

# Opening Plans for September 1, 2021

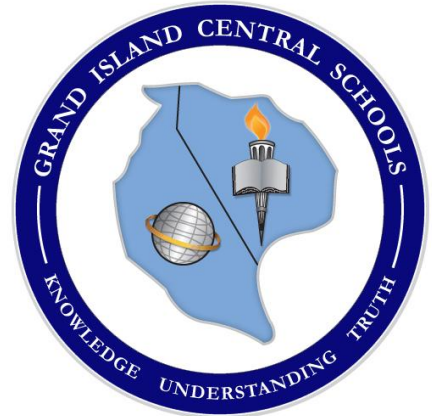
Longer Version



# Our Goals for the 2021-22 School Year

The overall goals for the 2021-2022 school year are to...

- keep students and staff healthy and safe;
- be responsive to student needs; and
- maximize in-person 5 days a week, teaching and learning for all students.



# What do we know about the Delta Variant of COVID-19

According to Yale Medicine, Delta, is a highly contagious SARS-CoV-2 virus strain, which was first identified in India in December. It swept rapidly through that country and Great Britain before reaching the U.S., where it is now the predominant variant.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) described Delta as more transmissible than the common cold and influenza, as well as the viruses that cause smallpox, MERS, SARS, and Ebola—and called it as contagious as chickenpox in an internal document.

The highest spread of cases and severe outcomes is happening in places with low vaccination rates, and virtually all hospitalizations and deaths have been among the unvaccinated, the CDC says. But the CDC released data in July that showed vaccinated people also can transmit Delta, which officials did not believe to be the case with other variants, and which led the agency to make a prompt revision to its masking guidelines.

<https://www.yalemedicine.org/news/5-things-to-know-delta-variant-covid>

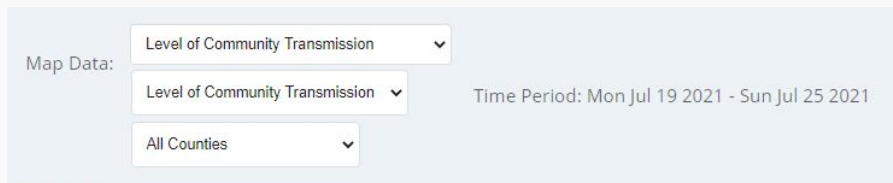
# What do we know about the Delta Variant of COVID-19

According to Yale Medicine, the most important thing you can do to protect yourself from Delta is to get fully vaccinated. At this point, that means if you get a two-dose vaccine like Pfizer or Moderna, for example, you must get both shots and then wait the recommended two-week period for those shots to take full effect.

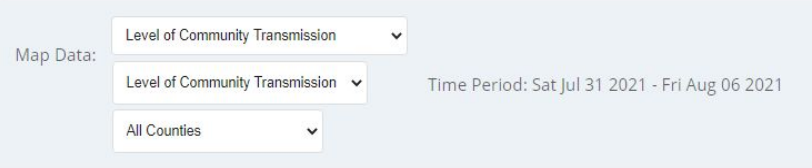
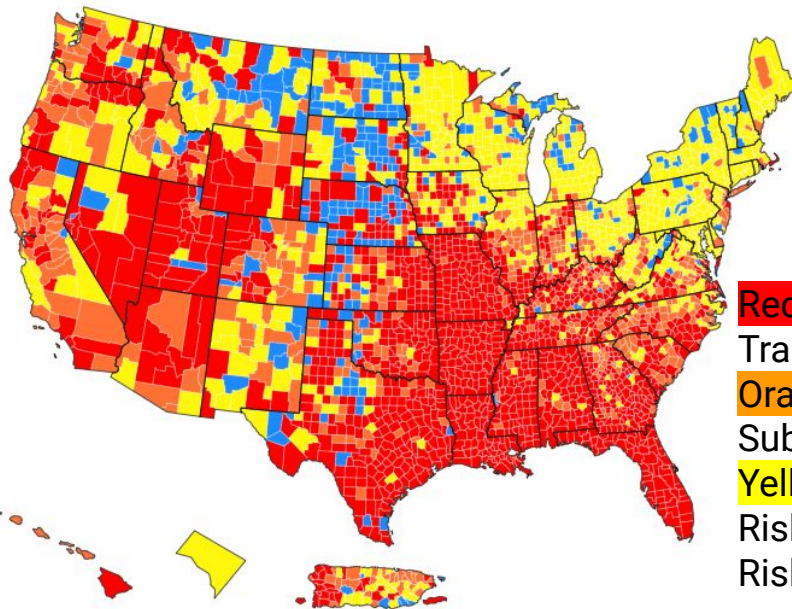
Whether or not you are vaccinated, it's also important to follow CDC prevention guidelines.

<https://www.yalemedicine.org/news/5-things-to-know-delta-variant-covid>

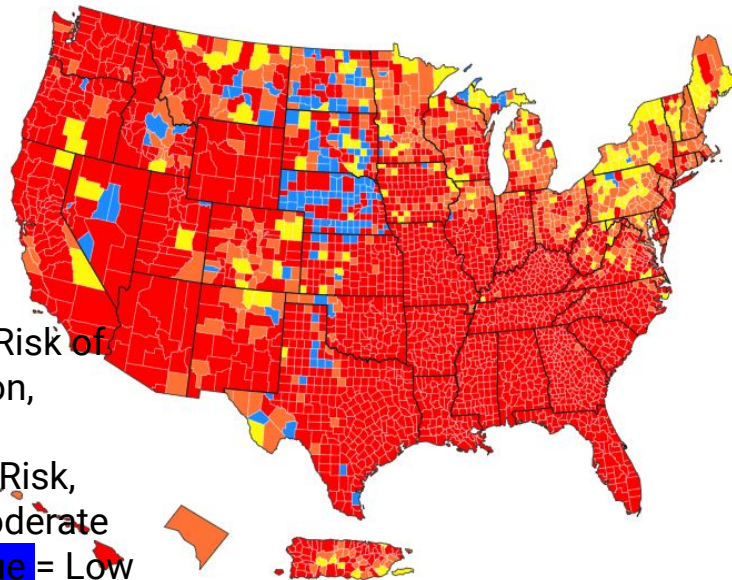
# Recent COVID-19 Data - USA



All Counties in the USA - July 19-July 25



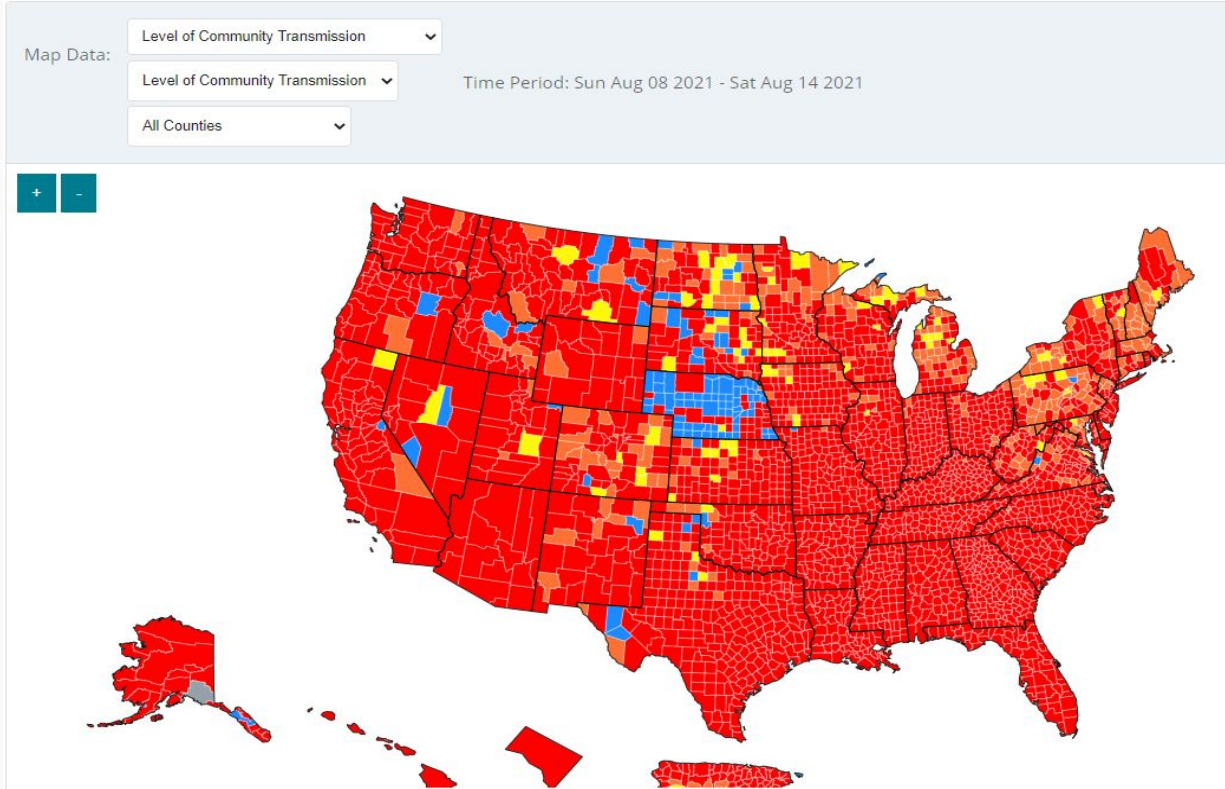
All Counties in the USA - July 31-Aug 6



**Red** = High Risk of  
Transmission,  
**Orange** =  
Substantial Risk,  
**Yellow** = Moderate  
Risk and **Blue** = Low  
Risk

# Recent COVID-19 Data - USA

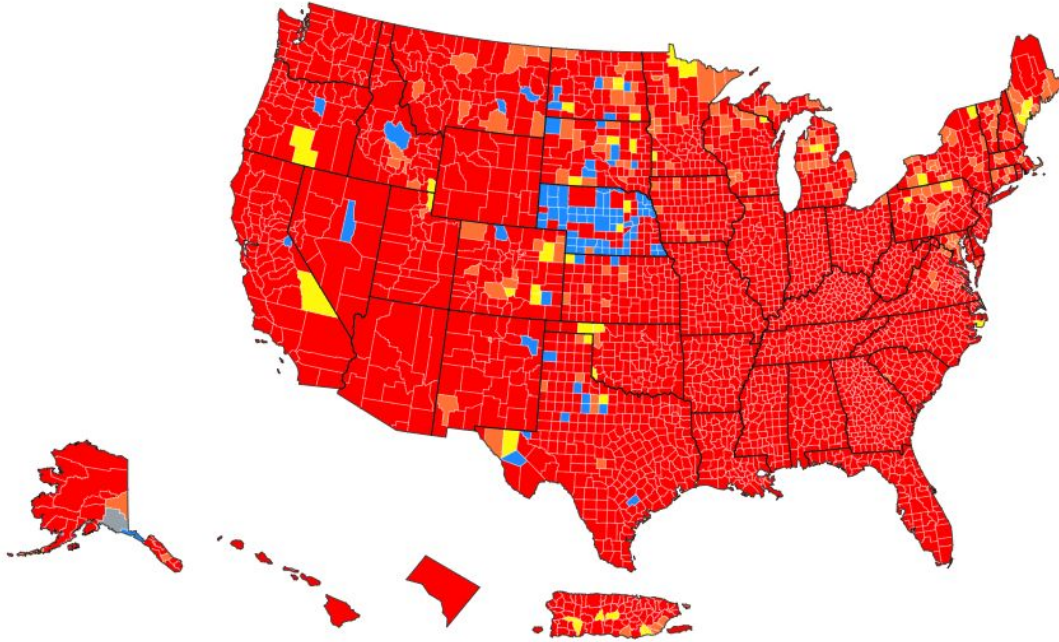
## All Counties in the USA - August 14



**Red** = High Risk of  
Transmission,  
**Orange** =  
Substantial Risk,  
**Yellow** = Moderate  
Risk and **Blue** = Low  
Risk

# Recent COVID-19 Data - USA

All Counties in the USA - August 21



**Red** = High Risk of  
Transmission,  
**Orange** =  
Substantial Risk,  
**Yellow** = Moderate  
Risk and **Blue** = Low  
Risk

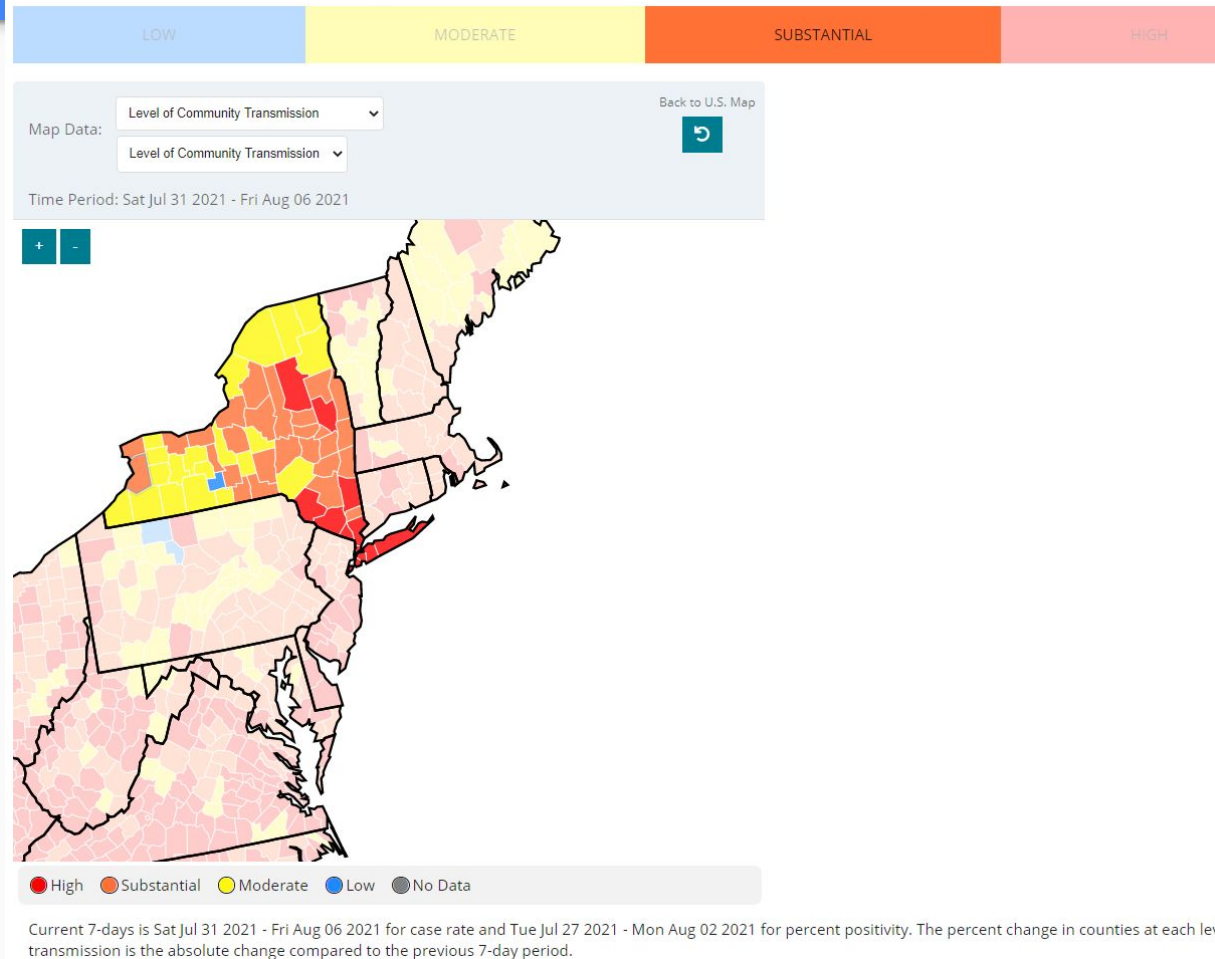


# August 6 COVID-19 Data - Erie County

Erie County is listed as a county in NYS that has substantial risk of transmission.

