

# CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



## City Newsletter

### Wednesday, December 29, 2021

### Masks required for staff and visitors in all City buildings.

### CITY COUNCIL INAUGURATION MON JAN 3 Will be *outside* at the 9/11 Memorial at City Hall, 7 pm. Parking in the lower lot and across the street.

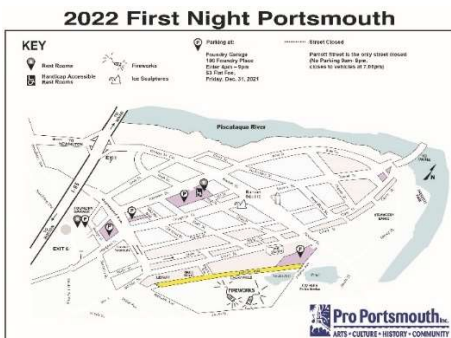
### HOLIDAY HOURS FOR CITY BUILDINGS & SERVICES:

 City Hall is CLOSED Fri Dec 31 through Sun Jan 2, 2022. The holiday hours for other City facilities vary. For details, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/v4cbaak7>

### HOLIDAY TRASH COLLECTION SCHEDULE – Normal Friday trash pickup will be COLLECTED ON THURSDAY for the New Year's holidays. Pickup that would normally be collected Fri Dec 31 will be collected **Thurs Dec 30**.



### VACCINATION CLINIC THURS DEC 30 at the Senior Activity Center (enter at the back), 9 am – 2 pm -- Pfizer and Moderna vaccines and boosters for anyone age 16+ (parental consent form required for those age 16 or 17). Masks required.

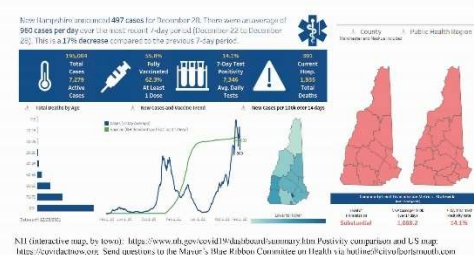
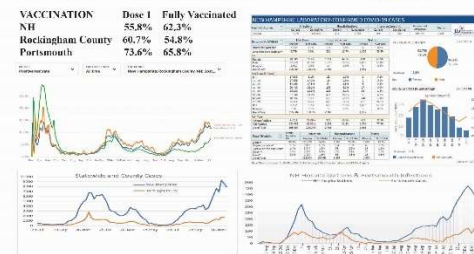


### PRO PORTSMOUTH FIRST NIGHT FRI DEC 31

 – The tradition of First Night fireworks (and ice sculpture!) – a true community event that everyone can enjoy when ringing in the New Year – will return this year thanks entirely to community support. Pro Portsmouth succeeded in raising the necessary \$15k to cover not the material costs, but also safety costs (insurance, Police, Fire, DPW). **NO PARKING ON PARROTT AVE STARTING AT 9 AM ON FRI DEC 31. Flat fee parking at Foundry Place Garage, 4-9 pm.** Fireworks start at 8 pm on New Year's Eve, Fri Dec 31. As in the past, Jeff Day and his team from Ice Designs will install an ice sculpture in front of North Church. **There are NO INDOOR EVENTS and therefore NO ADMISSION BUTTONS REQUIRED.** For additional details, including a full size map of the street closures and parking info, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/mr47ep5j>

COVID-19 DASHBOARD 12/28/21

	Dec 28	Dec 21	Dec 14	Dec 7
NH Positivity	14.1%	12.1%	11.6%	12.3%
Rockingham Positivity	16.3%	13.4%	13.7%	14.2%
Portsmouth Positivity	13.9%	8.6%	13.0%	11.5%
NH Active Cases	7,279	7,971	8,615	9,324
Rockingham Active	1,552	1,632	1,715	1,768
Portsmouth Active	134	86	126	113
Delta Variant in NH	4,213	3,803	3,352	3,156
Omicron Variant in NH	11	3	1	



### REGIONAL COVID-19 DASHBOARD – For a printable PDF, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/bdd5sddp>

### CDC REDUCES COVID-19 EXPOSURE ISOLATION TIME FROM 10 DAYS TO 5 – the majority of SARS-CoV-2 transmission occurs generally in the 1-2 days prior to onset of symptoms

and the 2-3 days after. Therefore, people who test positive should isolate for 5 days and, if asymptomatic at that time, they may leave isolation if they can continue to mask for 5 days to minimize the risk of infecting others. For more information, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/2p86edpa>

**NEXT STATEWIDE BOOSTER BLITZ, SAT JAN 8** -- Registration for this new event will open Jan 3.

**NH SOURCES FOR FREE AT-HOME TESTING KITS** – To order a free kit, visit: <https://learn.vaulthealth.com/nh/> **“Say Yes to the Test” also has tests available** -- NH residents who did not order at-home test kits before can place a free, one-time order (with 4 tests to a kit) at: <https://sayescovidhometest.org/>

**FREE COVID-19 TESTING SITE AT FOX RUN MALL IN NEWINGTON** – Open 7 days a week, 9 am to 3 pm in the old Sears store. Check your results within 48 hours.

