

# *COVID-19 UPDATE: Gov. Justice commemorates one-year anniversary of West Virginia's first case of COVID-19*

3/17/2021

Gov. Justice holds press briefing on COVID-19 response - March 17, 20...



**CHARLESTON, WV** – Gov. Jim Justice joined West Virginia health leaders and other officials today for his latest daily press briefing regarding the State's COVID-19 response.

## **ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF WEST VIRGINIA'S FIRST CASE OF COVID-19**

During his briefing, Gov. Justice noted that Wednesday marked the one-year anniversary of the discovery of the first case of COVID-19 in West Virginia.

"It's hard to believe that it's been a year," Gov. Justice said. "It's really been tough. You think about all the things that we've been through, all the people we've lost along the way, all the stuff that everybody has worried and agonized about."

The Governor played a video commemorating the anniversary and highlighting the numerous ways West Virginia has led the nation and the world with its pandemic response efforts.



([https://youtu.be/cTLg\\_-kOyF8](https://youtu.be/cTLg_-kOyF8))

**CLICK HERE TO WATCH VIDEO ([https://youtu.be/cTLg\\_-kOyF8](https://youtu.be/cTLg_-kOyF8))**

"Watching this video, it surely brings back a lot of tough days for all of us," Gov. Justice said. "As we look back, there are so many things to be grateful about and so many things to be prayerful about."

"As hard as it's been, it could have been so, so much worse," Gov. Justice continued. "I thank you, West Virginia, for staying with me along the way and pulling the rope together."



**[CLICK HERE TO VIEW PHOTO ALBUM](https://www.flickr.com/photos/govjustice/albums/72157718684072167)**

(<https://www.flickr.com/photos/govjustice/albums/72157718684072167>)

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**DHHR, THOMAS HEALTH ANNOUNCE CLOSURE OF COVID-19 SURGE FACILITY AT SAINT FRANCIS HOSPITAL**

Additionally Wednesday, Gov. Justice announced that the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) and Thomas Health are officially closing the COVID-19 surge facility at Saint Francis Hospital in Charleston.

The decision was made based on the amount of COVID-19 positive patients admitted to healthcare facilities across the state.

"I want to thank Thomas Health for serving our state during one of the most difficult years in healthcare history," Gov. Justice said.

The surge facility had been operational since early August 2020.

"Let's hope and pray our numbers continue to go downhill," Gov. Justice said. "But I warn you: don't fall asleep at the switch. If we have to stand it back up, we will stand it back up.


"One robin doesn't make spring," Gov. Justice continued. "We know this thing can whip back around on us, so we all need to stay careful."



## **VACCINE DISTRIBUTION UPDATE**


Also today, Gov. Justice offered a reminder that he **announced** (</News/press-releases/2021/Pages/COVID-19-UPDATE-Gov.-Justice-expands-list-of-vaccine-eligible-pre-existing-conditions.aspx>). Monday that he has again broadened the state's vaccine prioritization to include all essential workers, while also expanding the list of pre-existing medical conditions qualifying West Virginians to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

West Virginia  
**COVID-19**  
Vaccination Program



There will be limited supplies of COVID-19 vaccine at first, so the vaccine will be distributed in phases based on risk. Supply will increase over time.

Phase 2-A



- All West Virginians 50 years of age & older
- Education Sector Personnel
  - Teachers and school service personnel 40 years of age and older
- Essential workers of all ages

• High-Risk Population with Chronic Medical Conditions ages 16 and above:\*

- Diabetes Mellitus	- Cystic fibrosis
- Obesity (BMI > 35)	- Pregnancy
- Down's Syndrome	- Asthma
- Sickle Cell Anemia	- Heart disease
- High Blood Pressure	- Lung fibrosis
- Immunosuppression	- Blood disorders
- Neurological disorders	- Liver disease
- Chronic kidney diseases	- COPD
- Organ or Bone Marrow Transplant	
- Chronic infectious disease like HIV	
- Caretakers of those with Congenital or Acquired Disease	
- Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities and their Caretakers	

PRE-REGISTER AT VACCINATE.WV.GOV

\*16 years old is the youngest age authorized by the FDA for vaccination with the Pfizer vaccine. Moderna and Johnson &amp; Johnson vaccines are authorized for 18 years of age and older.

