US Digital Response

Town of Amherst UX and Content Vaccine Webpages Audit and Recommendations

Project Purpose

Although the Town of Amherst has a website with vaccine information and COVID-19 resources, residents are calling with questions that the website answers.

Staff and call operators feel burdened and exhausted by redundant questions. Elderly residents feel frustrated, confused, and unaware of how to get help.

It's important that the website content reduces health inequities for the diverse Town of Amherst residents.

Deliverables

- 1. UX and content audit recommendations
- Low-fidelity mockup visualizing content and layout recommendations
 - a. <u>View desktop prototypes</u>
 - b. <u>View mobile prototypes</u>

Objectives

1. Help Amherst residents locate a provider in their county and feel confident in signing up online.

Success metrics include (given that first dose is not currently available):

- Increase # of dose two signups
- Increase two dose regimen completion rate

2. Help Amherst residents understand how to sign up with providers and reach out to them for assistance.

Success metrics include:

 Reducing the # of callers asking for assistance filling out provider signup forms

Short-term Opportunity

How might we create a clear pathway for residents of Amherst to access easy-to-understand COVID-19 vaccine information, including eligibility and availability in their area?

Recommendations

Our top observations and recommendations for short-term improvements focus on the pages for <u>Amherst Covid-19 Home</u> and the <u>Vaccine</u> page.

- 1. A visual process will help people understand the next steps to getting a vaccine.
- 2. Condensing content and creating an intuitive flow of information can increase health literacy.
- 3. Page headings can be written to be more specific.
- 4. Creating a direct path with clear calls to action can improve information-seeking behavior.
- 5. Optimizing page content for smaller screens will improve navigation and encourage registration on mobile devices.

Content and Design Examples

COVID Home Section 1

1. Remove Alert Banner

Why: Primary purpose of site is to provide vaccine info. Alert banner should only be used for alert messaging

- Rephrase the headline to be direct and action-oriented.
 Try: COVID-19 Resources for Amherst Residents, or similar
- 3. Cut "welcome to the resource page..." copy.
- 4. Move the COVID-19 Concern content to a lower visibility area on the page.

Why: Unless encouraging residents to call/email is a top priority. **Try:** Repurpose this space for more pressing content like vaccine FAQs and important updates on city openings and vaccine phases.

Vaccine: Stay up to date on the latest information

Vaccine Info



Welcome to the COVID-19 community

-resource page for the Town of Amherst

Have a COVID-19 Question or Concern?

Call us at (413) 259-2425 or Email us at covidconcerns@amherstma.gov

COVID Home Section 1

Vaccine: Stay up to date on the latest information

Vaccine Info



Welcome to the COVID 19 community resource page for the <u>Town of Amherst</u>

Have a COVID-19 Question or Concern?

Call us at (413) 259-2425 or Email us at covidconcerns@amherstma.gov



Q

Is it your turn to get a vaccine?

Find out when and where to get your dose

Get vaccinated

Get tested for free

CONFIRMED POSITIVE COVID-19 CASES IN AMHERST

Active

607

Total

1801

as of 2/16/11 at 8:00 AM

COVID HomeSection 2

 Rewrite case count headline and include population count for reference.

Why: Case count is important info and pop# gives it context, yet the language can be more conversational for a lighter cognitive load.

Try: Confirmed positive cases in Amherst, Active, Total (+pop)

2. News & Updates: Most of this content isn't necessary for this page.

Why: Current details on the vaccine in this section become redundant, as the sticky banner with vaccine updates is ever-present. Emergency order issuance is the only true news, but could be worked into a module of its own based on the importance of that info.

