

# MEDIA RELEASE

ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



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## MEDIA CONTACT:

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## COVID-19 public health update

Erie, PA — The community is welcome to contact the Erie County Department of Health for guidance on COVID-19. For details on how to stay up to date on vaccines and boosters, how to use home test kits, isolation guidelines, 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/).

### Cases and data

From Sept. 13 to 25,

- There were **852** cases reported, with a daily average of **61** cases. New case numbers reflect only reported cases and is not a definitive indicator of actual number of cases in Erie County.
- There were **7** deaths reported, with dates of death from Jan. 25 to Sept. 13, 2022, increasing the total death count in 2022 to 149.

There were **331** vaccinations and boosters administered. This increases the total number of persons vaccinated to **185,264** with the following breakdown:

	Number of persons	Of total population
Partially vaccinated	23,615	8.8%
Fully vaccinated	161,649	59.9%
Received first booster	83,460	30.9%
Received second booster	20,310	7.5%

Among the total reported deaths in 2022 in Erie County, the breakdown by vaccination status and age range is as follows:

Vaccination status among reported 2022 Deaths	Ages 0-49	Ages 50-64	Ages 65 & older	Sub-total	Percentage breakdown
Partially vaccinated and Not vaccinated	8	14	52	74	50%
Fully vaccinated - not up to date with primary series or booster	0	3	44	47	31%
Fully vaccinated – up to date with primary series	1	2	4	7	5%
Fully vaccinated – up to date with booster	0	4	17	21	15%
<b>Total</b>		149		149	100%

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

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)

### **Benefit of vaccination and boosters**

The benefit of staying up to date with 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. 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. *For list of local vaccination sites, visit [eriecountypa.gov/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine](https://eriecountypa.gov/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine) or text ZIP Code to 438829, visit [vaccines.gov](https://vaccines.gov) or call 1-800-232-0233.*

### **Importance of testing**

Community members, vaccinated or unvaccinated, are recommended 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. *For list of local sites offering free testing, visit [eriecountypa.gov/covid-19/covid-19-testing-information](https://eriecountypa.gov/covid-19/covid-19-testing-information).*

### **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 now currently at [low risk](#).

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

- Get all recommended COVID-19 vaccine and booster doses, for 6 months 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, consider masking indoors and rapid testing before 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.

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