

# MEDIA RELEASE

ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



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**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Walter Ang | Communications Specialist  
wang@eriecountypa.gov

## Erie County Department of Health recommends preventive precaution against COVID-19

Erie, PA — To help keep Erie County healthy and safe in the possibility of future changes with COVID-19, the Erie County Department of Health reminds community members to remain proactive with their preventive actions against COVID-19.

“The number of reported cases have been steadily rising over the past six weeks with a sharp increase in the past three weeks,” said Erin Mrenak, Director.

Date range	Reported cases
May 9-15	674
May 2-8	406
April 25-May 1	244
April 18-24	191
April 11-17	93
April 4-10	107

As of May 15, the [Pennsylvania Department of Health Early Warning Monitoring System Dashboard](#) indicates:

	Previous 7 days	Most recent 7 days
<b>Incidence rate per 10,000 residents</b>	82.3	136.1
<b>PCR testing positivity rate</b>	10.9%	16.2%

“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. The goal is to have everyone in their best possible health with the least interruption as possible.”

“The Erie County Department of Health reminds everyone that COVID-19 has not gone away, but we can work together to prevent its spread. We should continue to follow public health measures such as handwashing, social distancing, wearing a mask and staying home if you don’t feel well or have tested positive for COVID-19.”

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 and boosters, isolation and quarantine, preventing spread of COVID-19 in business establishments and events, and other information, contact [covidresponse@eriecountypa.gov](mailto:covidresponse@eriecountypa.gov) or 814-451-6700 or fill out the online Community Form at [Eriecountypa.gov/covid-19/](https://eriecountypa.gov/covid-19/).

## Important action

“The single most important action that everyone can take to reduce the severity of any potential future COVID-19 surge is to stay **up to date with their vaccinations and boosters**, which means getting all recommended primary doses and booster doses when eligible,” said Charlotte Berringer, Director of Community Health Services.

“Vaccination and boosters have been shown to reduce the risks of getting infection, severe illness, the need for hospitalization and death. It also reduces the risk of developing long COVID illness,” she said. Long COVID is a lingering illness with a range of symptoms, such as fatigue and shortness of breath, which can occur after a COVID-19 infection.

Boosters extend the effectiveness of vaccines against COVID-19 and help protect against variants. Based on data from Erie County, those who are boosted are:

- 7 times less like to be infected with COVID-19
- 14 times less likely to die from COVID-19

Free vaccines and boosters 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](http://eriecountypa.gov/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine).*

Not all locations may offer COVID-19 vaccines and boosters to children 5 to 11 years old. Call ahead to check availability. To find vaccines and boosters in other nearby locations text ZIP Code to 438829, visit [vaccines.gov](http://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, upper respiratory congestion, 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](http://eriecountypa.gov/covid-19/covid-19-testing-information).*

## Cases and data

In the past week, May 9 Monday to 15 Sunday,

- There were **674** cases reported, with a daily average of **96** cases.
- There were no new deaths reported. The total death count remains at **798**.
- The total unvaccinated death count remains at 655, which is 82% of the total deaths (798).

As of May 15, 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
<b>Not vaccinated</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>533</b>	<b>655</b>	<b>82%</b>
Partially vaccinated	0	3	29	32	4%
Fully vaccinated without a booster	2	15	72	89	11%
Additional dose/booster	0	3	19	22	3%
<b>Total</b>	798			798	100%

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

The number of persons vaccinated from May 9 to May 15 was **166**. This increases the total number of persons vaccinated to **182,193** with the following breakdown:

	Number of persons	Of eligible population	Of total population
Partially vaccinated	23,671	9.3%	8.8%
Fully vaccinated	158,522	62.2%	58.8%
Received first booster	79,806	31.3%	29.6%
Received second booster	10,851	4.3%	4.0%

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](https://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://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view)

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