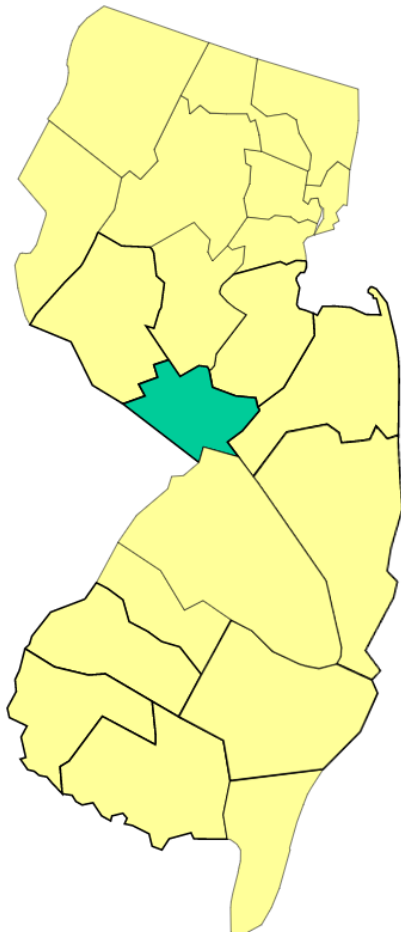


## Highlights

- CDC COVID-19 [Community Levels](#) for the week ending November 10, 2022:
  - Medium in 20 counties, Low in 1 county.
  - Since last week, Essex and Union have shifted from High to Medium.
  - 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 20 counties and Substantial in 1 county as of November 10, 2022.
  - Since last week, Salem has shifted from High to Substantial community transmission levels.

## 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).

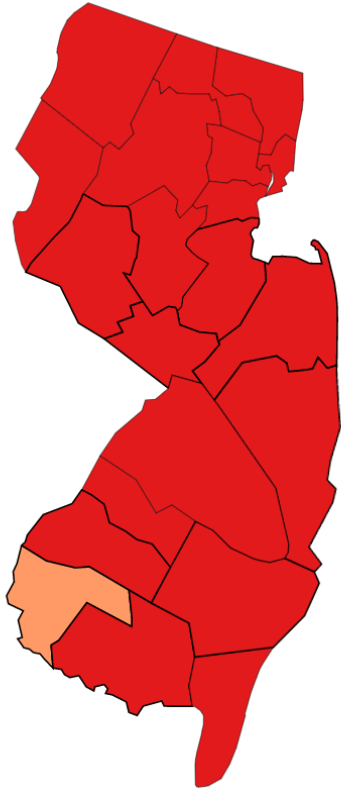
| COVID-19 Community Level | Protect yourself and your family   | Protect your communities, schools, and workplaces  |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| Low                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stay <a href="#">up to date</a> with COVID-19 vaccines and boosters.</li> <li>Stay home if you are sick.</li> <li>Avoid contact with people who have suspected or confirmed COVID-19.</li> <li>Follow <a href="#">isolation &amp; post-exposure recommendations</a> and wear a <a href="#">mask</a> 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. <a href="https://www.covid.gov/tests">https://www.covid.gov/tests</a> 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; post-exposure 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 COVID-19 community levels are medium or high.</li> </ul> |
| Medium                   | <p><b>Follow recommendations for ‘Low’ above and:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you are at high risk for severe illness from COVID-19, wear a high-quality <a href="#">mask</a> or respirator (e.g., N95) when indoors in public.</li> <li>If you spend time with someone at high risk for severe illness from COVID-19, consider self-testing before you see them and wearing a high-quality mask when indoors with them.</li> </ul>  | <p><b>Follow recommendations for ‘Low’ above and:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement screening testing or other testing strategies for people exposed to COVID-19 in high-risk settings. Schools and daycares serving students at risk for severe illness from COVID-19 should consider implementing screening testing.</li> <li>Implement enhanced prevention measures in high-risk congregate settings to prevent transmission during movement. Refer to <a href="#">CDC guidance for correctional facilities</a>.</li> <li>Encourage physical distancing for those at risk for severe illness from COVID-19.</li> </ul>   |
| High                     | <p><b>Follow recommendations for ‘Low’ and ‘Medium’ above and:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wear a high-quality <a href="#">mask</a> or respirator.</li> <li>If you are at high risk for severe illness from COVID-19, avoid non-essential indoor activities in public where you could be exposed.</li> </ul>  | <p><b>Follow recommendations for ‘Low’ and ‘Medium’ above and:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement indoor <a href="#">masking</a> policies.</li> <li>High-risk congregate settings, like shelters, should implement facility-wide, weekly screening testing.</li> <li>School and childcare settings may consider implementing screening testing for high-risk activities, before/after events, and after breaks.</li> <li>Consider cohorting in congregate settings.</li> </ul>   |

