



**TOWN OF FAIRFIELD  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

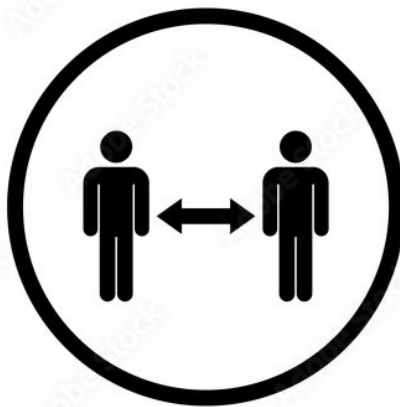
**PUBLIC HEALTH IN A CHANGING WORLD**

**COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

**WASH HANDS**

**MAINTAIN DISTANCE**

**WEAR FACE COVERING**



Adobe Stock | #40762033

**FY 2020 & 2021  
ANNUAL REPORT DRAFT**

## STRATEGIC PLAN 2019—2024

In early 2019, a five year Strategic Plan was developed by the health department work group consisting of the Director of Health, Health Educator, Nursing Staff, Environmental Staff and Administration. Goals were developed based on input from the staff and the Board of Health, as well as by analysis of The Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement plans. The Vision, Mission and Values were updated to reflect ongoing strategic priorities.

### VISION

A healthy community through professional excellence

### MISSION

Innovation, education and action to improve community health and well-being

### VALUES

Commitment to integrity

Compassion in Conduct

Creative Teamwork

Continuous Improvement

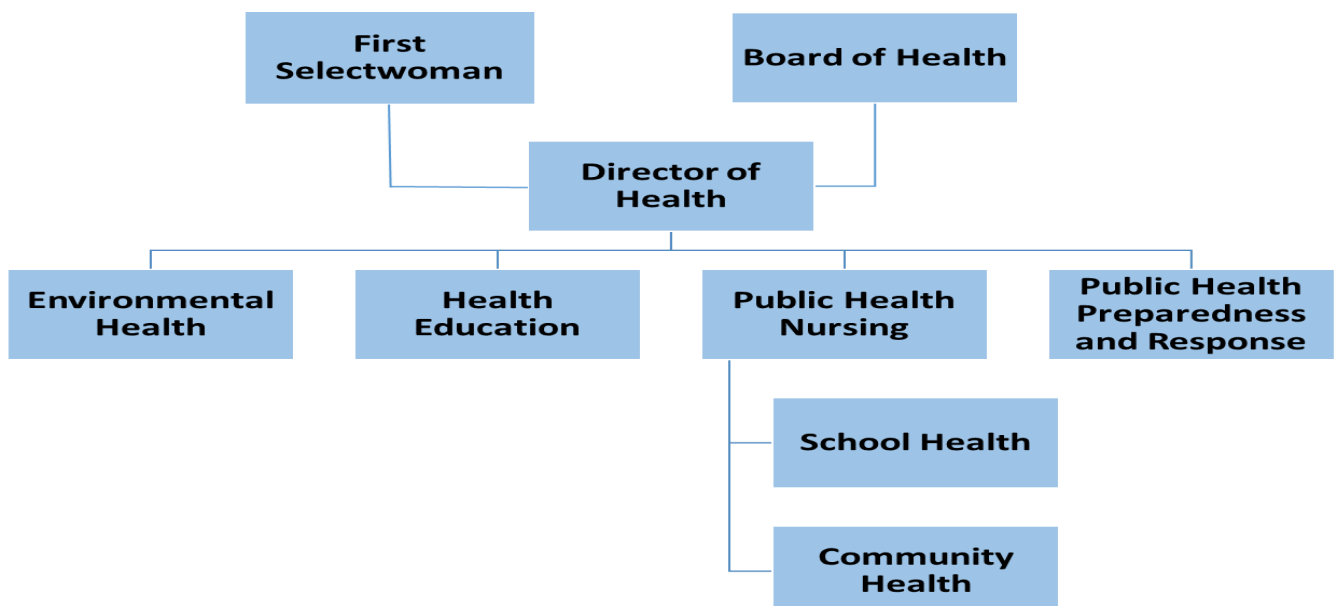
### STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

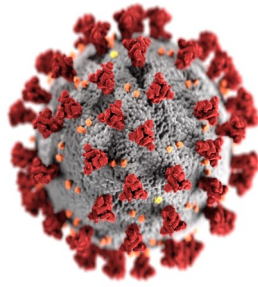
Customer Service

Community Health Improvement Plan Priorities

Internal Performance Enhancements

## ORGANIZATION CHART





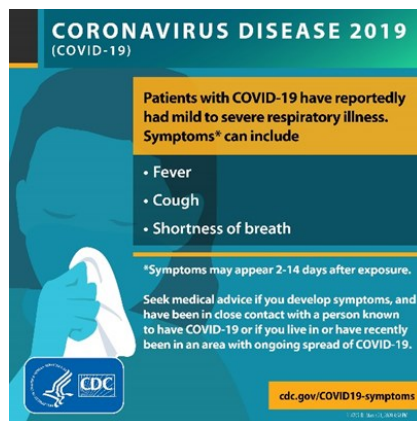
What a year (or two) it has been for public health. COVID-19 became an international health emergency in the early days of 2020 and the Fairfield Health Department responded quickly with education, support, and ultimately vaccination for the community to mitigate the risk of transmission and help all Fairfield residents stay healthy.

Although a global pandemic of this magnitude is unprecedented, we leveraged years of preparation to respond decisively and quickly, adapting strategies as the virus ebbed and flowed, amid changing state and local regulations.

The entire staff, including the Director, Sanitarians, Nurse Supervisor, Nurses, Health Educator and all administrative staff pivoted to concentrating primarily on COVID-19, while still managing all day to day operations.

From January 2020 until June 30, 2021 (and beyond) the department's focus shifted to providing COVID-19 guidance to residents, schools, nursing homes and businesses to help slow the spread; explaining and enforcing mitigation strategies (like social distancing and mask wearing); and offering numerous vaccination clinics.

