

MEDIA RELEASE

ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



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Erie County Department of Health provides COVID-19 public health update

Erie, PA —Erie County Department of Health provides a public health update on COVID-19 in the county. In the past week, Dec. 27 Monday to Jan. 2 Sunday,

- The daily average number of reported cases is **339**.
- There were **10** deaths reported, increasing the total deaths to **669**.
- Among the reported **10** deaths, **5** were unvaccinated.

The number of persons vaccinated in that time period was 1,451. This increases the total number of persons vaccinated to 172,944 with the following breakdown:

| | Number of persons | Of eligible population | Of total population |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Partially vaccinated | 23,596 | 9.3% | 8.7% |
| Fully vaccinated | 149,348 | 58.6% | 55.4% |

Information on cases and deaths in Erie County and other data such as reports on vaccination demographics can be found at the Erie County Government website <https://eriecountypa.gov/covid-19/positive-cases-in-erie-county/>. Latest recommendations and related data is also available at the websites of

- Pennsylvania Department of Health health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Cases.aspx
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view](https://www.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view)

Benefit of vaccination

Erie County Department of Health highly recommends vaccination and boosters against COVID-19 for all eligible residents of Erie County five years and older, including for those who are pregnant. The benefit of vaccination is that it helps the body prevent severe illness and lessens the likelihood of needing hospitalization. If having concerns or questions about vaccines, approach healthcare professionals or contact the Erie County Department of Health at 814-451-6700 for facts and answers.

Free vaccines are available for residents of Erie County ages 5 years and older. For list of local vaccination sites, visit eriecountypa.gov/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine. Call ahead to confirm schedules.

Not all locations can offer COVID-19 vaccines to children 5 to 11 years old. Call ahead to check availability. To find vaccines in other nearby locations

- text ZIP Code to 438829
- visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov)
- call 1-800-232-0233

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Importance of testing

Unvaccinated or vaccinated, testing is recommended if exposed to anyone who has COVID-19 or if exhibiting symptoms such as sore throat, 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.

For list of local testing sites, visit eriecountypa.gov/covid-19/covid-19-testing-information. Call ahead to confirm schedules.

Staying home and informing close contacts

To prevent the spread of infection to others, community members should stay home while waiting for test results. Those whose test results are positive, even if they do not have symptoms, should:

- stay home
- stay apart from others in their homes and, if possible, use a separate bathroom
- inform their close contacts to stay home and get tested

For guidance on quarantine and isolation, call the Erie County Department of Health at 814-451-6700.

Wearing masks to prevent spread

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.

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

For guidance on preventing the spread of COVID-19 at events and business establishments, contact the Erie County Department of Health at covidresponse@eriecountypa.gov. For other health-related questions about COVID-19, contact 814-451-6700 or ecdhinfo@eriecountypa.gov.

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