



Tioga County Public Health Department

Lisa C. McCafferty, R.S., MPH; Public Health Director
1062 State Route 38, PO Box 120, Owego, NY 13827
607-687-8600



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Tioga County

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
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Contact: Kylie Holochak, 607-687-8612
Senior Public Health Educator/PIO

Tioga County COVID-19 Update for December 29, 2021 – January 4, 2022

COVID-19 case breakdown in Tioga County from December 29, 2021 – January 4, 2022:

- **New Cases: 449**
 - **Unvaccinated: 111**
 - **Vaccinated: 246**
 - **Unknown Vaccination Status: 57**
 - **Children Under 12: 35**
- **Hospitalizations: 8**
- **(Known) Deaths: 0**
- **Current Active Cases: 500**

(Please Note: Data does not include self-reported positive at-home tests)

Data is a snapshot of what is reported to us via different venues. Vaccination status is self-reported by the positive case or their parent/guardian during the case investigation. Tioga County is not always notified when a death occurs. Deaths related to COVID-19 are reported to our department in different ways. Various factors may impact the severity of one's COVID-19 illness including underlying health conditions and vaccination status. The COVID-19 vaccine offers protection against severe illness and hospitalization. We encourage eligible individuals to get vaccinated.

Tioga County saw 449 new confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the last week, with as many as 141 new cases being seen in a day. Due to the large volume of cases we are seeing each day, it may take longer than usual for someone to contact you if you have tested positive for COVID-19.

If you test positive, please isolate at home away from other household members. Any unvaccinated household members should self-quarantine at home as well. Those experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 should remain at home and contact their healthcare provider before returning to work or school, regardless of their vaccination status.

In Tioga County, 69.8% of our residents over the age of five have received their first COVID-19 vaccination, and 60.7% of those five and over are fully vaccinated. The COVID-19 vaccine continues to be our best defense against severe illness and hospitalization. Because the effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccine wanes over time, it is strongly recommended that you **get a booster shot as soon as you are eligible** (6 months after you complete the Pfizer or Moderna series, and 2 months after the initial J&J vaccine). You can stay up-to-date on COVID-19 vaccination rates in Tioga County by visiting <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/>.

Those with an underlying health condition or who are more susceptible to getting a severe case of COVID-19 must continue to protect themselves! Get vaccinated and boosted if you have not done so yet. If you must go out, wear a well-fitting mask, social distance from those who do not live in your household, and avoid contact with anyone who is sick. If you think you may have COVID-19, contact your healthcare provider.

Reporting Positive At-Home COVID-19 Tests

If you or a member of your family tests positive for COVID-19 using an at-home test kit, you may report your results to the Tioga County Public Health website at ph.tiogacountyny.gov by completing the “Report Positive Home COVID-19 Test Results” form. We will send documentation directly to you with your isolation dates.

Updated Isolation and Quarantine Guidance for New York State

Yesterday the New York State Department of Health released interim guidance on isolation and quarantine. Effective today, January 5, 2022, Tioga County Public Health will be moving to a 5-day isolation for individuals who test positive for COVID-19. At the end of one’s isolation, they must wear a well-fitting mask while around others for an additional 5 days. Anyone who is moderately-severely immunocompromised should continue to follow the 10-day isolation.

Unvaccinated and symptomatic household members should quarantine at home for the duration of the positive case’s isolation. Positive cases are responsible for notifying anyone they have been in close contact with. Close contacts who are unvaccinated or symptomatic should quarantine at home for 5-days from the date of their exposure.

Lisa McCafferty, Public Health Director wants the community to know that “we recognize how confusing it is for everyone to hear information and updates from the CDC and New York State Department of Health, which at times may be conflicting. We are doing our best to communicate and translate updates for the public, but at times, these changes are frequently occurring. Tioga County Public Health will continue to provide information to our community as we receive it.”

COVID-19 Resources:

- COVID-19 Vaccine Locations: <https://www.vaccines.gov/>
- Find a COVID-19 Test Site Near You: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/find-test-site-near-you>
- COVID-19 State Run Testing Locations: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-testing>
- New York State Dashboard: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-testing-tracker>
- Tioga County Public Health Website: ph.tiogacountyny.gov
- Tioga County Public Health Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/tiogacountypublichealth>