Try: Remove the current town news/news archive

Vaccine: Stay up to date on the latest information

Vaccine Info



Q

Laboratory Confirmed Positive COVID-19
Cases in Amherst:

Active Cases: 633 | Cumulative Cases: 1870

(as of 2/17/21 at 5:00 PM)

- 2 Recent News & Updates
 - All Current Town of Amherst News &
 - Announcements or visit our News Archive
 - Current details on the Vaccine
 - Amherst Board of Health Issues Emergency Order: Temporarily Reduces Capacity & Implements Early Closures - <u>Learn More</u>

COVID Home Section 2

Vaccine: Stay up to date on the latest information

Vaccine Info

■ AMHERST COVID-19

Z

Laboratory Confirmed Positive COVID-19

Cases in Amherst:

Active Cases: 633 | Cumulative Cases: 1870

(as of 2/17/21 at 5:00 PM)

Recent News & Updates

- All Current Town of Amherst News &
 Announcements or visit our News Archive
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CONFIRMED POSITIVE COVID-19 CASES IN AMHERST

Active

Total

607

1801

as of 2/16/11 at 8:00 AM

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Amherst Board of Health Issues Emergency Order

Temporarily Reduces Capacity & Implements Early Closures

Read More



COVID Home

Section 3

1. Simplify the Mask Order info language for ease of reading and reinforcement of rules.

Why: Mask order info is highly important and could be considered controversial to some residents.

Try: Protect Your Neighbors, Wear a Mask.

- a. Wear a mask or cloth face covering whenever you leave your house.
- b. Stay 6 feet away from others in public, even if you're both wearing a mask
- c. Children ages 2-5 are encouraged, but not required, to wear masks.
- d. Exceptions include those with medical conditions or disabilities that prevent wearing masks — employers and schools are allowed to ask for proof of such a condition.

For more information, visit: {URL}

Vaccine: Stay up to date on the latest information

Vaccine Info



Q

1

Mask Order

Governor Baker issued an Order effective November 6, 2020 requiring face masks or cloth face coverings in all public places, whether indoors or outdoors, even where they are able to maintain 6 feet of distance from others. Masks or face coverings are encouraged but not required for children between the ages of 2 and 5. For more details, please visit: www.mass.gov/news/mask-up-ma

The revised order still allows for an exception for residents who cannot wear a face-covering due to a medical or disabling condition, but it allows employers to require employees to provide proof of such a condition. It also allows schools to require that students participating in in-person learning provide proof of such a medical or disabling condition.

COVID Home Section 3

Vaccine: Stay up to date on the latest information

Vaccine Info

■ AMHERST COVID-19

Q

Mask Order

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The revised order still allows for an exception for residents who cannot wear a face-covering due to a medical or disabling condition, but it allows employers to require employees to provide proof of such a condition. It also allows schools to require that students participating in in-person learning provide proof of such a medical or disabling condition.

KEEP YOUR COMMUNITY SAFE. WEAR A MASK IN PUBLIC.

- Wear a mask or cloth face covering whenever you leave your home
- Stay 6 feet away from others in public, even if everyone is wearing a mask
- Children ages 2-5 are encouraged, but not required, to wear masks
- Exceptions include those with medical conditions or disabilities that prevent wearing masks employers and schools are allowed to ask for proof of such a condition
- Visit www.mass.gov/news/mask-up-ma to learn more



COVID Home Section 4

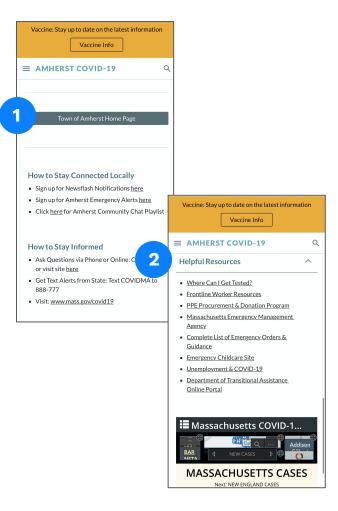
 Move the Town of Amherst Home Page link to the very bottom of this page.

Why: Content on the Town of Amherst HP adds noise and could distract from the main message of this site.

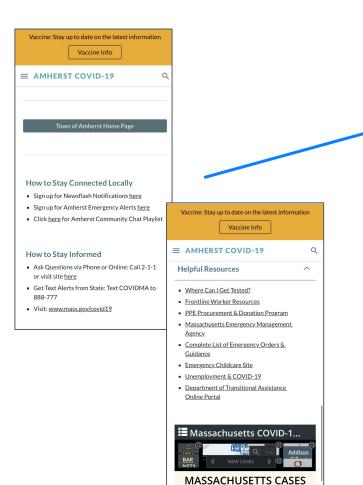
Try: Move the Town of Amherst HP link to the very bottom.