Substantial risk is defined by the CDC as at least 50 positive COVID-19 cases per 100,000 individuals in the last 7 days

Erie County has had 61 positive cases in the past 7 days.





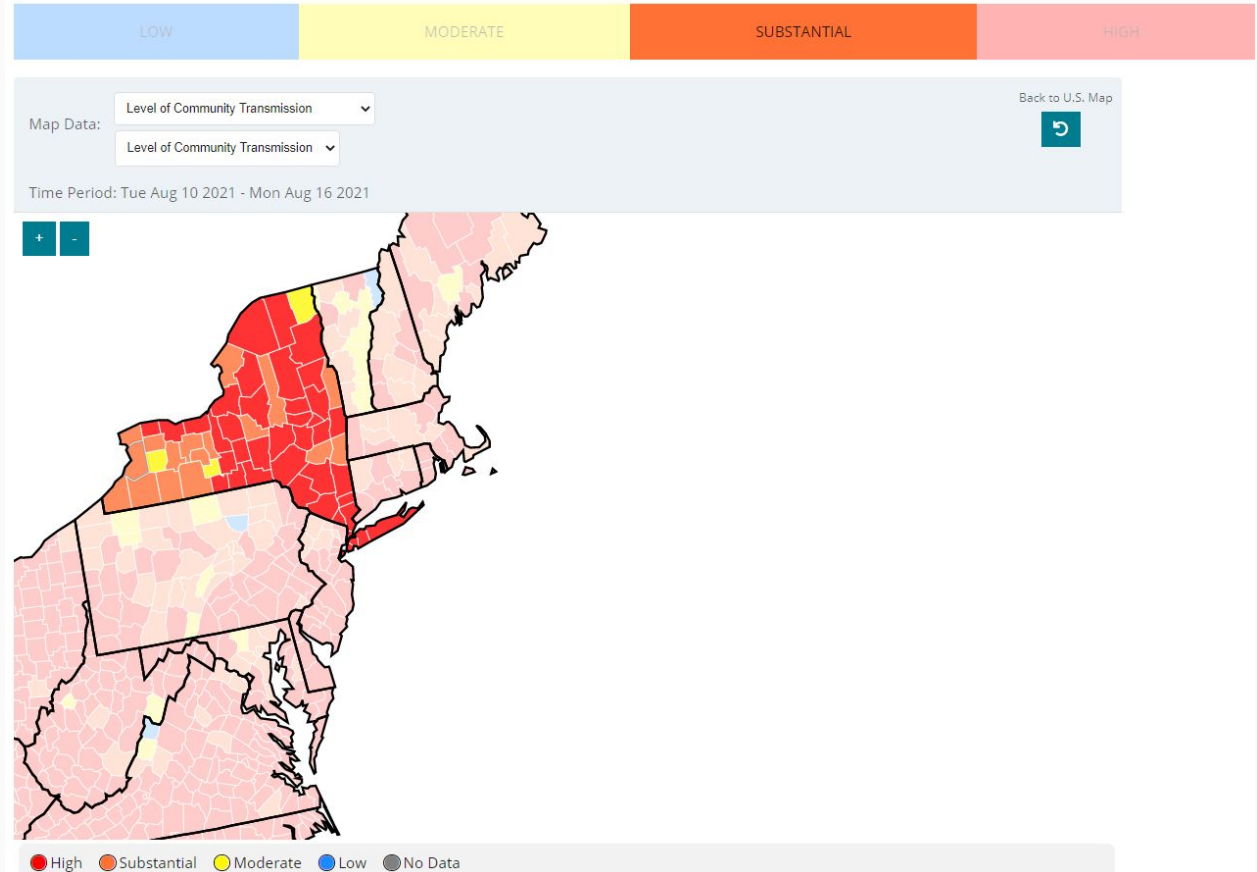
# August 16 COVID-19 Data - Erie County

August 16

Erie County is listed as a county in NYS that has substantial risk of transmission.

Substantial risk is defined by the CDC as at least 50 positive COVID-19 cases per 100,000 individuals in the last 7 days

**Erie County has had 86 positive cases in the past 7 days. 100 cases per 100,000 over 7 days will move Erie County into the High Transmission category (Red)**



# August 21 COVID-19 Data - Erie County

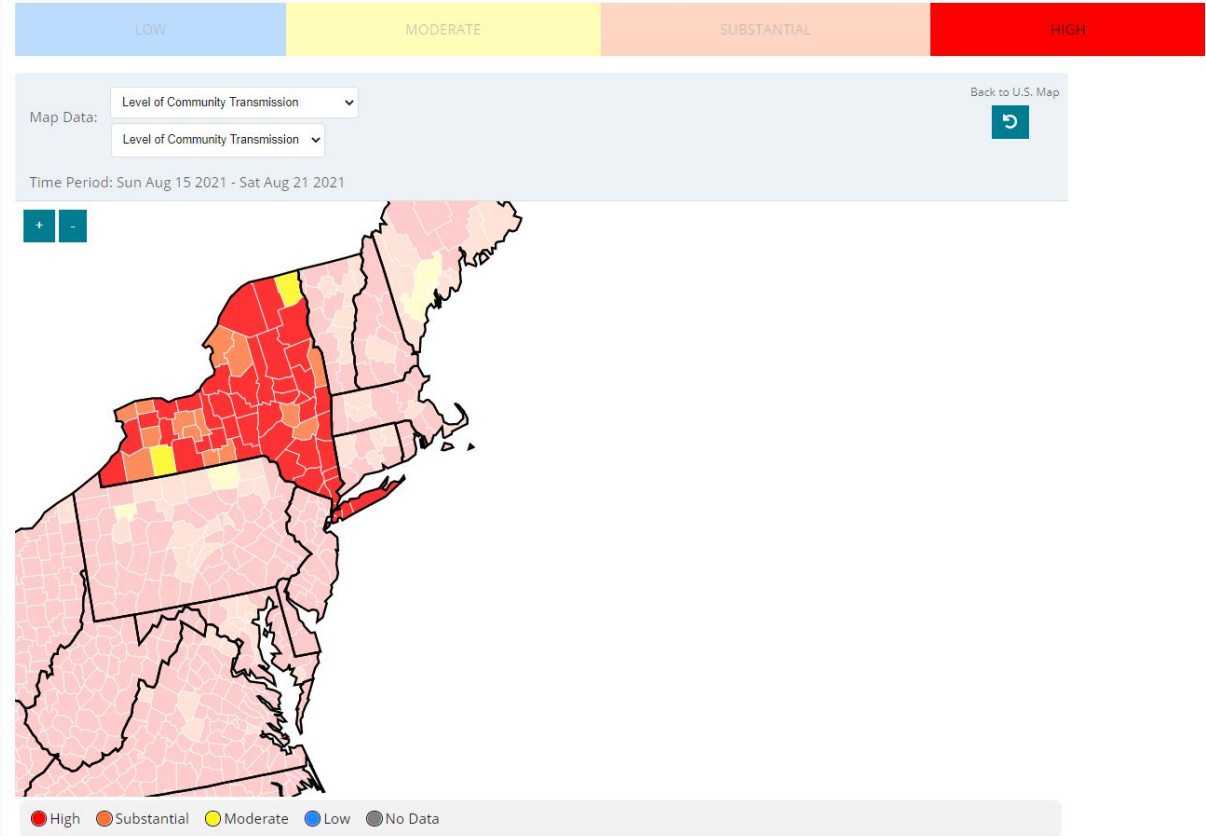
## August 21

Erie County is listed as a county in NYS that has substantial risk of transmission.

Substantial risk is defined by the CDC as at least 50 positive COVID-19 cases per 100,000 individuals in the last 7 days

**Erie County has had 102 positive cases in the past 7 days. Erie County is now considered in the High Transmission category (Red)**

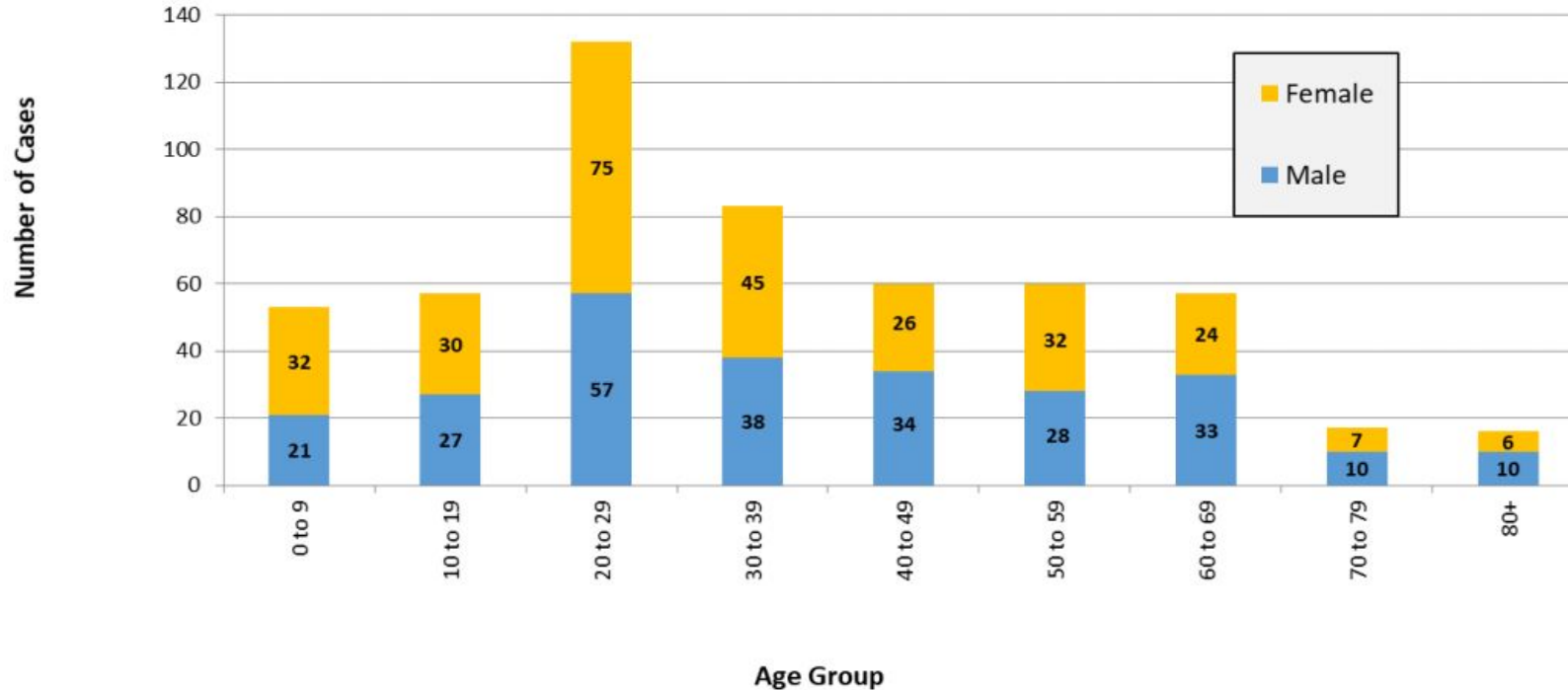
Level of Community Transmission in Erie County, New York



