

## Joint Statement

Cheshire County and the Monadnock Region continue to experience the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are all committed to protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the region and to ensuring that our economy remains healthy. The county is at the Substantial Community Transmission level, with active cases at the same levels as December 2020 and February 2021. We reach out today with a shared voice to ask our citizens to take individual action that will protect themselves and others and support our economic vitality. We must preserve our resources and medical capacity as we move into the winter.

### **Why are we issuing this statement?**

- Vaccination percentages are low in our population; ages 12-19 (29.8%), ages 20-29 (36.3%), ages 30-39 (45%) and ages 40-49 (53.1%), therefore, more individuals are at risk.
- Medical systems are under stress due to a high tempo for the past eighteen months in addition to a current healthcare staff shortage.
- Local COVID case trends include a significant rise in the number of COVID patients admitted to the hospital and the downward-shifting age range of patients requiring hospitalization.
- These patients are competing against the other needs (heart attacks, strokes, vehicle accidents, etc.) for limited beds and medical services.

### **What you can do:**

- Consider getting vaccinated. When vaccinated, you protect yourself from getting sick, and, if you get sick, it reduces the severity. It could help keep you out of the hospital.
- Wear a face covering that fully covers your nose and mouth when inside any space other than your home.
- Maintain spacing when in groups of people.
- Try to keep your activities outdoors.
- Wash your hands regularly and take care of yourself as we manage COVID and move into flu and cold season.
- Stay home if you feel sick. If you have symptoms, please don't be around others.
- If you are a business owner, consider requiring face coverings for individuals who enter your place of business.

Our shared actions now to slow the spread of COVID will also help to limit the demand on our medical system, strengthen our economy, and protect our children, family, friends, and co-workers.

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