

MEDIA RELEASE

ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 6, 2024

MEDIA CONTACT:

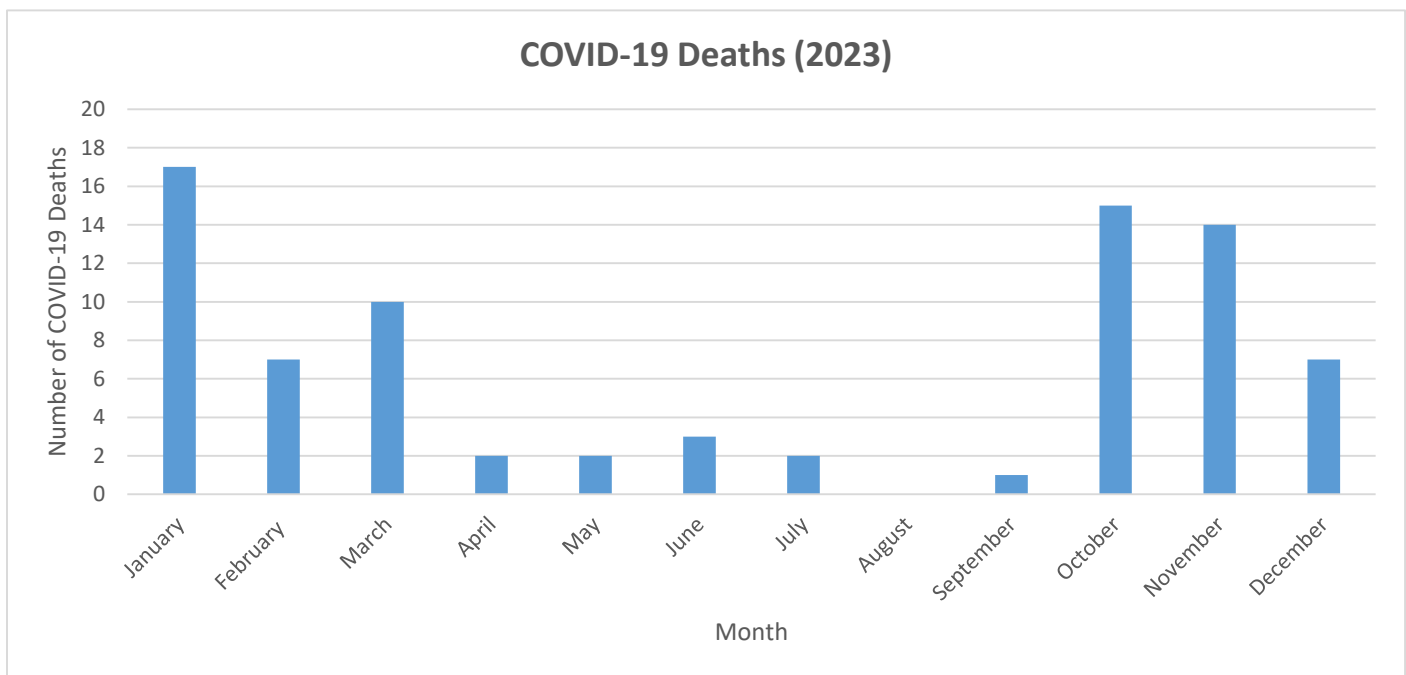
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COVID-19 public health 2023 summary

Erie, PA — Erie County Department of Health provides public health data and statistics for 2023 on COVID-19 in Erie County. The information was compiled and prepared by the department's Epidemiology Section.