# Recent COVID-19 Data - 7/25 to 7/31

## Confirmed COVID-19 Cases by Age Group

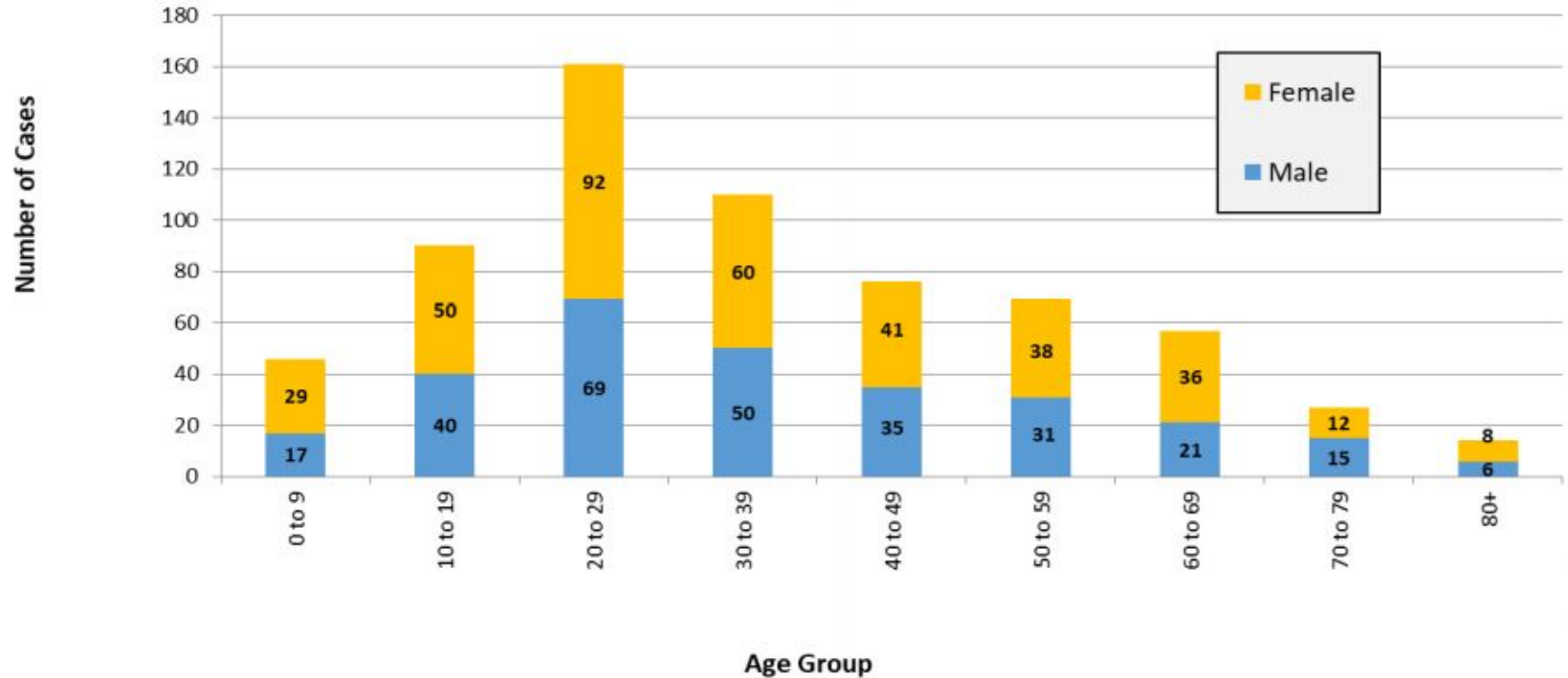
7/25/2021-7/31/2021



# Recent COVID-19 Data 8/1/21 - 8/7/21

## Confirmed COVID-19 Cases by Age Group

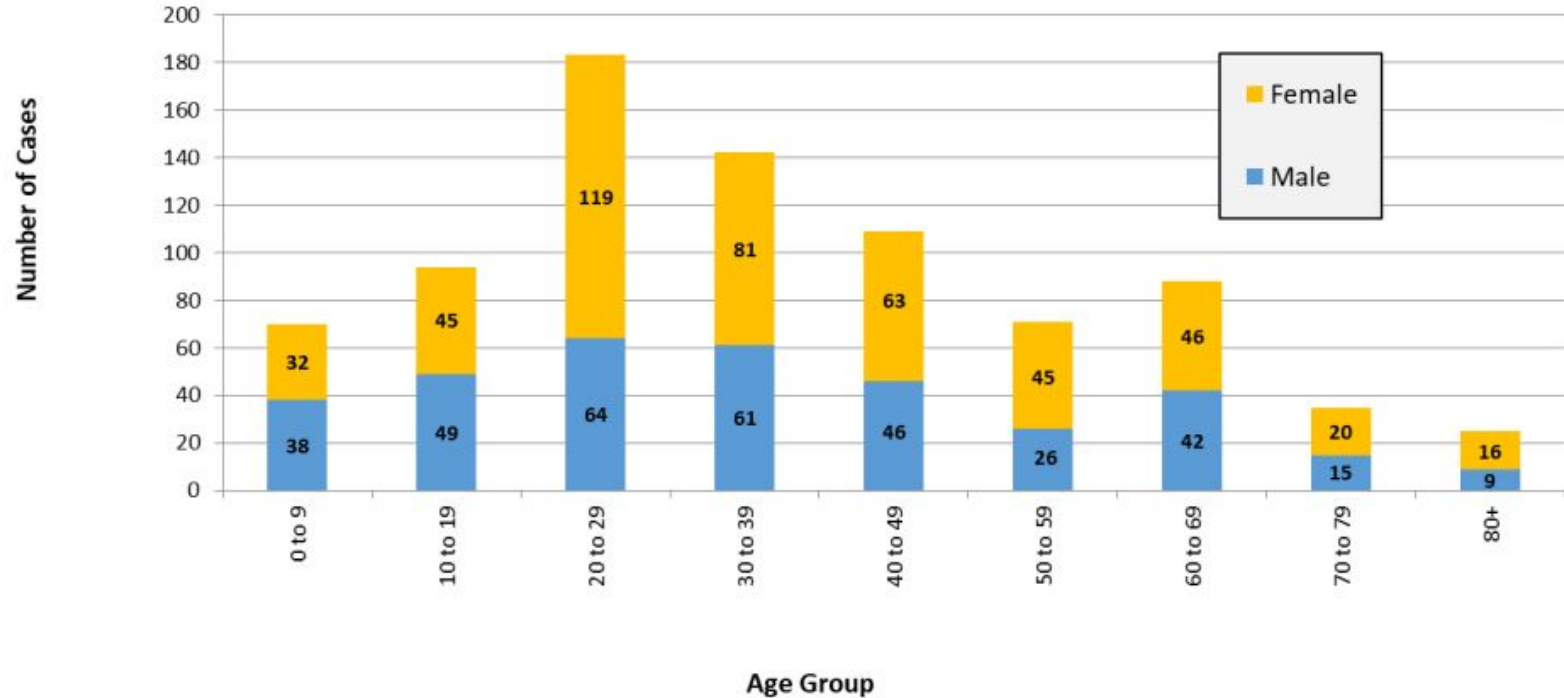
8/1/2021-8/7/2021



# Recent COVID-19 Data 8/7/21 - 8/14/21

Confirmed COVID-19 Cases by Age Group

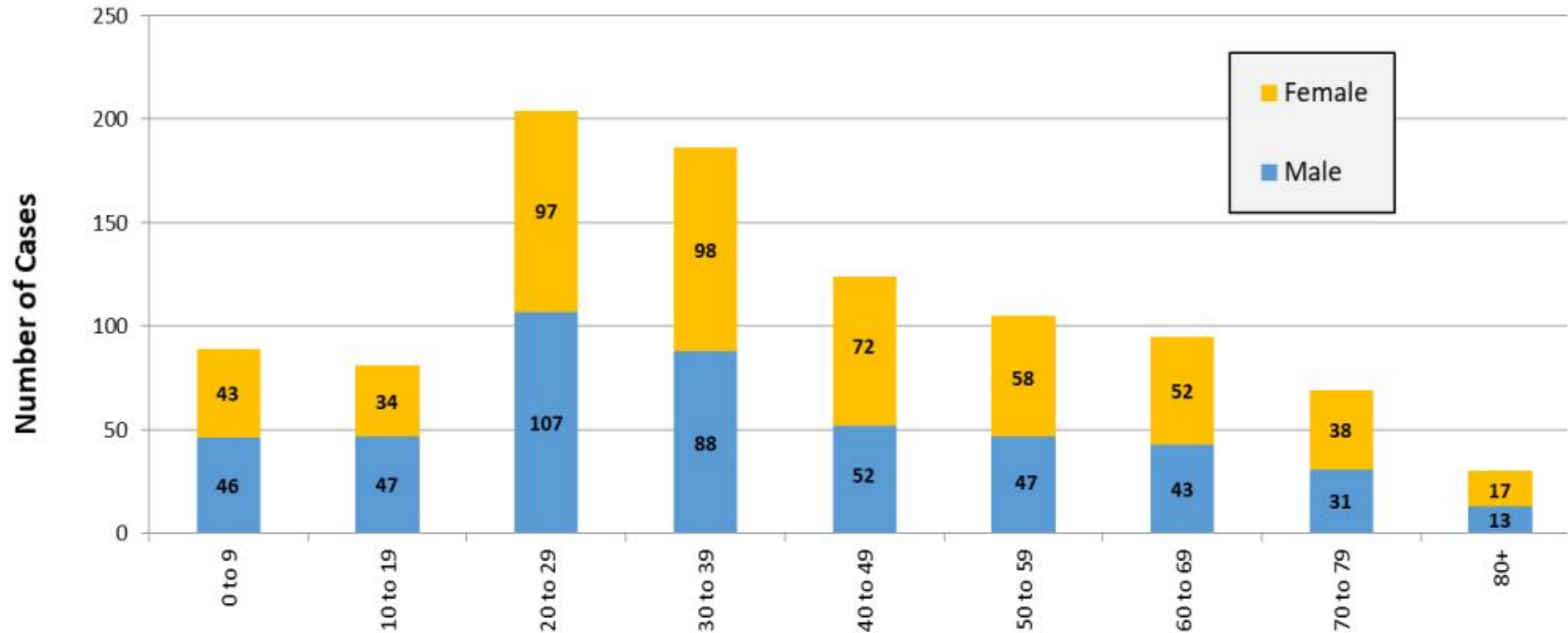
8/7/2021-8/14/2021



# Recent COVID-19 Data 8/15/21 - 8/21/21

## Confirmed COVID-19 Cases by Age Group

8/15/2021-8/21/2021



# Recent COVID-19 Data

## Erie County Data June 26-July 31

Week Ending	New Cases in the Past 7 Days	Total New Cases in the Past 7 Days per 100,000 Persons
6/26/2021	49	5.3
7/3/2021	75	8.2
7/10/2021	68	7.4
7/17/2021	173	18.8
7/24/2021	297	32.3
7/31/2021	535	58.2



# Recent COVID-19 Data

## Erie County Data July 3 to August 7

Week Ending	New Cases in the Past 7 Days	Total New Cases in the Past 7 Days per 100,000 Persons
7/3/2021	75	8.2
7/10/2021	68	7.4
7/17/2021	173	18.8
7/24/2021	297	32.3
7/31/2021	529	57.6
8/7/2021	650	70.7

This metric shows trends over time. 50-99 new cases in the past 7 days per 100,000 persons indicates substantial COVID-19 transmission per CDC.

# Recent COVID-19 Data

## Erie County Data July 3 to August 14

Age Group

Week Ending	New Cases in the Past 7 Days	Total New Cases in the Past 7 Days per 100,000 Persons
7/10/2021	68	7.4
7/17/2021	173	18.8
7/24/2021	297	32.3
7/31/2021	529	57.6
8/7/2021	650	70.7
8/14/2021	817	88.9

This metric shows trends over time. 50-99 new cases in the past 7 days per 100,000 persons indicates substantial COVID-19 transmission per CDC.

100 cases per 100,000 over 7 days will move Erie County into the High Transmission category (Red)

# Recent COVID-19 Data

## Erie County Data July 17 to August 21

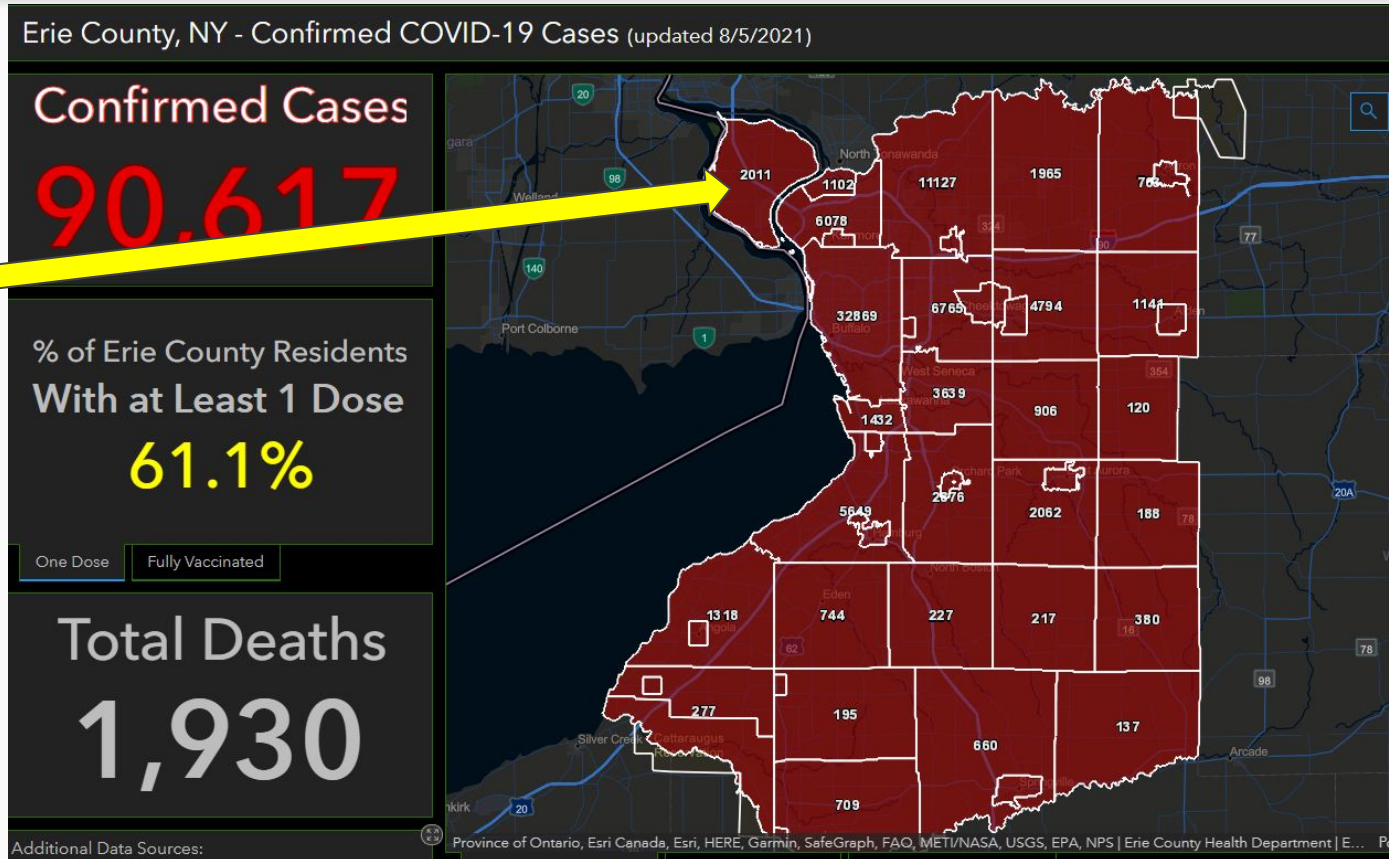
Week Ending	New Cases in the Past 7 Days	Total New Cases in the Past 7 Days per 100,000 Persons*
7/17/2021	174	18.2
7/24/2021	297	31.1
7/31/2021	529	55.4
8/7/2021	647	67.8
8/14/2021	811	85.0
8/21/2021	983	103.0

This metric shows trends over time. 100+ new cases in the past 7 days per 100,000 persons indicates "high" COVID-19 transmission per CDC.

