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. 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/.

Cases and data

In the past week, March 28 Monday to April 3 Sunday,
- There were **79** cases reported, with a daily average of **11** cases.
- There was 1 death reported with date of death in the last week of March, increasing the total death count to **796**.
- The total unvaccinated death count has increased to 654, which is 82% of the total deaths (796).

As of April 3, among the total reported in deaths in Erie County, the breakdown by vaccination status and age range is as follows:

Reported Deaths	Ages 0-49	Ages 50-64	Ages 65 & older	Sub-total	Percentage breakdown
Not vaccinated	**31**	**91**	**532**	**654**	**82%**
Partially vaccinated	0	3	29	32	4%
Fully vaccinated	2	18	90	110	14%
Additional dose	0	3	18	21	3%
Total	796			796	100%

Related reference at https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#rates-by-vaccine-status

The number of persons vaccinated in that time period was **243**. This increases the total number of persons vaccinated to **180,692** with the following breakdown:

	Number of persons	Of eligible population	Of total population
Partially vaccinated	24,406	9.6%	9.0%
Fully vaccinated	156,286	61.3%	57.9%
Received additional dose	77,715	30.5%	28.8%

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.

Not all locations may offer COVD-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 or 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.

A free mobile **rapid antigen testing clinic** organized by the Erie County Department of Health is available.
- **April 8, Friday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.** at Corry Community Center, 15 S. First Ave, Corry

Preventing spread

According to the **COVID-19 Community Levels** guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which is updated weekly, Erie County is currently at **low risk**.

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. This means getting all recommended primary doses and booster doses when eligible.
- 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.

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