**Table 1. COVID-19 Community Levels for current week ending November 10, 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   | Medium                | Medium              | (-)                        | 113                            | <200          | (-)                        | 12.4                                | Medium        | (-)                        | 3.3  | Low           | (-)                        |
| Bergen     | Medium                | Medium              | (-)                        | 174.2                          | <200          | (-)                        | 10.5                                | Medium        | (-)                        | 5.5  | Low           | (-)                        |
| Burlington | Medium                | Medium              | (-)                        | 117                            | <200          | (-)                        | 17.4                                | Medium        | (-)                        | 4.6  | Low           | (-)                        |
| Camden     | Medium                | Medium              | (-)                        | 142.8                          | <200          | (-)                        | 17.4                                | Medium        | (-)                        | 4.6  | Low           | (-)                        |
| Cape May   | Medium                | Medium              | (-)                        | 147.8                          | <200          | (-)                        | 12.4                                | Medium        | (-)                        | 3.3  | Low           | (-)                        |
| Cumberland | Medium                | Medium              | (-)                        | 102.3                          | <200          | (-)                        | 19.4                                | Medium        | (-)                        | 6.7  | Low           | (-)                        |
| Essex      | Medium                | High                | (↓)                        | 147.7                          | <200          | (↓)                        | 12.2                                | Medium        | (-)                        | 5.3  | Low           | (-)                        |
| Gloucester | Medium                | Medium              | (-)                        | 113.8                          | <200          | (-)                        | 17.4                                | Medium        | (-)                        | 4.6  | Low           | (-)                        |
| Hudson     | Medium                | Medium              | (-)                        | 144.6                          | <200          | (-)                        | 10.5                                | Medium        | (-)                        | 5.5  | Low           | (-)                        |
| Hunterdon  | Medium                | Medium              | (-)                        | 105.3                          | <200          | (-)                        | 10.5                                | Medium        | (-)                        | 3.5  | Low           | (-)                        |
| Mercer     | Low                   | Low                 | (-)                        | 127.6                          | <200          | (-)                        | 9                                   | Low           | (-)                        | 4.6  | Low           | (-)                        |
| Middlesex  | Medium                | Medium              | (-)                        | 131                            | <200          | (-)                        | 12.2                                | Medium        | (-)                        | 5.3  | Low           | (-)                        |
| Monmouth   | Medium                | Medium              | (-)                        | 135.1                          | <200          | (-)                        | 14                                  | Medium        | (-)                        | 6.1  | Low           | (-)                        |
| Morris     | Medium                | Medium              | (-)                        | 138.2                          | <200          | (-)                        | 12                                  | Medium        | (-)                        | 3.5  | Low           | (-)                        |
| Ocean      | Medium                | Medium              | (-)                        | 138.8                          | <200          | (-)                        | 14                                  | Medium        | (-)                        | 6.1  | Low           | (-)                        |
| Passaic    | Medium                | Medium              | (-)                        | 152                            | <200          | (-)                        | 10.5                                | Medium        | (-)                        | 5.5  | Low           | (-)                        |
| Salem      | Medium                | Medium              | (-)                        | 91.4                           | <200          | (-)                        | 17.4                                | Medium        | (-)                        | 4.6  | Low           | (-)                        |
| Somerset   | Medium                | Medium              | (-)                        | 120.7                          | <200          | (-)                        | 12.2                                | Medium        | (-)                        | 5.3  | Low           | (-)                        |
| Sussex     | Medium                | Medium              | (-)                        | 138.1                          | <200          | (-)                        | 12                                  | Medium        | (-)                        | 3.5  | Low           | (-)                        |
| Union      | Medium                | High                | (↓)                        | 124.4                          | <200          | (↓)                        | 12.2                                | Medium        | (-)                        | 5.3  | Low           | (-)                        |
| Warren     | Medium                | Medium              | (-)                        | 125.4                          | <200          | (-)                        | 10.5                                | Medium        | (-)                        | 3.5  | Low           | (-)                        |

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. COVID Data Tracker. Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC; 2022, November 10. <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker>