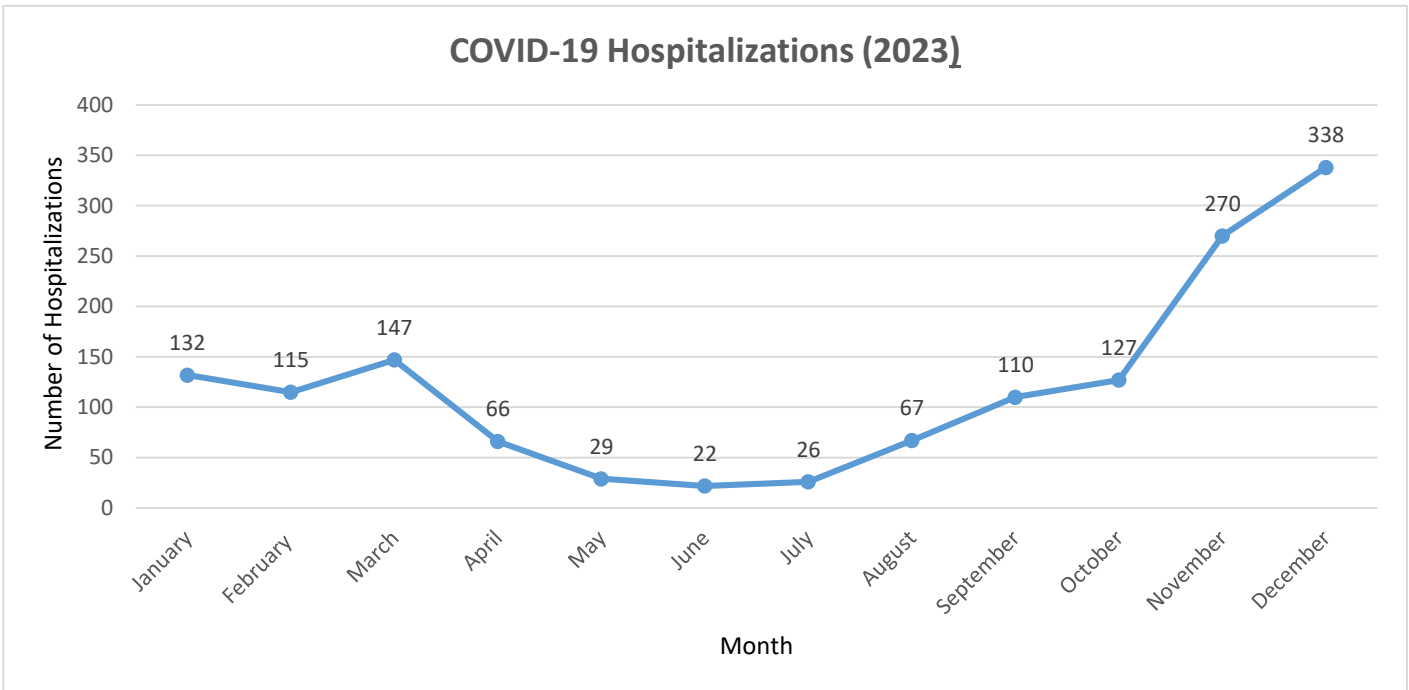
Cases and deaths

In 2023, there were **6,103** reported cases and **80** reported deaths due to COVID-19. Since results of self test kits are not reported, the number of reported cases is not a definitive indicator of actual number of cases in Erie County.



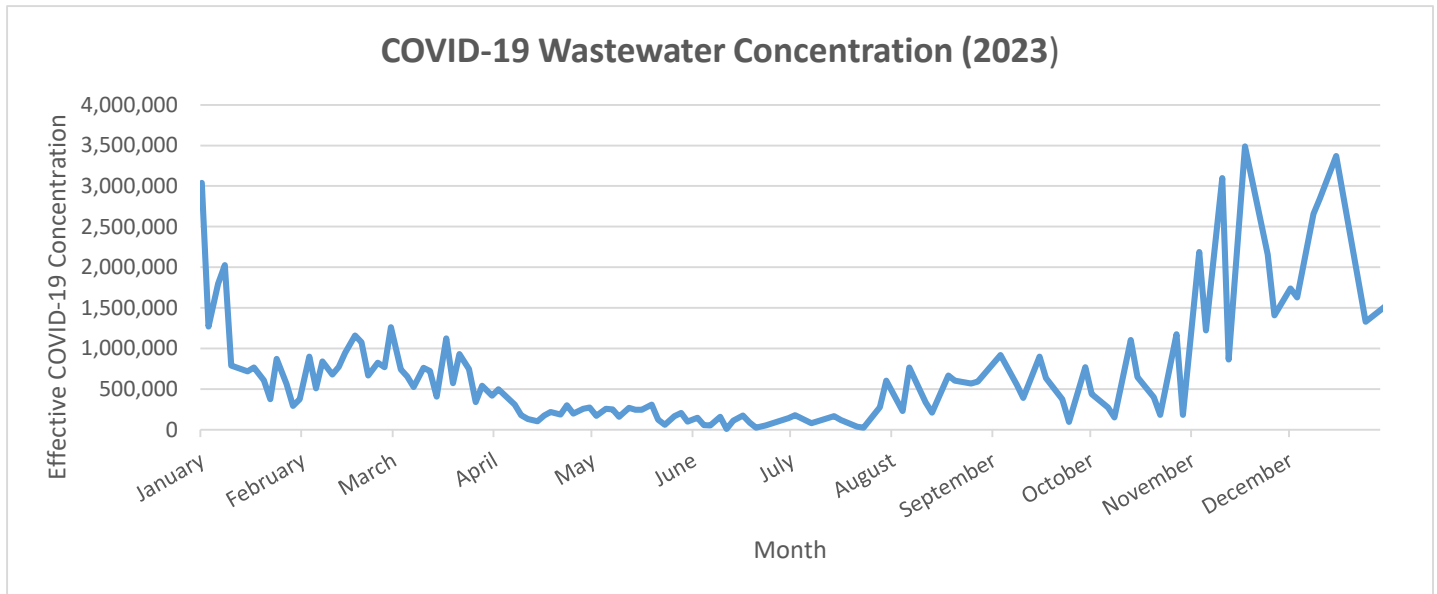
Hospitalizations

In 2023, there were **1,449** reported hospital discharges with a COVID-19 diagnosis.



