

Dear Shutesbury Residents:

Here are the cases numbers for the past week:

There are five known cases in days 1-5 (strict isolation) and two known cases in days 6-10 (required masking). In the two weeks between June 23 and July 6 there were ten known cases. According to the CDC, the community levels in both Hampshire and Franklin counties are low.

If you test positive on a rapid test, please contact Arleen Read at publichealth@shutesbury.org to report the case and receive instructions. The current protocols for isolation and quarantine may be viewed at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-isolation-and-quarantine-guidance-for-the-general-public>

Free Covid tests are available at Town Hall during the Town Clerk's office hours: <https://www.shutesbury.org/townclerk> They are in boxes of two, two boxes per household, first come first served.

Please note that the expiration date on these boxes is July 28, 2022, but that the expiration date has been extended until October 28, 2022. Details on this are available by scanning the blue QR code sticker on the front of the box, and reproduced here:

Expiration Date Extension

Mar 28, 2022

On Mar 29, 2022, the FDA granted a three-month shelf-life extension for the iHealth COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Test, which extended the shelf-life of all iHealth tests with expiration dates on or before 2022-09-29 (YYYY-MM-DD) from 6 months to 9 months. For example, if the expiration date printed on your box says 2022-07-21 (YYYY-MM-DD), the updated expiration date is 2022-10-20 (YYYY-MM-DD). We will continue to apply to FDA for shelf-life extensions every three months based on our stability studies, and the new shelf-lives for our tests will apply to tests already produced as well as future production.

The website for the manufacturer is <https://ihealthlabs.com/pages/news>

The Shutesbury Board of Health