

# Hartford Courant



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## CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

# Experts watch for uptick

**INSIDE:** Connecticut's COVID-19 test positivity rate rose slightly over the past week, as data suggests that the BA.2 subvariant of omicron is gaining ground in the state. Experts believe it will be the dominant strain in the state by April. **Connecticut, Page 1**

Health officials keeping an eye on BA.2 omicron subvariant, which has shown up in wastewater

By Alex Putterman  
Hartford Courant

As of Wednesday, Connecticut has fewer than 100 people hospitalized with COVID-19 for the first

time in nearly eight months. The state's seven-day average of new cases, meanwhile, stands at its lowest level since last summer.

For two months, all key metrics have pointed to less transmission

and less illness.

And yet experts say the encouraging trends may not last much longer. In the coming weeks, they say, Connecticut could face an uptick in cases owing to BA.2, an omicron subvariant that has contributed to an ongoing spike in parts of Europe.

Already, researchers who moni-

tor wastewater for signs of COVID-19 report a recent uptick at sites in both Fairfield and in New Haven, mirroring trends in other parts of the United States. During previous pandemic waves, wastewater surveillance has predicted increases in cases before they have

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## MEN'S NCAA TOURNAMENT

NEW MEXICO STATE 70, UCONN 63



FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

# ALLEN WRENCHED

**INSIDE:** UConn wasn't the only No. 5 seed to lose Thursday in Buffalo. Big Ten tournament champion Iowa fell to No. 12 seed Richmond, and the Spiders will now play Midwest Region No. 4 seed Providence for a spot in the Sweet 16. **NCAA Tournament Roundup, Sports Page 5**

UConn guard R.J. Cole drives against New Mexico State's Mario McKinney Jr. during the first half of the teams' first-round NCAA Tournament game Thursday in Buffalo, New York. New Mexico State's Teddy Allen scored 37 points, including 13 at the free-throw line, to lead the WAC champion Aggies to a 70-63 upset of the No. 5 seed Huskies. UConn trailed by as many as 14 points in the second half, but came back to take a brief lead with 3:10 to play before New Mexico State pulled away. Cole led the Huskies with 20 points, while Adama Sanogo added eight rebounds. UConn, which hasn't won a tournament game since 2016, finishes the season 23-10. **Coverage in Sports**

# Bill aims to direct funds to magnets

Murphy, Blumenthal push to address racial isolation in schools

By Seamus McAvoy  
Hartford Courant

U.S. Sens. Chris Murphy and Richard Blumenthal and U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney on Wednesday introduced a bill that would amend a decades-old grant program to direct more federal dollars toward school districts planning to create new magnet schools to address racial isolation.

The Magnet Schools Accessibility, Growth, and Nonexclusionary Enrollment Transformation Act of 2022, or MAGNET Act, would update the Magnet Schools Assistance Program to prioritize applicants that use inclusive enrollment practices and have specific strategies for increasing diversity.

It would also fund grants for diversity efforts at existing magnet schools, which in Connecticut are poised to play an important role in addressing the racial segregation in the Hartford area now that the landmark *Sheff v. O'Neil* settlement is set for final approval.

"Diverse, integrated classrooms are good for all students, but the reality is American schools in many states are more segregated than ever," Murphy said.

"Investing in magnet schools

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## WAR IN UKRAINE

# Scores more Ukrainians killed in broad attacks

By Andrea Rosa  
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Rescue workers searched for survivors Thursday in the ruins of a theater blown apart by a Russian airstrike in the besieged city of Mariupol, while scores of Ukrainians across the country were killed in ferocious urban attacks on a school, a hostel and other sites.

Hundreds of civilians had been taking shelter in the grand, columned theater in central

Mariupol after their homes were destroyed in three weeks of fighting in the southern port city of 430,000.

More than a day after the airstrike, there were no reports of deaths. With communications disrupted across the city and movement difficult because of shelling and other fighting, there were conflicting reports on whether anyone had emerged from the rubble.

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Firefighters battle a blaze after a bomb attack Thursday in Kyiv, Ukraine. VADIM GHIRDA/AP

# Trinity Health takes over name of Dillon Stadium

By Alex Putterman  
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — Dillon Stadium, home to the Hartford Athletic soccer team, will be renamed Trinity Health Stadium as part of a new rights agreement with the hospital chain, the team announced Thursday.

Hartford Athletic owner Bruce Mandell unveiled the new name at a press conference in the stadium tunnel, alongside Trinity Health of New England officials and Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin.

"We're thrilled to officially welcome you for the first time to Trinity Health Stadium," Mandell said.

According to renderings provided by the team, the stadium's new name will appear throughout the venue, including on a new sign outside its main entrance.

Trinity Health of New England, which operates four hospitals in Connecticut, including Saint Francis Hospital in Hartford, has been a prominent

**Turn to Stadium, Page 2**

## Farmington man shot and killed at home

A Farmington man was shot and killed Wednesday in the home he shared with his fiancée. Jorge Tejada Camacho, 31, was allegedly shot by his fiancée's brother. **Connecticut, Page 1**

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