**WALK-IN VACCINATION & BOOSTER OPTIONS** at hospitals, local pharmacies and same-day sites, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/kbvemrbk>

**BOOSTERS FOR HOMEBOUND INDIVIDUALS** – Call On-Site Medical Services, the company contracted by NH to provide homebound boosters, at [603-338-9292](tel:603-338-9292) or book an appointment online at the On-Site Medical website: <https://www.on-sitemedservices.com/>

**RECENTLY UPDATED:**

- **TESTING FAQs**, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/57vhfbhx>
- **COVID-19 TREATMENT FAQs**, [click here](#)
- **KIDS AND COVID FAQs**, [click here](#)



**COAST BUS PILOTS FREE TRANSFER SYSTEM STARTING JAN 3** -- Transfers will be

valid for immediate transfer to the next available bus on the desired route. Customers paying with cash or single ride tickets will be issued a free transfer ticket if they request it while boarding their first bus. For a trip involving two different routes to get to a destination, the full cash fare will be cut in half, from \$3.00 to \$1.50. For individuals who qualify for COAST’s half fare program, trips involving two different routes will go from \$1.50 to \$0.75. Passengers who remain on a single vehicle to their destination will not need a transfer, including on routes that change number along the way (such as 12S, which continues as 13S to Portsmouth). COAST ADA paratransit passengers will also benefit from the six month pilot. The fares charged for their equivalent two-legged trips will also be cut in half because of the free transfers offered on the fixed route buses. The goals of the new program are to make riding with COAST simpler, reduce costs for passengers traveling on multiple routes on COAST’s system, and to encourage increased ridership overall. For more information, click here: <https://coastbus.org/upcomingservicechanges>



**REMINDER: EASYPARK PROGRAM ENDS DEC 31, 2021** -- Please note the Parking Clerk's Office is **CLOSED on Fri Dec 31 for the New Year's holiday**. EasyParkUSA has already discontinued the sale of new devices, although existing customers will be able to continue to use their devices in any participating New Hampshire city, and use up any remaining balance on their accounts, until December 31, 2021. Portsmouth EasyPark users who are residents may apply for the resident discount with ParkMobile. For more information: <https://tinyurl.com/t29zj2yk>



**2021 HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED** –The winners, who each receive a \$500 gift certificates from Lowe’s, Home Depot or Ricci Lumber are: Al Bailey (Ocean Rd.) Best Creative Display; the Pettis Family (O’Leary Place), Kids’ Choice and Tamrah Rouleau (Madison St.), Best

Traditional Display. The honorable mention winners of a \$25 gift card from Hannaford, Market Basket or WalMart include: Nicole Beyer, FW Hartford Dr.; Ray Clauson, Madison St.; John Chavez, Pine St.; Tim MacCannell, Maplewood Ave.; Charles Smith, South St.; Roe Beland, Union St.' Dawn Sirois, Ocean Rd.; Amber Buttermore, FW Hartford Dr.; Liz Wentworth, Van Buren Ave.; Polly Dale, Osprey Dr.; Vieria Family, Dennett St.; Kristie Jorgenson, Middle St.; Kris Kraft, State St.; Wayne Bowlen, Coakley Rd.; and Andy Christo, Buckminster Way. Seacoast Media Group is the media sponsor. For a printable pdf map of the neighborhood lights, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/yfp4kebw>



**CITY CONDUCTING SURVEY ON FLEET STREET RECONSTRUCTION DESIGN OPTIONS** -- The survey is open to the public. The weatherproof signs include sketches of the design options and a QR code that links to a page on the City website with more detailed drawings and the link to the online survey itself: <https://tinyurl.com/2jbywd5d> The survey is designed to determine which options City residents and project abutters prefer. For more information about the project, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/mpnr92f6>

**DPW IS ALSO CONDUCTING A SIDEWALK SURVEY AMONG PANNAWAY MANOR AND MAPLE HAVEN RESIDENTS** – For more information click here: <https://tinyurl.com/242eb8vs>



**BE PREPARED: SIGN UP FOR SNOW PARKING BAN ALERTS!** For more information about how to sign up for text and/or email notices when a snow parking ban is declared, click here. <https://tinyurl.com/2p87ua8p> Snow Phone Hotline: 603.766.7669

**DPW CONSTRUCTION** – For more information visit the DPW page on the City website, then click on the Projects tab for a dropdown menu that links to an individual page for each project with updates, project background and an opt-in email list. <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/publicworks>

**95 MECHANIC STREET SEAWALL RECONSTRUCTION** – Backfill excavation. Install granite stones on sheet pile wall. For more information and to subscribe to email updates on the project, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/w48zy332>



**CITY ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR SEASONAL PRESCOTT PARK DOCK LOTTERY NOW THRU JAN 7, 2022** -- For the application form, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/y2dfvua4> The 12 boat slips are awarded via a lottery system, with preference to Portsmouth residents, first. Drawing Mon Jan 10 at 9 am. For more on rates and policies can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/yexrarsj>

#### **WEEKLY FREE LUNCH REMINDERS:**

- **Middle Street Baptist Church** – Seacoast Community Lunch brown bag lunches from the parking lot (18 Court St.), 12 noon to 1 pm on Wednesdays. For more information call 603-436-2337 or email [lunch@middle.st](mailto:lunch@middle.st)
- **St. John's Church** -- Common Table bag lunch pickup in the St. John's parking lot (100 Chapel St.) Thurs, 12 noon to 1 pm.