2. Reorder Stay Connected/Stay Informed into priority of what is generally the most informative and actionable for residents.
Why: This offers an overwhelming amount of options with little indication of what is on the other side of the click or what benefit the links might serve the user. Consider placing Community Chat Playlist and Newflash Alerts in a lower-traffic area of the site or even eliminating altogether.

Try: Condense options into one grouping (stay Informed works as a heading for the options).



COVID Home Section 4



Next: NEW ENGLAND CASES

STAY CONNECTED LOCALLY

NEWSFLASH

Newsflash Notifications

Sign Up →

ALERTS

Amherst Emergency Alerts

Sign Up →

PLAYLIST

Amherst Community Chat Playlist

Read More Now →

STAY INFORMED

QUESTIONS

Ask Questions via Phone or Online

Call 2-1-1 or visit site

Visit Site →

TEXT ALERTS

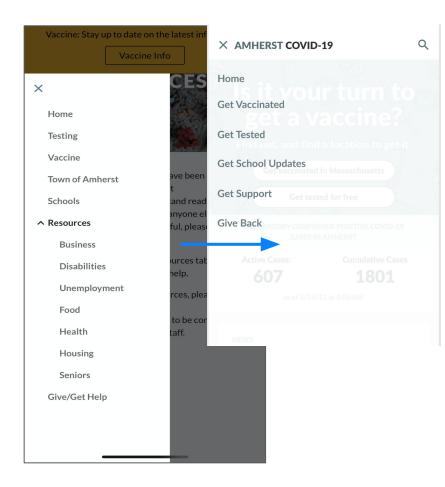
Get Text Alerts from State

Text COVIDMA to 888-777

Navigation

Ensure all labels are human-readable and surface the right information for the right audience. Alphabetize for easier reading.

- "Testing" → "Get Tested"
- "Vaccine" → "Get Vaccinated"
- "Town of Amherst" → eliminated
- "Schools" → "Get School Updates"
- "Resources" → "Get Support
- "Food Support"
- "Health and Prevention"
- "Housing Resources"
- "Resources for Seniors"
- "Small Business Support"
- "Unemployment and Finances"
- "Give/Get Help" → "Give Back"



Accessibility and Usability

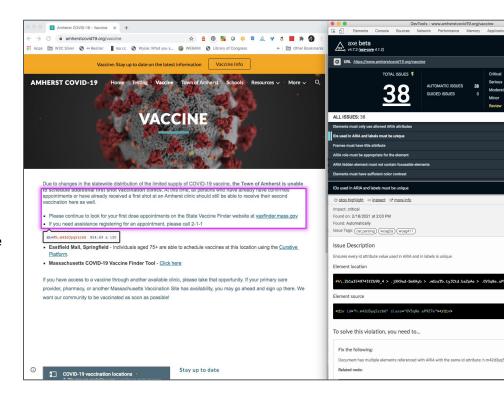
id attributes must be unique #1

Critical

Perhaps this is a Google Sites bug. id attributes should be unique on pages. div#h.m42d3yq5zrb6

Why: WCAG 2.0 Level A 4.1.1 Parsing states that in content implemented using markup languages, elements have complete start and end tags, elements are nested according to their specifications, elements do not contain duplicate attributes, and any IDs are unique, except where the specifications allow these features. Read a more plain language description.

Try: Run a code validation check, if possible.



