

Erie County Test to Stay for p-12 Schools

JANUARY 7, 2022— 2 PM

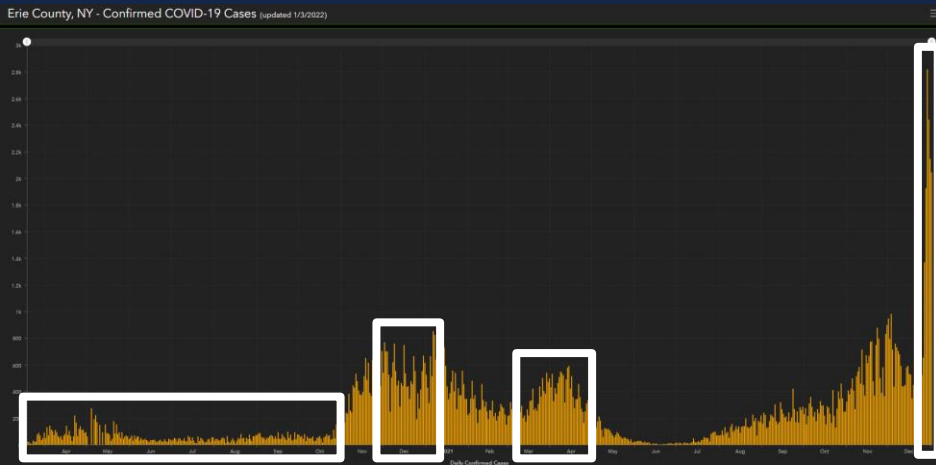
The information presented here is current as of today's date unless otherwise noted. All data are provisional. For the latest information, reference links within the presentation or visit www.erie.gov/covid19



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COVID-19 Cases

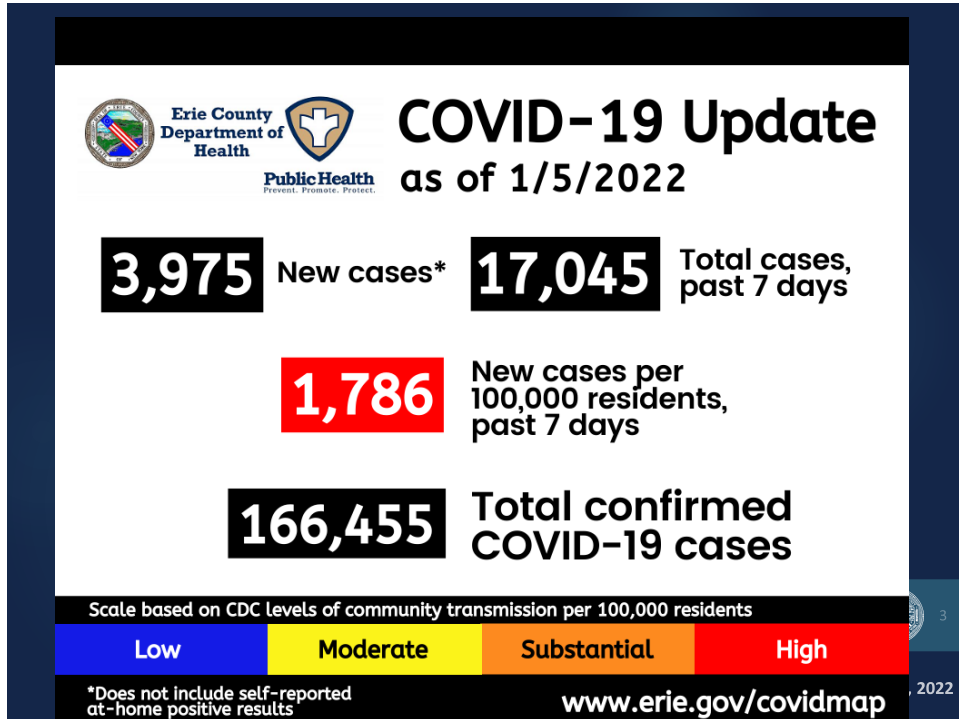


- ▶ Chart from www.erie.gov/covidmap
- ▶ Each white box = ~12,000 cases



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What is Test to Stay (TTS)?

- ▶ Available to p-12 schools with a Limited Service Lab license (LSL)
- ▶ Allows students with an in-school COVID-19 exposure to attend classes as long as they remain symptom-free
- ▶ Uses antigen (rapid) tests



Grand Island CSD TTS Pilot: Results

- ▶ Positivity rate was low
- ▶ Very few people were identified as unvaccinated close contacts who qualified for the program
- ▶ Consent rate of qualifying close contacts was very good
- ▶ Students received an average of 3 tests during the TTS period
- ▶ Grand Island CSD used an outside vendor for all testing and reporting



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School TTS Responsibilities

- ▶ Maintain LSL and medical director
- ▶ Develop a written TTS procedure
- ▶ Identify qualifying close contacts in a timely manner
- ▶ Obtain and store parental consent
- ▶ Perform daily testing
- ▶ Report results daily to ECLRS, NYS School COVID-19 Report Card, and ECDOH



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Identifying Close Contacts

- ▶ Must be done timely and accurately
- ▶ In the **classroom school setting**, less than 3 feet away from an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes over a 24-hour period
- ▶ In **non-classroom school settings** and/or any setting where masks are not consistently properly worn (e.g., lunch room, bus), someone less than 6 feet away from an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes over a 24-hour period



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Who Does Not Need to Quarantine

- ▶ Fully vaccinated and those infected with COVID-19 within the last 90 days do not quarantine
- ▶ Fully vaccinated defined as
 - ▶ Ages 5–17 years who have completed the primary series of COVID-19 vaccines
 - ▶ Ages 18 and older with all recommended vaccine doses, including boosters



