



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 26, 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 26 new positive cases of COVID-19 for a total of 3713 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, and 70's.
 - 32 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 of the Batavia VA Medical Center.
 - *We are saddened to report the loss of two individuals who are both over the age of 65. One individual resided at Genesee Senior Living and one individual resided at the Batavia VA Medical Center. We do not provide any further*

information to protect the privacy of the individual and their family. Our deepest condolences to the family and friends during this very difficult time.

- Orleans County received 23 new positive cases of COVID-19 for a total of 2061 positive cases.
 - The positive cases reside in the:
 - West Region (Yates, Ridgeway, Shelby)
 - Central Region (Carlton, Gaines, Albion, Barre)
 - East Region (Kendall, Murray, Clarendon)
 - The individuals are in their 0-19's, 20's, 30's, 40's, 50's, 60's, and 70's.
 - *Correction: The following case was determined not to be an Orleans Resident and has been retracted from today's data; Case in his/her 30's from the West Region.*
 - 3 of the new positive individuals were on quarantine prior to testing positive.
 - 28 of the previous positive individuals have recovered and have been removed from the isolation list.
 - 10 of the current positive individuals are hospitalized.
 - Two of the new positive individuals are residents at the Orchard Rehabilitation & Nursing Center.

Genesee Orleans County Health Departments COVID-19 Status
Reporting on 01/26/21

County	# Positive - Total	#Negative - Total	Mandatory Isolation - Community (Active / Positive)	NYS Fatality Data	#Recovered - Community
Genesee	3713	78891	157	http://bit.ly/NYSFatalityData	3145
Orleans	2061	42833	123		1660
Total	5774	121724	280		4805

Non-county Public Regulated Facilities - 01/26/21			
County	Facility	# New Positive	# Total Positive
Genesee			
	Buffalo Federal Detention Center	0	55
	Batavia VA Medical Center	1	36
	Genesee Senior Living	0	39
	The Grand Rehabilitation and Nursing at Batavia	0	59
	The New York State Veterans' Home at Batavia	0	84
	Premier Genesee Center for Nursing & Rehabilitation	0	70
	LeRoy Village Green Residential Healthcare Facility	0	123
Orleans			
	The Villages of Orleans Health & Rehab	0	93
	Orchard Rehabilitation & Nursing Center	2	89
	Western NY DDSO		6
	Albion Correctional Facility	0	16
	Orleans County Jail	0	3
	Orleans Correctional Facility	0	54
	To see total deaths for facilities by County use the link and click in the box next to 'Fatalities by County' - 'Click here for additional detail.'	http://bit.ly/NYSFatalityData	
Total		3	727

The State updates the positive and fatality data as they receive it and can be seen here:

<http://bit.ly/NYSFatalityData>

Health Alert (new format for announcing when there is a time we cannot contact potential close contacts. This will replace several press releases and will be reported as needed. We encourage all businesses to take down names/contact information and time in attendance at their business to assist with contact tracing should someone be positive for COVID-19. This may eliminate the need for a press alert if we are able to contact potential close contacts.):

Only provided if there are reports of locations where potential contacts, with a person who tested positive for COVID-19, cannot be identified.

NY Allowing High-risk High School Sports – Released Friday: *As a region, the local health departments of the Finger Lakes (including Monroe, Ontario, Wayne, Livingston, Genesee, Orleans, Wyoming, Seneca and Yates counties) are in support of re-opening high-risk sports but want to make sure it's done safely and uniformly. As a region, we are discussing and drafting additional guidance with our school partners to ensure a consistent, regional approach. We are planning to provide that guidance early next week.*

Vaccine Information:

At this time all appointments are full, however we encourage you to keep monitoring in case people have canceled. People are encouraged to cancel their appointment if:

- they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, the flu or a cold;

- if they have been placed on mandatory quarantine because they are identified as a close contact to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19;
- or they can't make the appointment for any other reason.
- Canceling the appointment as soon as you are aware you can't make it will open up a new appointment for someone else.
- Please make sure you cancel using the information on your confirmation sheet or by calling the provider where you booked the appointment. The health departments cannot cancel appointments for other providers.

