



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 27, 2021

Contact: Tioga County Legislative Office

TIOGA COUNTY

COVID-19 UPDATE - JANUARY 27, 2021

Owego, NY – Tioga County Legislative Chairwoman Sauerbrey reported the following Tioga County COVID-19 Statistics:

- **2,469 Confirmed Cases** – Total confirmed cases, to date.
- **559 Individuals in Mandatory Quarantine** - These are individuals who have had close contact with someone who has tested positive, but is not displaying symptoms for COVID-19; or individuals who traveled outside of New York State.
- **2,093 Recovered** – Total number of individuals who had a confirmed case of COVID-19 and are now symptom free that meet the criteria to be released from isolation.
- **312 Active Cases**
- **64 Deaths**

This data is a snapshot of data provided by Tioga County Public Health. Tests are administered via various agencies and as well as processed by many laboratories. Test results are reported upon our receipt.

High-Risk Youth Sports Resuming in Tioga County, NY

Lisa McCafferty, Tioga County Public Health Officer and Martha Sauerbrey, Tioga County Legislative Chair have communicated with Tioga County School Districts regarding the latest guidance released by New York State to resume high-risk youth sports in Tioga County.

Last week Governor Cuomo announced that he would allow higher risk sports to commence in New York schools starting on February 1, 2021 however; this is subject to approval from local health departments. There is significant risk involved in allowing higher-risk sports to resume and these factors must be weighed before allowing the return of sports:

- Whether there has been a more-transmissible variant of COVID-19 identified in the area
- Local rates of COVID-19 transmission or rate of positivity
- Local ability to monitor and enforce compliance

Currently, Tioga County is seeing on average at least 20 new COVID-19 cases every day, with some cases linked to our schools. When a positive case has attended school during their infectious period, typically the entire classroom, bus, and staff they've come in contact with are all quarantined for at least 10 days. If a positive case is on a sports team, the same protocols will be followed.

Contact sports bring people together and will increase the risk of transmission of COVID-19. If schools, athletes, and their parents/guardians choose to return to high-risk sports, they must do so in a safe manner and give considerable thought to reduce the spread of COVID-19. A variety of factors must be considered before making an individual decision to return to sports including underlying health conditions that may place the athlete or household contacts at increased risk of severe illness. Athletes should also restrict their activity away from sports, minimizing their own

risks and reducing community spread. Ultimately, the decision falls on the parents/guardians to decide whether they will allow their children to participate in given sports or activities.

Per New York State guidelines, should indoor sports resume, schools must limit capacity of indoor facilities to no more than 50 percent occupancy. School districts shall adhere to the [“Interim Guidance for Sports and Recreation During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.”](#) Additionally, all Tioga County schools have agreed to ensure full compliance with the Interscholastic Athletic Conference (IAC) reopening plan and fully cooperate with Tioga County Public Health. No spectators will be permitted at sporting events. Participants must also adhere to social distancing, face coverings, and enhanced disinfection protocols. School districts may implement more restrictive measures.

Martha Sauerbrey reminds our community that “COVID-19 cases continue to rise within our county. In order for sporting events to resume in Tioga County, we are going to need everyone to be more vigilant than ever to do their part in keeping our number of new cases down.”

For further information, please refer to the following resources:

- **County Reporting:** <https://covid19.tiogacountyny.com>
- **Tioga County Coronavirus Response Hotline – 687-8225**
- **Facebook** @Tioga County Public Health
- **Facebook** @TiogaMH (Tioga County Department of Mental Hygiene)
- **Tioga County Public Health Voicemail Line – 687-8623**
- **NYS Coronavirus Hotline:** 888-364-3065 (for general **questions or information about COVID-19**)
- **Tioga County Emergency Food Hotline: Dial 2-1-1**
- **New York State Guidance:** <https://forward.ny.gov/>
- **COVID-19 Vaccination Facts:** <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov>
- **COVID-19 Vaccination Eligibility:** <https://am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>