

Tioga County Public Health Department

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: December 8, 2021 Contact: Kylie Holochak, 607-687-8612 Senior Public Health Educator/PIO

Tioga County COVID-19 Update for December 1, 2021 – December 7, 2021

COVID-19 case breakdown in Tioga County from December 1, 2021 – December 7, 2021:

- New Cases: 281
 - Unvaccinated: 120
 - Vaccinated: 108
 - Unknown Vaccination Status: 14
 - Children Under 12: 39
- Hospitalizations: 6
- (Known) Deaths: 2
- Current Active Cases: 335

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 is now recommending that all individuals wear a mask while inside any Tioga County building, regardless of their vaccination status, due to the recent spike in COVID-19 cases. Last week Tioga County experienced its highest single-day case count since the COVID-19 pandemic began, with 69 new cases seen in one day. In comparison, last January our highest single-day case count was 54 cases.

In addition to the spike in new COVID-19 infections tied back to the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, we are hearing of other respiratory infections circulating around our community, many of which present symptoms similar to COVID-19. If you are experiencing one or more of the common symptoms of COVID-19, please stay home and contact your health care provider before returning to school or work.

Common Symptoms of COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Tioga County Public Health recommends everyone ages five and older get vaccinated against COVID-19. If you completed the Moderna or Pfizer series six months ago or had the Johnson & Johnson vaccine two months ago, it is time for you to get your booster shot! To find a vaccination location, please visit <u>https://www.vaccines.gov/</u>.

Due to the ongoing spike in COVID-19 cases, we ask everyone to please be patient while awaiting a phone call regarding your isolation or quarantine as we are backlogged. We continue to prioritize making contact with positive cases and their household members, and at times it may take us 48 – 72 hours to make contact. Please self-quarantine at home while you await a phone call from us. Those who are fully vaccinated and who are not experiencing symptoms do not have to quarantine, but should monitor themselves for symptoms. If you have tested positive with an at-home test, please report it to our department by calling 607-687-8600 (select option 1).

COVID-19 Resources:

- Reporting Positive At-Home Test Results: <u>607-687-8600 (option 1)</u>
- COVID-19 Vaccine Locations: <u>https://www.vaccines.gov/</u>
- Testing Locations: <u>https://get-tested-covid19.org/</u>
- New York State Dashboard: <u>https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-testing-tracker</u>
- Tioga County Public Health Website: phitiogacountyny.gov
- Tioga County Public Health Facebook Page: <u>https://www.facebook.com/tiogacountypublichealth</u>