

MEDIA RELEASE

ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



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Erie County moves to High COVID-19 Community Level

Erie, PA — 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 [high risk](#).

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

- Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccine and booster doses, for 5 years and older, including those who are pregnant and plan on becoming pregnant. This means getting all recommended primary and booster doses when eligible.
- Wear a well-fitting mask indoors in public, 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, consider rapid testing before gatherings and avoiding non-essential indoor gatherings.
- 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.

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 or 814-451-6700 or fill out the online [Community Form](#) at [Eriecountypa.gov/covid-19/](https://eriecountypa.gov/covid-19/).

Cases and data

In the past week, May 16 Monday to 22 Sunday,

- There were **777** cases reported, with a daily average of **111** cases.
- There was **1** new deaths reported, the total death count is **799**.
- The total unvaccinated death count remains at 655, which is 82% of the total deaths (799).

As of May 22, 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	533	655	82%
Partially vaccinated	0	3	28	31	4%
Fully vaccinated without a booster	2	16	73	91	11%
Additional dose/booster	0	3	19	22	3%
Total	799			799	100%

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

The number of persons vaccinated from May 16 to May 22 was **237**. This increases the total number of persons vaccinated to **182,430** with the following breakdown:

	Number of persons	Of eligible population	Of total population
Partially vaccinated	23,617	9.3%	8.8%
Fully vaccinated	158,813	62.3%	58.9%
Received first booster	80,146	31.5%	29.7%
Received second booster	12,363	4.9%	4.6%

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 and boosters

The benefit of staying up to date on vaccination and boosters, even for those who have had COVID-19, 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.

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.*

To find vaccines and boosters 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, 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.

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