**100 cases per 100,000 over 7 days will move Erie County into the High Transmission category (Red)**

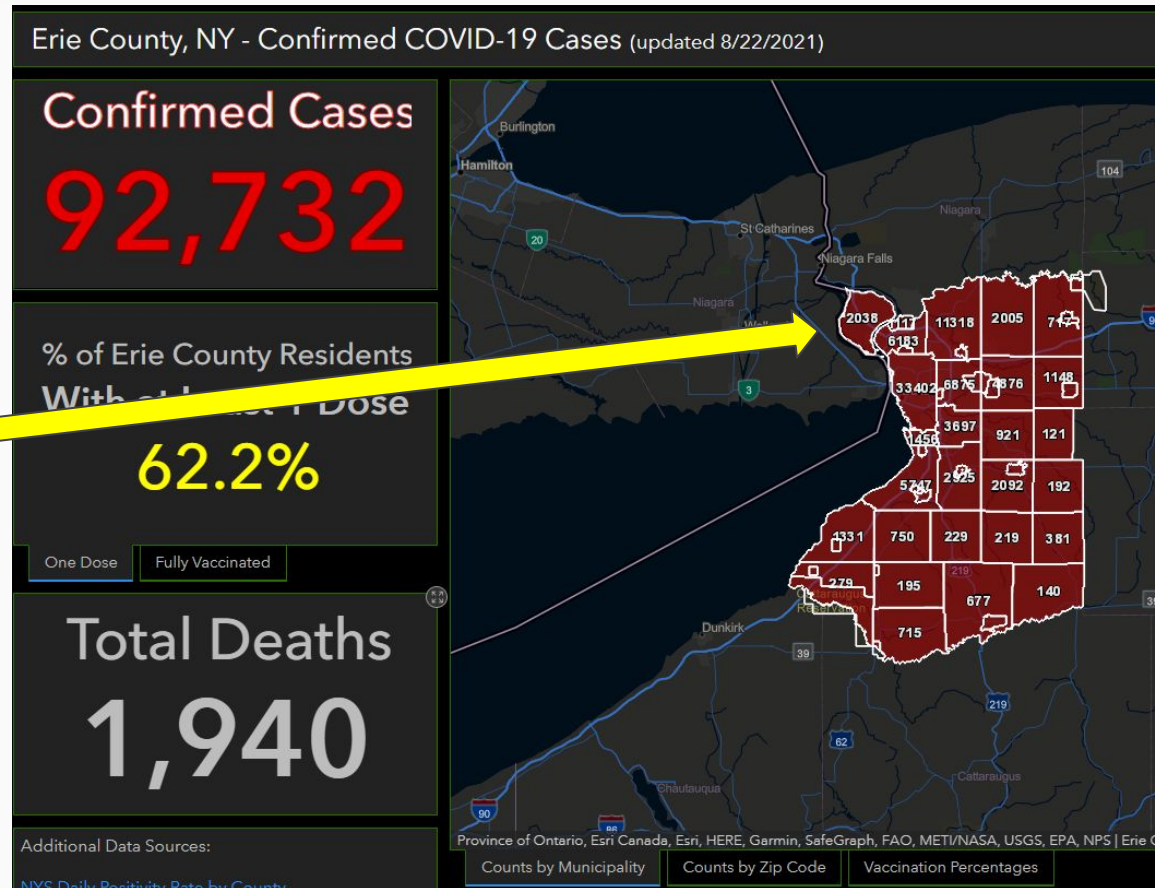
# August 8 - Recent COVID-19 Data

Since March of 2020, **there have been 2011** positive cases of COVID-19 attributed to Grand Island. (This is the most recent data available as of **August 8, 2021**)



# August 18 - Recent COVID-19 Data

Since March of 2020, there have been 2023 positive cases of COVID-19 attributed to Grand Island. (This is the most recent data available as of August 18, 2021)





# August 25 - Recent COVID-19 Data

Since March of 2020, there have been 2052 positive cases of COVID-19 attributed to Grand Island. (This is the most recent data available as of **August 25, 2021**)

Erie County, NY - Confirmed COVID-19 Cases (updated 8/25/2021)

Confirmed Cases

93,127

% of Erie County Residents With at Least 1 Dose

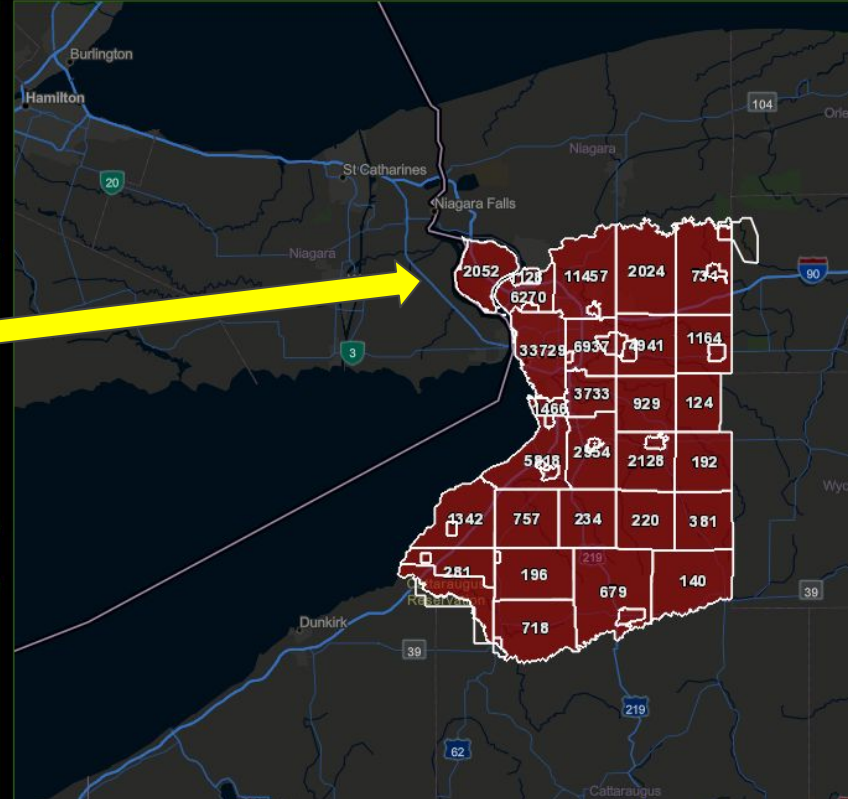
62.5%

One Dose

Fully Vaccinated

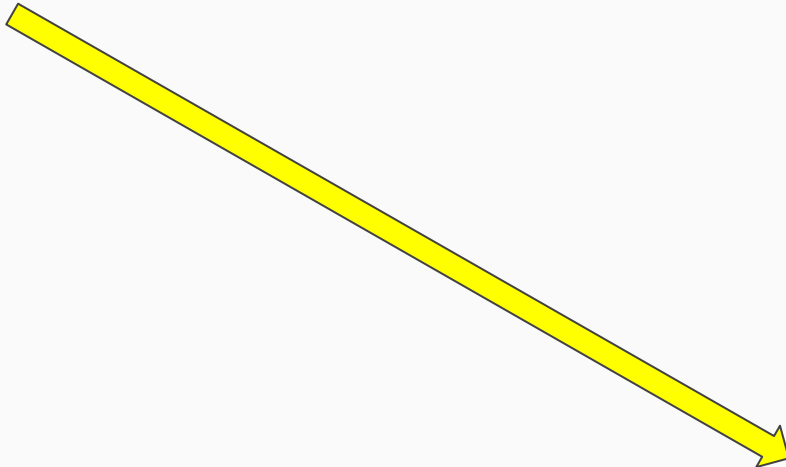
Total Deaths

1,948



# Aug 23 Recent COVID-19 Data

The week to week net change of positive COVID-19 persons on all of Grand Island increased by 14 individuals from August 23 to August 25

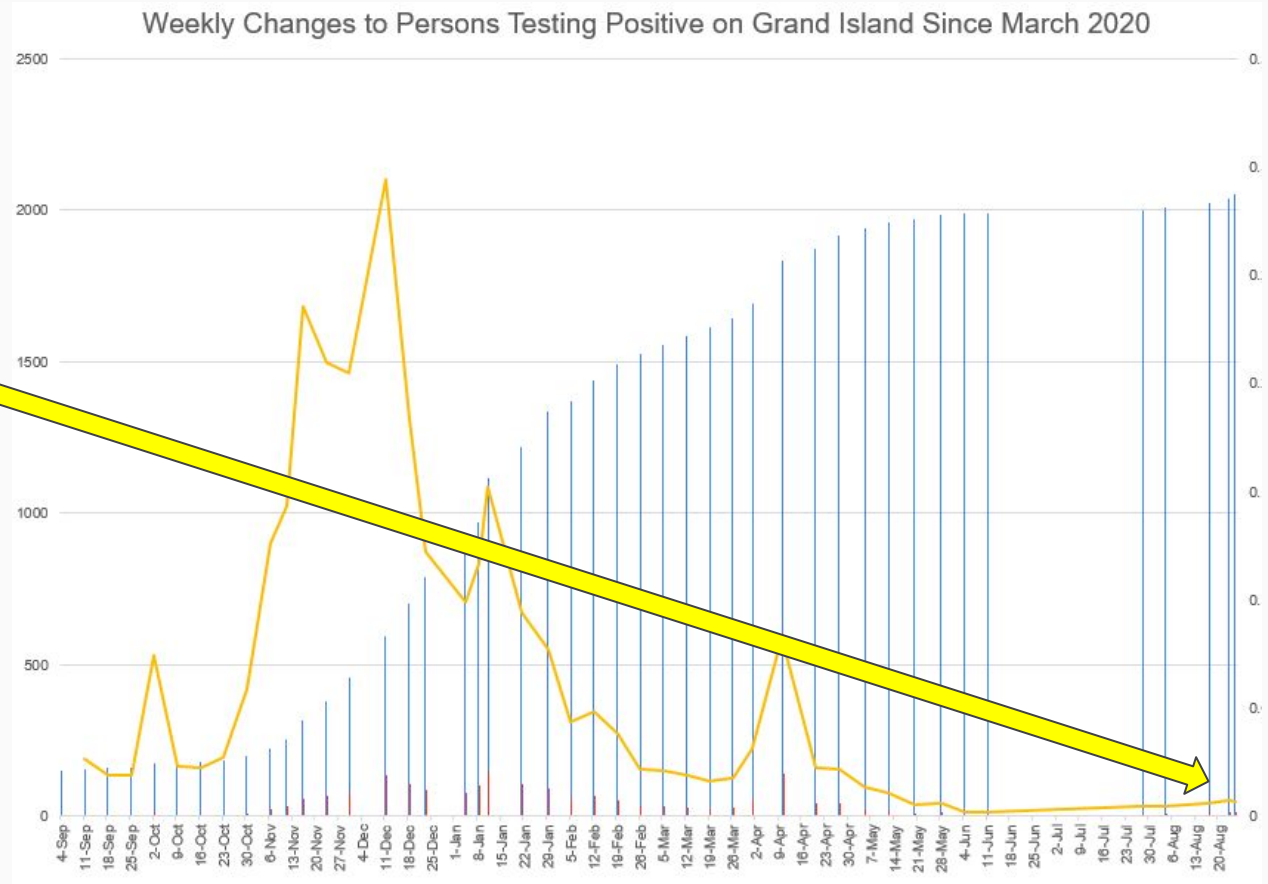


Date	Number of Positive Cases on all of Grand Island Since March	Week to Week Net Change	Week to week percent change
4-Sep	152	0	
11-Sep	158	4	2.63%
18-Sep	159	3	1.92%
25-Sep	162	3	1.89%
2-Oct	174	12	7.41%
9-Oct	178	4	2.30%
16-Oct	182	4	2.25%
23-Oct	187	5	2.75%
30-Oct	198	11	5.88%
6-Nov	223	25	12.63%
11-Nov	255	32	14.36%
16-Nov	315	60	23.53%
23-Nov	381	66	20.95%
30-Nov	459	78	20.47%
11-Dec	594	135	29.41%
18-Dec	703	109	18.35%
23-Dec	789	86	12.23%
4-Jan	867	78	9.89%
8-Jan	968	101	11.65%
11-Jan	1115	147	15.19%
21-Jan	1220	105	9.42%
29-Jan	1334	94	7.70%
5-Feb	1371	57	4.34%
12-Feb	1437	66	4.81%
19-Feb	1492	55	3.83%
26-Feb	1525	33	2.21%
5-Mar	1557	32	2.10%
12-Mar	1587	30	1.93%
19-Mar	1613	26	1.64%
26-Mar	1642	29	1.80%
1-Apr	1693	51	3.11%
10-Apr	1833	140	8.27%
20-Apr	1874	41	2.24%
27-Apr	1915	41	2.19%
5-May	1941	26	1.36%
12-May	1962	21	1.08%
20-May	1972	10	0.51%
28-May	1984	12	0.61%
4-Jun	1988	4	0.20%
11-Jun	1992	4	0.20%
28-Jul	2001	9	0.45%
4-Aug	2011	10	0.50%
17-Aug	2023	12	0.60%
23-Aug	2038	15	0.74%
25-Aug	2053	14	0.69%



# Recent COVID-19 Data

The week to week net change of positive COVID-19 persons on all of Grand Island increased by 14 individuals from Aug 17 to August 23



# Recent COVID-19 Data

As of **August 14, 2021** - the **rate of new cases was 86** per 100,000.