Wastewater

Wastewater can be a valuable source of information for public health. Monitoring the amount of COVID-19 virus in wastewater can help indicate if cases in the community may also soon increase or decrease. It can also help identify what variants are prevalent.

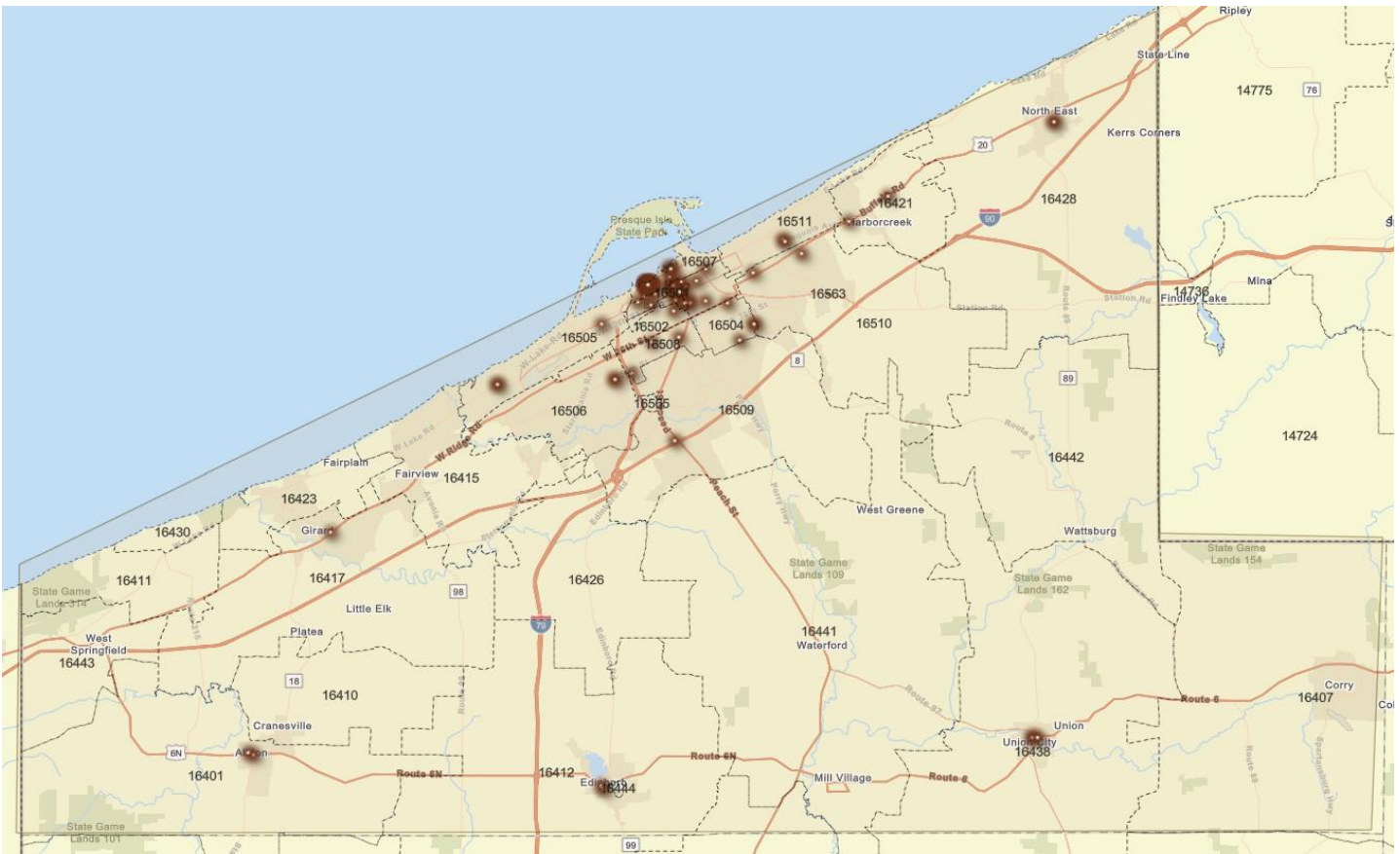


COVID-19 Test Kit Distribution

Community members, vaccinated or unvaccinated, are encouraged to get tested for COVID-19 if they have been exposed to anyone who has COVID-19 even if they do not develop symptoms or if they have symptoms such as sore throat, coughing, 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 and actions to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

In 2023, the Erie County Department of Health distributed over **8,000** COVID-19 test kits through community events, partners and on site pick-up.

For residents of Erie County who would like to voluntarily report positive results of COVID-19 self testing to the Erie County Department of Health, please use the online form at <https://eriecountypa.gov/covid-19/general-information/>.



The community is welcome to contact the Erie County Department of Health for guidance on COVID-19. For details on vaccines, how to use self test kits, isolation guidelines, preventing spread of COVID-19 in business establishments and events, and other information, contact ecdh@eriecountypa.gov or 814-451-6705.

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