

Dear Shutesbury Residents:

This week there are thirteen known cases of Covid-19 isolating in Shutesbury. In the two-week period from July 21 to August 3 there were sixteen known cases. CDC rates community levels in both Franklin and Hampshire counties as “low.” This rating is largely based on hospitalization rates, so the rising number of comparatively mild cases does not cause that rating to go up. For information on how these ratings are calculated, see [How CDC Measures the Covid-19 Community Levels](#).

To make our summaries as accurate as possible, please report any positive home test to publichealth@shutesbury.org and follow the [isolation guidelines](#) from the Department of Public Health.

Demand for free Covid home test kits has been surprisingly low! The Board of Health had initially imposed a limit of two packs per household. Now any person from Shutesbury (including those with second homes here) may have five packs. They are available from the Town Clerk during normal [office hours](#) and *may* also be available during the Farmers Market hours on Saturday morning. These kits have passed their initial expiration date, but that date has been extended by the by the FDA to the end of October and may possibly be extended another three months beyond that. To avoid false negatives, it would be wise to test a second time 24-36 hours after the first.

The Shutesbury Board of Health