When the rate of total new cases is 100 or more per 100,000 over 7 days, the County will be designated as a county in the high risk of community transmission category.



Erie County  
Department of  
Health



Public Health  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

## COVID-19 Update as of 8/14/2021

**119**

New  
cases

**817**

Total cases,  
past 7 days

**86**

Total new cases per  
100,000, past 7 days

**91,746**

Total confirmed  
COVID-19 cases

[www.erie.gov/covid19](http://www.erie.gov/covid19)

# Recent COVID-19 Data

As of **August 15, 2021** - the **rate of new cases was 95** per 100,000.

When the rate of total new cases is 100 or more per 100,000 over 7 days, the County will be designated as a county in the high risk of community transmission category.



Erie County  
Department of  
Health



Public Health  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

## COVID-19 Update as of 8/15/2021

**140**

New  
cases

**906**

Total cases,  
past 7 days

**95**

Total new cases per  
100,000, past 7 days

**91,886**

Total confirmed  
COVID-19 cases

[www.erie.gov/covid19](http://www.erie.gov/covid19)

# Recent COVID-19 Data

As of **August 21, 2021** - the **rate of new cases was 103** per 100,000.

When the rate of total new cases is 100 or more per 100,000 over 7 days, the County will be designated as a county in the high risk of community transmission category.



Erie County  
Department of  
Health



PublicHealth  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

## COVID-19 Update as of 8/21/2021

**136**

New  
cases

**983**

Total cases,  
past 7 days

**103**

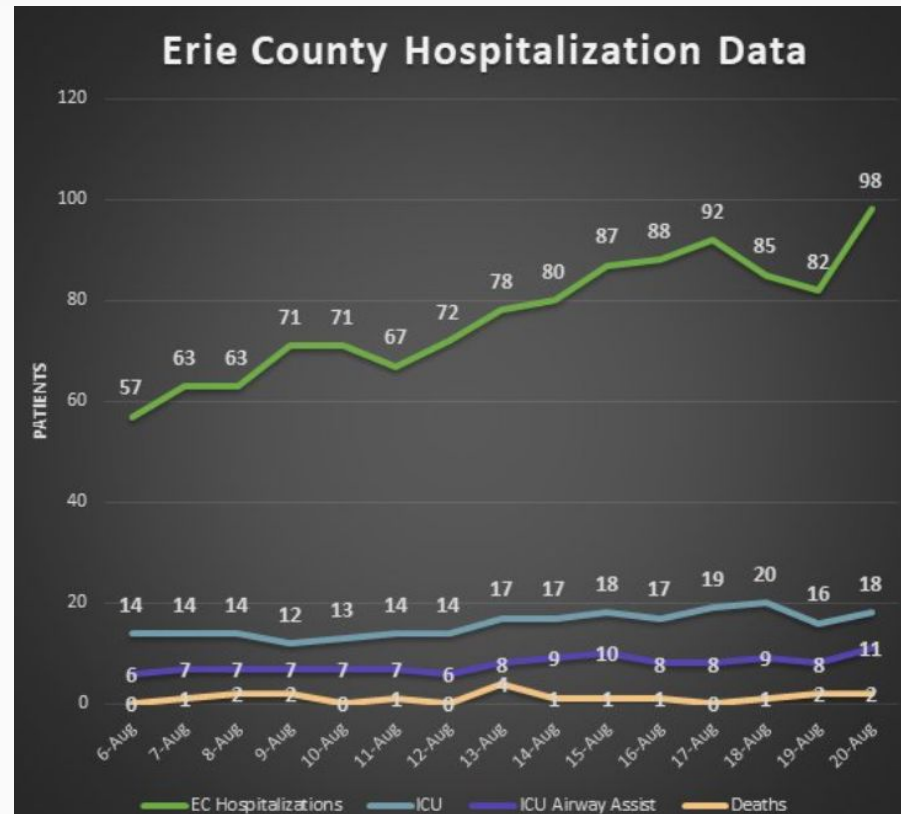
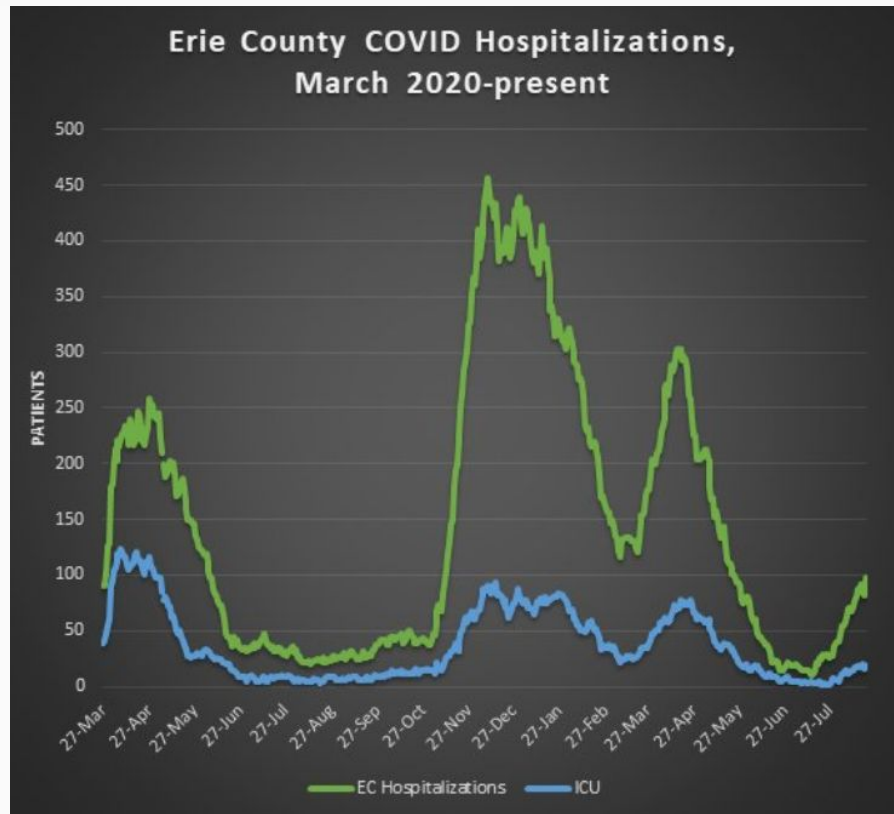
Total new cases per  
100,000, past 7 days

**92,732**

Total confirmed  
COVID-19 cases

[www.erie.gov/covid19](http://www.erie.gov/covid19)

# Recent COVID-19 Data - Hospitalizations

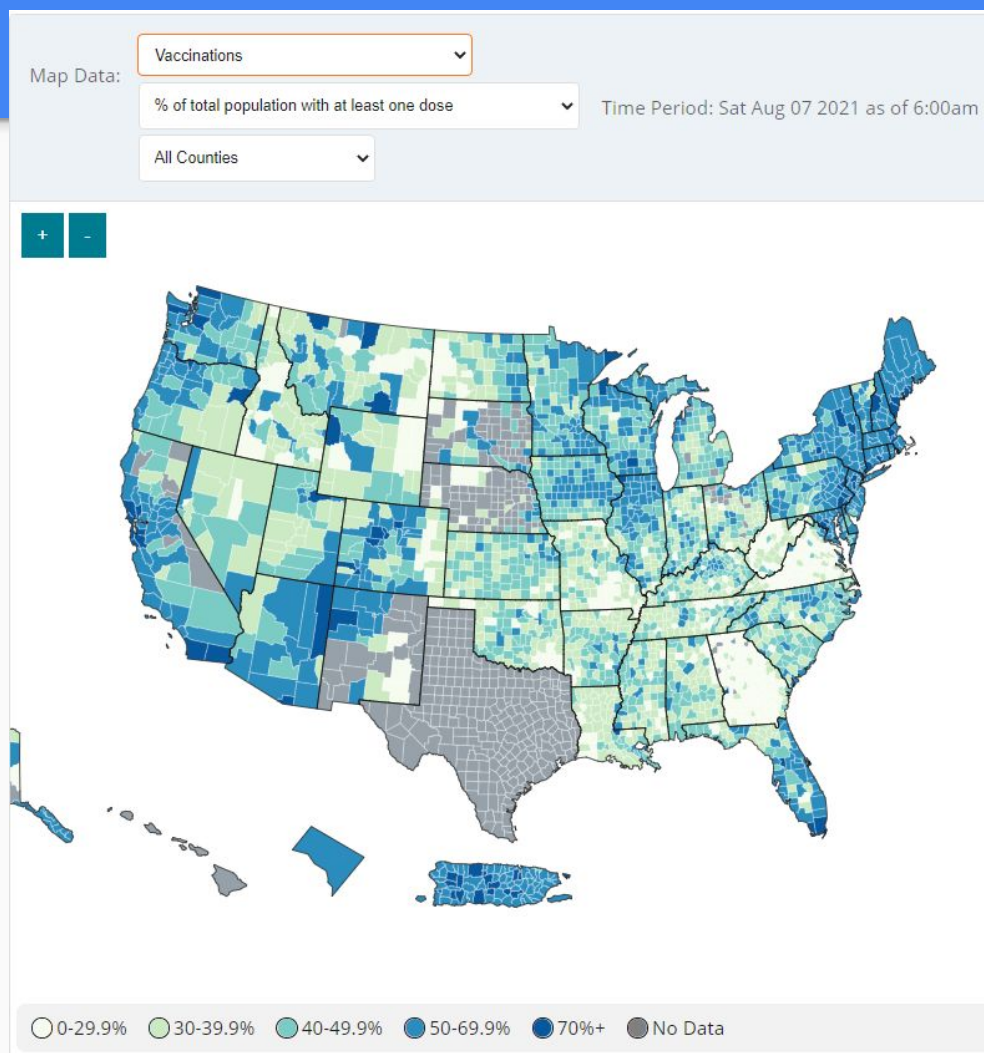


As of August 20



# Recent COVID-19 Data -

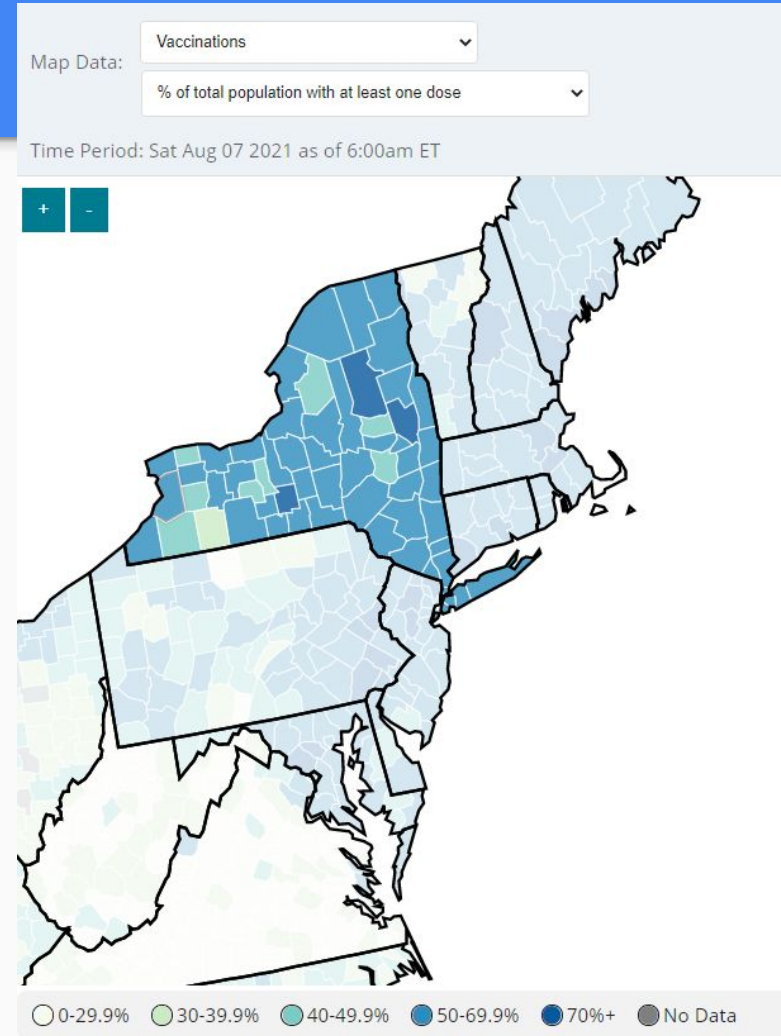
According to the CDC website, this graphic shows the percent of population with at least one dose of the vaccine for All Counties in the USA as of Aug 7



# Recent COVID-19 Data -

Percent of Erie County Population with at least one dose of the vaccine as of Aug 7

In all of Erie County there are 61 percent of residents with at least one dose of the vaccine.

