

MEDIA RELEASE

ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



Public Health
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Walter Ang | Communications Specialist
wang@eriecountypa.gov

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 or 814-451-6700 or fill out the online Community Form at eriecountypa.gov/covid-19/.

Cases and data

From Jan. 16 to 29,

- There were **245** cases reported, with a daily average of **18** cases. New case numbers reflect only reported cases and is not a definitive indicator of actual number of cases in Erie County.
- There were **5** deaths reported, with dates of death from **Jan. 3** to **Jan. 18**. This brings the death count in 2023 to **5**.

There were **83** vaccination and booster doses administered. There were also **928** bivalent booster doses administered. This increases the total number of persons vaccinated to **186,791** with the following breakdown:

	Number of persons	Of total population
Partially vaccinated	23,899	8.8%
Fully vaccinated	162,892	60.4%
Received first booster	83,788	31.1%
Received second booster	20,422	7.6%
Received bivalent booster	44,004	16.3%

Among the total reported deaths in 2023 in Erie County, the breakdown by vaccination status and age range is as follows:

Vaccination status among reported 2023 Deaths	Ages 0-49	Ages 50-64	Ages 65 & older	Sub-total	Percentage breakdown
Partially vaccinated and Not vaccinated	0	0	4	4	80.0%
Fully vaccinated - not up to date with primary series or booster	0	0	1	1	20.0%
Fully vaccinated – up to date with primary series	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Fully vaccinated – up to date with booster (including bivalent booster)	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Total		5		5	100.0%

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 <https://eriecountypa.gov/covid-19/positive-cases-in-erie-county/>. Latest recommendations and related data is also available at 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 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.

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 or text ZIP Code to 438829, visit 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.

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