



GENESEE & ORLEANS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENTS



Paul A. Pettit, MSL
Public Health Director

Brenden A. Bedard, MPH
Deputy Public Health Director

COVID-19 Press Briefing

January 5, 2021 / 4:00 p.m.

* **We are in Phase 4.** Electronic Press Briefings will be sent out daily (Mon-Fri) at 4:00 p.m. and will include the narrative of the new cases and the charts. There may be some additional links to resources and/or brief updates or guidance. We only report the numbers that are directly received to our departments. NYS data has been off due to some results being linked to people with one of our county's addresses but actually don't live in either county. These results are transferred to the appropriate county of residence, but are not reflected on the State's daily updates. ZOOM briefings will be scheduled on an as needed basis and ZOOM invites will be sent out. Any questions, either related to the briefings or for other issues to be addressed can be e-mailed to Nola Goodrich-Kresse (Nola.Goodrich-Kresse@orleanscountyny.gov) or Mari Hamilton (Mari.Hamilton@co.genesee.ny.us).

SITUATIONAL UPDATE: STAY HOME; WASH HANDS; SOCIAL DISTANCING; WEAR A FACE COVERING!

Data Update –

- Genesee County received 91 new positive cases of COVID-19 for a total of 2706 positive cases.
 - The new positive cases reside in the:
 - West Region (Alabama, Darien, Pembroke)
 - Central Region (Alexander, Batavia, Bethany, Elba, Oakfield)
 - East Region (Bergen, Byron, LeRoy, Pavilion, Stafford)
 - The individuals are in their 0-19's, 20's, 30's, 40's, 50's, 60's, 70's, 80's and 90's.
 - 35 of the previous positive individuals have recovered and have been removed from the isolation list.
 - 21 of the positive individuals are hospitalized.
 - 1 of the new positive cases is a resident at the LeRoy Village Green Residential Healthcare Facility.

Vaccine Information: Limited clinics are now open for only those in the Priority Group

1a. As of this release the following are included in this group:

- All Outpatient/Ambulatory front-line, high-risk health care workers of any age who provide direct in-person patient care, or other staff in a position in which they have direct contact with patients (i.e., intake staff), will be eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccine.
 - This includes, but is not limited to, individuals who work in private medical practices; hospital-affiliated medical practices; public health clinics; specialty medical practices of all types; dental practices of all types; dialysis workers; diagnostic and treatment centers; occupational therapists; physical therapists; speech therapists; phlebotomists; behavioral health workers; and student health workers.
- All front-line, high-risk public health workers who have direct contact with patients, including those conducting COVID-19 tests, those handling COVID-19 lab specimens and COVID-19 vaccinations, will be eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccine.
- Home care workers and aides, hospice workers, personal care aides, and consumer-directed personal care workers.
- Staff and residents of nursing homes, skilled nursing facilities, and adult care facilities.

For Genesee County 585-344-2580 ext. 5555 or e-mail Health.Dept@co.genesee.ny.us. For Orleans County 585-589-3278 or OCPublicHealth@orleanscountyny.gov. To check eligibility go to <https://am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>.

The vaccine availability is limited and determined by the state. For more information on when it will be available for the general public keep checking our websites or the NYS Department of Health website: <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>

Percent Positive 7-day average as of 01/03/21 (<https://forward.ny.gov/percentage-positive-results-county-dashboard>):

Genesee: 12.4%

Orleans: 9.7%

To review the raw positive data for each of the counties click the following link: <https://covid19tracker.health.ny.gov/views/NYS-COVID19-Tracker/NYSDOHCOVID-19Tracker-Map?%3Aembed=yes&%3Atoolbar=no&%3Atabs=n>

Click [here](#) to view the Genesee and Orleans County online map of confirmed cases.

A reminder the numbers listed as positive/active are current community cases. The recovered numbers are only for community cases and do not include non-county regulated facilities. The total positive cases includes community active/positive, community recovered and all those from non-county regulated facilities.

Rapid Testing: Pre-registration is required for rapid testing clinics.

Please note if you have recently tested positive, please do NOT come and get tested again at these clinics. These clinics are to identify new cases, not to determine if you are now negative. It is important to understand that you may still test positive for weeks after initially testing positive.

