



SARATOGA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
PAUL E. LENT PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY
6012 County Farm Road, Ballston Spa, NY 12020-2251
Telephone: (518) 584-7460 Fax: (518) 583-1202
www.saratogacountyny.gov/departments/publichealth/

August 7, 2021

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY: COVID-19 TRANSMISSION

SUMMARY

Saratoga County is experiencing a high level of COVID-19 community transmission, fueled by the spread of the highly contagious B.1.617.2 (Delta) variant. Saratoga County Public Health Services (SCPHS) recommends that, at this time, all individuals—fully vaccinated, partially vaccinated, and unvaccinated—wear a mask when indoors with people who are not members of their own household, outdoors in crowded settings, and when engaging in activities that involve close contact with others who are not fully vaccinated.

SCPHS also recommends vaccination for those who are eligible; testing for those with signs or symptoms of COVID-19 disease and for those who have been exposed to a person infected with the virus, regardless of whether they are experiencing signs or symptoms or have been fully vaccinated; and other preventive measures that protect themselves and others.

BACKGROUND

In the last 7 days, 240 cases have been reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (104.41 per 100,000 population), which has calculated the percent positivity at 4.46%.

Since June 6, 2021, approximately 40% of reported cases in the county have been identified in individuals ages 18-39; an additional 10% of reported cases have occurred among those ages 6-11 years. While hospitalizations during this time have not increased to levels observed during January 2021, approximately 89% of hospitalized individuals were not fully vaccinated.

To date, only 0.007% of fully vaccinated county residents have been hospitalized due to COVID disease. Similarly, of the 169 COVID-19 related deaths reported to SCPHS, 99.4% occurred in individuals who were not fully vaccinated.

COVID-19 MITIGATION

Vaccination

Vaccination is the most effective strategy against the virus that causes COVID-19 disease. 80.3% of vaccine-eligible county residents and 70.1% of all county residents have received at least one dose of vaccine. This level of vaccine coverage has prevented a surge in severe COVID-19 disease and hospitalizations in our community. Those who are unvaccinated remain at the highest risk of infection, severe illness, and hospitalization. SCPHS regularly provides vaccination opportunities, which are listed on the Department's website at

Our vision: A healthy Saratoga County where everyone and every community thrives today and into the future.

<https://www.saratogacountyny.gov/departments/publichealth/covid19/>. Additional vaccination locations can be found at <https://www.vaccines.gov/>.

Masking

Masking provides protection from COVID-19 to the wearer. If the wearer is infected, masking helps prevent transmission to others.

Unvaccinated individuals aged 2 or older should continue to wear masks when they are indoors with people who are not members of their own household, regardless of the level of local transmission. During periods with high numbers of COVID-19 cases, unvaccinated individuals should consider wearing a mask in crowded outdoor settings and for activities with close contact with others who are not fully vaccinated.

Fully Vaccinated individuals should, during times of substantial or high community transmission, wear a mask indoors in public. Wearing a mask will maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent possibly spreading it to others.

Vulnerable populations, whether vaccinated or not, and members of their households should consider wearing a mask regardless of the level of local transmission. Vulnerable populations include those with a weakened immune system or those who may be at increased risk for severe disease due to advanced age or an underlying medical condition.

On planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the U.S. and while indoors at U.S. transportation hubs, such as airports and stations, masks are required by the federal government, regardless of vaccination status.

Testing

SCPHS recommends that the following groups get tested for COVID-19:

- People who have symptoms of COVID-19.
- People who have had a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
 - Those who are fully vaccinated should get tested 3-5 days after exposure, even if they do not have any symptoms.
 - These individuals should also wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result.
 - Those who are not fully vaccinated should quarantine and be tested immediately after being identified, and, if negative, tested again in 5–7 days after last exposure or immediately if symptoms develop during quarantine.

Other COVID-19 Preventive Measures

SCPHS recommends that individuals monitor their health daily and continue to engage in other COVID-19 preventive measures such as:

- Stay home and avoid others when sick
- Stay 6 feet away from others when possible
- Avoid large crowds and poorly ventilated spaces
- Wash hands often with soap and water or use hand sanitizer
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Clean and disinfect high touch surfaces daily
- Avoid close contact with anyone who is sick

Our vision: A healthy Saratoga County where everyone and every community thrives today and into the future.