(<https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/Vaccine.aspx>)

Gov. Justice once again encouraged all West Virginians age 16 and older desiring to be vaccinated to **pre-register at vaccinate.wv.gov** (<https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/Vaccine.aspx>) or by calling **1-833-734-0965**.

Vaccinations are currently available to all West Virginians age 50 and older, education workers age 40-50, all West Virginians age 16 and older with qualifying pre-existing medical conditions, and all essential workers.

West Virginians who are age 65 and older will continue to be prioritized first until all state residents in this age range who desire the vaccine have been vaccinated.

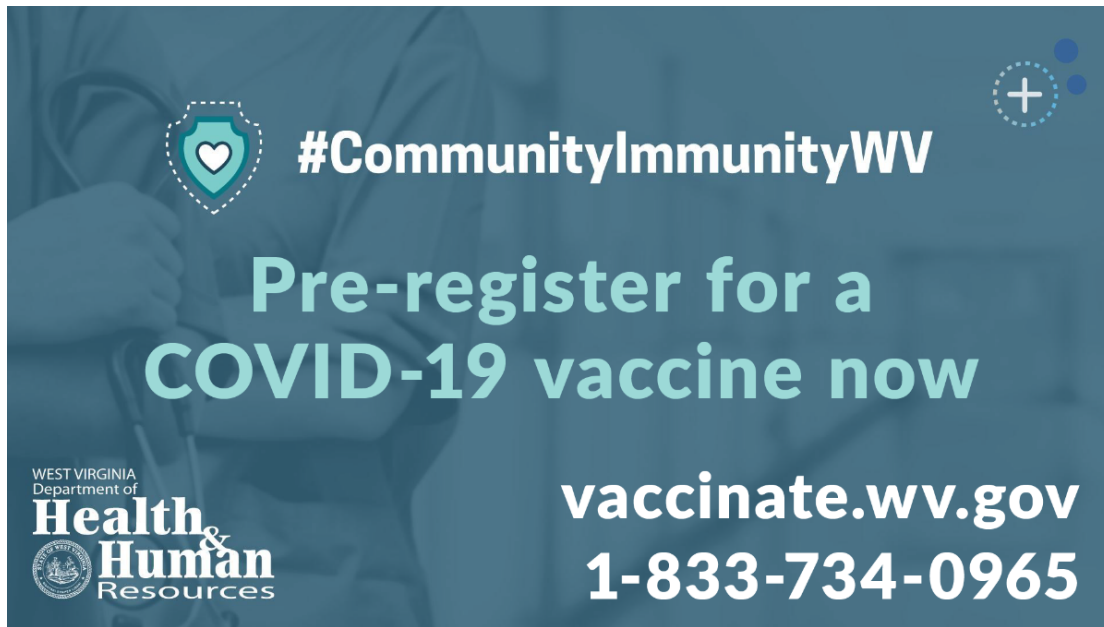
To date, 215,520 West Virginians age 65 and older have chosen to be vaccinated, including 136,650 who are now fully vaccinated.

Any West Virginians age 65 and older who are still waiting on an appointment are urged to call the **West Virginia Vaccine Info Line: 1-833-734-0965** to ensure that they are scheduled to be vaccinated. The info line is open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Free COVID-19 vaccination clinics either already have been or will be held in all 55 counties across West Virginia this week through operation "Save Our Wisdom."

Each clinic location has its own, unique schedule. Names are being pulled from the **West Virginia COVID-19 Vaccine Registration System** (<https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/Vaccine.aspx>) to fill out appointments. All clinics require appointments and walk-ins will not be accepted.

