

Tioga County Public Health Department

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PRESS RELEASE

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Tioga County COVID-19 Update for August 28 2021 – September 3, 2021

COVID-19 case breakdown in Tioga County from August 28, 2021 – September 3, 2021:

New Cases: 68

Unvaccinated: 38Vaccinated: 20Children Under 12: 5

Unknown Vaccination Status: 5

• Hospitalizations: 6

• Deaths: 0

Vaccination status is <u>self-reported</u> by the positive case or their parent/guardian during the case investigation. Several factors may impact one's protection against COVID-19 including which vaccine they got and how long it has been since they received it. The COVID-19 vaccine offers protection against severe illness, hospitalization, and death.

To date, Tioga County has not seen an overwhelming amount of children test positive for COVID-19, and of those who did test positive, most were asymptomatic or had mild symptoms. With the Delta variant being more contagious than previous variants, more children are testing positive, and most are developing symptoms. With Tioga County Schools going back in session next week, we are concerned that we may see an increase in the number of children who are testing positive for COVID-19.

We encourage our community to take safety precautions like getting vaccinated, wear a mask indoors in public places, wash your hands frequently, and practice good respiratory etiquette to help protect children under 12 who are not eligible to be vaccinated at this time. Parents/guardians should also discuss the importance of following COVID-19 safety precautions with their children to help keep them healthy during the upcoming school year.

Our department continues to work closely with each of our school districts as we gear up for our schools to reopen. New York State Department of Health released "Interim NYSDOH Guidance for Classroom Instruction in P – 12 Schools During the 2021 – 2022 Academic Year". Tioga County Schools and Tioga County Public Health will be following this guidance. We know how beneficial in-person learning is for students, and we hope this guidance will help minimize the number of people needing to quarantine when a positive case is identified and keep kids in the classroom. Please help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our schools and community - **keep your child home if they are sick** and contact their health care provider.

For more resources and guidance for the 2021 – 2022 school year, please visit our website at ph.tiogacountyny.gov. Don't forget to like us on Facebook page (@Tioga County Public Health) for weekly updates!