

MEDIA RELEASE

ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug. 3, 2023

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COVID-19 public health update

Erie, PA — The Erie County Department of Health continues to work with schools in the county to provide relevant guidance for preventing the spread of COVID-19 and other diseases. Schools have the independence to decide what actions are appropriate to take that are best suited to their circumstances.

They also have the independence to set COVID-19 guidelines to help their students, educators and staff avoid illness in order to continue with their school calendar without interruption, which is better for the students' development and allows adults to continue working.

The Erie County Department of Health encourages all Erie County residents to use the tools available to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the most important of which is staying up to date with vaccination and boosters. The benefit of vaccination and boosters is that, in case of an infection, 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.

For list of local vaccination sites, text ZIP Code to 438829, visit vaccines.gov or call 1-800-232-0233.

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 self test kits, preventing spread of COVID-19 and other information, contact 814-451-6700 or covidresponse@eriecountypa.gov.

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 testinglocator.cdc.gov.

Cases and data

From **June 26** to **July 30**,

- There were **63** cases reported, with a daily average of **2** cases. New case numbers reflect only reported cases and is not a definitive indicator of actual number of cases in Erie County.
- There were no deaths reported. The total death count in 2023 remains at **33**.

There were **68** vaccination and booster doses administered. There were also **150** bivalent booster doses administered. This increases the total number of persons vaccinated to **187,077** with the following breakdown:

	Number of persons	Of total population
Partially vaccinated	23,667	8.7%
Fully vaccinated	163,410	60.6%
Received first booster	84,202	31.2%
Received second booster	20,516	7.6%
Received bivalent booster	47,309	18.6%

Information on cases and deaths in Erie County and other data such as vaccination demographics can be found at <https://eriecountypa.gov/covid-19/positive-cases-in-erie-county/>.

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