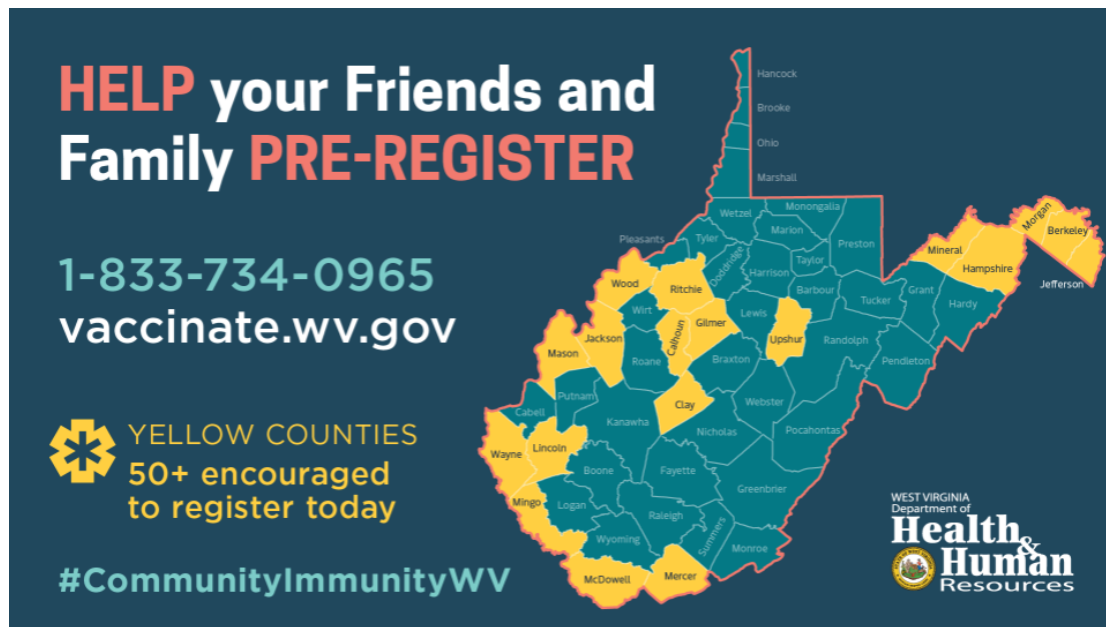




(<https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/Vaccine.aspx>)

Vaccine supplies are limited, so pre-registration does not mean immediate access to vaccination. Pre-registration offers West Virginians the opportunity to receive real-time updates on vaccine availability and schedule an appointment when available as vaccine supplies allow. The vaccine registration system allows people to select their preferences for communication through text, email, or voicemail over regular phone lines.

The Governor went on to say that increased emphasis on pre-registrations is needed in a handful of counties across the state, including Berkeley, Calhoun, Clay, Gilmer, Hampshire, Jackson, Jefferson, Lincoln, Mason, McDowell, Mercer, Mineral, Mingo, Morgan, Ritchie, Upshur, Wayne, and Wood counties. The Governor urged West Virginians in these counties with friends and family age 65 and older to help these individuals get pre-registered.



(<https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/Vaccine.aspx>)

