

## Yarmouth SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Wastewater Testing Results — March 9, 2023

### Summary

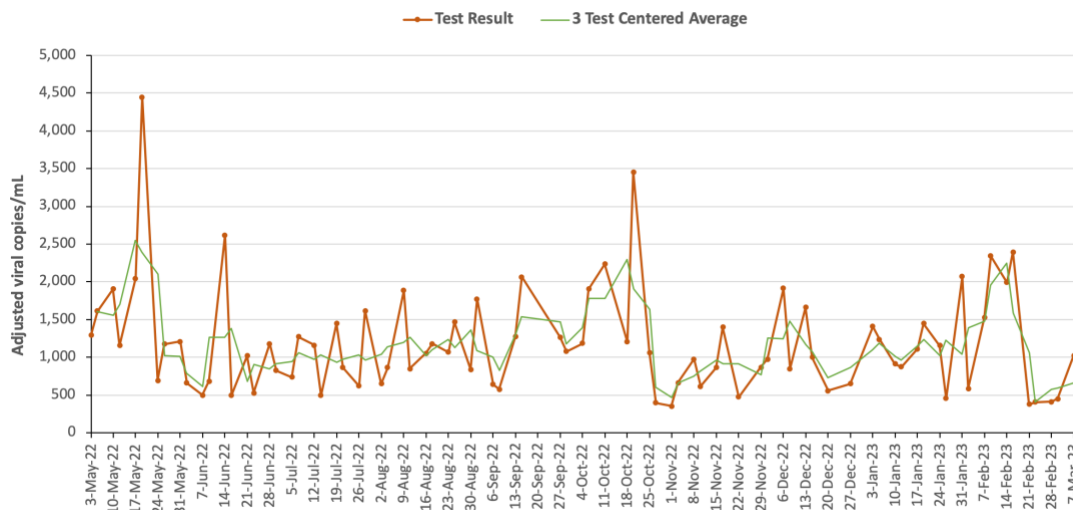
- In the seven weeks since our last Yarmouth, Maine, COVID report on January 18, 2023, wastewater levels of SARS-CoV-2 rose during the first three weeks of February and then declined to the lowest levels seen since June 2022. Reported COVID-19 cases declined during the first five weeks of this reporting period from 10 to 2, and have remained low for the past three weeks at 2–3 cases per week.
- In light of the levels of SARS-CoV-2 in Yarmouth's wastewater during the past three weeks, we are lowering the COVID-O-Meter to the Low level.



### Wastewater Results for SARS-CoV-2

- Since May 2022 Yarmouth wastewater samples have been collected twice weekly and are tested by Biobot Analytics in Massachusetts.
- The adjusted virus levels were 1,026 and 498 copies/mL in the two most recent wastewater samples (March 6–7 and March 8–9, respectively).
- Viral levels for January 19 through March 9 fluctuated between 377 and 2,394 copies/mL. The overall trend during this period was upward to a peak in mid-February and then downward (Figure 1, Table 1).
- February's viral levels averaged 1,255 copies/mL, as compared to monthly averages of 777 during November, 1,086 during December, and 1,187 during January. So far, March's viral levels have averaged 659 copies/mL.
- Yarmouth's February viral levels were similar to those measured in Portland's and Brunswick's February wastewater samples. The trends during February for Portland's East End and Westbrook-Gorham Regional facilities showed a slight peak in mid-February followed by a decline; Brunswick's levels increased during February.
- In early March 2023, the highest US state wastewater SARS-CoV-2 virus levels were in Idaho, Missouri, and Vermont, followed by Alaska and Maine.