This Annual Report for FY 2020 and 2021 will highlight the timeline of the virus from arrival to health education, mitigation and vaccination. In addition, while many of our traditional programs were put on hiatus, the staff worked diligently on responding to complaints regarding social distancing and mask wearing, as well as to inspections of restaurants and hair and nail salons as they pivoted to take-out or closed and re-opened. The Governor's Executive Orders were closely followed as the pandemic progressed bringing new guidance to protect state residents while also allowing businesses to operate safely.



## COVID-19 TIMELINE

Units of Time	Milestones
January, 2020	Novel coronavirus circulates in Wuhan, China. First case identified in the United States.
February, 2020	WHO named disease caused by the virus "COVID-19." Travel ban put in place for travel to China.
March, 2020	WHO characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic. First case identified in Fairfield. Schools close down and "stay at home" orders put in place.
April, 2020	Northeast states hit hard. Hospitals reaching capacity. Height of the pandemic, for what will be the "first wave."
May, 2020	Mitigation efforts increase to "flatten the curve." Virus is deemed highly contagious.
June, 2020	Cases rise in long term care facilities leading to unprecedented deaths. The tri-state area issues a "travel advisory" with mandatory quarantining.
July, 2020	Case numbers decrease in CT. Connecticut begins to open facilities and outdoor dining expands.
August, 2020	DPH develops contact tracing database (ContaCT). Mandatory mask wearing put in place for schools for planned re-opening.
September, 2020	Governor Lamont signs 69th Executive Order and extends all orders till November 10, 2020. Second wave of the pandemic begins.
October, 2020	Most of CT in the red zone (15 or more cases per 100,000). Connecticut has highest rate of nursing home deaths in the northeast.
November, 2020	Connecticut travel advisory includes 48 states. Fairfield hits peak of positive cases.
December, 2020	The federal government releases two COVID-19 vaccines for emergency use - Moderna and Pfizer. Fairfield has its first Covid vaccination clinic on December 23, 2020 for first priority group.
January, 2021	Third wave begins. The highly contagious Delta variant emerges. Connecticut peaks with 3,000 cases per day.
February, 2021	Johnson & Johnson becomes third vaccine approved for emergency use. CT state of emergency extended to April 19, 2021.
March, 2021	Delta variant is widespread. United States has reported over 30 million cases and deaths exceeding 500,000.
April, 2021	Breakthrough cases emerge for the fully vaccinated. State DPH pauses use of J & J vaccine for blood clot concerns.
May, 2021	Positive numbers begin to drop. Only 26 towns in red zone.
June, 2021	All CT towns out of red zone and pandemic restrictions rolled back. Fairfield has 61% of residents fully vaccinated. Mid month there were no Covid hospitalizations in CT.

## PHASE 1

### EDUCATION

Word of the novel Coronavirus, which had originated in Wuhan, China, reached the United States with the first case occurring in the third week of January in the state of Washington. Early on the Fairfield Health Department Director gathered the Emergency Response team and all department heads to outline procedures for a potential pandemic. New words entered the public realm like “social distancing” and “flattening the curve” which were strategies used to avoid overwhelming the healthcare system. Original guidance was to stay at home, increase handwashing, avoid touching surfaces, clean high-touch surfaces, including groceries and maintaining social distance. Mask wearing guidance followed, including clarification of differences in effectiveness of various types of mask from cloth, surgical to N95.

During these early days, our Health Educator developed educational videos and posted extensively on social media to inform our residents of COVID-19 risks and how to protect themselves. Over the course of the next 18 months, the following social media was shared:

#### TWITTER

- 610 Followers
- 366 Posts
- 436 Likes
- 6 Comments
- 269 Shares/Retweets

#### YOUTUBE

- 24 Videos Posted
- 76 Likes
- 12,933 Views

#### FACEBOOK

- 3200 Followers
- 540 Posts
- 13,391 Likes/Reactions
- 2390 Comments
- 2742 Shares
- 24 Videos Shared
- 43,397 Videos Viewed

#### INSTAGRAM

- 1157 Followers
- 376 Posts
- 5931 Likes
- 161 Comments
- 1234 Shares
- 258 Saves
- 13 Videos Shared
- 2021 Videos Viewed