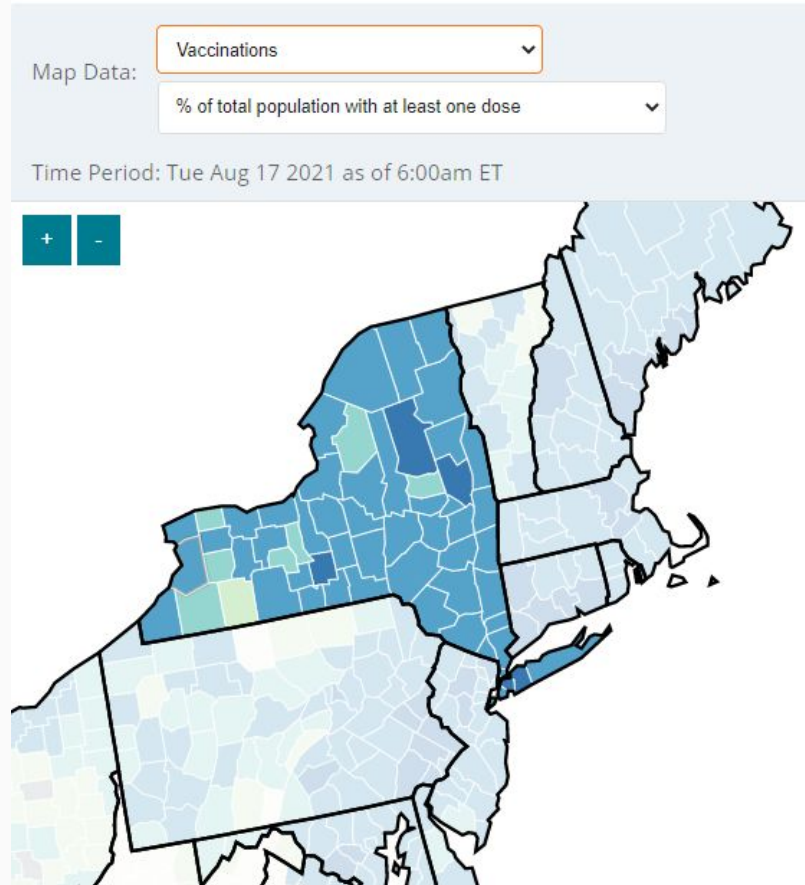




# Recent COVID-19 Data -

Percent of Erie County Population with at least one dose of the **vaccine as of Aug 17**

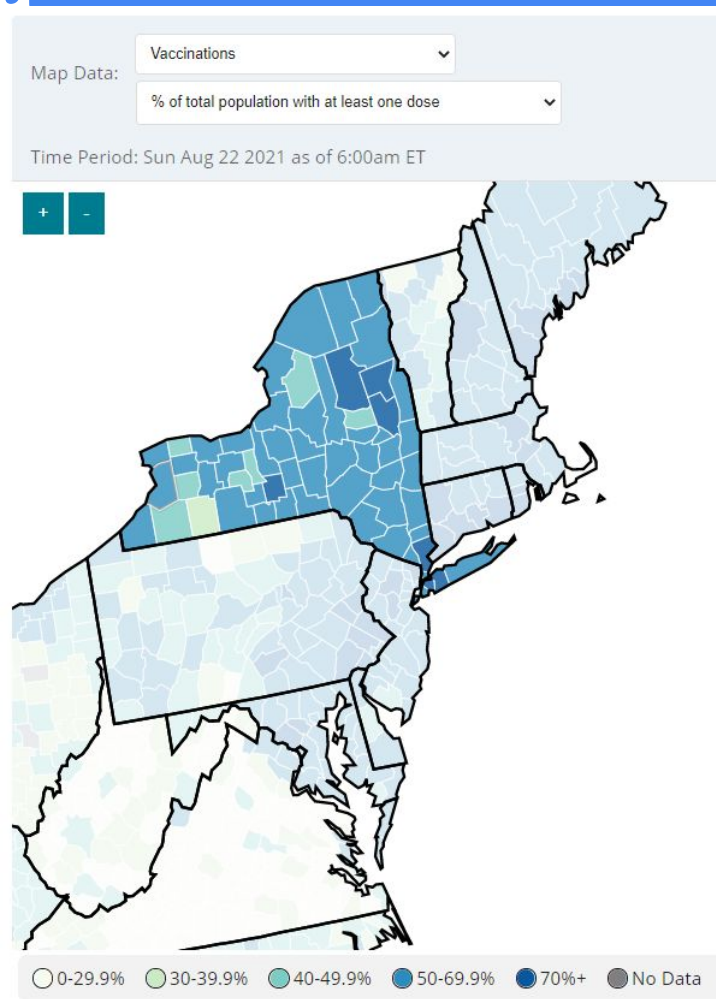
In all of Erie County there are 61.5 percent of residents with **at least one dose** of the vaccine.



# Recent COVID-19 Data -

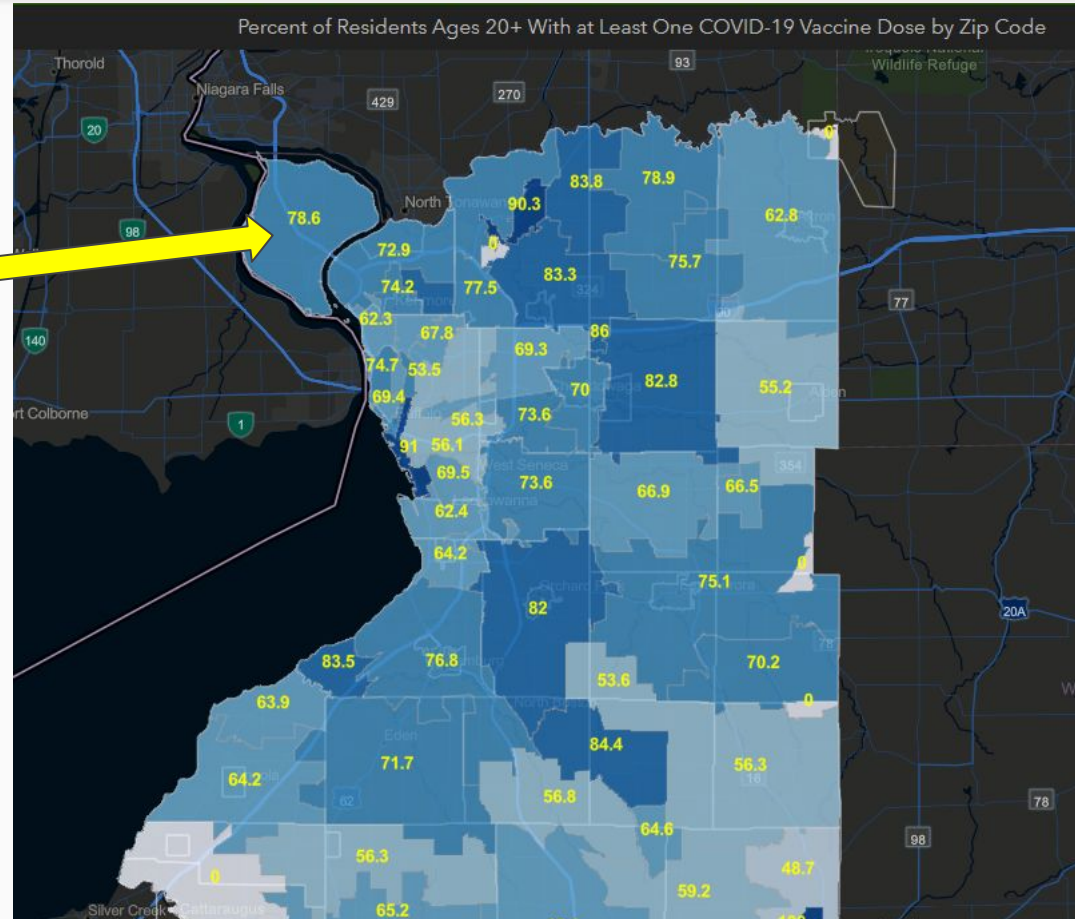
Percent of Erie County Population with at least one dose of the **vaccine as of Aug 22**

In all of Erie County there are 62 percent of residents with **at least one dose** of the vaccine.



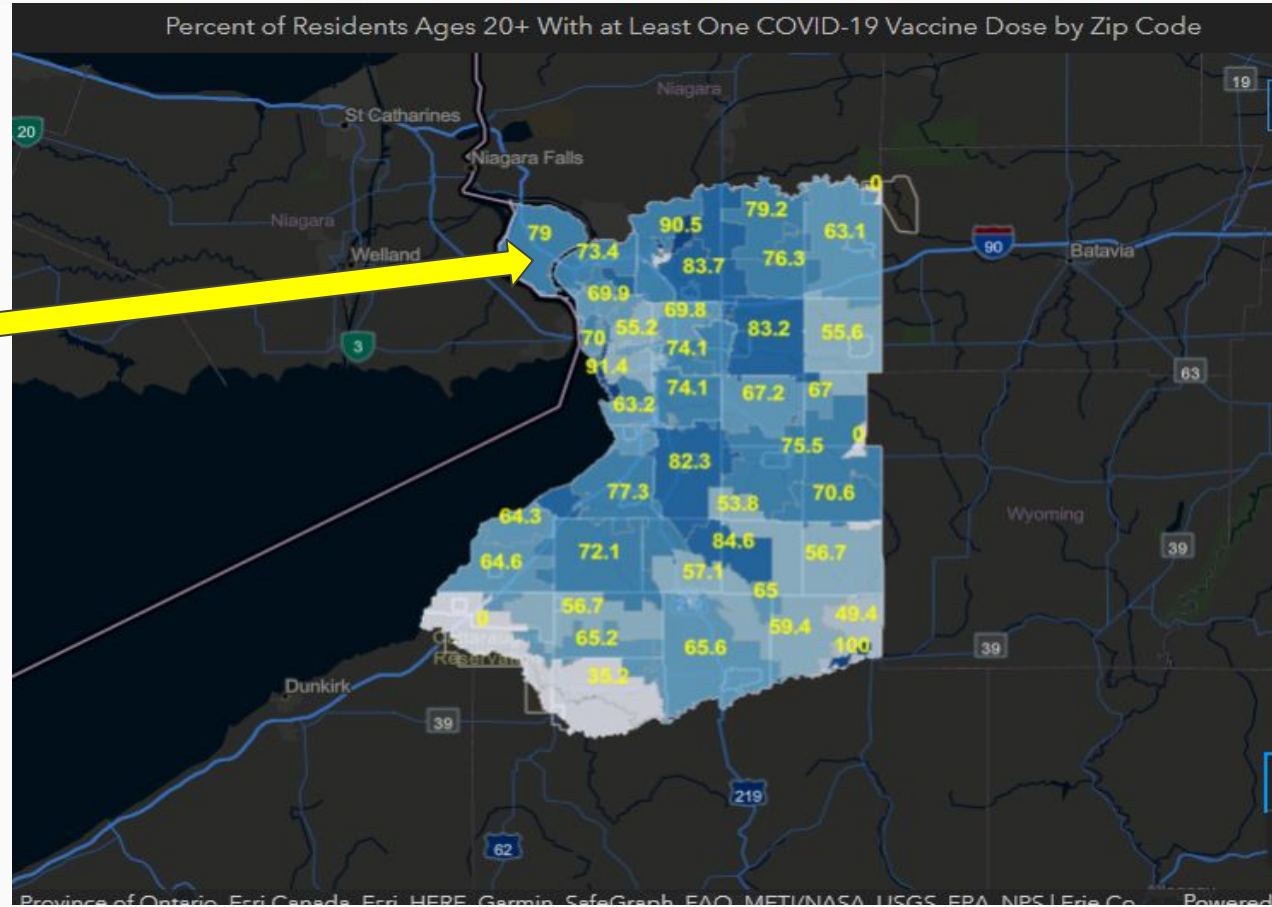
# August 9 - Recent COVID-19 Data

On Grand Island, there are 78.6 percent of residents ages 20+ with at least one dose of the COVID-19 Vaccine in Grand Island. (This is the most recent data available as of August 8, 2021)



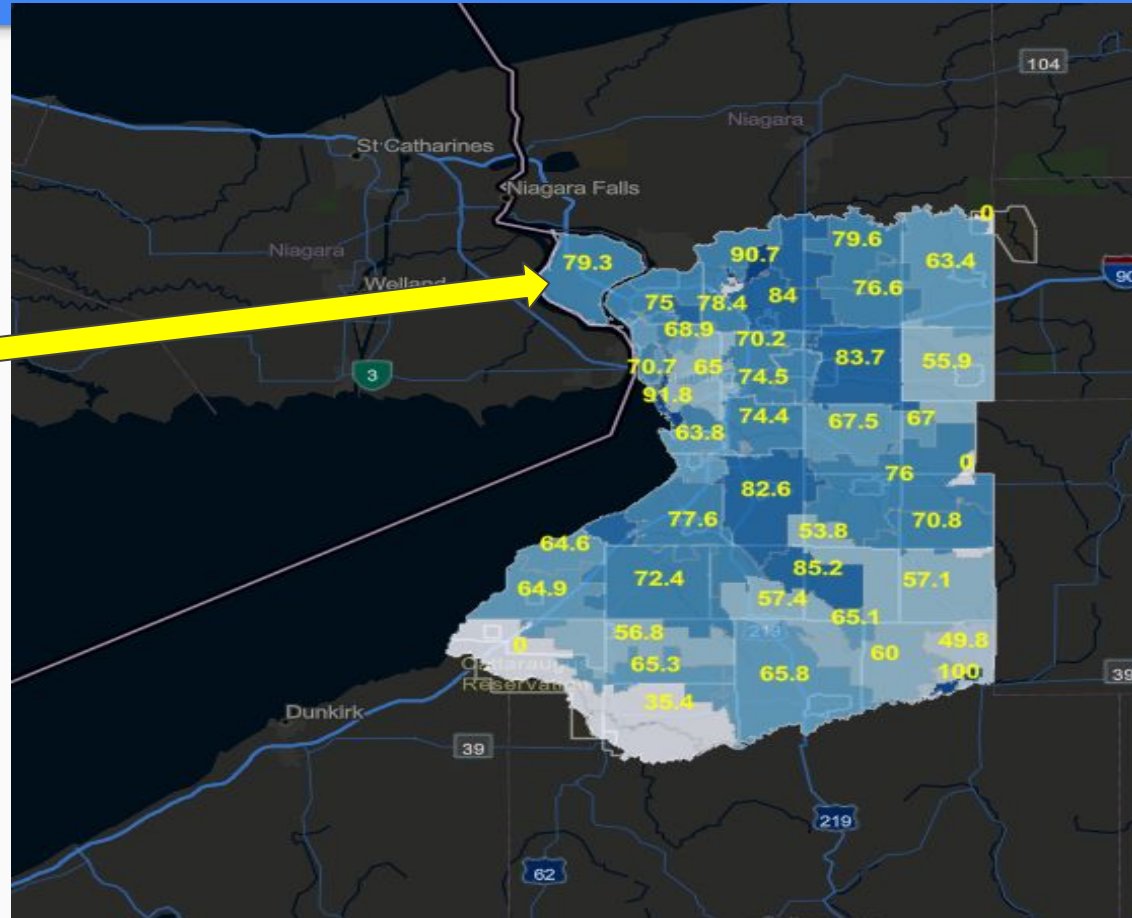
# August 18 - Recent COVID-19 Data

On Grand Island, there are 79 percent of residents ages 20+ with at least one dose of the COVID-19 Vaccine.  
Grand Island.  
(This is the most recent data available as of August 18, 2021)