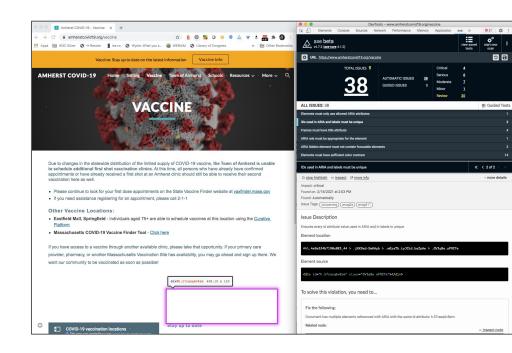
id attributes must be unique #2

Critical

Perhaps this is a Google Sites bug. id attributes should be unique on pages. div#h.57raxq6v8zm

Why: WCAG 2.0 Level A 4.1.1 Parsing states that in content implemented using markup languages, elements have complete start and end tags, elements are nested according to their specifications, elements do not contain duplicate attributes, and any IDs are unique, except where the specifications allow these features. Read a more plain language description.

Try: Run a code validation check, if possible.



Link Styling

Serious

Consistently style links.

Why: WCAG 2.0 Level AA 3.2.4 Consistent Identification states that Components that have the same functionality within a set of Web pages are identified consistently.

Try: Use underline and rgba(61,118,132,1) color for all active links. For visited links, underline and #8b2822 color. For hover and focus, add outline of 1px solid rgb(0, 103, 141).



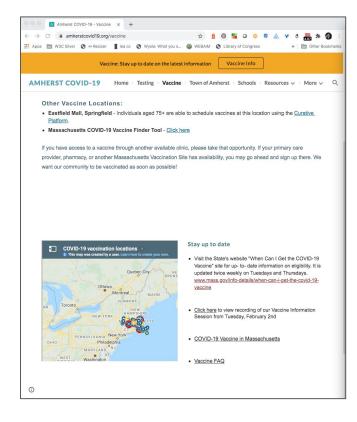
Text Styling

Serious

Clearly and consistently differentiate text from links..

Why: WCAG 2.0 Level AA 3.2.4 Consistent Identification states that Components that have the same functionality within a set of Web pages are identified consistently.

Try: While link styling is addressed on the previous slide, this issue is to call out having the non-link text all be #333333, as shown in the bulleted text items. This will be easier to read for the visitors, and they'll clearly know which is interactive.



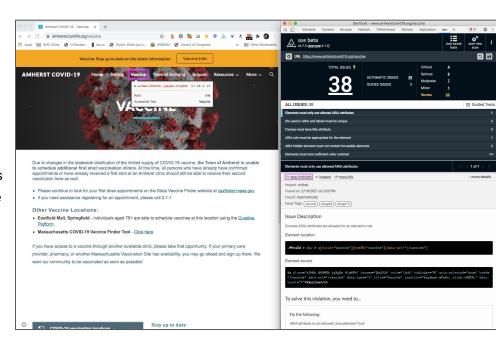
Serious

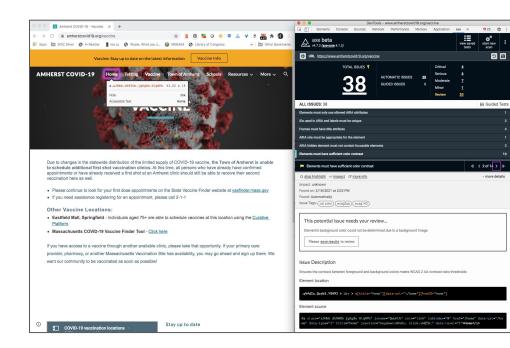
For the navigation that overlays the banner image, add a background color to ensure the links are always legible.

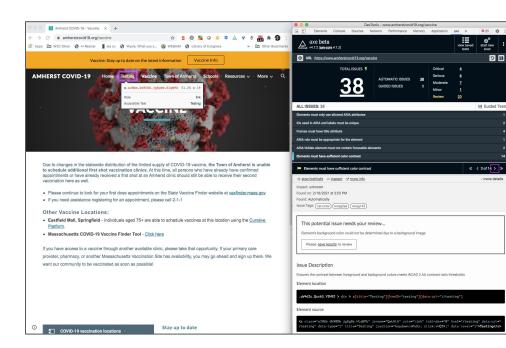
Why: WCAG 2.0 Level AA 1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum) states that the visual presentation of text and images of text has a contrast ratio of at least 4.5:1. When the text is over images, this can be more challenging to read.