To check for vaccination clinics in Genesee and Orleans Counties please go to:
<http://bit.ly/39bfEINGOHealthVaccine>

We are currently scheduling Point of Dispensing (POD) mass vaccination clinics for Priority Groups 1A and 1B. To check your eligibility to either of these groups go to:
<https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/phased-distribution-vaccine#phase-1a---phase-1b> Links for pre-registration are updated on a week to week basis based on vaccine availability. If appointments become full, please check the state vaccine web page: <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/> or the GO Health Vaccine web page: <http://bit.ly/39bfEINGOHealthVaccine> or check with your primary care provider or pharmacy. Due to high traffic volume, the registration links may temporarily become unavailable. Please continue to try again if experiencing any errors with registration. The process of getting the vaccine out to priority groups and eventually the general public is going to take quite some time.

For more information about the vaccine and access for those who are 65 and older who do NOT have internet access, please contact your respective Office for the Aging (OFA). For Genesee OFA please call 585-813-2457 for COVID-19 Vaccine assistance between 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and leave a message if you get voicemail and someone will return the call. For Orleans OFA please call 585-589-3191 between 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and leave a message if you get voicemail and someone will return the call. The OFA offices can only assist with the clinic links as they are available. The system may experience slowdowns and crashing due to high volume. Please be patient and try again later.

The NYS Department of Health has set up various opportunities for vaccination. As of January 11, 2021, New Yorkers in **Phase 1a** and segments of **Phase 1b** are [eligible](#) for the vaccines. **ALL VACCINATIONS ARE BY ONLINE APPOINTMENT ONLY.** Eligible groups include doctors, nurses and health care workers, people age 65 and over, first responders, teachers, public transit workers, grocery store workers and public safety workers. Residents and staff at nursing homes and other long-term care facilities will continue to be vaccinated through a [federal program](#), which the state is providing resources to accelerate.

- **People age 65 and over** will **primarily be vaccinated at pharmacies** and other sites that are part of the “retail network.” Please go to your pharmacy website for more information on vaccine availability and to make appointments. Do **not** call the pharmacies for COVID-19 vaccine as they do not have the staff to handle the calls. Currently, **by direction of NY State, pharmacies can only provide COVID-19 vaccine to those 65 and older.**
- **Health care workers** who are part of Phase 1a will continue to be vaccinated at hospitals and other clinical settings.
- **Public employees** (for example, police departments, public school teachers and MTA employees) will primarily be vaccinated through their groups’ relevant health programs or as organized by their unions.
- **County Public Health Clinics** are under the guidance of the state and must prioritize the essential worker population 1B group.

To see who are currently included in the 1A and 1B priority groups go to:
<https://apps.health.ny.gov/doh2/applinks/cdmspr/2/counties?OpID=50500884>

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 7/14 - day average click here (<https://forward.ny.gov/percentage-positive-results-county-dashboard>)

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.

Orleans County Drive-through Testing Clinic Results 01/20/21:

Total # of Tests (including volunteers) = 382

Total Positive Results = 15

Total Positive Orleans County Residents = 12

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 on-line is required for all clinics.

Please note these are NEW links

- To register for the Orleans County Testing Clinic on January 27, 2021 please go to: <http://bit.ly/OrleansTest>

To register for the Genesee County Testing Clinic on January 26, 2021 please go to: <http://bit.ly/GeneseeTest>

Following this week, testing will be determined on a week-to-week basis as our focus will be on vaccine moving forward. When vaccine is limited, we may hold testing clinics. Check the links periodically for further information. The testing clinics will continue to be held at the Genesee County Fire Training Center and the Orleans County Fairgrounds.

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

- **You must pre-register on-line 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.
- **After testing, go home to wait for your results...do NOT go out in public.**
- 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 their supervisor.

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. COVID 90-day rolling average data from the Finger Lakes Control Room charts will be published on receipt on a weekly basis.

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

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: MCC Drive-through testing. Appointments are required. Go to: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/find-test-site-near-you>

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. Those who ignore the guidance 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.**

Travel Advisory: Updated 11/04/20

- **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.
- **If you are planning on doing the test-out option for quarantine after traveling, please plan ahead to keep within the state guidelines, both before you leave the state you are visiting (no more than 3 days before returning to NYS) and when you return (quarantine through day 3, test on day 4 of quarantine, return to quarantine until you receive test results). If both tests are negative, the traveler may exit quarantine early upon receipt of the second negative diagnostic test. If you are unable to follow the guidelines you are to quarantine for 10 days, but continue to monitor for symptoms for 14 days.**
- **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 weekly on the current influenza activity. To check the data click [here](#). For the current week ending date 01/16/21 Genesee County has 0 cases and Orleans County has 0 cases. There are 338 cases statewide. This is up 21% from the previous week. Cases (Statewide) Season to date: 2,664. 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