

Manager's Message

Aaron Frank, Town Manager



Broadband Update: Town staff has continued to look for opportunities to expand high quality broadband internet within our community with State provided federal funding. We have between 130 and 200 addresses with no internet, or slower than cable speed internet. These locations are generally clumped together in a few areas of town. State of Vermont broadband funding under Act 71 is helpful for the State as a whole but does not address Colchester as most of our 7,000 addresses are served by cable speed internet. We are engaging our State Legislators about this issue and three members of our State Representatives attended the recent Selectboard meeting when this was discussed.

For more information:

https://clerkshq.com/Content/Attachments/Colchester-vt/220111_7e.pdf?clientSite=Colchester-vt

The Colchester Selectboard approved and authorized the following items for public vote on Town Meeting Day 2022

1.) Town Municipal Services Budget:

- Estimated to increase municipal service tax rate by 2.5 %
- Maintains current level of municipal services and address needs of the library digital collection, threats to public trees, employee safety and training, Howard Community Outreach workers, and fire vehicle maintenance
- Residential Property Value Impact: For a property valued at \$300,000, the increase would be \$42/year or 81 cents/week
- <https://colchestervt.gov/342/Town-Meeting-Budget>

2.) Re-authorization of Town Park Capital Plan

- Re-authorized at same rate
- Will be used to improve amenities at and conditions of Bayside Park and Skatepark, Airport Park, Fort Ethan Allen, Sunny Hollow Parking Area, and Rossetti Natural Area
- <https://colchestervt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/7097/Capital-Plan-Authorizations-Town-Meeting-010922>

3.) Re-authorization of Town Transportation Capital Plan

- Re-authorized at same rate
- Will be used to continue design of Bayside Intersection Single Lane Roundabout, sidewalks on Malletts Bay Avenue and East Lakeshore Drive, and the paving of approximately 21 miles of roadways
- <https://colchestervt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/7097/Capital-Plan-Authorizations-Town-Meeting-010922>

4.) Malletts Bay Sewer Project

- Funded by grants and sewer user fees only
- No impact on the tax rate
- Will preserve and protect the bay for future generations by removing human waste bacteria from the bay
- <https://colchestervt.gov/DocumentCenter/View/7098/Presentation-11122>

The first three items, along with existing voter approved capital, are estimated to increase the municipal service tax rate by 2.5%. The Malletts Bay Sewer Project has no impact on the tax rate. For a residential property valued at \$300,000 the increase would be \$42/year or 81 cents/week. Here are some examples of the increase based on assessed home value:

Residential Assessed Value	FY 23 Tax Increase	Weekly Increase
\$200,000	\$28	\$0.54
\$250,000	\$35	\$0.68
\$300,000	\$42	\$0.81
\$350,000	\$49	\$0.95
\$400,000	\$56	\$1.08
\$450,000	\$63	\$1.22

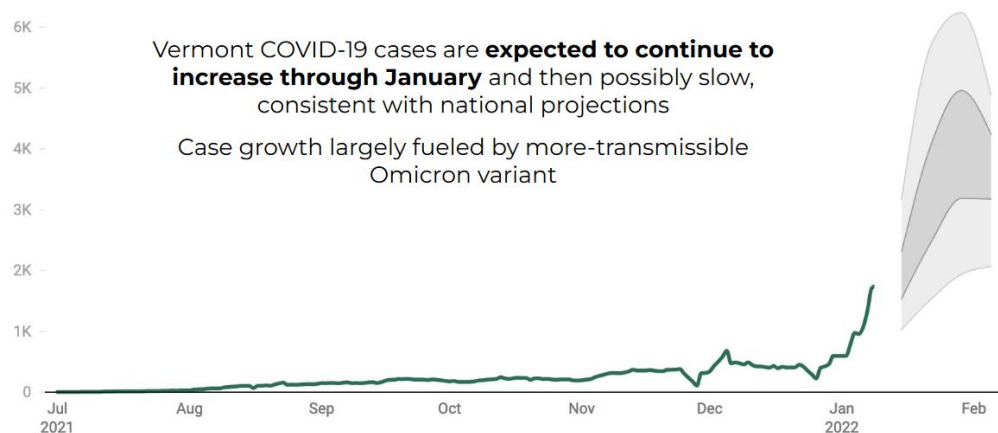
COVID UPDATE

Booster Shot Updates: Unfortunately, the COVID-19 infection rate is on the rise once again. The charts below demonstrate the expected trend for the next month and how the severity of illness is substantially reduced when both vaccinated and boosted. Recently, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration authorized the use of a third dose of the Pfizer and BioNTech COVID-19

vaccine for children ages 12 to 15, and narrowed the interval for booster shot eligibility to five months from six. The FDA also authorized a third shot for children aged 5 through 11 years who are immunocompromised. Information on each type of booster shot and their availability is included below.