Use the Rapid COVID-19 Test Intake Form for either the Orleans County or Genesee County COVID-19 Rapid Test Clinics. You will need one form per person being tested.

If you are filling out the form, please complete it, print it out and bring it with you. Click here for the form: <http://bit.ly/GOHealthIntakeForm>

Pre-registration is required for all clinics.

- To register for the Orleans County Testing Clinic on January 6, 2021, please go to: <https://on.ny.gov/36ZqTxF>
- To register for the Genesee County Testing Clinic on January 5, 2021 please go to: <https://on.ny.gov/3qihbhF>

Please note there will be NO Clinics on New Year's Eve, December 31st.

For both Genesee and Orleans to help the process please note the following guidelines:

- You must pre-register for any of the county clinics.
- For anyone under 18 years of age they must have their parent or guardian with them in order to be tested.
- If you have a printer, complete the GO Health Intake Form <http://bit.ly/GOHealthIntakeForm> and bring it with you. If you completed the Intake form online please print it out and bring it with you – if you don't have a printer, the form will be provided for you at the clinic
- Make sure you have a pen in your vehicle, if you do not have a completed Intake Form, you will have to complete it before moving forward which may delay your test.
- Everyone in the vehicle is to have their mask on when they pull up at the testing site
- For those who are getting tested, for the most part, the person will receive a call within 3 hours, however, they may get a call fairly quickly from an unknown number...please answer the phone. Staff cannot leave messages and can only give results to the individual tested or the guardian of minor children. Hard copy results will be e-mailed within 48 hours if we have a valid e-mail address.
- If the clinics are closed please check the NYS COVID-19 Drive through test sites: Call New York State Department of Health Testing Appointments Call 1-888-364-3065 or
 - Monroe Community College – testing by appointment only: <https://www.monroecc.edu/index.php?id=29078>
 - Niagara County Community College - <https://covid19screening.health.ny.gov/covid-19-screening/>

Quarantine and Isolation Update:

New guidance for those on mandatory and precautionary quarantine as long as you have no symptoms: for community members, travelers and healthcare personnel (with exceptions):

Consistent with recent CDC guidance, quarantine for individuals exposed to COVID-19 can end after ten days without a testing requirement if no symptoms have been reported during the quarantine period.

- Individuals must continue daily symptom monitoring through Day 14;
- Individuals must be counseled to continue strict adherence to all recommended non-pharmaceutical interventions, including hand hygiene and the use of face-coverings, through Day 14.
- Individuals must be advised that if any symptoms develop, they should immediately self-isolate and contact the local public health authority or their healthcare provider to report this change in clinical status and determine if they should seek testing.

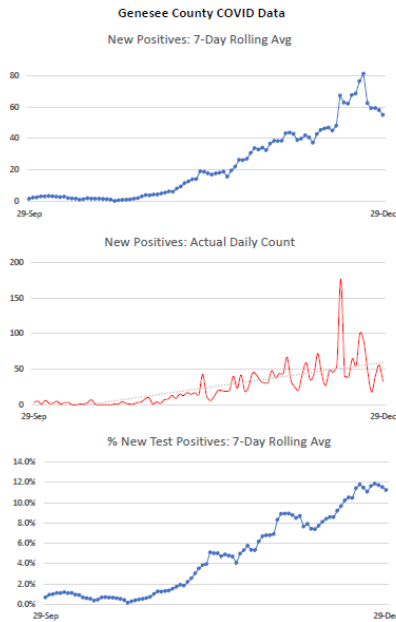
For those who work as healthcare professionals at Nursing Homes, Adult Care Facilities, certified as Enhanced Assisted Living Residences (EALR) or licensed as Assisted Living Programs (ALP):

- Individuals can be released from quarantine after 10 days of being symptom free, however they are still furloughed (not able to report for work) for the full 14 days.
- Individuals will have to continue to self-monitor the entire 14 days. Individuals must be counseled to continue strict adherence to all recommended non-pharmaceutical interventions, including hand hygiene and the use of face-covering, through Day 14.
- Individuals must be advised that if any symptoms develop, they should immediately self-isolate and contact

These quarantine requirements are also applicable to travelers who are not essential workers and/or who did not complete the testing requirements described in Executive Order 205.2.

