

MEDIA RELEASE

ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



Public Health
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COUNTY OF ERIE
OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Erie County reports 222 new positive cases of COVID-19; cumulative total is 9,026

Erie, PA – County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper and Erie County Department of Health announce 222 new positive cases of COVID-19 have been reported in Erie County as of 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 15.

The total cumulative cases of COVID-19 in Erie County since March is 9,026, with 46,918 negatives and 170 total deaths reported in NEDSS.

Updated data can be found on the [chart](#) on the “Positive Cases in Erie County” page on eriecountypa.gov.

As of this morning, there were 138 total hospitalizations and 13 people on ventilators in Erie County.

Of the cumulative cases, 55% are female and 45% are male.

The breakdown of cumulative cases by race/ethnicity is as follows:

- 51% White residents
- 9% African American/Black residents
- 4% Asian residents
- 1% Other
- 35% Unknown

Three percent of the cases are Hispanic, of any race; 43% are not Hispanic; and 54% are unknown.

The age breakdown of the cumulative cases looks like this:

- 1% are ages 0-4
- 1% are ages 5-9
- 8% are ages 10-18
- 13% are ages 19-24
- 36% are ages 25-49
- 21% are ages 50-64
- 19% are ages 65 and older

Note: Percent values of each breakdown may not total 100 due to rounding.

– more –

The [age, race and gender report](#), a [seven-day daily case count breakdown and zone map data](#), the [map](#) of cumulative cases by zone, and the [wastewater report](#) can be found on eriecountypa.gov. (Refresh each page to see most recent update.)

Melissa Lyon, director of the Erie County Department of Health, shared an update on testing.

Representatives from Erie County's local healthcare systems provided updates today:

- Christopher C. Clark, DO, MHA, President and CEO of AHN Saint Vincent Hospital
- Emily Shears, MPH, CIC, CJCP, Director of Infection Prevention, Quality Improvement, Regulatory & Accreditation Services at UPMC Hamot
- Dorene Sommers, Associate Director of Patient Care Services at Erie VA Medical Center
- Marcus C. Babiak, Pharmacy Director at Millcreek Community Hospital
- Barbara D. Nichols, President and CEO of Corry Memorial Hospital

All residents are reminded to wear a mask over their nose and mouth when near anyone who does not live inside their home, keep a 6-foot distance from others, stay home as much as possible – and definitely when feeling ill, wash hands frequently, and limit activities outside of their homes.

The next press briefing will take place Wednesday, Dec. 23, at 3 p.m.

Residents are encouraged to take the safe choices pledge at eriecountypa.gov.

All questions related to COVID-19 should be directed to Erie County Department of Health at 814-451-6700 or ecdinfo@eriecountypa.gov.

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