

MEDIA RELEASE

ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



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COUNTY OF ERIE
OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Erie County reports substantial transmission rate of COVID-19

Erie, PA — County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper and Erie County Department of Health reports that Erie County is now categorized as having a substantial transmission rate of COVID-19, which means it has 50 to 100 positive cases per 100,000 people.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has released guidelines recommending that all people, including those fully vaccinated and those who are immunocompromised, wear masks indoors if they live in areas with substantial or high (100 or more cases per 100,000 people) transmission rates.

Wearing masks help reduce the spread of infectious respiratory illnesses such as COVID-19. The public is encouraged to be respectful of the masking decisions of their fellow residents and of the masking requirements of businesses and other venues.

Data about transmission rates can be found in the CDC website at [covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view](https://www.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view). Reports of positive cases in Erie County, total cumulative cases and total deaths since March 2020 can be found at [eriecountypa.gov](https://www.eriecountypa.gov). Related data is available at the Pennsylvania Department of Health website [health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Cases.aspx](https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Cases.aspx).

The public is reminded that the CDC estimates that more than 90% of the COVID-19 coronavirus circulating nationally is of the highly infectious Delta variant. The Delta variant is considered more transmissible than the common cold and flu and as highly contagious as chickenpox. Infection with the Delta variant produces increased virus amounts in the body compared to other variants in both unvaccinated and vaccinated persons. Vaccination helps the body prevent severe illness and lessens the likelihood of needing hospitalization.

Severe effects of COVID-19 may require hospitalization and may cause death. Nearly all hospitalizations and deaths have been among unvaccinated persons. Long-term effects of COVID-19 can continue for months after being infected and can include, but are not limited to, difficulty breathing, chest or stomach pain, headache, diarrhea and sleep problems.

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Get vaccinated

To protect the health of all community members in Erie County, all unvaccinated residents are encouraged to get vaccinated for COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccines were developed by experts and are safe.

Vaccines for COVID-19 are available for free for residents of Erie County ages 12 years and older. Finding vaccines in nearby locations can be done by:

- texting your ZIP Code to 438829
- visiting [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov)
- calling 1-800-232-0233

A mobile vaccination clinic organized by the Erie County Department of Health is available for free to the residents of Erie County. No insurance is needed and walk-ups are welcome.

- Friday, Aug. 6: 5 to 7 p.m. at Dan Rice Days Festival, Main St. West, Girard
- Saturday, Aug. 14: 1 to 3 p.m. at Erie Pride Picnic, Rotary Pavilion, Presque Isle

Prevent spread

All unvaccinated residents are reminded to wear a mask indoors and outdoors that covers their nose and mouth when near anyone who does not live inside their home, keep a six-foot distance from others, stay home when feeling ill, wash hands frequently, and limit activities outside of their homes.

The community is reminded that public health measures such as isolation and quarantine are necessary to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. Individuals who are identified as close contacts of a person with COVID-19 are asked to cooperate with all public health recommendations, including quarantine, so that if they become infected, they will not spread infection to others.

Questions related to COVID-19 may be directed to Erie County Department of Health at 814-451-6700 or ecdhinfo@eriecountypa.gov.

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