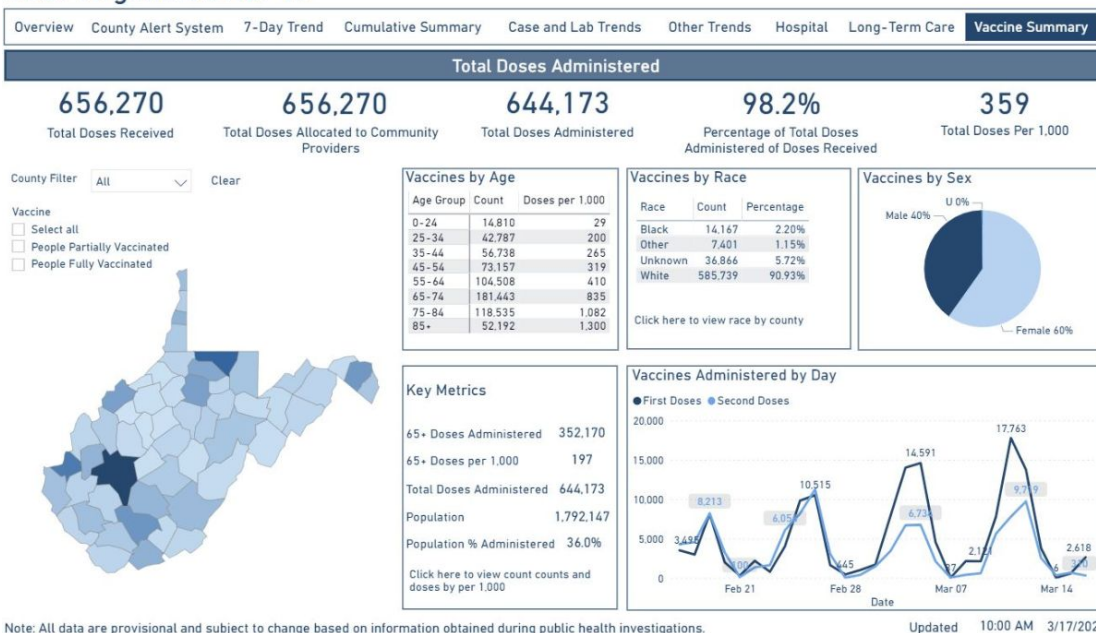
Gov. Justice went on to report that West Virginia has now successfully administered 644,173 doses after receiving a total allotment of 656,270 doses from the federal government to date; an overall administration rate of 98.2%.

West Virginia currently boasts a first dose administration rate of 102.3%, which exceeds 100% due to extra doses being extracted from vials of the vaccine, and a second dose administration rate of 92.1%.

- First doses: 396,970 administered / 388,000 allotted
- Second doses: 247,203 administered / 268,270 allotted

**West Virginia COVID-19 Dashboard** (<https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx>) (Click “Vaccine Summary” tab)

## West Virginia COVID-19



(<https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx>)

## COVID-19 CASE NUMBERS UPDATE

Additionally Wednesday, Gov. Justice reported that the current number of active cases in the state is now 5,206, down from 5,214 as of his previous COVID-19 briefing on Monday.

The number of daily active cases in West Virginia has now decreased for 62 of the past 65 days.

The number of active hospitalizations is now 190, up from 151 on Monday. Of those currently hospitalized, 70 patients are in the ICU, up from 50 such patients on Monday.

The cumulative percent of positive cases is now 5.31%, down from 5.33% on Monday.

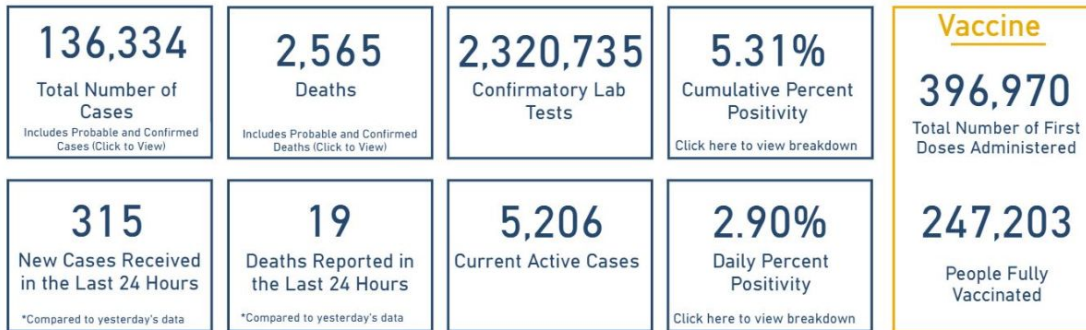
**[Click here to view the latest COVID-19 data \(https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx\)](https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx)**



## West Virginia COVID-19



Overview County Alert System 7-Day Trend Cumulative Summary Case and Lab Trends Other Trends Hospital Long-Term Care Vaccine Summary



Note: Data posted on dashboard is from 12:00 midnight the previous day. All data are provisional and subject to change based on information obtained during public health investigations.

