

WESTCHESTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

2020-2021 COVID-19 RESPONSE

On March 3, 2020 the first case of community transmitted COVID-19 in New York State was identified in Westchester County. Westchester quickly became a hotspot in the region, setting the Westchester County Department of Health into swift action. Westchester was named a "model" county for its COVID-19 response.

TESTING



Testing Strategies

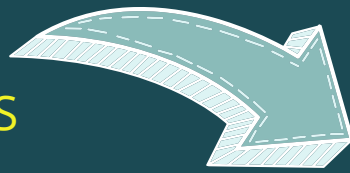
The initial phase consisted of door-to-door testing and testing at residential facilities. As cases climbed, the County supported testing at NY State's drive-through site, community and health care centers and in schools.



The first NY State drive-through COVID-19 testing location was in Westchester.

CASE INVESTIGATIONS

WCDH conducted over 275K case investigations. (Mar 2020 -Dec 2021)



CONTACT TRACING

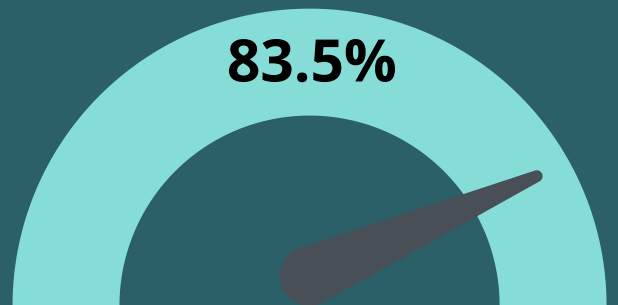
WCDH case investigations identified >175K contacts. (May 2020 -Dec 2021)

VACCINATION RATES

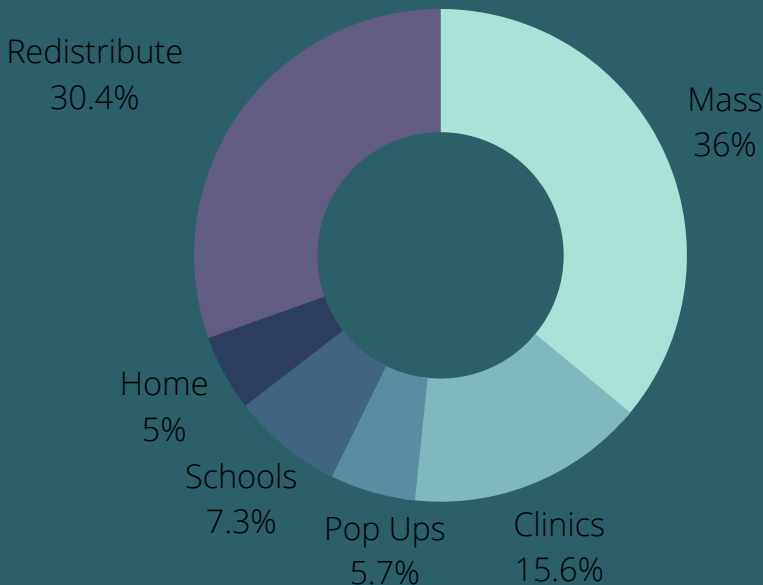
Westchester achieved a 83.5% vaccination rate

More than 83.5 percent of Westchester residents are fully vaccinated thanks to the state and local health departments' efforts.

Westchester County received its first doses of vaccine on January 5, 2021.



In addition to its own vaccine efforts, WCDH supported NY State's mass vaccine center located at the County Center in White Plains, where 369,294 vaccines were administered. Another 112K vaccine doses were administered by the state at the Yonkers Armory.



VACCINE EQUITY

WCDH Vaccine Strategy

WCDH administered more than 71K COVID-19 vaccines to at risk populations and communities through its own mass vaccination site, its clinic offices, pop-up community clinics, school vaccination clinics, a vaccination program for homebound residents, and redistribution to community and medical partners.

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* SUMMARY *

March 3,
2020

1st community transmitted COVID-19 case in NY State was confirmed in Westchester

WCDH Disease Response and Transmission Prevention Protocols

- WCDH nursing staff made home visits to test all contacts of those with positive tests
- Comprehensive case investigation and contact tracing program initiated
- Supported a NYSDOH research study to detect the presence of antibodies for potential plasma donations for COVID-19 patients
- Provided education and resources at testing sites

Non-pharmaceutical initiatives employed

- PPE distribution and fit-testing of N-95 respirators
- Distributed test kits to residential facilities
- Cleaning guidance and instructions for facilities
- Quarantine and isolation orders
- Social distancing and mask mandates to control outbreak
- Developed effective infection control policies

As cases climbed, WCDH fought hard to contain and control the outbreaks

- 1st NY State drive-through testing site created
- Field visits, inspections and testing in residential facilities (nursing homes, assisted living, etc.)
- Assisted with the distribution of more than 30,000 testing kits to local colleges and childcare agencies
- Conducted specialized webinars for camps, pools, country clubs, gyms, schools and food service

Extensive Communications & Messaging

- Established COVID-19 information hotline, which also connected residents to other needed supports or wrap-around services
- Provided Public Health Updates via press conferences and briefings
- Developed a COVID-19 webpage and used Facebook and Twitter to deliver up-to-date information & education
- Used the Integrated Health Alerting Network System (IHANS) to communicate Health Alerts to local health care providers
- Provided briefings to municipal officials

2021 Vaccination & Booster Programs

- Westchester received its first doses of vaccine on Jan 5
- A mass vaccination clinic at Westchester County Community College was opened on Feb. 5
- Operated more than 90 school-based vaccination clinics
- Developed and implemented strategies to ensure vaccine equity
- WCDH redistributed over 32K doses to 64 medical and community partners

Dec
2021