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When Boosters Are Needed

- ▶ Moderna: 6 months* after primary series
- ▶ Pfizer: 5 months after primary series
- ▶ J&J: 2 months after single series



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ECDOH TTS Responsibilities

- ▶ Provide antigen tests
- ▶ Facilitate test training, if needed
- ▶ Provide personal protective equipment (PPE)
- ▶ Oversee TTS program compliance
- ▶ Provide structured reimbursement



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Ordering Test Kits for TTS, Masks and PPE

- ▶ ECDOH will send out an online order form this week (link will be emailed)
- ▶ Test kits and PPE supplies for testing will be provided to schools with an LSL
- ▶ ECDOH distributed masks to Erie 1 BOCES & Erie 2 BOCES for component districts, and Buffalo Public Schools
- ▶ Private and charter schools may use the online form to make requests for masks



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Recent Changes to Guidance: Isolation

- ▶ Isolation:
 - ▶ 5 days from symptom onset
 - ▶ If asymptomatic, 5 days from test date
 - ▶ If symptomatic, must be fever-free for 24 hours with symptoms improving
 - ▶ Immunocompromised, must isolate 10 days
 - ▶ Whether symptomatic or asymptomatic, must mask for 10 days
 - ▶ If unable to mask, must isolate for 10 days



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Recent Changes to Guidance: Quarantine

- ▶ Quarantine:
 - ▶ **Fully vaccinated** (including booster, if eligible) do not quarantine
 - ▶ Booster must be 2 weeks before first date of exposure
 - ▶ Should still wear mask for 10 days post-exposure
 - ▶ Test on day 5 is suggested
 - ▶ **Not fully vaccinated** must quarantine for 5 days from last date of close contact exposure to the positive case
 - ▶ Last date of exposure is Day 0
 - ▶ Must mask for the additional 5 days
 - ▶ Test on Day 5 is suggested



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If Symptoms Start During Quarantine

- ▶ Isolate and seek testing
- ▶ Quarantine would end when the test is negative
- ▶ If testing is not done, isolate according to guidance



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At-Home Testing

- ▶ Positive at-home test
 - ▶ Symptomatic – stay out of school, self-report, do **not** need follow-up with a confirmatory PCR
 - ▶ Asymptomatic – stay out of school, self-report, can follow-up with a PCR
 - ▶ If a lab-based PCR within 48 hours of the original positive is negative, the at-home test would be considered a false positive



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At-Home Testing Continued...

- ▶ NYSDOH guidance does not provide for at-home negatives following illness for return to school purposes
- ▶ Symptomatic students must get tested using non at-home tests in order to return to school



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Students Becoming Sick While at School (Including Those in TTS)

- ▶ Can be tested at-school using antigen tests
- ▶ If negative, they can return to class
 - ▶ Must be well enough to participate in school, not have runny nose or cough severe enough to make mask wear difficult or unhygienic, be fever-free for 24 hours without use of fever reducing medication, and meet other school or district requirements to return to school after a non-COVID illness



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Miscellaneous Points

- ▶ Surveillance testing will be crucial
- ▶ Avoid mask breaks
- ▶ Do symptom screening
- ▶ Parents with questions/complaints regarding school guidance should email schoolquestionscovid@health.ny.gov
- ▶ ECDOH School Team cannot communicate with parents



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Erie County Public Health Lab *Diagnostic COVID-19 Testing*

- ▶ If you are NOT feeling well please get tested to know your status, **EVEN IF YOU HAVE BEEN VACCINATED.**
- ▶ Free diagnostic testing through ECDOH:
 - ▶ PCR (molecular) test results – available in 1-3 **business** days – available for Erie County residents without COVID-19 symptoms
 - ▶ Point-of-care (rapid) test results – available for Erie County residents with COVID-19 symptoms
 - ▶ All positive ECDOH PCR specimens sequenced by UB
- ▶ Appointments required. Call (716) 858-2929



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NYSDOH – COVID-19 Test Sites

- ▶ Opening this week:
 - ▶ Northwest Buffalo Community Center
 - ▶ University at Buffalo
 - ▶ Buffalo State



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What to do with a positive COVID-19 test

- ▶ **Isolate (www.erie.gov/iq)**
 - ▶ Do not wait for a call from ECDOH
 - ▶ Notify close contacts of exposure
 - ▶ All close contacts should test 5-7 days after last exposure and monitor for symptoms
 - ▶ Unvaccinated contacts should quarantine for 5 days
 - ▶ Applies to everyone, regardless of vaccination status
 - ▶ Stay home and away from others in your household – especially if they are unvaccinated or have immunocompromising conditions
 - ▶ ECDOH follows NYSDOH isolation & quarantine guidance



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At-home COVID-19 Test Reporting

- ▶ Erie County residents can submit positive at-home COVID-19 test results at www.erie.gov/hometestreport
- ▶ Find Isolation instructions and affirmation form at www.erie.gov/iq
- ▶ 3,000+ at-home positive reports received since last Wednesday
 - ▶ These have not been included in case rate calculations or positivity rates



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At-home COVID-19 Testing

- ▶ An at-home positive test = positive. **Isolate.**
- ▶ An at-home negative test is a snapshot in time, and may not detect virus in people without symptoms or before they develop symptoms
 - ▶ Consider following up with a lab-based PCR test, especially if you have symptoms or are a close contact



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ECDOH Contacts

- ▶ COVID-19 Information Line:
(716) 858-2929 - General Info, Testing Appointments, Vaccine Appointments



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Questions and Answers



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