

Today's cases (9/18)

New cases 25
Total cases 1540

New deaths 0
Total deaths 138

19 year old with a reported date of 7/9/2020
32 year old with a reported date of 9/16/2020
33 year old with a reported date of 9/16/2020
40 year old with a reported date of 9/14/2020
50 year old with a reported date of 9/15/2020
52 year old with a reported date of 9/15/2020
58 year old with a reported date of 9/15/2020
65 year old with a reported date of 9/15/2020
72 year old with a reported date of 9/15/2020
81 year old with a reported date of 9/15/2020
81 year old with a reported date of 9/15/2020
83 year old with a reported date of 9/15/2020
83 year old with a reported date of 9/15/2020

83 year old with a reported date of 9/15/2020
86 year old with a reported date of 9/15/2020
87 year old with a reported date of 9/15/2020
89 year old with a reported date of 9/15/2020
89 year old with a reported date of 9/15/2020
90 year old with a reported date of 9/15/2020
91 year old with a reported date of 9/15/2020
91 year old with a reported date of 9/15/2020
91 year old with a reported date of 9/15/2020
92 year old with a reported date of 9/15/2020
93 year old with a reported date of 9/15/2020
94 year old with a reported date of 9/15/2020

The number 25 requires explanation. According to the County Health Officer 23 were at one long term care facility (LTC). I can not and will not tell you which one. They are ALL asymptomatic. The results were found after routine testing done at the facility. The town has contacted the facility and has offered assistance.

It is strange that all are asymptomatic. I offer these bits of information, **they may or may not be related**

- Viruses which kill their hosts often but not always mutate to a less virulent form because they need a living host to spread. (I do not have any information about a local mutation, but I heard on the news Europe is seeing a lower hospitalization rate)
- Lately there have been reports (I heard Dr. Lord Fauci say it) that after infection some people shed non-viable virus particles for some time which cannot infect others. In other words, false positives. (This will take further investigation)

I don't know if this is what is happening in this case. I'm trying to give you the facts as I know them. This maybe just what it seems to be.

My conversation with the County Healthcare Officer revealed Somerset County is at a low covid 19 activity level at this time. The activity level is calculated using the covid case rate/100,000 population, the percent positivity rate and the percent of covid like illness in the community. We should keep up our vigilance and continue to follow appropriate guidance to prevent spread.

This virus likes to throw curve balls. We are still learning. Please be safe.

One final word, it is out of the Township's jurisdiction to monitor LTCs. Just as it would be if there was a hospital in town. We have however, often asked if they needed assistance and provide it when we are able.