[Click here to view CDC's definition on Confirmed and Probable cases](#)

Updated: 10:00 AM 3/17/2021

(<https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx>)

## WEDNESDAY MAP UPDATE

Also on Wednesday, Gov. Justice provided a look at West Virginia's latest mid-week County Alert System map update.

The map is updated live on the **DHHR's COVID-19 Dashboard** (<https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx>). **(Click "County Alert System" tab)** throughout the week.

**Red** counties: **1**

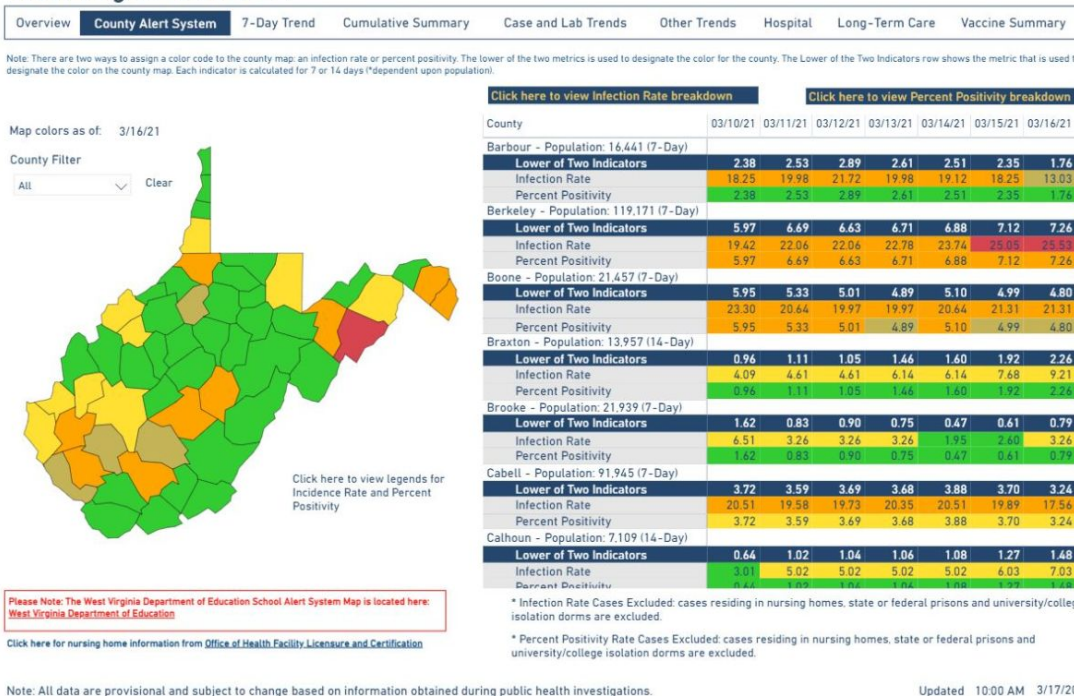
**Orange** counties: **9**

**Gold** counties: **4**

**Yellow** counties: **9**

**Green** counties: **32**

## West Virginia COVID-19



(<https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx>)

## OUTBREAK REPORT

Additionally Wednesday, Gov. Justice reported that there are now seven active church-related outbreaks in West Virginia. These outbreaks are located in Fayette, Monongalia, Nicholas, Raleigh, and Webster counties and account for a total of 54 cases, up from 32 as of the Governor's previous briefing on Monday.

There are now just two outbreaks in long-term care facilities across the state, down from three such outbreaks on Monday.

The Governor also reported that there are now 28 inmate cases across the West Virginia Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) system, down from 34 on Monday. Meanwhile, there are now eight active staff cases across the DCR system, down from 10 on Monday. To view the latest DCR case update, [click here](#) (<https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/Correctional-Facilities.aspx>).

## **AGGRESSIVE TESTING CONTINUES ACROSS STATE**

Also on Wednesday, Gov. Justice provided an overview of the 52 counties across the state that have free testing events scheduled through the Governor's Aggressive Testing initiative.