## 2. Community Transmission Levels used for Healthcare Settings



In general, 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 November 10, 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                         | 113.02   | High        | 6.89   | Moderate    |
| Bergen     | High                         | 174.21   | High        | 8.17   | Moderate    |
| Burlington | High                         | 116.99   | High        | 7.06   | Moderate    |
| Camden     | High                         | 142.75   | High        | 8.54   | Substantial |
| Cape May   | High                         | 147.76   | High        | 7.02   | Moderate    |
| Cumberland | High                         | 102.32   | High        | 3.4  | Low         |
| Essex      | High                         | 147.69   | High        | 9.65   | Substantial |
| Gloucester | High                         | 113.84   | High        | 8.09   | Substantial |
| Hudson     | High                         | 144.56   | High        | 10.93  | High        |
| Hunterdon  | High                         | 105.33   | High        | 6.46   | Moderate    |
| Mercer     | High                         | 127.64   | High        | 5.11   | Moderate    |
| Middlesex  | High                         | 131.02   | High        | 9.73   | Substantial |
| Monmouth   | High                         | 135.1  | High        | 9.3  | Substantial |
| Morris     | High                         | 138.25   | High        | 10.23  | High        |
| Ocean      | High                         | 138.84   | High        | 8.67   | Substantial |
| Passaic    | High                         | 152.04   | High        | 9.62   | Substantial |
| Salem      | Substantial                  | 91.37  | Substantial | 7.52   | Moderate    |
| Somerset   | High                         | 120.69   | High        | 10.37  | High        |
| Sussex     | High                         | 138.09   | High        | 9.68   | Substantial |
| Union      | High                         | 124.38   | High        | 8.32   | Substantial |
| Warren     | High                         | 125.4  | High        | 8.36   | Substantial |

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. COVID Data Tracker. Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC; 2022, November 10. <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker>

### 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. **\*The NJ Division of Consumer Affairs (DCA) has required licensed providers to follow NJDOH recommendations.**

**Licensed providers should refer to the [DCA](#) for additional information.**

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

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>Low</b>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a process to identify and manage individuals with suspected or confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection.</li> <li>• Ensure everyone entering the facility is aware of recommended actions to prevent SARS-CoV-2 transmission to others, especially when they (1) have a positive SARS-CoV-2 viral test; (2) symptoms of COVID-19; (3) close contact or a higher-risk exposure to someone with SARS-CoV-2.</li> <li>• Encourage everyone to remain <a href="#">up to date</a> with all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses.</li> <li>• Healthcare facilities could choose to not require universal source control. Source control is still recommended for those who:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have suspected or confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection or other respiratory infection; or</li> <li>• Had close contact (patients/residents and visitors) or higher risk exposure with someone with SARS-CoV-2 infection, for 10 days after their exposure; or</li> <li>• Reside or work on a unit/area of the facility experiencing a SARS-CoV-2 outbreak; or</li> <li>• Are admitted to a nursing home (including those who leave the nursing home for <math>\geq 24</math> hours) - source control should be worn for 10 days; or</li> <li>• As recommended by public health authorities; or</li> <li>• Are located in a county where the COVID-19 Community Level is high.</li> </ul> </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 healthcare personnel (HCP) and others.</li> <li>• Screening testing for identifying asymptomatic infection is likely lower when in counties with lower levels of SARS-CoV-2 community transmission and should generally be performed at the discretion of the facility. However, settings covered under <a href="#">ED 21-011</a> should continue to test in accordance with the current directive.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Moderate</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow considerations for 'Low'</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Substantial</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refer to 'Low' and 'Moderate' above, in addition to this section.</li> <li>• Long-term care facilities (LTCFs) must have a plan for implementing universal use of personal protective equipment (PPE), pursuant to <a href="#">ED 21-012</a>. This includes consideration for implementing universal use of NIOSH-approved N95 or equivalent and eye protection for HCP during all patient encounters or in specific areas of the facility at higher risk for SARS-CoV-2 transmission, and all aerosol-generating procedures.</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>• LTCFs should provide testing to visitors or encourage visitors to test on their own within 2-3 days before coming to facility, pursuant to <a href="#">ED 21-012</a>. (Note: Visitors are not required to be tested as a condition of visitation)</li> <li>• Consider universal source control for everyone in a healthcare setting when they are in areas of the healthcare facility where they could encounter patients/residents.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>High</b>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refer to 'Low' 'Moderate' and 'Substantial' above, in addition to this section.</li> <li>• Source control is <b>recommended for everyone</b> in a healthcare setting when they are in areas of the healthcare facility where they could encounter patients/residents.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HCP could choose not to wear source control when they are in well-defined areas that are restricted from patient/resident access (e.g., staff meeting rooms) <u>if they do not otherwise meet the criteria for source control and COVID-19 Community Levels are not also high.</u> <b>When COVID-19 Community Levels are high, source control is recommended for everyone in all areas of the facility.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Regardless of vaccine status, nursing home patients/residents are recommended to be tested upon admission (including those who leave the facility for <math>\geq 24</math> hours) and, if negative, tested again 48 hours after the first negative test and, if negative, again 48 hours after the second negative test.</li> <li>• Non-LTCFs should have a plan to implement universal use of PPE. <b>Recommend</b> implementing universal use of NIOSH-approved N95 or equivalent and eye protection for HCP during all patient encounters or specific areas of the facility at higher risk for SARS-CoV-2 transmission, all aerosol-generating procedures, and surgical procedures that might pose a higher risk for transmission if the patient has or is incubating SARS-CoV-2 infection.</li> </ul>  |

This report will be updated weekly, on Fridays, 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](#)