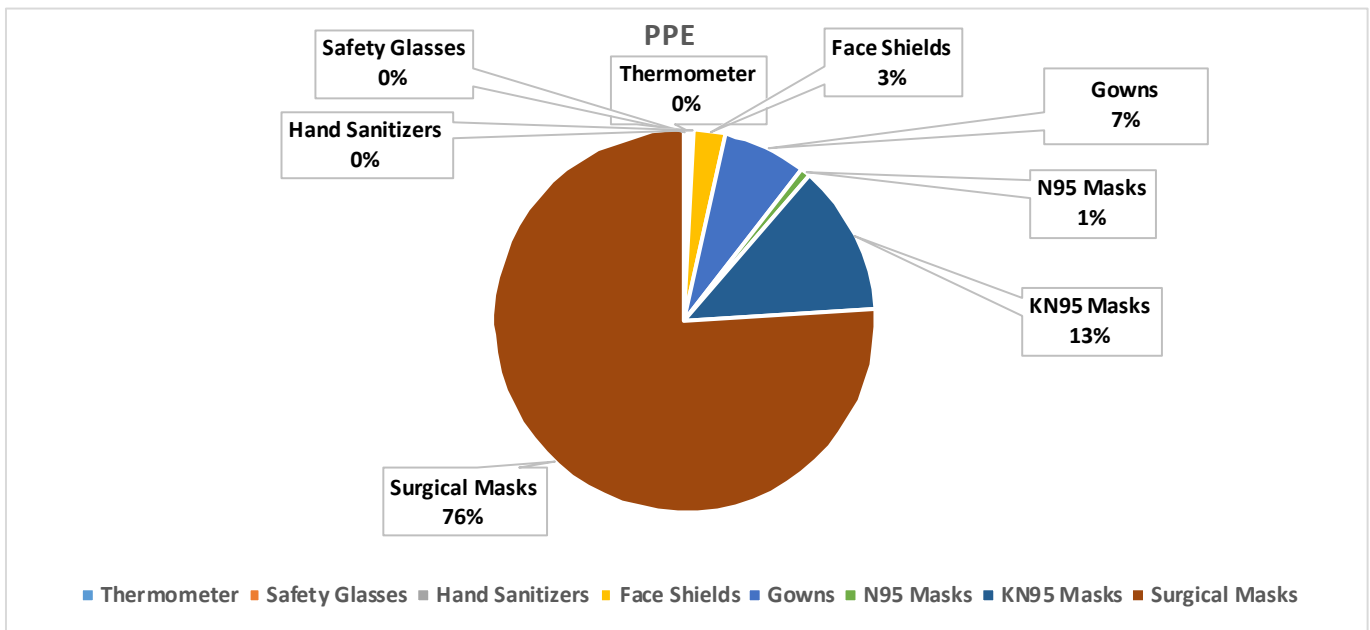
## PHASE 2 MITIGATION

As the crisis unfolded, additional mitigation efforts were put in place to limit the spread of the virus. This included the distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to healthcare professionals in our community, limiting gatherings, mask wearing, enforcement of the Governor’s Executive Orders, extensive contact tracing and working with long term care facilities to develop infection control practices to limit the spread. The Emergency Management team met weekly to strategize, while weekly meetings were also held with the CDC, State Department of Health and State epidemiologists.

### PPE DISTRIBUTION

Every week, starting in mid-April, 2020, PPE was provided by the CT Department of Public Health for towns to distribute to local healthcare providers. Our department reached out to urgent care centers, primary care physicians, dialysis centers, dental offices and home health agencies to assess their needs.

The following PPE was distributed to 87 offices within our healthcare community:



PPE	AMOUNT
Thermometer	80
Safety Glasses	163
Hand Sanitizers	271
Face Shields	1,654
Gowns	4,298
N95 Masks	578
KN95 Masks	7,874
Surgical Masks	47,421

## CONTACT TRACING DATA

July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2021

In August 2020 the State Department of Health put in place a confidential contact tracing web-based data program (ContaCT) which all local health departments were invited to utilize. This contact tracing software was updated 23 times by June 2021 to capture new information and track virus transmission.

Contact tracing efforts were in full-swing at the Fairfield Health Department for the following year (and beyond) as positive cases were called and advised to isolate, while close contacts were provided with quarantine guidance. Three attempts were made for seven days a week to reach residents and offer guidance and answer questions.

The Nursing Supervisor worked very closely with the schools to identify clusters and limit the spread in this community. Information gathered in ContaCT also allowed the state to compile data on the severity of the virus (as symptoms are monitored), determine contagiousness (by seeing how many close contacts turned positive), and monitor break-

Number of COVID-19 positive cases	5261
Number of close contacts identified	2686
Number of calls made by contact tracers	6568
Number of clusters investigated	51
Number of K-12 positive students—Fairfield Residents	2887 Fairfield Public Schools 223 Private Schools
Number of Fairfield University cases	594
Number of Sacred Heart University cases	510
Number of deaths	211



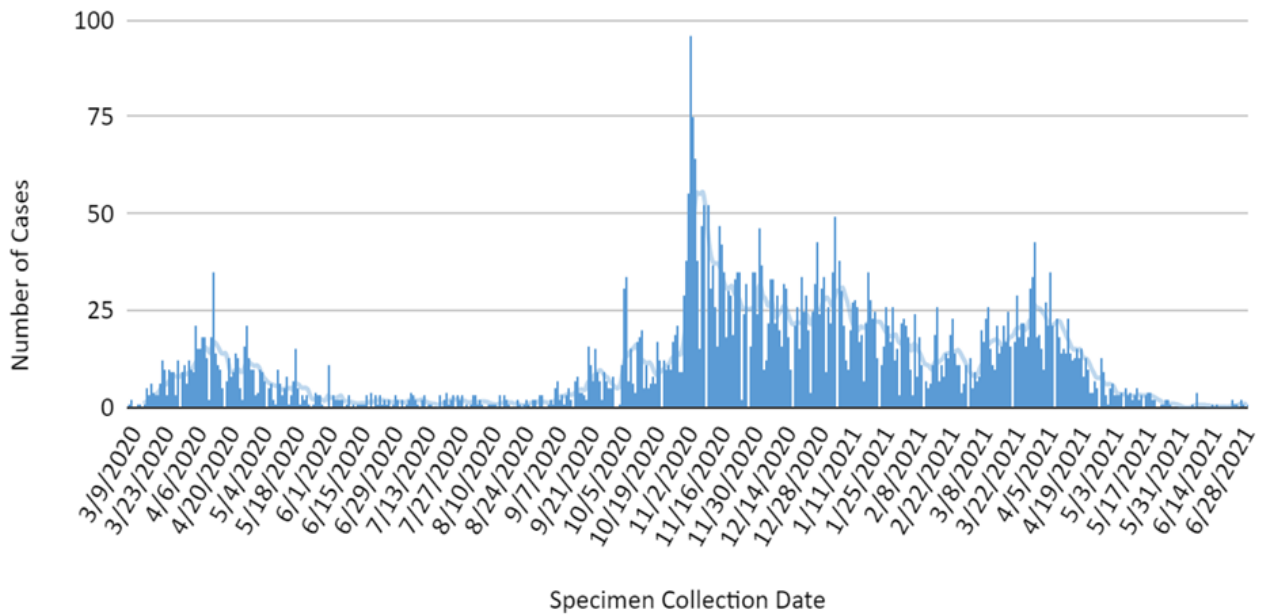
# COVID-19 DATA

July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2021

The Health Department created a COVID-19 data page with our first case on March 9, 2020. The public data page was launched on April 27, 2020 was updated daily throughout the day.