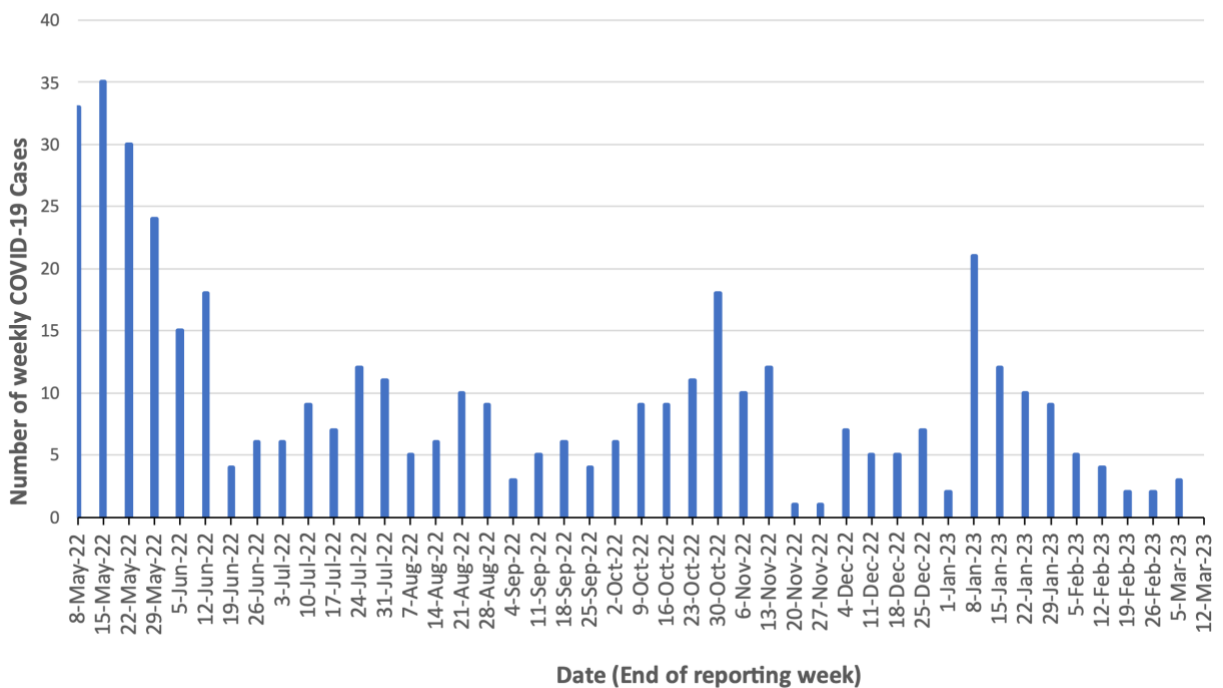
**Figure 1. Results of weekly Wastewater Testing for SARS-CoV-2 for Yarmouth, Maine, from May 3, 2022, through March 9, 2023.**



### COVID-19 Case Reports

- Weekly cases of COVID-19 for Yarmouth—as reported by Maine CDC—ranged from 2 to 10 for January 22, 2023, through March 5, 2023, with 2 cases reported for February 20–26, and 3 cases for February 27–March 5 (Figure 2).
- The two most recent case reports reflect the lowest weekly numbers of reported cases since late November 2022 (Figure 2).
- Reported case counts are likely to be much lower than the actual number of cases due to reduced testing and increased self-testing (home testing), which is not reported to Maine CDC. Anecdotally, we hear from many in the community using home testing and management.

**Figure 2. Weekly COVID-19 cases for Yarmouth, Maine, from May 8, 2022, through March 5, 2023, as reported by the Maine CDC.**



### We recommend that the Yarmouth Community continue to exercise caution:

Get vaccinated and boosted. Bivalent boosters with the original vaccine component and a new component based on the common variants currently circulating (i.e., BA.4 and BA.5) are available from Moderna and Pfizer.

Consider wearing a mask in indoor public places particularly if you are unvaccinated, 60 years of age or older, or immune compromised.

Avoid crowded indoor spaces.

When indoors, good ventilation (air exchange) is important.

Test with a rapid antigen test when gathering with friends and family who have been out and about, or if you will be spending time with people at higher risk.

If you test positive for COVID or believe you have a COVID infection, discuss the value of therapeutics with your doctor. These medications shorten the course and severity of the illness and likely reduce transmission to others.