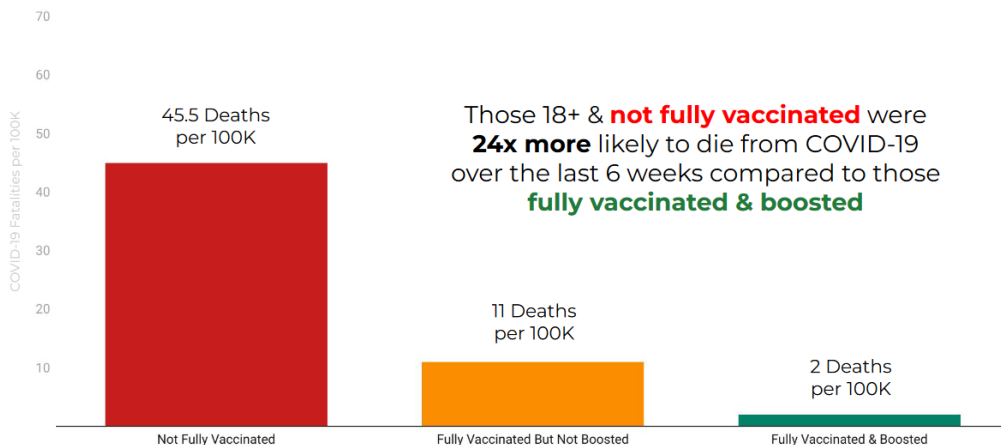
VT COVID-19 Infection Confidence Intervals

Calculated as a 7-day mean. Inner and outer bands represent 50% and 95% confidence intervals, respectively.



COVID-19 Deaths By Vaccination Status Per 100K

Measured Among Vermont's 18 & Over Population Over the Last 6 Weeks



Booster Shot information: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/vaccine/getting-covid-19-vaccine>

Booster Shot Answers: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/faqs#boostershot>.

Booster shots available through

- your pharmacy
- your doctor
- The State Health Department: 855-722-7878, Mon - Fri 8:15 am - 4:30 pm, Sat and Sun 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. Or <https://vermont.force.com/events/s/selfregistration>

Johnson & Johnson: You can get a booster shot if you received your vaccine at least two months ago.

Moderna and Pfizer: You can get a Moderna booster shot if you received your second dose of vaccine at least 6 months ago or your Pfizer booster shot if you received your second dose of vaccine at least 5 months ago.

Testing Updates: With cases on the rise, home testing is convenient. Along with the Federal Government's free at home tests, the State of Vermont may have free tests available.

Order tests from the Federal Government via the USPS here:

<https://special.usps.com/testkits>

Order your tests from the State here: <https://sayyescovidhometest.org/>

If you test positive for COVID-19:

- Isolate at home away from others for 5 days
- Reach out and inform close contacts immediately
- You can leave your home after day 5 if:
 - You have two negative antigen tests performed at least 24 hours apart beginning no earlier than day 4*
 - AND you never had symptoms, or your symptoms have improved, and you feel better
 - AND you have had no fever for at least 24 hours without the use of medicine that reduces fevers
 - AND you wear a mask around others through day 10.
- Guidance from the State on How to Isolate, Test, and Notify Close-Contacts: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/covid-19/symptoms-sickness/what-do-if-you-test-positive-covid-19>

Vaccine Updates:

Vaccines for Children: Children 5 – 11 are eligible for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccinations.

Appointments for Free Vaccine:

<https://vermont.force.com/events/s/selfregistration>

You can also walk in at CVS, Hannaford Food and Drug, Walmart, Price Chopper/Market 32, Rite Aid, Shaw's Supermarket, or Costco or get an appointment with [Kinney Drugs](#), [CVS](#), [Walgreens](#), [Northfield Pharmacy](#), or [UVMHC Outpatient Pharmacies](#).