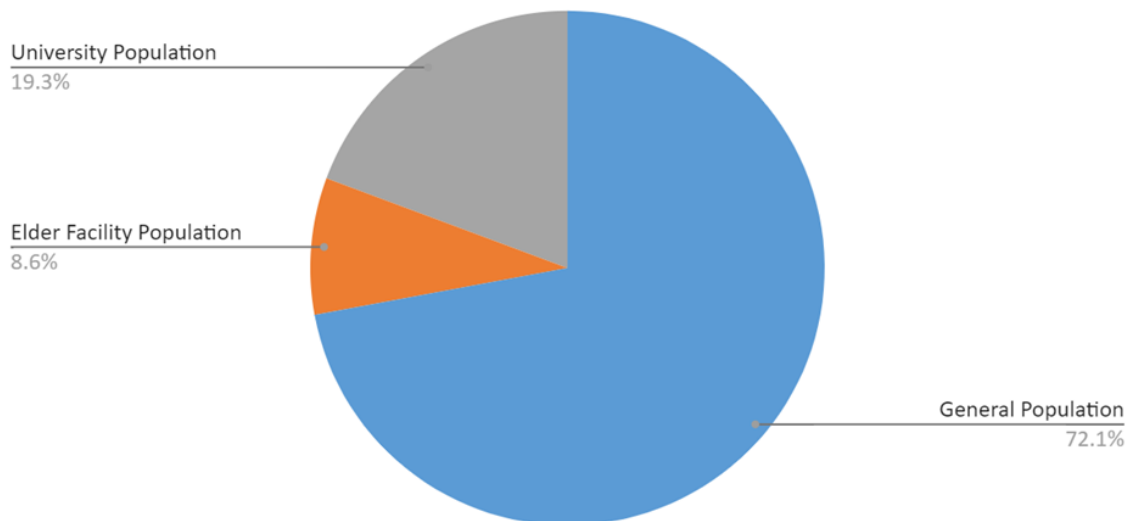
## Fairfield Laboratory Confirmed COVID-19 Cases by Specimen Collection Date - with 7-day Moving Average Trendline

\*Data from July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2021



## Fairfield Laboratory Confirmed Cases by General Population, University Population and Elder Facilities

July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2021





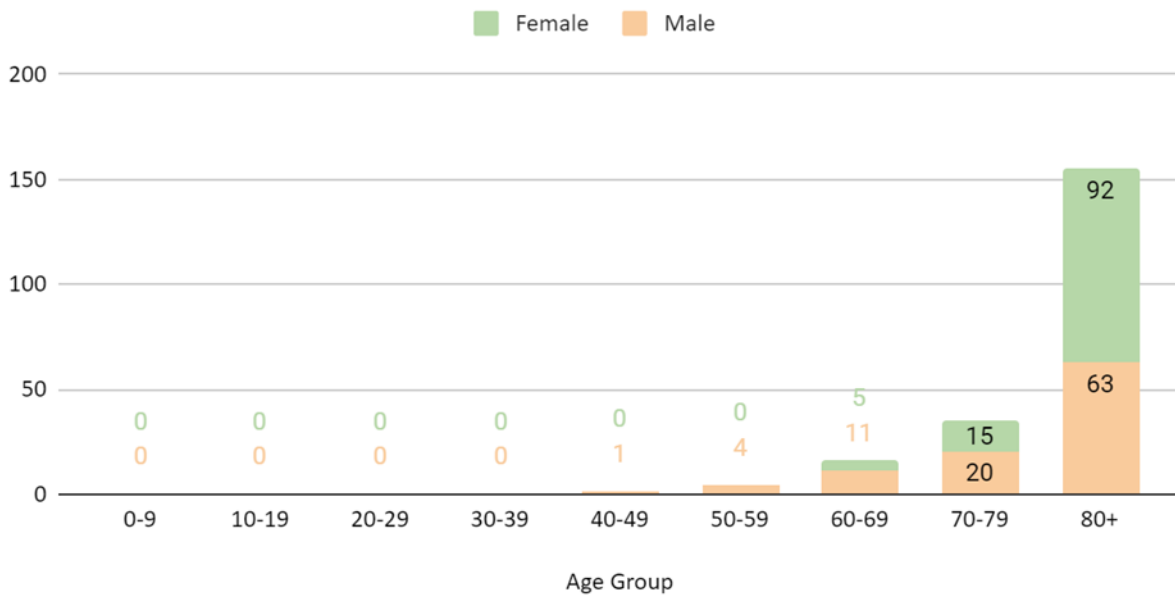
## COVID-19 DATA

July 1, 2019—June 30, 2021

The majority of our COVID-19 related deaths in town were in residents over the age of 80, which was a very hard-hit population, particularly prior to vaccination availability.

### Fairfield COVID-19 Related Deaths by Age Group and Gender

July 1, 2019- June 30, 2021



June 30, 2021	Cases	Hospitalizations	Deaths
Town of Fairfield	5,261	**	211
Fairfield County	100,516	9	2,202
State of CT	349,352	31	8,278

