



Town of New Castle, NH
Settled 1623
Incorporated 1693

Update April 17, 2023

Good morning Fellow Town members,

There are several topics in this newsletter- not just COVID.

1) As you know the Public Health Emergency for COVID is coming to an end shortly (May 11). If you wish to have some tests on hand, we have some.

We have received more Free COVID Tests. We also still have PPE- gloves and masks.

They are free for anyone to take-individuals, clubs, etc.

No checkout procedure needed and no limit to what you may choose to take.

They are at the far end of the hall at Town Hall as well as on and under the table near the offices.

For more details on the end of the COVID Public Health Emergency:

Over the last 2 years, the US government implemented the largest adult vaccination program in US history, with nearly 270 million Americans receiving at least one shot of a COVID-19 vaccine.

As a result of this and multiple other efforts, since the peak of the Omicron surge at the end of January 2022:

- Daily COVID-19 reported cases are down 92%,
- COVID-19 deaths have declined by more than 80%, and
- New COVID-19 hospitalizations are down nearly 80%.

Therefore, the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) declaration will end on May 11, 2023. What is the PHE and what does ending it mean? The PHE declaration allowed the US government to provide free COVID tests, vaccines, treatments, and better access to care to all. After May 11, a few things may change.

- You may need to start paying for at-home COVID-19 testing unless a lab test is ordered by a doctor. Please check with your insurance on this.
- You may need to start paying for some COVID-19 treatments, depending on your health insurance. Again, please check with your health insurance.
- COVID-19 vaccines should still be free to all, without a co-pay.
- Medicare and Medicaid telehealth access likely will not change.

- The FDA will still have the ability to grant emergency use authorization (EUA) to any new COVID-19 treatments, vaccines, or devices.

Read More here: [Fact Sheet: COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Transition Roadmap | HHS.gov](#)

2) DEA National RX Take Back Day



Saturday, April 22, 2023, from 10:00am to 2:00pm

DEA would like to ask your assistance in letting your patients know about the opportunity to dispose of unwanted, unused medications on Saturday, April 22, 2023, from 10am-2pm.

To find a site near you go to (copy and paste the link into your browser): <https://www.dea.gov/takebackday#collection-locator>

3) Tick season is here. Ticks thrive in late spring and early summer, and they are already here. Ticks carry many diseases- not just Lyme Disease. We have ordered some tick information materials that will be on the table in Town Hall once they arrive-hopefully next week. Below is a photo of the tick that carries Lyme Disease.

Please check your entire skin surface for ticks after you have been outside.

4) Addiction resources: Many of us know at least one person who is struggling with addiction. Here are a couple of resources should you be research them. Cut and paste them into your web browser.

Please contact your or your loved one's practitioner for more details.

[Rehabs.org](https://www.rehabs.org)

<https://www.honolulu.gov/cms-dcs-menu/site-dcs-sitearticles/1343-cad-rental-resources.html>

5) Utilities assistance:

Did you know that the State of New Hampshire offers a number of assistance programs that are administered through the Community Action Agencies? With heating and electricity prices high, our residents are seeing higher energy bills. These programs can significantly help our clients and residents.

Who is Eligible?

Households with incomes between 60% and 75% of the state median income may qualify for:

- A one-time credit of \$450 for heating assistance.
- A one-time credit of \$200 on electric bills.

Households with incomes below 60% of the state median income may be eligible for assistance through:



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- [Fuel Assistance Program](#) - provides benefits to qualified New Hampshire households to assist with heating costs.
- [Electric Assistance Program](#) - provides eligible customers with a discount on their monthly electric bills.
- [Gas Assistance Program](#) – provides eligible customers with a discount on their natural gas winter heating bills.

Income eligibility is based on family size and gross annual income. The chart below shows the maximum gross annual income guidelines for 75% of State Median income.

Family of 1	Family of 2	Family of 3	Family of 4	Family of 5	Family of 6	Family of 7	Family of 8
\$ 48,711	\$ 63,699	\$ 78,688	\$ 93,676	\$ 108,664	\$ 123,653	\$ 126,463	\$ 129,274

How to Apply

For more information on the programs, please visit the [NH Department of Energy's website](#). To apply for assistance or to learn more about the application process, households should contact their local Community Action Agency at [caph.org](#)."

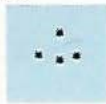
Yours in Health,

Kathy Hollister, MD
Public Health Officer, Town of New Castle
Email: healthofficer@newcastlenh.org.

Diane Coniglio, PharmD
Deputy Public Health Officer, Town of New Castle
Email: healthofficer@newcastlenh.org

Black Legged Tick (*Ixodes* spp.) is the Only Carrier of Lyme Disease (*Borrelia burgdorferi*)

Black Legged Tick



Other Ticks (Do Not Carry Lyme Disease)

Lone Star Tick



Brown Dog Tick



American Dog Tick



LARVAE
Actual Size

NYMPH
Actual Size

ADULT
Actual Size

TALK TO YOUR VETERINARIAN ABOUT HOW TO HELP PROTECT YOUR DOG FROM LYME DISEASE.