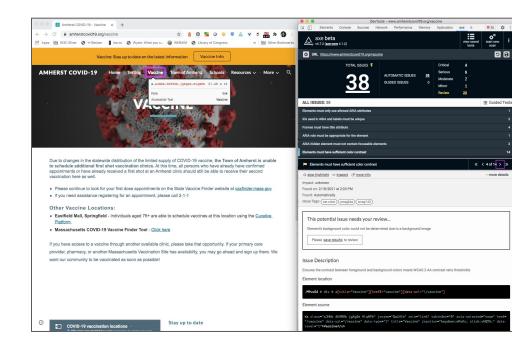
Try: Add a background color of rgba(61,118,132,1)

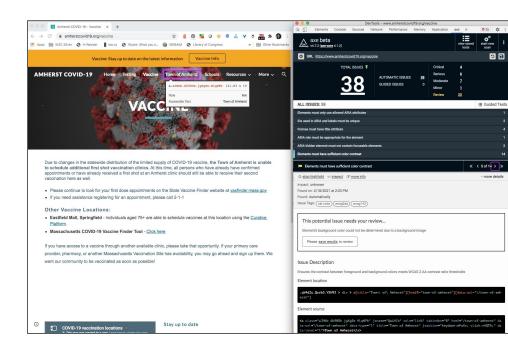


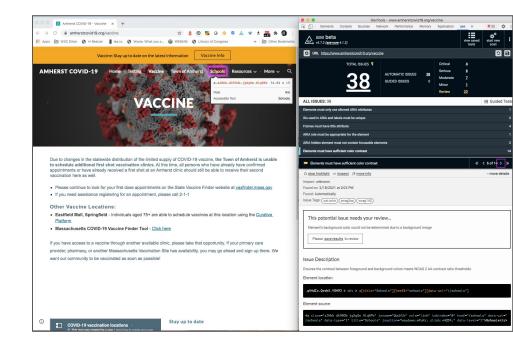


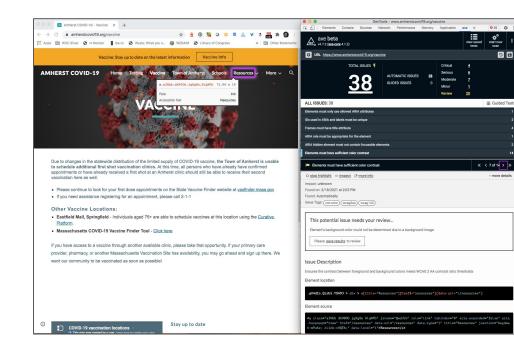


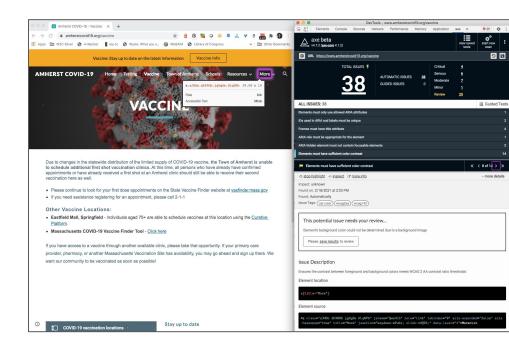












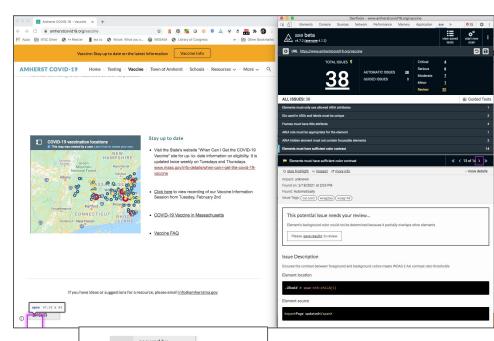
Color contrast - info button

Change the colors of the "i" interactive area for "Page update [date]" text and "Report abuse" link to be consistent with the rest of the site.

Why: "Page updated" text is white is hidden until the "i" circle is activated. Then this dark grey area appears. The white text on the grey background is inconsistent with other interactive elements and confusing for low vision assistive tech users.

