

# MEDIA RELEASE

ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



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**COUNTY OF ERIE**  
OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

## Erie County provides public health updates on COVID-19

Erie, PA — County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper and the Erie County Department of Health held a press briefing to provide public health updates on COVID-19 in Erie County. Watch the press briefing [here](#).

Guests included John Gennaro, director of Erie Veterans Affairs Medical Center; Christopher Clark, president and CEO of AHN Saint Vincent Hospital; Marcus Babiak, chief operating officer of Millcreek Community Hospital; David Gibbons, president of UPMC Hamot; and Melissa Lyon, director of Erie County Department of Health.

There were 89 new positive cases of COVID-19 and three deaths in Erie County reported as of 11:59 p.m. on Sept. 28, bringing the cumulative case count to 25,419. The total deaths due to COVID-19 since March 2020 is 511.

This [information](#) and other data such as reports on vaccination demographics can be found at [eriecountypa.gov/covid-19](http://eriecountypa.gov/covid-19). Related data is also available at the Pennsylvania Department of Health website [health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Cases.aspx](http://health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Cases.aspx). Data on transmission rates can be found in the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website [covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view](https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view).

### Masking order

Erie County currently has a high rate of transmission according to the CDC. The public is reminded that the CDC guidelines state all people, including those who are fully vaccinated, should wear masks indoors in areas with substantial to high transmission rates of COVID-19.

A universal indoor masking order for all public and private pre-schools, primary and secondary schools in Erie County is in effect until further notice. A copy of the order can be found at [eriecountypa.gov/covid-19](http://eriecountypa.gov/covid-19).

Wearing a mask that covers the mouth and nose has been proven to reduce the spread of infectious respiratory illnesses such as COVID-19. Studies on the effects of wearing masks have proved that there is no change in oxygen or carbon dioxide levels when people wear cloth and surgical masks while resting and exercising.

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## Get vaccinated

Vaccination helps the body prevent severe illness and lessens the likelihood of needing hospitalization. Nearly all hospitalizations and deaths due to COVID-19 have been among unvaccinated persons.

All unvaccinated residents are encouraged to get vaccinated. COVID-19 vaccines were developed by experts and are safe. Free vaccines are available 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://vaccines.gov)
- calling 1-800-232-0233

A free mobile vaccination clinic organized by the Erie County Department of Health is available to the residents of Erie County. No insurance is needed and walk-ups are welcome. For schedule of upcoming mobile clinics and other vaccination sites, visit [eriecountypa.gov/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine](https://eriecountypa.gov/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine). To request a mobile vaccination clinic for your event or location, please email [covidresponse@eriecountypa.gov](mailto:covidresponse@eriecountypa.gov).

## Get tested

Community members are reminded to get tested for COVID-19 if exposed to anyone who is positive for COVID-19 or if exhibiting its symptoms such as coughing, difficulty breathing, fever or chills, muscle or body aches, vomiting or diarrhea, or loss of taste or smell.

Testing results can help determine appropriate care and treatment if needed. Rapid testing results are available in 15 minutes at free mobile testing clinics organized by the Erie County Department of Health. No insurance is needed and walk-ups are welcome.

- **Thursday, Sept. 30, 5 to 7 p.m.** at Walmart Corry, 961 E. Columbus Ave., Corry
- **Monday, Oct. 4, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.** Greene Township Municipal Building, 9333 Tate Rd., Erie
- **Thursday, Oct. 7, 5 to 8 p.m.** Greene Township Municipal Building, 9333 Tate Rd., Erie

For schedule of upcoming mobile testing clinics and other testing sites, visit [eriecountypa.gov/covid-19/covid-19-testing-information](https://eriecountypa.gov/covid-19/covid-19-testing-information).

For guidance on preventing the spread of COVID-19 at events and business establishments, contact Erie County Department of Health at [covidresponse@eriecountypa.gov](mailto:covidresponse@eriecountypa.gov). All other questions about COVID-19 can be directed to 814-451-6700 or [ecdhinfo@eriecountypa.gov](mailto:ecdhinfo@eriecountypa.gov).

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