

For three days running, Cape May County had an active case count below 200. It stands at 186, as of May 3. These are the first days in 2021 when the active case count reached this level. One month ago, the active count was 407.

The county lost one resident, a Middle T

In the county, the arguments used to urge vaccination are as much about the collective economy as they are about personal health decisions.

County Commissioner Director Gerald Thornton urged county residents to get the vaccine as “the best way to keep yourself safe and get our businesses open.”

Commissioner Jeffrey Pierson spoke to those who might be “on the fence about getting the vaccine.” He hoped “they see cases dropping, businesses opening, and realize getting the shot will help us get to the finish line.”

Health officials tried to reach those hesitant about vaccination by framing the issue as something more than a choice about individual risk. The argument is that a high level of vaccinated individuals is the best defense against the virus’s ability to mutate and potentially create variants that could impair vaccine immunity.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has three classifications for variants of the coronavirus that causes Covid.

The first is variants of interest – variants with the potential to affect the transmission, diagnostic testing, therapeutics, or even immunity.

The most common variant of interest in New Jersey is B.1.156, a variant first detected in New York in November. The state reports a handful of B.1.156 cases in Cape May County.
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The second is variants of concern – variants with increased transmissibility that can also interfere with diagnostic tests and cause more disease severity.

The most common example of a virus of concern is B.1.1.7, detected first in the United Kingdom and now the most prevalent virus in new cases of Covid, the most common variant circulating in New Jersey and Cape May County.

The last classification is variants' high consequence. This is MMMs abia Teauatinn is varcine ifMMMMM

The race to vaccinate 70% of the adult population is an attempt to deny the virus hosts for continuous mutation. It is to prevent the appearance of dangerous variants that might rise to the level of high consequence.

The CDC proffered new guidance that gives increased freedom to fully vaccinated individuals. Such individuals may forego the mask outdoors, unless in a crowded location or venue.

New Jersey is set to roll back indoor capacity limits, increase the permitted size of indoor gatherings, and expand numbers at indoor event venues.

A key to safety may be the ability of health and community leaders to convince those on the fence regarding vaccination to join the growing ranks of the fully vaccinated.

To contact Vince Conti, email vconti@cmcherald.com.

 Poll

Are you still reluctant to get a Covid vaccine despite them being available since December?

Yes

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