- **If you believe you are a contact or have been notified you are a contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19, it may take a few days for contact tracers to initially contact you due to the volume of contacts. Please self-quarantine, even if you are feeling fine. Stay away from other household members, use separate bathroom facilities (or sanitize after each use), have meals delivered. If you start to feel ill, contact your primary care provider and let them know you were exposed to or tested positive for COVID-19.**
- **If you are being tested for COVID-19 it is important that you self-quarantine until you get your test results whether you have symptoms or not.** If you are symptomatic, meaning you are coughing, have a fever or other symptoms, self-quarantine even if you are an essential worker until you get your results back, if you have COVID-19 you may be spreading it! That means to stay home and limit contact with other people, even in your household.

Yellow Micro-cluster Zone: Genesee County is currently in the Yellow micro-cluster zone, here is why (Finger Lakes Control Room week of 12/29/20):



Batavia and part of Genesee County have been designated as being in a Yellow micro-cluster zone. Go to <https://forward.ny.gov/micro-cluster-strategy> for maps or <https://covidhotspotlookup.health.ny.gov/#/searchResults> to search if an address is in a Yellow Zone. The following restrictions will be in place in these identified locations starting 12/16/20 for a minimum of 2 weeks: for non-residential gatherings 25 people maximum, indoors and outdoors; residential gatherings 10 people maximum, indoors and outdoors; House of Worship 50% of maximum capacity; Businesses are open; Dining indoor and outdoor dining permitted, 4 person maximum per table, and bars and restaurants close at 10:00 p.m. for on-premises consumption; Starting 12/21/20, schools are open with 20% weekly testing of in-person students and faculty.

We continue to encourage everyone whether located in a micro-cluster zone or not to limit gatherings as much as possible, properly wear masks/face coverings, social distance at least 6 feet, frequently wash / sanitize your hands and frequently shared surfaces to minimize the spread. If the rates continue to increase further restrictions are possible.

What does recovered mean? What 'recovered' means in relation to COVID-19: Generally when someone is recovered that means they are feeling better. With COVID-19 we are using the term recovered to show the individual is no longer able to spread the virus. This means they have been on isolation for at least 10 days, have not had a fever over 100³ for 72 hours without fever-reducing medication, and their respiratory symptoms are getting better. There have been cases where people have started doing better for a short period of time and then they are hit with symptoms again or a new set. Some have had continued respiratory issues, developed pneumonia, sepsis, other infections, deep venous thrombosis (DVT), extreme fatigue, etc. Because of the time in bed, there is a higher risk of blood clots which can cause strokes, heart attacks and pulmonary embolisms as well as other symptoms.

Business Reminder: It is important to periodically review your Business Safety Plan that was developed earlier on in the pandemic. As part of the plan businesses were encouraged to develop contact sheets for all patrons to assist with contact tracing in the event of a potential COVID-19 exposure. This will help in investigations and will limit the necessity of press releases which will help limit potential spread.

COVID-19 101 Reminders: If a person is identified as a contact, they will be notified by the County Health Department, quarantined and if warranted, swabbed if indicated. Limited information is provided to the public in compliance with **HIPAA regulations and out of the respect of those impacted by this virus.**

- When, and if, there is a situation where potential contact is made in a public location where contact tracing doesn't have actual names of close contacts, we will send out a media announcement to help seek contacts.
- If you are experiencing **ANY** COVID-19 related symptoms **STAY HOME!** Do not go to work, do not go to the store, do not go anywhere, **YOU** are spreading the virus. **STAY HOME!**
- **We encourage everyone to remember to be polite and respect individual privacy. If you have a complaint about someone or a business use the appropriate channels provided by the state. To file a complaint about a business, location or incident in your community you can call 1-833-789-0470 or use the [online form](#).**
- **Using social media to air your complaints and accusing individuals / businesses of wrong doing generally does nothing to fix the problem. Be compassionate of other people and spread kindness.**

Updates:

Testing: FYI: Due to increased COVID-19 cases and testing demand in the region, the MCC drive-in testing site will be expanding to 7-days and expanding Saturday and Sunday hours to 8am-3pm (starting this weekend). Appointments are required. Go to: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/find-test-site-near-you>

Faith-based Organizations:

- Consider continuing or reinstating remote worship due to increased numbers of positive COVID-19 cases to protect your more vulnerable population.
- For those who are at risk of complications for COVID-19 or the flu, consider to connect with your house of worship remotely to lessen the risk of contracting COVID-19 or the flu.
- If you are sick or experiencing new symptoms, **STAY HOME** and worship remotely. Don't share your germs with others.