# August 18 - Recent COVID-19 Data

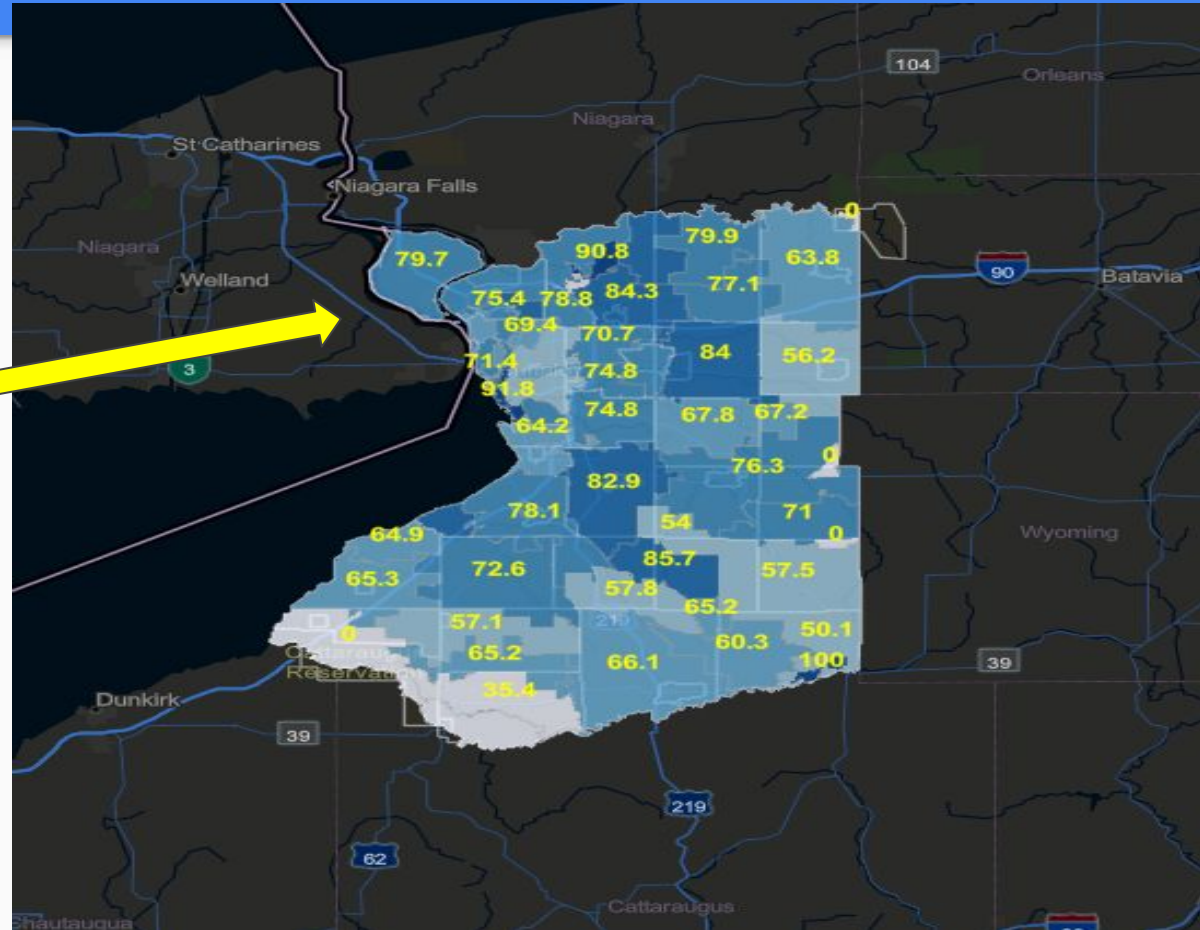
On Grand Island, there are 79.3 percent of residents ages 20+ with at least one dose of the COVID-19 Vaccine in Grand Island. (This is the most recent data available as of August 23, 2021)





# August 18 - Recent COVID-19 Data

On Grand Island, there are 79.7 percent of residents ages 20+ with at least one dose of the COVID-19 Vaccine in Grand Island. (This is the most recent data available as of August 25, 2021)



# Timeline

**On June 23**, Governor Cuomo announced that New York planned on ending the state disaster emergency, which was originally declared on March 7, 2020 to fight COVID-19.

**He indicated that given New York's dramatic progress against COVID-19, with the success in vaccination rates, and declining hospitalization and positivity statewide the state of emergency would expire after Thursday, June 24.**



# Timeline

**On July 7**, the New York State Department of Health issued a memo to all Superintendents in NYS indicating that given current low rates of COVID-19 transmission, **schools/district may decide to implement revised masking policies.**

**On July 7, we switched** our policy from mandating mask wearing to **encouraging but not requiring mask wearing indoors** during our summer school and summer teaching and learning interventions.

# Timeline

**On August 4**, we learned from the Governor's office that, as the COVID-19 state of emergency had been rescinded, neither their office nor the New York State Department of Health will be issuing guidance to govern the opening of schools next month.

This leaves **decisions regarding masks**, physical distancing, COVID testing, employee vaccination requirements, etc., **to local discretion**, exercised by **school district and county health officials**.

# Timeline

**On August 9** - The ECDOH met with a focus group of Erie County Superintendents to discuss risk mitigation and non-pharmaceutical interventions that can be utilized in schools.

They indicated that guidance would be released soon.

**Update** - The requirements and recommendations were distributed to Superintendents on **August 23**.

# Timeline

**On August 10** - The **New York State Education Department** sent a memo to all Superintendents across New York State Education Department (NYSED) indicating that we should use the CDC's Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools and the American Academy of Pediatrics' COVID-19 Guidance for Safe Schools as resources in developing our plans to open school in September.

# Timeline

**On August 12** - The New York State Education Department released their own Health and Safety Guide for superintendents across NYS.

This guide described a range of strategies that schools and districts should consider to be best situated to manage the risks for students and staff from COVID-19 while supporting robust and engaging learning experiences for students.

It provides recommendations based on the best health and safety information currently available and is a living document that will be updated as public health conditions change.

# Timeline

**On August 12** - The NYSED Health and Safety guide reinforced the need to promote and encourage individuals to become vaccinated and to wear masks.

The NYSED guide for Health and Safety indicates that although breakthrough infections in vaccinated people happen much less often than infections in unvaccinated people, individuals infected with the Delta variant, including fully vaccinated people with symptomatic breakthrough infections, can transmit it to others.

**Thus, the CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status and community transmission levels.**



# Timeline

**On August 23** - The ECDOH released their Health and Safety requirements and recommendations for schools to follow. It mirrors in many ways, the guidance from the CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Promoting Vaccination

- **Schools should promote vaccinations** among teachers, staff, families and eligible students by promoting locations for community members to get vaccinated, partnering with local agencies, hosting informational sessions, providing flexible legal excused absences to families for going to get vaccinated, etc

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Mask Use - Indoors

- Due to the circulating and highly contagious Delta variant, the ECDOH **requires** indoor masking for all individuals aged 2 years and older, including students, teachers, staff, bus drivers, bus aides, vendors, and visitors, regardless of vaccination status. Appropriate masks must be worn at all times in all classroom and non-classroom settings, including but not limited to hallways, school offices, restrooms, gyms, locker rooms, auditoriums, etc. Students may remove their mask during meals as long as they sit 3 feet apart, to the extent possible, and a seating chart is kept.

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Mask Use - **Outdoors**

- ECDOH strongly recommends but **does not require** masks outdoors. However, protocols and procedures should be maintained for students, faculty, and staff to ensure maximized physical distancing to protect against the transmission of the COVID-19 virus on school grounds, especially when masks are not being worn outside.

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Mask Use - Transportation

- ECDOH **requires** bus drivers, bus aides, staff, and students to wear a mask at all times while on school buses, including on buses operated by public and private school systems and private vendors, regardless of vaccination status.
- Siblings should sit next to each other on school buses.

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Mask Use - Mask Breaks

- Mask breaks **may be taken by students once every hour** for approximately 5 minutes. Students should be seated and stationary at their desks during mask breaks. If students are seated closer than 6 feet, stagger breaks so that students closer than 6 feet are not taking breaks at the same time.



# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Mask Use - Exceptions

- Persons who cannot safely wear a mask because of a disability or medical condition should work with the school for a reasonable accommodation. Our district will require written documentation of a medical or physical condition from a physician or licensed medical provider before providing an exception.

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

**Mask Use** - Exceptions can be made for the following categories of people:

- A person who cannot wear a mask, or cannot safely wear a mask, because of a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.).

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## **Mask Use**

The Grand Island Central School District believes that these precautions for mask wearing are reasonably designed to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our schools, while allowing students to attend school 5 days per week and actively participate in the District's programs and instruction. The public health experts at the ECDOH, CDC, etc. have thoroughly studied this matter, and the District has no reason to question or contradict their recommendations.

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Physical Distancing

- Because of the importance of in-person learning, schools should implement physical distancing **to the extent possible** within their facilities but should not exclude students from in-person learning to meet a minimum distance requirement.

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Physical Distancing - Students

- ECDOH strongly **recommends** schools to maintain **at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms** combined with mask wearing, to reduce transmission risk, regardless of vaccination status.

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Physical Distancing - Student Close Contacts

- When determining close contact status following an exposure, **unvaccinated students within 3 feet from the positive COVID-19 case for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period during a time the case was infectious will be quarantined regardless if masks were worn.** As per Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, **fully vaccinated individuals who are identified as close contacts are not subject to quarantine. (Must be asymptomatic.)**



# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Physical Distancing - Staff Close Contacts

- ECDOH strongly **recommends** schools to maintain at least 6 feet of physical distance between teachers/staff and students combined with mask wearing, to reduce transmission risk, regardless of vaccination status. ECDOH recognizes that distance may be harder to maintain in lower grade levels wherein personal instruction is often necessary.

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Physical Distancing - Staff Close Contacts

- When determining close contact status following an exposure, **unvaccinated teachers/staff** within **6 feet** from the positive COVID-19 case for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period during a time the case was infectious **will be quarantined regardless if masks were worn.**
- As per CDC guidelines, **fully vaccinated individuals who are identified as close contacts are not subject to quarantine.** (Must be asymptomatic.)

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Physical Distancing - Band, Chorus, and Orchestra

- **Practice and Lessons**: ECDOH **requires** that individuals participating in activities which involve projecting the voice (e.g., singing) or playing a wind instrument **must be 6 feet apart** during practice and lessons and **must wear a mask when not singing** or playing.

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Physical Distancing - Band, Chorus, and Orchestra

- **Performances:** ECDOH requires, to the extent practicable, that individuals participating in activities that involve projecting the voice (e.g., singing) or playing a wind instrument **must be 6 feet apart during all performances** and must wear a mask **when not** singing or playing. (ECDOH - Update - Singers can be 3 feet apart when masked)
- ECDOH further requires, without exception, at least 6 feet of distance between the performers and the audience during all performances

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Physical Distancing - Busing and Transportation

- ECDOH strongly **recommends**:
  - maintaining a daily seating and attendance chart for the identification of close contacts,
  - keeping students from the same household in the same seats,
  - students from different household should not share seats, and
  - loading buses back to front.

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## School Entry Health Screening

- ECDOH **requires daily health screenings**, including temperature and a COVID-19 symptom check upon entry into school of all students, faculty, staff, contractors, vendors, and visitors to identify individuals who may have COVID-19. If an individual presents with a **temperature greater than 100.0°F, or reports one or more COVID-19 symptoms, regardless of vaccination status**, the individual must be denied entry into the facility or sent directly to a dedicated isolation area prior to being picked up or otherwise sent home.

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## School Entry Health Screening

- **COVID-19 symptoms** include the following: fever, chills, rigors, muscle aches, headache, back pain, fatigue, runny nose, congestion, sore throat, loss of smell, loss of taste, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, wheezing, chest pain, cough, abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, dehydration, altered mental status/confusion, and seizures.



# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## School Entry Health Screening

- ECDOH **requires** the use of a **daily screening questionnaire for students, teachers, staff, and visitors** reporting to school. (Appendix A). The questionnaire for students, particularly younger students, who may require assistance, **may be answered before that student reports to school** by their parent/legal guardian (e.g., by electronic survey, digital application, or telephone).

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Developing Illness at School

- ECDOH requires that if a **student or staff member develops COVID-19 symptoms** while at school, regardless of vaccination status, **the ill person must immediately be placed in an isolation area/room at school and picked up by a parent/guardian** if a student or sent home if a staff member.

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Returning to School Following Illness

- COVID-19-Like Illness
- ECDOH **requires** that in order for students or staff to return to school following a COVID-19-like illness, regardless of vaccination status, **one of the three following criteria must be met:**
  1. A negative COVID-19 test is provided. ECDOH strongly recommends a PCR COVID-19 test. OR
  2. A note from the student/staff's medical care provider with an alternative diagnosis is provided. (Appendix B) OR
  3. There have been at least 10 days since the onset of COVID-19 symptoms.

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Returning to School Following Illness

- A negative at-home COVID-19 test result will **NOT** be accepted to return a student to school or school staff to work.