## PHASE 3 VACCINATION

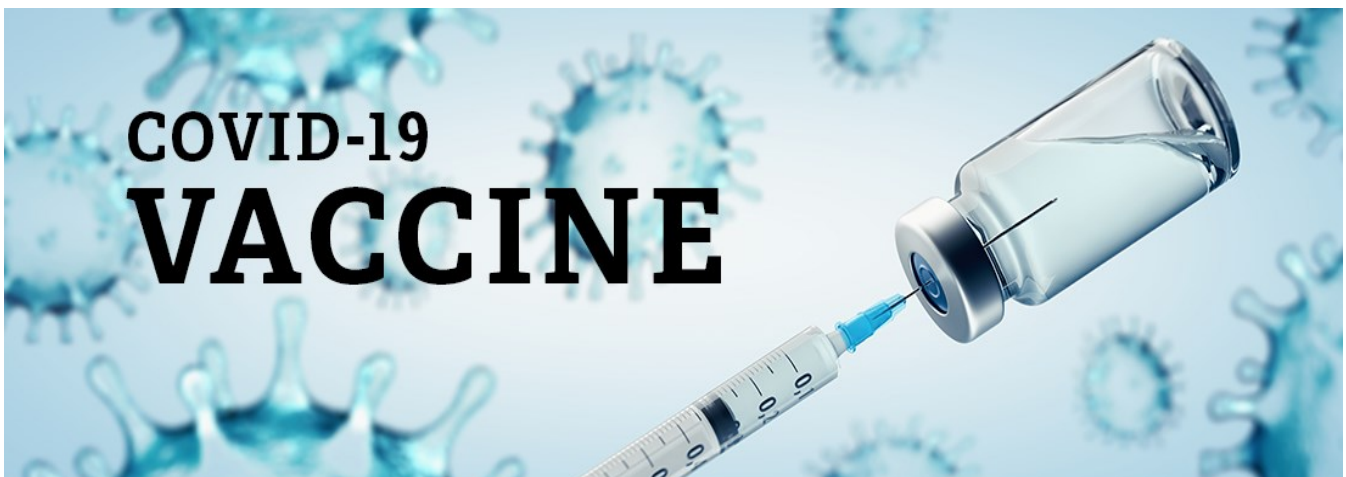


In December, 2020, the Federal Government released two viable COVID-19 vaccines under emergency use authorization (Moderna and Pfizer). With years of emergency preparedness training and past flu vaccination clinics, we were able to rapidly develop a vaccination plan that was both swift and efficient. On December 23, 2020 our office received our first shipment of Moderna vaccine and we were ready for our first vaccination clinic that day. Connecticut had a rollout plan which allowed for our most vulnerable residents to receive the vaccination first. Phase 1A included healthcare personnel, long term care facility residents and medical first responders.

As new phases rolled out and age groups expanded, over the next 18 months we hosted 54 clinics distributing 24,914 vaccines. Our clinics were held at various times of the day, including weekends, to reach all community members. Our nurses also provided 255 doses to homebound residents, unable to attend a clinic.

By June 30, 2021, 95% of our seniors had received at least one vaccination, while 61.71% of the town was fully vaccinated.

Town of Fairfield Vaccination Rate as of June 30, 2021	Ages 12-15	Ages 16-44	Ages 45-64	Ages 65+	Town
Initiated Vaccination Percent	60.52%	68.69%	87.68%	95.73%	66.72%
Fully Vaccination Percent	51.68%	62.16%	82.19%	91.69%	61.71%



## COVID-19 VACCINE ROLLOUT

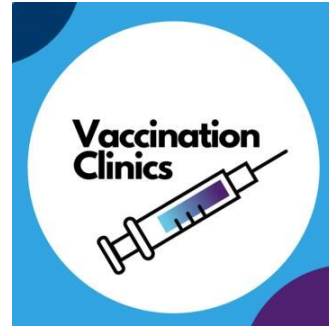


Liked by fairfieldhealth and 141 others

**brendakupchick** I'm very proud of our Director of Health Sands Cleary and our entire Health Department for being one of the first towns to have a COVID vaccine clinic up and running.

Our Health Department's efficient and successful model has been emulated by other towns. At the end of the day today they will have completed 3 clinics administering over 1200 vaccines.

I'm so grateful for their work in vaccinating first responders and health professionals in the phase 1a category.



### VACCINE DISTRIBUTION PLAN

<b>PHASE 1a</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HEALTHCARE WORKERS</li> <li>NURSING HOME RESIDENTS</li> <li>MEDICAL FIRST RESPONDERS</li> </ul>
<b>PHASE 1b</b> (MID-JANUARY TO LATE MAY)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CRITICAL WORKFORCE</li> <li>OTHER CONGREGATE SETTINGS</li> <li>ADULTS 65+</li> <li>HIGH RISK UNDER 65</li> </ul>
<b>PHASE 2</b> (EARLY JUNE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UNDER 18</li> <li>REMAINING OVER 18</li> </ul>

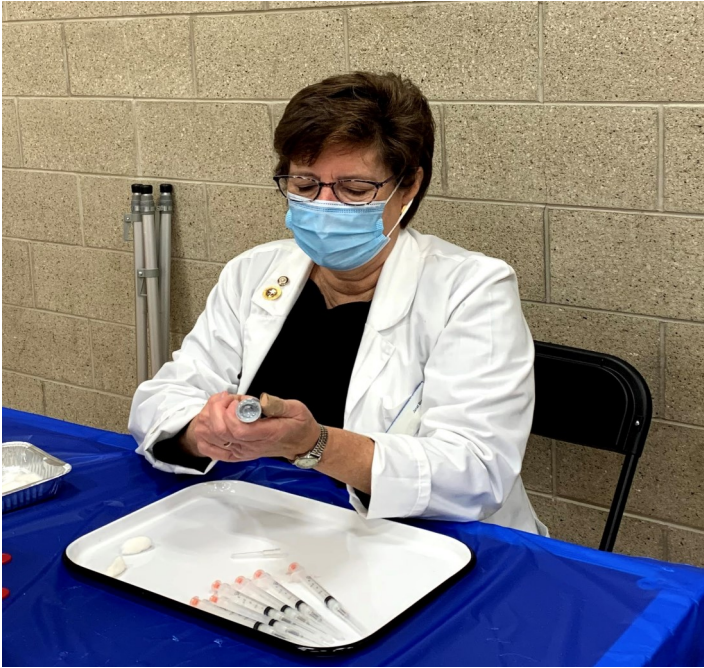
### Connecticut COVID-19 Vaccine Roll-Out

- March 1, 2021:** Expands to ages 55 to 64
- March 22, 2021:** Expands to ages 45 to 54
- April 12, 2021:** Expands to ages 35 to 44
- May 3, 2021:** Expands to ages 16 to 34

[ct.gov/covidvaccine](https://ct.gov/covidvaccine)



## VACCINATION CLINICS



A sampling of our 54 clinics where we vaccinated nearly 25,000 people. The Moderna vaccine was administered at the majority of our clinics, but we also held Pfizer clinics specifically for children under 18.





## CELEBRATING MILESTONES

Our staff worked hard but also took time to celebrate our successes, including our 1,000th vaccine within the first week, and our 20,000th vaccine where we danced.



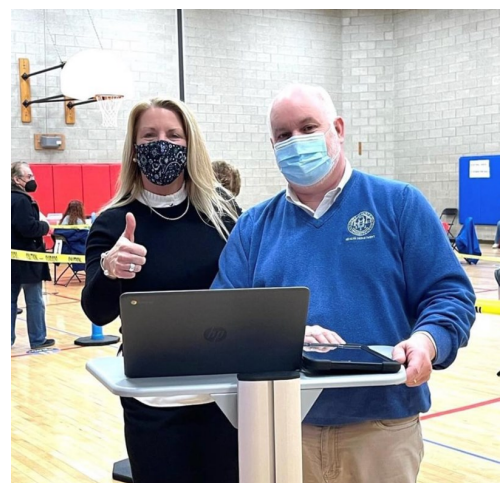
December 30, 2020—Our 1,000th person vaccinated



March 1, 2021—Our 10,000th person vaccinated



April 22, 2021—Our 20,000th vaccine deserved a dance party!