**WORK FOR THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH!** To review job postings and benefits, [click here](#). For example, one of the current job openings is: **Equipment Mechanic**. This position is responsible for maintaining a variety of public works light to heavy equipment and tools to ensure their safe and reliable operation. This includes performing routine and specialized maintenance for all equipment, maintaining tools and equipment, recording all equipment maintenance and associated costs, and recommending maintenance and repair improvements to reduce overall operating costs. The

City offers a generous compensation and benefits package that includes retirement, generous paid time off including vacation, holidays, medical & dental insurance, flexible spending account, professional development, career growth, longevity incentives, and more! For details and to apply, click here: <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/hr/work>



**PORTSMOUTH NH 400 – Learn more, get involved, volunteer, donate! For more details, visit:** <https://www.PortsmouthNH400.org>

**CITY WEBSITE NOW ACCEPTS DONATIONS VIA VENMO & PAYPAL!** Your secure portal for donations to the Community Scholarships, Skatepark Park, Portsmouth Public Library, Cemetery Preservation and Portsmouth NH 400 Celebration! You can also still make donations online by credit card and check.  
<https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/pay-my-bill>

**EMERGENCY RENTAL & UTILITIES ASSISTANCE** – The [NH Emergency Rental Assistance Program](#) (NHERAP) provides funds to renters who cannot pay their rent and utilities during the pandemic. The program works with tenants and landlords. Program changes as of October 1, 2021:

- Households may qualify for assistance for past-due and future rent and utility payments for a period not to exceed 18 months.
- At least one person in the household must have qualified for unemployment benefits, had their income reduced, had significant costs, or had other financial hardship during the pandemic. Certain income requirements must be met.

#### WHAT THE PROGRAM COVERS

- Past-due rent including reasonable late and legal fees.
- Three months of future rent payments if needed for housing stability.
- Utilities, such as electricity, home heating costs, water, sewer, trash.
- Other housing-related costs such as internet and relocation expenses (including rental application fees, utility hook-up fees, and security deposits).
- Households may qualify for utility assistance even if they do not receive or need rental assistance.

For more information on whether you qualify and how to apply for emergency funds available to renters in NH, click here: <https://www.capnh.org/covid19>  
The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) has also launched a tool (click here: <https://tinyurl.com/4hawaxf4>) that allows renters and landlords to find rental assistance programs in their area. Applications are handled through NH Community Action Partnership (CAP).



**POST-VACCINATION FAQs** – For the latest information on breakthrough infections, boosters and vaccine effectiveness against the Omicron variant, click here: <https://tinyurl.com/uurbmrse>

**VACCINE DEVELOPMENT BACKGROUND** – For more information on how the COVID-19 vaccines were developed, tested and approved, click here. <https://tinyurl.com/3yhreymk>

**PROOF-OF-VACCINATIONS: What should you do if you discover your vaccination is not recorded properly in the NH DHHS database? Or if you need more than your vaccination card because some travel destinations require the full record?** Contact NHIIS (NH Immunization Information System) at 603-271-4028, by email at [nhiis.support@dhhs.nh.gov](mailto:nhiis.support@dhhs.nh.gov) or click here for the NH DHHS website <https://tinyurl.com/rva3tphc> for the immunization information system (NHIIS). On this site, select the correction forms for your PCP to verify your vaccine card, DOB, etc. You will need to get the form notarized and before sending it back to NHIIS. Once your record is corrected, you can request an official vaccine and immunization record. This record is the one that would be accepted when travelling if the vaccine card is not enough. For more answers to Frequently Asked Questions, [click here](#).

**I LOST MY PROOF-OF-VACCINATION CARD. NOW WHAT?** All vaccination records are kept on file in the CDC National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) system. NH DHHS advises that you can replace a lost vaccination card in either of two ways:

1. Download and complete the vaccination card replacement request form here: <https://tinyurl.com/4pj4chcz> Note that the

completed form MUST BE NOTARIZED before sending it back to NH DHHS.

2. If your healthcare provider has access to the NHIIS, ask him/her to print out the record directly from NHIIS.

**For DHHS VACCINE FAQs, click here:**

<https://tinyurl.com/tkvaksnw>

**For Testing FAQs click here.**

<https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/testing-faqs>

**For Ventilation FAQs click here.**

<https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/city/ventilation-faqs>

**For more information, visit** City's page on COVID-19: <https://tinyurl.com/2ywc6ab>

**CITY HALL FACEBOOK PAGE:**

**Like and follow us to get news as it's posted:**

<https://www.facebook.com/CityHallPortsmouthNH>

**Want to know more about what's happening in the City?** Click on the QR code or link below to sign up for the City Newsletter and/or individual email lists for projects. <https://tinyurl.com/y2p67par>



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