Try: Change the colors

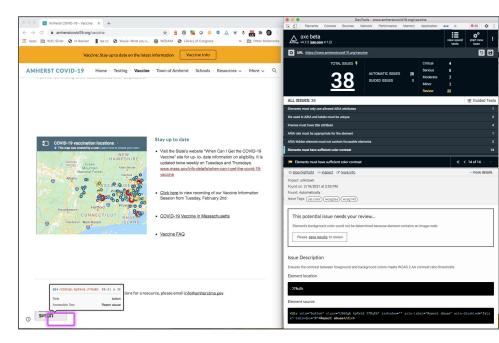
- "i" interactive to rgba(61,118,132,1) color
- dark grey background to white
- "Page updated [date]" to text styling
- "Report abuse" to link styling



Page updated 4 days ago Report abuse

Color contrast - info button

Same as previous. This error shows the "Report abuse" issue.



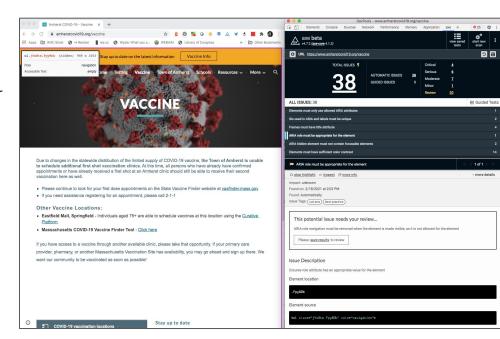
ARIA role must be appropriate for the element

Moderate

Use the correct element for this item, or remove it.

Why: Assistive tech users will get a notice of another navigation area and be confused.

Try: Remove the empty navigation element ul above the yellow notice.



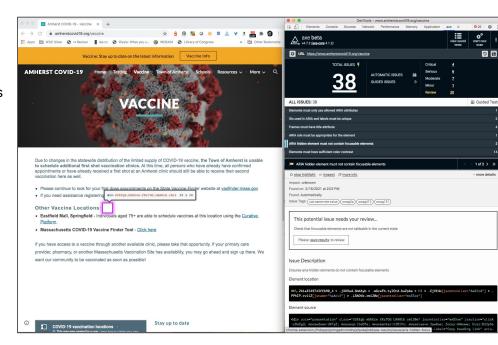
ARIA hidden element must not contain focusable elements #1

Minor

Remove the random link at the end of this heading.

Why: There is an empty link/button at the end of this heading that will be read as interactive content for assistive tech users.

Try: Delete the extra item.



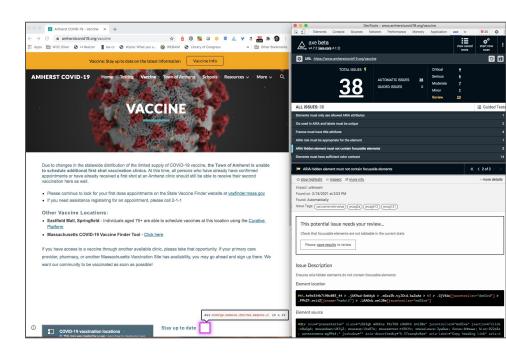
ARIA hidden element must not contain focusable elements #2

Minor

Remove the random link at the end of this heading.

Why: There is an empty link/button at the end of "Stay up to date" that will be read as interactive content for assistive tech users.

Try: Delete the extra item.



Suggested Next Steps

- 1. Review and discuss examples and possible options for content and layout adjustments.
- 2. Give feedback and prioritize updates for March 1 implementation.
- 3. Gather additional background to inform longer-term improvements focused on reducing health inequities.
- 4. Before migrating the COVID-19 Google Site to the Amherst official government website, built on <u>CivicPlus's Civic Engage CMS platform</u>, it may be helpful to create a content map to plan what pages, components, and styles will be used. This should take about a day.
- 5. At a later date, it may be helpful to conduct an accessibility audit of https://www.amherstma.gov/ as there are currently 444 issues found in an automated accessibility scan. Nearly half are color contrast, and most of the others are ARIA roles.