Gathering Size: According to Governor Cuomo's Executive Order [202.45](#), all non-essential gatherings of up to 50 individuals of any size for any reason at venues (celebrations, weddings, or other social events at public facilities or private venues) unless otherwise designated (ex. Religious gatherings), are now allowed for those regions in phase 4. For those in a Yellow Cluster Zone, the limit is a maximum of 25 people indoors and outdoors for non-residential gatherings; and a maximum of 10 people indoors and outdoors for residential gatherings whether in a cluster zone or not. **So long as appropriate social distancing, wearing cloth masks/face coverings over their mouth and nose, and cleaning and disinfection protocol requirements are followed. With the recent uptick of individuals testing positive and the stricter guidance placed by the Governor, it is important to remember that those who plan and host**

non-essential gatherings (whether at a venue or a private residence) as noted above, can be fined up to \$15,000, and/or cause our counties to be considered a micro-cluster which will place the area under stricter restrictions.

Micro-clusters: To learn more about the Cluster Action Initiative go to <https://forward.ny.gov/ny-forward>.

Travel Advisory: Updated 11/04/20

New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut announced that as of 06/25/20 travelers returning or traveling from states with high coronavirus rates will be required to self-quarantine for 14 days.

- **As of 11/04/20, there will be new travel guidelines. For more information on the travel advisory, please click [here](#).** The Governor is also encouraging that non-essential travel to/from Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Connecticut and Vermont be avoided as they may meet the criteria for NYS travel advisory.
- **On 09/28/20, Governor Cuomo signed an executive order reminding international travelers entering New York from Level 2 and 3 countries to quarantine for 14 days. This is still in effect.**
- **Traveler Health Form: For all out-of-state or international travelers from NYS restricted states or countries, whether arriving by land or air, must self-identify by completing a traveler health form or be subject to a \$10,000 fine. Click [here](#) for the [traveler health form](#).**

Reminders

- **Flu Season:** It is important to get your flu shots now to build up immunity. It generally takes 2 weeks before immunity is built up after getting the shot. Once you have the flu vaccine, if you do get the flu, research shows that the vaccination reduces the risk of severe illness. Getting a flu vaccine can save healthcare resources for the care of patients with COVID-19 and other illnesses. Talk with your primary care provider today! #SleeveUp #FightFlu For locations go to <https://vaccinefinder.org/>. It is always good to call prior to going to make sure they have your vaccine in stock.
- **Flu Tracking: For the 2020-2021 Flu Season we will provide data on Friday's on the current influenza activity. To check the data click here. For the current week ending date 12/26/20 Genesee County has 2 cases and Orleans County has 0 cases. There are 193 cases statewide. This is down 37% from the previous week. Cases (Statewide) Season to date: 1,826. This data is influenza that is confirmed by laboratory testing. Not everyone seeks testing for confirmation of the flu.**
- **School Guidance:** Click [here](#) to access the COVID-19 Report Card.

COVID-19 Resources

- For general inquiries contact or call the Hotline: **1-888-364-3065** or click [Ask A Question](#)
- To file a report of an individual failing to adhere to the quarantine pursuant to the travel advisory, please call **1-833-789-0470** or click [here](#) to file a complaint online.
- Complaints and concerns: <https://forward.ny.gov/new-york-state-pause>
- Finger Lakes Regional Control Room: flnyf@esd.ny.gov
- To file a complaint about a business, location or incident in your community you can call **1-833-789-0470** or <https://mylicense.custhelp.com/app/ask>

- To find a test site, click the link: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/find-test-site-near-you>
- ROC COVID-19 Health Screener: To learn more go to: <https://www.roccovid.org/index.html>
- For access to various languages and ASL videos click this CDC [link](#).

Mental Health Resources:

Care+Crisis Helpline: 585-283-5200 or text 'Talk' to 741741

Genesee County Mental Health Department: 585-344-1421

Orleans County Mental Health Department: 585-589-7066