



# Tioga County Public Health Department

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# PRESS RELEASE

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## Tioga County COVID-19 Update for December 22, 2021 – December 28, 2021

COVID-19 case breakdown in Tioga County from December 22, 2021 – December 28, 2021:

- **New Cases:** 184
  - **Unvaccinated:** 61
  - **Vaccinated:** 94
  - **Unknown Vaccination Status:** 10
  - **Children Under 12:** 19
- **Hospitalizations:** 6
- **(Known) Deaths:** 0
- **Current Active Cases:** 265

*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.*

The New York State Governor's Mask Mandate is in effect until January 15, 2022. Any business or venue that is not a private residence must require masks to be worn by everyone over the age of two, unless businesses implement a vaccine requirement. Please be supportive of businesses as they work to follow this mandate and respect signage posted on their door.

Even if you are fully vaccinated and boosted, wearing a mask while in public places is encouraged. Masks offer protection, especially for those who are most vulnerable to severe illness. The COVID-19 vaccination and booster shots offer protection against severe illness and hospitalization, but it does not completely prevent you from spreading the virus to others.

### Testing Positive with an At-Home COVID-19 Test

As a reminder, Tioga County Public Health asks anyone who has tested positive with an at-home COVID-19 test to self-isolate at home for 10 days from symptom onset date or test date if asymptomatic. Their household members should also quarantine at home with them, unless they are fully vaccinated and are not experiencing symptoms. Those who test positive should contact their healthcare provider or visit a COVID-19 test site to have a lab confirmed test completed. If a school aged child tests positive using an at-home test, please report the test result to your local school district.

## **Updated COVID-19 Guidance for Fully Vaccinated Members of the Critical Workforce**

Last week New York State announced new guidance that allows fully vaccinated healthcare workers and other fully vaccinated members of the critical workforce who test positive for COVID-19 to return to work after five days, if they meet certain criteria and if there is a critical staffing shortage. These workers must be asymptomatic or, if they had mild symptoms they must:

- Not have a fever for at least 72 hours without fever-reducing medication
- Have resolution of symptoms or, if still with residual symptoms, then all are improving
- Not have rhinorrhea (runny nose)
- Have no more than minimal, non-productive cough

These workers must also consistently and correctly wear a well-fitting non-woven face mask, practice social distancing from coworkers whenever possible, separate themselves from others when removing their mask to eat or drink, and self-monitor for symptoms and seek re-evaluation if symptoms recur or get worse.

Those who are eligible to reduce their isolation period must consult with their employer before returning to work after five days.

Although the CDC also updated their guidance this week, shortening the time for isolation and quarantine, **Tioga County Public Health follows New York State Guidance** and will continue to follow guidance that the state releases.

### **COVID-19 Resources:**

- COVID-19 Vaccine Locations: <https://www.vaccines.gov/>
- Testing Locations: <https://get-tested-covid19.org/>
- New York State Dashboard: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-testing-tracker>
- Tioga County Public Health Website: [ph.tiogacountyny.gov](http://ph.tiogacountyny.gov)
- Tioga County Public Health Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/tiogacountypublichealth>