First Selectwoman Brenda Kupchick visits

## PARTNERSHIPS

The Fairfield Health Department partnered with local healthcare agencies to combat COVID-19 with increased testing options and additional vaccination clinics.

### GRIFFIN HEALTH MOBILE VACCINATION VAN

Griffin Healthcare provided their mobile vaccination van to the residents of Fairfield on numerous occasions over the course of the pandemic. Residents could find the van at local high schools, the Fairfield Fire Training Center as well as at the Bigelow Senior Center, in partner with our COVID-19 clinics.

Griffin offered Moderna, Pfizer and J & J, and served everyone over the age of five, providing first, second or booster doses.



### YALE NEW HAVEN HEALTH COVID-19 TESTING

As testing needs increase,, the Fairfield Health Department partnered with Yale New Haven Health to provide a drive through COVID-19 testing site. This hugely popular site allowed residents to obtain a PCR test in a quick and efficient manner.

Yale  
NewHaven  
Health

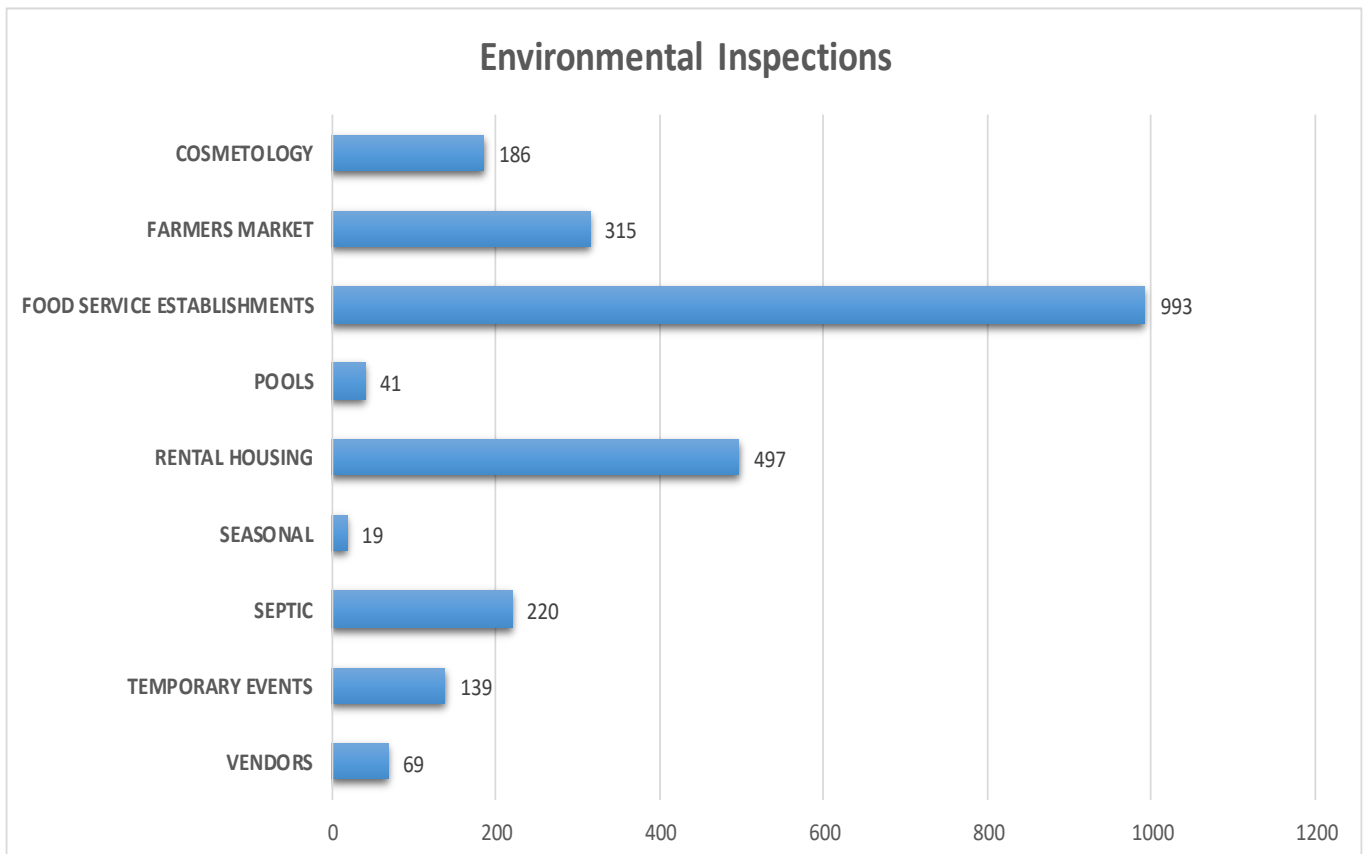


## IN NON-COVID NEWS.....

Although it may not have always seemed like it at times, there was more to these last two fiscal years than the pandemic. The Fairfield Health Department continued to follow the 10 essential services which are crucial to providing critical public health services to our residents. Our sanitarians continued to inspect food service establishments, nail and hair salons, pools and hotels, as well as inspecting rental units to ensure compliance with state and local regulations. Septic systems were installed and repaired, schools and daycares were inspected, communicable diseases were reported, ticks were sent out for testing, food and lead poisoning cases were investigated and flu clinics were offered. Sanitarians also responded to all complaints, many of which were focused on the lack of social distancing or mask wearing, which were guidelines put in place during the height of the pandemic.

### ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

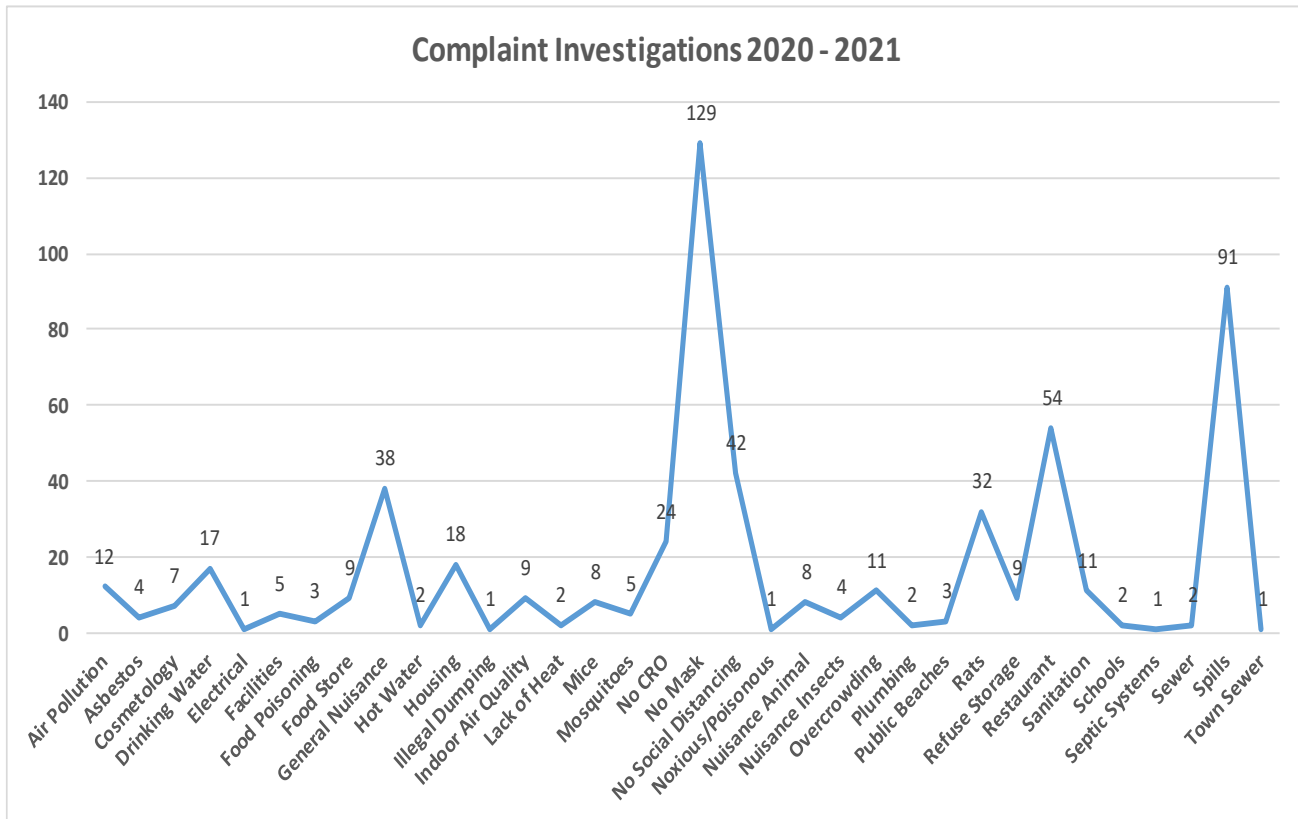
Sanitarians completed 2,479 inspections over fiscal years 2020 and 2021, which is only a combined 25% reduction over the 2019 inspection numbers. With many restaurants closed during the pandemic and with the huge increase on local health department demands, this was no small feat.



# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

## Complaint Investigations

568 complaints were investigated in FY 's 2020 and 2021, with the majority of the complaints related to COVID-19 protocol violations. 129 complaints were lodged against establishments for not enforcing mask wearing, while 42 were investigated for insufficient social distancing.





## COMMUNITY HEALT STATISTICS

### COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Overall, the number of communicable diseases dropped drastically during fiscal years 2020 and 2021, particularly for influenza. The combination of stay at home orders, social distancing and masking most likely played an important role in this decrease.

Overall communicable disease numbers decreased from 346 in FY 2019, to 210 in FY 2020 to 132 in FY 2021. influenza cases saw a steep decline from 95 in FY 2019 to 45 in FY 2020 and 4 in FY 2021.

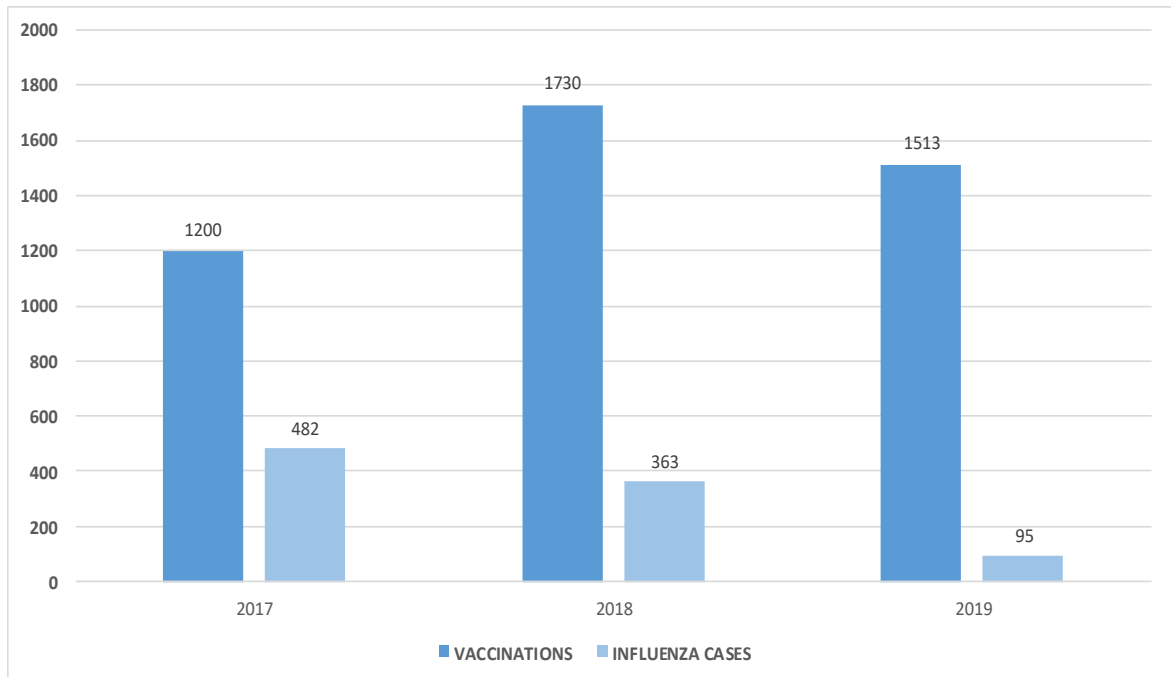
Disease or Condition	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
AIDS/HIV	0	1	0
Anaplasmosis	1	1	0
Babesiosis	0	0	1
C. Difficile Toxin	10	8	3
Campylobacter	13	3	4
Candidiasis	4	3	4
Chlamydia	102	65	55
CRE	0	1	0
E. Coli	0	1	0
Ehrlichiosis	1	1	0
Giardiasis	1	1	0
Gonorrhea	12	6	17
Hepatitis B	1	1	7
Hepatitis C	12	11	3
Influenza	95	45	4
Influenza H1N1	0	2	0
Legionella	3	1	1
Lyme	3	5	1
MRSA	3	0	0
Mycobacterium	8	7	2
Pertussis	1	0	0
Salmonella	11	4	0
Shiga-toxin related	1	1	0
Shigellosis	0	2	1
Staphylococcus	16	25	19
Streptococcal	14	19	4
Syphilis	15	2	4
Tuberculosis Disease	6	5	1
West Nile Virus	1	0	0
Yersiniosis	2	1	0
Total	346	210	132



