Office of the **TOWN MANAGER**
DAVID E. COX
dcox@easthamptonct.gov

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MEDIA RELEASE

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East Hampton COVID-19 Update as of December 9, 2021

BACK TO RED ALERT LEVEL

East Hampton, CT, December 9, 2021 – East Hampton's COVID case rates have continued to climb in the last month and jumped quite a bit in the last report from CT DPH. The Town remains at the "Red Alert" level under the State's COVID Response Framework along with most of the State. In the last two weeks, East Hampton has seen about 3.6 new daily cases equating to about 27.9 cases per 100,000 population. Middlesex County returned to the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC's) High Transmission Rate status with a significant case rate of increase to 285.65 new cases per 100,000 population over the seven day period ending December 8, or 464 actual cases. Residents and visitors are strongly encouraged to protect themselves and others by using masks, physical separation when possible and by getting vaccinated.

All eligible residents are encouraged to become vaccinated as the most important defense against illness and hospitalization from COVID-19. As of December 8, DPH information shows that about 74.6%, or about 9,597 of the Town's residents have received at least the first dose of the vaccines and that about 68% of the Town's residents are fully vaccinated, having completed all shots in the vaccine series. All residents are encouraged to complete their initial vaccination series and to get supplemental or booster shots when appropriate. As of now, about 6% of the Town's population (children under 5) is not eligible for vaccination. According to recent statements from Chatham Health District, while infection rates are currently similar to rates the State was experiencing last year at this time, the hospitalization rates are just about one third of what they were a year ago suggesting that the vaccines are providing protection against severe disease. Vaccine Providers in Connecticut, including Chatham Health District, are providing both first dose shots and supplemental or booster doses for all approved ages. Chatham Health District has partnered with Griffin Health to be able to provide Pfizer vaccinations to interested persons, including those under 18. Follow the District on Facebook or check its website (www.chathamhealth.org) periodically to learn more about vaccine availability and vaccine clinics. To learn more about other options for vaccine providers, visit: https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Vaccination-Scheduling-Options.

Also, masks remain an important factor in protecting the community and everyone is safest wearing a mask or face covering when close to others indoors. In accordance with current State protocol, vaccinated persons are

not required to wear a mask, but unvaccinated individuals must wear a mask. As always, masks are welcome for anyone who wishes to wear one. Currently, the mask requirement remains in place at the Library and Senior Center based on the populations served at those locations. Pursuant to State DPH directives, masks are still required at schools and health facilities. Individual businesses are encouraged to adopt their own policies regarding the wearing of masks.

For the most current updates and recommendations regarding COVID-19, visit ct.gov/coronavirus. For general questions, call 2-1-1. For information on Town services, monitor the Town's website and social media. The most recent state-wide data from the Department of Public Health can be found here: https://data.ct.gov/stories/s/q5as-kyim.

COVID-19 resources:

- Chatham Health District: https://www.chathamhealth.org/

- General vaccine information: https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/covid-19%20vaccinations

- Online vaccination registration: https://dphsubmissions.ct.gov/OnlineVaccine

- All testing locations (Enter ZIP Code): https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus

- COVID-19 Community Alert Infographic: https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Departments-and-Agencies/DPH/Communications/Graphics/COVID-chart.jpg

- COVID-19 Daily Rate Map is posted here at 4:00 pm on Thursdays: https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Data-Tracker.

- COVID-19 Vaccine distribution information is posted here: https://data.ct.gov/stories/s/CoVP-COVID-Vaccine-Distribution-Data/bhcd-4mnv/

- CDC County Transmission Data Tracker: https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view