**Burnham Memorial Library
Update:**

Hours:

Mondays & Thursdays: 12 pm – 6 pm

Tuesdays & Wednesdays: 10 am – 4 pm

Fridays: 10 am – 1 pm

Saturdays: 10 am – 3 pm



2021 proved to be a challenging year at the library.

We started the year off by continuing our curbside services throughout the winter. We loved seeing our patrons visit us to pick up their holds, browse our new items and pick up craft kits. As the weather warmed up, we slowly began our foray into outdoor storytimes for kids.

Library staff was excited when on June 6, we finally opened our doors to the public. We initially started out with short appointments, but quickly switched to reduced browsing hours when we saw that worked better with our patrons.

We said goodbye to many familiar faces in 2021: Ann Doubleday, Penny Cunningham, and Susan Gamberg retired and started new adventures, while our teen librarian Kelsey moved to France with her family. We continue to miss them, but have been so excited to welcome, Lauren Kelley, Susan Bliss, and Michelle Beaulieu to our team.

During the year, 4,282 patrons attended 368 programs. We have focused primarily on outdoor youth programming to be as safe as possible, and will continue to adapt our programming needs following CDC and Vermont Department of Health guidelines.

In 2021, 59,600 items were checked out of the library, while our digital collection saw a surge in borrowing. Burnham patrons have checked out 8,765 e-books and 5,333 audiobooks. We are looking forward to growing both our physical and digital collections in 2022.

While the library has limited services now, we hope that as the year progresses, we will be able to expand our hours and offer more in-person programming. We're grateful for all our patrons who have used our services in the last two years and we look forward to sunnier days with you in 2022.

Here are some programs you can attend at the library in January:

Outdoor Storytime: Tuesdays & Fridays in January at 10:30 am. Join us on the library lawn for stories, songs, and lots of giggles. Please bring a towel or blankets for your family to sit on during storytime.

Outdoor Young Writers & Storytellers: Wednesday January 26 at 3:30 pm. Join us for our writing club for children from kindergarten to 5th grade. Let's create stories! Call 264-5660 for more information, and to sign up.

Outdoor Crafts for Kids: Thursday January 27 at 3:30 pm. Kids 5 and up get to work on a new craft project every session.

In the event of inclement weather, outdoor programs will be moved inside the Library Meeting House unless specified. If a program cannot be moved indoors and has to be postponed, we will post to our website as well as our Facebook page.

Please note, masks are required in both the library and Library Meeting House. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding.

Upcoming Town Meetings

Selectboard: Tuesday, February 8th at 6:30PM, at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. Masks are required. Alternatively, send a note up to 1,000 words to townmanager@colchestervt.gov with "Citizens to be Heard" in the Subject and your name. As with in-person Citizens to be Heard, we ask that you SHARE YOUR ADDRESS. The email will be shared with the entire Selectboard

prior to the meeting and included in the information packet at the next meeting.

- Watch the Meeting Online via Live Stream: <http://lcatv.org/live-stream-2>
- Agenda: www.bit.ly/Colchester-SB-Agendas

Development Review Board: Wednesday, February 9, 7:00 pm at the Colchester Town Offices, 3rd Floor Outer Bay Conference Room, 781 Blakely Road. The Development Review Board will likely be participating remotely. Members of the public will have the option to choose either remote or in-person attendance. Masks are required for in-person attendance. Public comments can be submitted prior to the hearing by email to zmaia@colchestervt.gov or by mail to Town of Colchester, c/o Development Review Board, 781 Blakely Road, Colchester, VT 05446. Alternatively, participate in the public comment periods during the hybrid meeting.

- Participate by Phone: 1-929-205-6099
- Meeting ID: 871 3561 5437 (US – New York)
- Link to meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87135615437>
- Watch Meeting Online via Live Stream: <http://lcatv.org/live-stream-2>
- Agenda: https://clerkshq.com/Colchester-vt?docId=DRBAgenda&path=DRB%2CDRB_Agendas%2CDRBAgenda%2C

Subscribe to the Town Newsletter:

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/jkMAO2v>

For more information or to comment, call 802-264-5509 or email townmanager@colchestervt.gov