

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. As of March 6, according to the [COVID-19 Community Levels](#) guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which is updated weekly, Erie County is now currently at [low risk](#).

“Even as we celebrate this milestone of how far we have come as a community in responding to COVID-19 with preventive measures such as vaccinations, the Erie County Department of Health would like to remind everyone that COVID-19 has not gone away,” said Erin Mrenak, Director. “We should all still practice good health practices such as staying up to date with vaccinations. If not feeling well, we should stay home and get tested.”

“Let’s all be ready to work together in case another variant of concern emerges that increases the number of cases again. We have the tools and ways to protect our vulnerable loved ones and we don’t want to overburden our hospital systems. We all want our children to continue in-person learning and adults in the community to be able to work in their best health with the least interruption as possible.”

The community is welcome to contact the Erie County Department of Health for guidance. For details on how to stay up to date on vaccines, isolation and quarantine, preventing spread of COVID-19 in business establishments and events, and other information, contact covidresponse@eriecountypa.gov or 814-451-6700 or fill out the online Community Form at [ErieCountypa.gov/covid-19/](https://eriecountypa.gov/covid-19/).

At this level, recommendations for preventing the spread of COVID-19 include:

- Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines, for 5 years and older, including those who are pregnant and plan on becoming pregnant.
- Anyone may choose to mask at any time, regardless of vaccination status.
- If you are (or live, work or have contact with someone who is) at high risk for severe illness or have a weak immune system, consult your healthcare provider about masking and other precautions.
- Get tested if you have symptoms or have been exposed to COVID-19.
- Wear a mask if you have symptoms, positive test results, or have been exposed to COVID-19.
- Stay home while waiting for test results. If you have positive test results, even if you don’t have symptoms, stay home and apart from others in your home and, if possible, use a separate bathroom; inform your close contacts to stay home and get tested.
- Maintain improved ventilation throughout indoor spaces when possible.

Cases and data

In the past week, Feb. 28 Monday to March 6 Sunday,

- There were **147** cases reported, with a daily average of **21** cases.
- There were **15** deaths reported, with dates of deaths from Aug. 7, 2021 to Feb. 25, 2022, increasing the total deaths to **787**.
- Among the reported 15 deaths, **5** were unvaccinated.

The number of persons vaccinated in that time period was **333**. This increases the total number of persons vaccinated to **179,730** with the following breakdown:

	Number of persons	Of eligible population	Of total population
Partially vaccinated	24,560	9.6%	9.1%
Fully vaccinated	155,170	60.9%	57.5%

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

Benefit of vaccination

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.

A free mobile **vaccination and booster clinic** organized by the Erie County Department of Health is available. No insurance is needed. For 5 years and older. Indoors. Pfizer-BioNTech and Modern available. Johnson and Johnson available while supplies last.

- **March 9, Wednesday, 3 to 6 p.m.** at Sisters of Saint Joseph Neighborhood Network, 425 W. 18th St., Erie
- **March 11, Friday, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.** at Northwestern High School, 200 Harthan Way, Albion

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
- call 1-800-232-0233

Importance of testing

Erie County Department of Health recommends community members, vaccinated or unvaccinated, to get tested for COVID-19 if they have been exposed to anyone who has COVID-19 or if they have 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.

Community members using home test kits who have questions or need guidance can call 814-451-6700.

For list of local sites offering free testing, visit eriecountypa.gov/covid-19/covid-19-testing-information.

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