

MEDIA RELEASE

ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Walter Ang | Communications Specialist
wang@eriecountypa.gov

Respiratory diseases public health update

Erie, PA — According to the Pennsylvania Department of Health, reported cases of respiratory diseases in Erie County from January to April 2024 have the following breakdown:

	Cases		Deaths	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Flu	1602	1365	0	<5
RSV (respiratory syncytial virus)	431	321	<5	<5
COVID-19	903	639		19

Age range breakdown for cases

	Flu	RSV	COVID-19
0-4	361	222	161
5-9	533	40	44
10-18	518	78	111
19-24	169	33	106
25-49	736	97	391
50-64	327	108	255
65+	323	174	474

Age range breakdown for deaths

	Flu	RSV	COVID-19
0-4	0	0	19
5-9	0	0	
10-18	0	0	
19-24	0	0	
25-49	0	0	
50-64	<5	0	
65+	<5	<5	

For a list of places that offer COVID-19 vaccine, text ZIP Code to 438829, visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) or call 1-800-232-0233. For other Erie County public health data, visit eriecountypa.gov/departments/health/data-statistics-and-maps/public-health-data/

Preventing the spread of disease

The flu, COVID-19 and RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) diseases are caused by viruses that can be spread through coughing, sneezing or even just talking. Symptoms can include fever, chills, fatigue, cough, runny nose and headache.

To help prevent the spread of diseases, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has these recommendations:

- if you have symptoms of any of these diseases, stay home and stay away from other people
- wash hands regularly
- cover mouth when coughing/sneezing; cough/sneeze into elbow instead of hands
- clean surfaces and doorknobs; do not share utensils
- take steps to have clean and fresh air in homes and work spaces
- if needed, use masks and practice physical distancing
- do testing before being around other people indoors to protect people who are weaker; the results of tests can help guide what you can do next

For the latest updates and recommendations on what you can do if you think you might have a respiratory disease, visit [cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/guidance/respiratory-virus-guidance.html](https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/guidance/respiratory-virus-guidance.html)

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