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Returning to School Following Illness

- COVID-19 Positive Case
- **ECDOH requires** that students or staff **must meet all the following criteria** in order to return to school following testing positive for COVID-19:
  - i. At least 10 days after COVID-19 symptom onset or 10 days from their first positive test if asymptomatic AND
  - ii. Fever-free for at least 24 consecutive hours without the use of fever-reducing medications AND
  - iii. COVID-19 symptoms are improving.

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## When the School Receives Notice of a COVID-19 Positive Case

- ECDOH **requires** schools to notify the ECDOH COVID-19 School Team of all positive COVID-19 cases reported by staff, students, or guardians.
- The school is required to prepare a list of classroom, bus, sports, and extracurricular activities close contacts.
- Close contacts are defined as students who are within 3 feet or teachers/staff who are within 6 feet from the positive COVID-19 case for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period during a time the case was infectious, regardless if masks were worn.

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Quarantine

- ECDOH uses the close contact definition along with the duration of exposure, proximity, and presence of symptoms to determine who is an exposed contact and therefore subject to quarantine.
- Schools **are required** to cooperate with contact tracers to determine close contacts and compile contact information.
- ECDOH will notify parents and staff who are considered to be contacts exposed to a COVID-19 case.



# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Quarantine - Fully Vaccinated Close Contacts

- Per CDC guidelines, **fully vaccinated** individuals who are identified as **close contacts** are **not** subject to quarantine. However, these individuals should monitor for COVID-19 symptoms.

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Quarantine - Unvaccinated Close Contacts

- Per CDC guidelines, unvaccinated students within 3 feet or unvaccinated teachers/staff within 6 feet from the positive COVID-19 case for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period during a time the case was infectious, regardless if masks were worn, **will be considered a close contact and quarantined for 10 days** from the last day of exposure to the positive COVID-19 case.

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Quarantine - Unvaccinated Close Contacts

- Persons who are not fully vaccinated should be tested immediately after being identified, and, if negative, tested again in 5-7 days after last exposure or immediately if COVID-19 symptoms develop during quarantine.
- **Seating charts** for classrooms, buses, and extracurricular activities should be kept in the event there is a case in a class. **If there is no seating chart, all unvaccinated individuals in the class** will be considered unvaccinated close contacts and be quarantined for 10 days from the last day of exposure to the positive COVID-19 case.

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Quarantine - Unvaccinated Close Contacts

- Regardless if a seating chart is maintained, **if there are two or more cases in a classroom during a 10-day period**, all unvaccinated individuals in the class **will quarantine for 10 days** from their last exposure to the positive COVID-19 case, regardless if masks were worn.

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Youth Sports

- ECDOH **requires** masking for all youth sport players during all youth sport activities **whenever the players are not actively participating in game play or practice.** ECDOH further requires masking of all youth sport coaches and staff during all youth sport activities **while not** directly engaged in physical activity.
- **ECDOH** strongly **recommends** masking for all youth sport players during game play and practice **unless they are unable to physically tolerate masking.** In addition, ECDOH strongly recommends that athletes and coaches who are not engaging in physical activity (i.e. sitting on the bench or sidelines) maintain a distance of at least 3ft.

- **We will be open at full capacity and 5 days a week.**
- Our **Start and End Times** for each school in the District have reverted **to the original start and end times we had prior to the pandemic.**
- This means that our High School and Middle School start and end times will be the same.
- Huth, Kaegebein and Sidway will also have the same start and end times.
- This also means that our district buses will be running at full capacity.
- We **are not** offering a 100% remote option for students. However, we do believe it is prudent to offer a remote learning option for students **who may be immunocompromised or medically fragile.**
- **Students who have a compromised immune system**, and if their doctor believes that the child's return to a regular school setting poses a danger due to that condition, **may** be eligible for a year long seat in the BOCES e-Learning Virtual Academy. Contact our Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Services, Cheryl Cardone at 716-773-8815 if your child needs that service.

## The District will implement the following risk mitigation strategies....

- We will continue to **comply with the Erie County Department of Health's "Close Contact" Quarantine Requirements.**
- A **"Close Contact"** is someone who has been within **3 feet of an infected person for at least 10 minutes.** (This is a change from 6 feet. This change will allow for our asymptomatic peers, who were 4-6 feet away from an infected individual to remain in school and avoid 10 days of quarantine.)
- Those individuals who are determined to be a **"Close Contact"** **and are vaccinated, will NOT** have to quarantine if they are asymptomatic.

# Close Contacts and Proximal Contacts

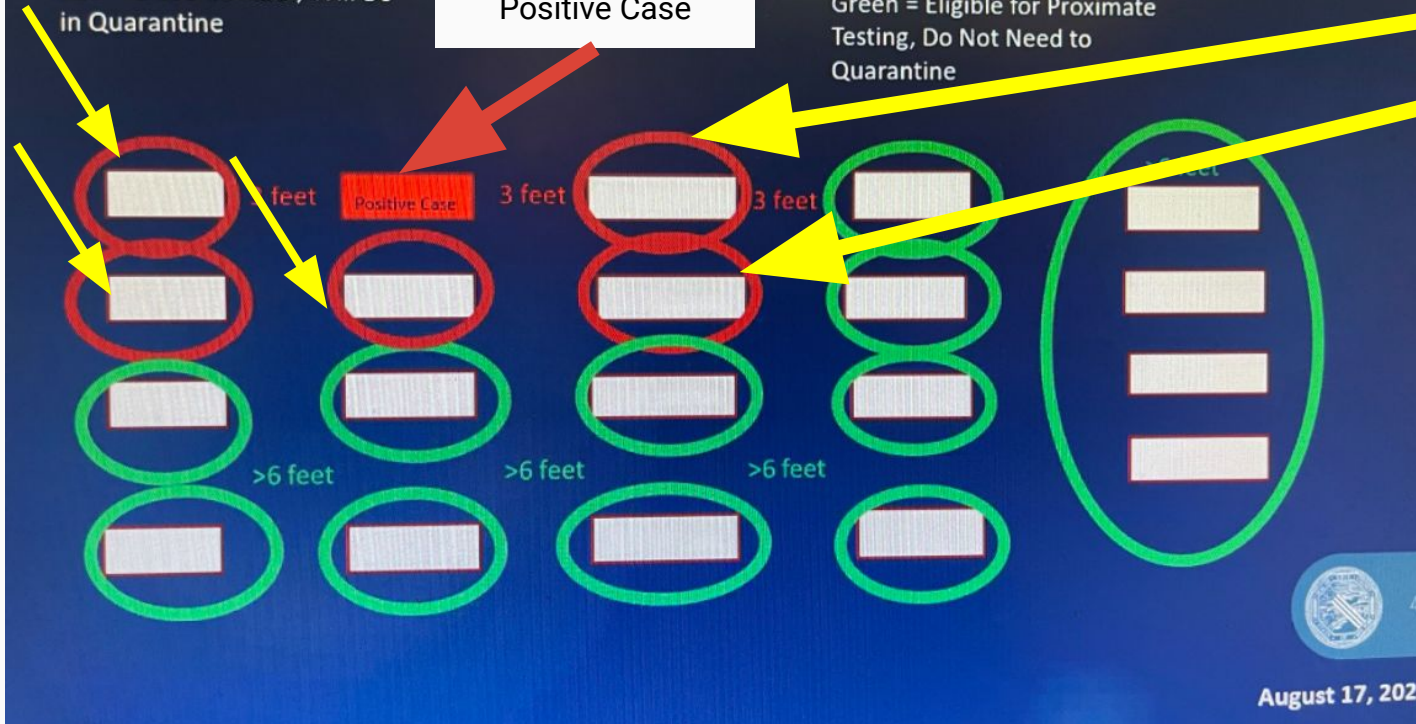
## Proximal Testing Case Example

Red = Close Contact, Will Be in Quarantine

Positive Case

Green = Eligible for Proximate Testing, Do Not Need to Quarantine

Close Contact - 3 feet for 10 minutes or more.





## Home/Hospital Virtual Instruction

- **For children who are quarantined due to being a close contact or are isolated due to being positive with COVID-19...**we will offer “Home Hospital Instruction. This means that elementary students will receive 1 hour per day of direct but virtual instruction. Secondary students will receive 2 hours per day. This is the same Home/Hospital Instruction we have always offered prior to the pandemic.

## The District will implement the following risk mitigation strategies....

- **Masks:**
- Due to the circulating and highly contagious Delta variant, **we will follow** the **Erie County Department of Health mandate** for universal indoor masking by all students (age 2 and older), staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, **regardless of vaccination status.**
- The CDC, and the Infectious Diseases Society of America, and the American Academy of Pediatrics have all issued similar recommendations calling for universal masking in schools.
- Masking, when combined with other layers of protection, will give our students the best chance to remain in school full-time with fewer illnesses and fewer disruptions.
- **Cloth masks in school help to decrease the spread of droplets/aerosols** to others. Thus, a COVID-19 positive but asymptomatic individual is less likely to spread the virus if they are wearing a mask.

## The District will implement the following risk mitigation strategies....

- To the extent possible, we will set up our classrooms to maintain **3 feet of distancing**.
- We will **continue to ask parents to take their child's temperature**, prior to them boarding our school buses. Children must be fever free to ride our buses.
- We will continue to require **children and staff who are ill to stay home**.
- We will use our **Thermal Temperature Scanners** as students arrive to school.
- We will **continue** the use of the daily **Health Screening Form**. (We are looking for a new digital tool that may be easier for parents and school personnel to use for the Health Screening. **However, we will start the year with the same Health Screening form as we used last year.**

## The District will implement the following risk mitigation strategies....

- We will continue to **send students and staff home** if they develop symptoms while in school.
- We will continue to follow the same **hand hygiene protocols** as we did last year with students and staff.
- We will continue to implement the **cleaning and disinfecting protocols** in classrooms and common.

## The District will implement the following risk mitigation strategies....

- We will continue to **use the Air Purifiers** we purchased last year in every classroom.
- To the extent possible, **we plan on offering free** weekly COVID-19 surveillance **PCR testing through the Erie County Department of Health.**
- To the extent possible, **we plan on offering free COVID-19 PCR** testing to individuals **who are not close contacts** but are considered proximal contacts. **(Proximal Testing)**
- **A proximal contact** is someone who was in the vicinity (same classroom or same bus) of an infected person but not within 3 feet for 10 consecutive minutes.

- **The District will partner with the Erie County Department of Health to have an additional medical professional placed within our district for the sole purpose of conducting surveillance and proximal testing.**
- **Students will not be tested unless a parent provides consent.**
- **We are strongly recommending that unvaccinated students volunteer for this expanded testing program.**
- **We will have more information on how parents can provide consent for the PCR testing in the days and weeks ahead.**

- The District will **not** be able to accept “At Home” COVID tests as proof of being negative to return to school.
- Modified, JV and Varsity Sports do not require students to be vaccinated.
- To the greatest extent possible, **we will have siblings sit together on the bus.**

### Outdoor Sports

- Spectators for outdoor sports **are not limited** to a set number per athlete. Masks are optional for spectators when observing outdoor contests.

### Indoor Sports

- Spectators for outdoor sports **are not limited** to a set number per athlete. **Masks are required** for spectators when observing indoor contests.



# Consider having your child vaccinated

## Erie County Vaccination Progress

THROUGH AUGUST 16, 2021

Based on data reported by the New York State Department of Health



**58%**

of all population  
fully vaccinated



**66%**

of 12+ population  
fully vaccinated

LEARN MORE & GET YOUR VACCINE AT: [erie.gov/vax](https://erie.gov/vax)



Erie County  
Department of  
Health



Public Health  
Protect. Promote. Prevent.

# COVID-19 - Vaccine Administration Sites and Dates

## Saturday, August 21, 2021

- New Hope Baptist Church; 12pm-5pm; 2090 Genesee St, **Buffalo**, NY 14211: [Register Here](#)
- Riverside Park; 12pm-5pm; 2700 Niagara St, **Buffalo**, NY 14207: [Register Here](#)

## Monday, August 23, 2021

- ECC South; 12pm-7pm; 4041 Southwestern Blvd (Bldg 7 - Old DMV), **Orchard Park**, NY 14127: [Register Here](#)

## Tuesday, August 24, 2021

- Boys Scouts of America; 10am-2pm; 2860 Genesee St, **Cheektowaga**, NY 14225: [Register Here](#)
- ECC South; 9am-4pm; 4041 Southwestern Blvd (Bldg 7 - Old DMV), **Orchard Park**, NY 14127: [Register Here](#)

## Thursday, August 26, 2021

- Harlem Road Community Center; 2pm-6pm; 4255 Harlem Rd, **Buffalo**, NY 14226: [Register Here](#)

## Friday, August 27, 2021

- Freedom Friday Event at Martin Luther King (MLK), Jr. Park; 1:30-3:30pm; **Buffalo**, NY 14211 (Fillmore and Parade side): [Register Here](#)

## Saturday, August 28, 2021

- Sadie Strong 5K Walk; 8am-12pm; 2 Nottingham Terrace, **Buffalo**, NY 14216: [Register Here](#)

## Sunday, August 29, 2021

- Canalside; 11am-3pm; 44 Prime St, **Buffalo**, NY 14202: [Register Here](#) (Pfizer Only)

## Saturday, September 4, 2021

- Buffalo Central Terminal; 10am-12:30pm; 495 Paderewski Dr, **Buffalo**, NY 14212: [Register Here](#)  
*Part of the Second Annual Backpack Giveaway event with Legislator Howard Johnson and Buffalo Councilmember Mitch Nowakowski*

## Final Thoughts

I do acknowledge how **frustrating** it is that we still have specific requirements for the health and safety of our students, faculty, staff as well as the community... as we start this new school year.

Keep in mind that our goals are to

- keep students and staff healthy and safe;
- be responsive to our student needs; and
- maximize in-person 5 days a week, teaching and learning for all students.

## Final Thoughts

In addition...we are operating with band, chorus, orchestra, extra-curricular activities, sports and the fine arts as we have done prior to the pandemic.