# COMMUNITY HEALTH

## Influenza Vaccinations

Influenza cases have shown a steady decline with an 80% decrease in reported cases from 2017



## Pediatric Vaccinations, Travel Immunizations and Sexually Transmitted Diseases



Free and reduced cost pediatric vaccinations are available in our Nursing Department while Well Child Clinic services are offered for students up to age 18. In addition, referrals are provided for travel vaccinations and testing for sexually transmitted diseases.

## Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan

In 2019 the Greater Bridgeport Region (Fairfield, Bridgeport, Easton, Trumbull and Stratford) conducted a community health assessment capturing a snapshot of local health needs. Data was collected by a community well-being survey, community discussions and key informant interviews. A community forum/presentation was held with input being used to develop the Community Health Improvement Plan. 240 Fairfield residents were randomly selected and participated in the 100+ question survey.



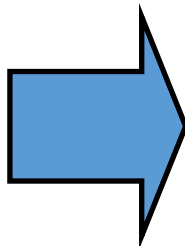
# PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

1 Nursing Supervisor  
2 Coordinators  
1 P/T Public Health Nurse

**COMMUNITY HEALTH**

- 112 Employee Physicals
- 462 PPD Testing
- 25 FIT Testings
- 6 Know Your Numbers Clients
- 3 Community Flu Clinics
- 1,513 Flu Vaccinations
- 140 Pediatric Vaccines
- 12 Pneumonia Vaccines

20 Full Time School Nurses  
10 Part Time School Nurses

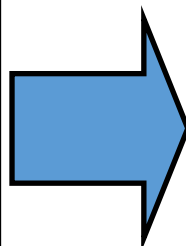


**SCHOOL NURSING**

Services at all Public and Private Schools

- 109,645 School Nurse visits
- 2,745 Medications administered
- 1,676 Scoliosis screenings
- 4,535 Vision screenings
- 636 Vision referrals
- 4,250 Hearing screenings
- 1,322 Health Care Plans developed
- 2,528 meetings attended
- 40 School staff trained to administer emergency Epinephrine

1 Dental Hygienist



**ORAL HEALTH**

- 187 Dental Cleanings
- 1,731 students receiving dental classroom education
- 17 students referred for free dental care

## HEALTH EDUCATION



Our website, [www.fairfield.org/health](http://www.fairfield.org/health) offers guidance on public health concerns including information on emergency preparedness, housing, foodborne illnesses, tick testing, vaccinations, STD testing referrals, substance abuse assistance and more.

In addition, our staff in 2019 produced 6 informative videos which have had over 4,218 views and over 19 shares on Facebook this year. Topics covered include radon, Public Health Week, Flu, updated Certificate of Rental Occupancy, Family Reunification Center and Family Assistance Center 101.

Our Facebook (Fairfield Health Department), Twitter (@FairfieldHD) and Instagram (@FairfieldHealth) accounts offer information on healthy living, current outbreaks or recalls, and additional health-related breaking news.

## COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Our Health Educator works with the community to promote wellness and healthy behaviors. The following programs are offered to raise awareness, provide support and encourage a healthy and active lifestyle:

Pilot Bike Share Program with Zane Cycles (Year 3. Ended 4/19)	72 riders
Community Events: Dance Day , Fitness Expo	7 events/700 participants
Diabetes and Chronic Disease Support Group	over 50 participants
Know Your Numbers/Blood Pressure Screening	14 participants
Fresh Start Smoking Cessation Program	16 participants
Matter of Balance Fall Prevention 8 week Program	23 participants
Eat Well Healthy Menu Promotion	7 participating restaurants
Healthy Lifestyles Program 13 week Program	8 participants
Narcan Trainings	2 events/40 participants

# HEALTH PROMOTION PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIPS



Collaborating with local and regional partners is important to maintaining a healthy community. Our staff members represent the Department by serving on numerous committees, promoting wellness and healthy behaviors, including co-chairing the Regional Healthy Lifestyle Task Force.

## PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

The department prepares for and responds to a variety of public health and other emergencies. Staff and volunteers participate in trainings and exercises to prepare for activities related to mass dispensing of medical countermeasures such as antibiotics and vaccines, coordinating the Fairfield Call Center and Mass Care Coordination overseeing emergency shelter operations. Emergency preparation also includes departmental coordination and training of the Fairfield Easton Medical Reserve Corps, a 350+ member volunteer group, and working with the Fairfield Community Emergency Response Team. This past fiscal year, the staff participated in 23 drills or exercises including a training and tabletop exercise for high consequence diseases, coordinated by the health department at Penfield Pavilion.

