



**OFFICE OF THE CORONER
COUNTY OF CHESTER**

Coroner: Christina VandePol, M.D., F-ABMDI

Chief Deputy Coroner: Sophia Garcia-Jackson, M.S., D-ABMDI

“Committed Service and
Responsiveness”

601 Westtown Road, Suite 090

Phone: 610- 344-6165

**Press Release
December 21, 2021**

The Chester County Coroner’s Office is reporting a sharp rise in COVID-19 deaths in recent weeks. In November, 31 deaths, or an average of about one/day, were reported. In December, 36 deaths have already been reported, with 3-4 deaths now being reported daily. Two-thirds of the December deaths have been in unvaccinated individuals. The median age of unvaccinated persons who died of COVID -19 was 69 years. Vaccinated individuals who succumbed to the virus were immunocompromised, many months past their last vaccination, or both. The median age for this group was 83.5 years. No COVID-19 deaths have been reported to date in someone who received a booster vaccination.

“This is different than last year,” said Dr. Christina VandePol, Chester County Coroner. “We are not seeing many nursing home deaths. Most nursing home residents and staff are now vaccinated and stronger infectious disease controls have been put in place. This time around people are being admitted to our hospitals directly from home. Thanksgiving travel and gatherings probably played a role in what we’re now seeing, and that makes me fearful of what January will bring.”

Chester County’s COVID-19 website shows Chester County currently has a high transmission rate, with a test positivity rate of more than 10% in the past week. Data is not available to the Coroner’s Office on which variant of the virus is circulating in the community.

“I sympathize with our hospital staff who are once again overwhelmed with COVID over the holidays. With 2 hospitals closing, the burden will be even greater. I urge everyone, no matter how tired you are of all things COVID, to consider our health care workers and take every precaution available, including getting vaccinated or boosted. Think of it as a holiday gift for those who do so much for us every day,” said VandePol.