If you have COVID, leave isolation only after you have a negative rapid antigen test.

Persons who are immune compromised due to medical conditions or medical treatments should take particular care, as should those around them.

The Yarmouth Community Coronavirus Task Force and the Wastewater Testing Team will continue to evaluate the testing results from the twice weekly samples. If there are significant changes, we will notify community members via the Town website, the YCCTF website (Be Well Yarmouth), and the YCCTF and Yarmouth Community Network Facebook sites.

### **Notes & Acknowledgement**

Yarmouth's wastewater testing program for SARS-CoV-2 is currently collecting and testing two 24 hour wastewater samples each week: the first is collected from 7 am Monday to 7 am Tuesday, and the second from 7am Wednesday to 7 am Thursday. Samples are sent to Biobot Analytics in Cambridge, Massachusetts for testing. The program is currently funded by the U.S. CDC.

The results of wastewater testing for Yarmouth and other locations in Maine are posted on the Maine CDC website: <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/infectious-disease/epi/airborne/coronavirus/wastewater-reports.shtml>. An overview of COVID-19 wastewater monitoring in the United States with graphs of testing data for the U.S. and selected U.S. counties, including 14 counties in Maine, is available from Biobot: <https://biobot.io/data/#county-25025>.

We would like to thank Chris Cline and Yarmouth Wastewater Treatment Facility staff for collecting and submitting the wastewater samples twice a week and Steve Johnson, Yarmouth's Town Engineer, for overseeing the wastewater testing program.

**Table 1. Results of US CDC–Biobot wastewater testing for SARS-CoV-2 for Yarmouth, Maine, May 3, 2022–March 5, 2023**

Sample Submission date†	Effective virus concentration‡ (copies/mL)	Sample Submission date†	Effective virus concentration‡ (copies/mL)	Sample Submission date†	Effective virus concentration‡ (copies/mL)
3 May 2022	1,292	25 Aug	1,468	3 Jan 2023	1,409
5 May	1,612	30 Aug	841	5 Jan	1,237
10 May	1,903	1 Sept	1,775	10 Jan	915
12 May	1,156	6 Sept	642	12 Jan	873
17 May	2,047	8 Sept	578	17 Jan	1,114
19 May	4,447	13 Sept	1,275	19 Jan	1,448
24 May	692	15 Sept	2,063	24 Jan	1,158
26 May	1,174	27 Sept	1,270	26 Jan	458
31 May	1,207	29 Sept	1,078	31 Jan	2,072
2 June	660	4 Oct	1,186	2 Feb	588
7 June	499	6 Oct	1,906	7 Feb	1,524
9 June	684	11 Oct	2,236	9 Feb	2,340
14 June	2,619	18 Oct	1,204	14 Feb	1,993
16 June	502	20 Oct	3,452	16 Feb	2,394
21 June	1,022	25 Oct	1,065	21 Feb	377
23 June	527	27 Oct	398	23 Feb	410
28 June	1,180	1 Nov	353	28 Feb	413
5 July	738	3 Nov	667	2 Mar	453
7 July	1,271	8 Nov	975	7 Mar	1,026
12 July	1,162	10 Nov	617	9 Mar	498
14 July	497	15 Nov	865		
19 July	1,448	17 Nov	1,398		
21 July	864	22 Nov*	477		
26 July	621	29 Nov	868		
28 July	1,616	1 Dec	976		
2 Aug	652	6 Dec	1,912		
4 Aug	863	8 Dec	851		
9 Aug	1,887	13 Dec	1,661		
11 Aug	850	15 Dec	1,000		
16 Aug	1,052	20 Dec*	556		
18 Aug	1,180	27 Dec 2022*	648		

† 24-hour influent wastewater samples are collected proportional to flow from 7am on day 1 to 7am on day 2. Day 2 is the sample submission date.

‡ Effective virus concentration value is derived by adjusting the raw virus concentration to account for dilution and other factors.

\*There was no testing on November 24, December 22, and December 29, 2022 due to holidays.