**Free COVID-19 Testing**

**Counties with Testing Sites  
March 17**

Times and locations available online:  
**coronavirus.wv.gov**

New locations added daily.

This testing is available to all individuals in the selected counties, including asymptomatic individuals. Proof of insurance is NOT required. Identification, such as a driver's license or proof of address, will be required to be tested. Those under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.  
NOTE: Testing will be conducted on a first-come, first-served basis.

**1-800-887-4304**

(<https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/pages/testing.aspx>)

This testing is available to all residents, including asymptomatic individuals. Proof of insurance is not required. Attendees should bring identification, such as a driver's license or proof of address, to help in returning test results. Those under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

An interactive online map of all free testing locations across West Virginia is available online. Users can filter the map by type of testing site, including daily testing events, recurring testing events, as well as Walgreens and Fruth Pharmacy testing locations. Users can also filter by county. Each location is marked on the map with a pin. After finding a testing location nearby, users are able to click on the pin for more information about that particular testing site, including the specific location and timeframe during which testing will be held.

**Click here to view all locations, dates, times, and more details**

(<https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/pages/testing.aspx>).

# COVID-19 Free Testing Map

**FREE COVID-19 TESTING**  
 To increase COVID-19 testing opportunities for all West Virginians, the Governor's Office, the WV Department of Health and Human Resources, the WV National Guard, the Robert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs, local health departments, and community partners are providing FREE COVID-19 testing. This testing is free and available to all residents in selected counties, including asymptomatic individuals. Proof of insurance is NOT required. Attendees should bring identification, such as a driver's license or proof of address, to help in redacting test results. Those under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.  
 NOTE: Testing will be conducted on a first come, first served basis.

Filter Testing Sites:  All Testing Sites

Show: 10 entries

Location Details

**ABU Wellness Center**  
 Recurring  
 Address: ABU Wellness Center, 331 College Hill Drive, Philippi, 26416, WV  
 County: Barbour

**Beckley Appalachian Regional Healthcare**  
 Recurring  
 Address: Beckley Appalachian Regional Healthcare, 308 Stanford Road, Beckley, 25801, WV  
 County: Mingo

**Beckley Appalachian Regional Healthcare**  
 Recurring - Monday - Friday - 10 AM - 2 PM  
 Address: Beckley Appalachian Regional Healthcare, 308 Stanford Road, Beckley, 25801, WV  
 County: Mingo

**Beckley Health Right**  
 Recurring - Monday - Friday - 9 AM - 3 PM  
 Address: Beckley Health Right, 111 Fairbairn Street, Beckley, 25801, WV  
 County: Mingo

**Belington Medical Clinic**  
 Recurring  
 Address: Belington Medical Clinic, 20 N. Shuman Street, Belington, 26220, WV  
 County: Barbour

**Big Otter Clinic (CCWV)**  
 Recurring  
 Address: Big Otter Clinic, 1000 1st Street, Big Otter, 26111, WV

## Coronavirus.wv.gov

(<https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/pages/testing.aspx>)

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **Click here to view all Executive Orders and other actions**

([https://governor.us15.list-manage.com/track/click?](https://governor.us15.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d525ab9ade4d860d2b5772468&id=3029d4fcc48&e=5c140b96bc)

[u=d525ab9ade4d860d2b5772468&id=3029d4fcc48&e=5c140b96bc](https://governor.us15.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d525ab9ade4d860d2b5772468&id=3029d4fcc48&e=5c140b96bc)) taken by Gov.

Justice to combat the spread of COVID-19 in West Virginia.

For more information about COVID-19 prevention and more, call the State's toll-free hotline at **1-800-887-4304** or visit **Coronavirus.wv.gov**

(<https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx>).





(<https://www.flickr.com/photos/govjustice/albums/72157718684072167>)

## *Contact Information*

Jordan Damron, [jordan.l.damron@wv.gov](mailto:jordan.l.damron@wv.gov)