



Superintendent Presentation

Sweet Home Central School District

Michael V. Ginestre
August 17, 2021



The Sweet Home Way

Opening Plan for the 2021-2022 School Year

Overarching Theme from Opening Task Force:

- The district is committed to returning to in-person instruction five days per week for all students in the safest manner possible.



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NYSDOH

No State Health Department Guidance to be Provided for School Openings

This afternoon, we were advised by phone call from the Governor's office that, as the COVID-19 state of emergency has been rescinded, neither their office nor the New York State Department of Health will be issuing guidance to govern the opening of schools next month.

Accordingly, we expect that decisions regarding masks, physical distancing, COVID testing, employee vaccination requirements, and so forth will be left to local discretion, exercised by school district and county health officials.

We recommend consulting with local colleagues, district superintendents, local health officials, and board members in deciding how to proceed.

In past weeks, state officials recommended that district leaders review the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) July 9 [Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#). On July 28, the CDC issued [Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#) which modified the earlier guidance to recommend, "...universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to schools, regardless of vaccination status."



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Opening Plan for the 2021-2022 School Year

What we know:

- The Delta variant of COVID-19 is causing a spike in cases in Erie County.
- Transmission rates in schools this summer were on the rise with limited restrictions in place. Sweet Home students in summer programs were not impacted.



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Erie County Level of Community Transmission (8/12/21)

Level of Community Transmission in Erie County, New York



<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>

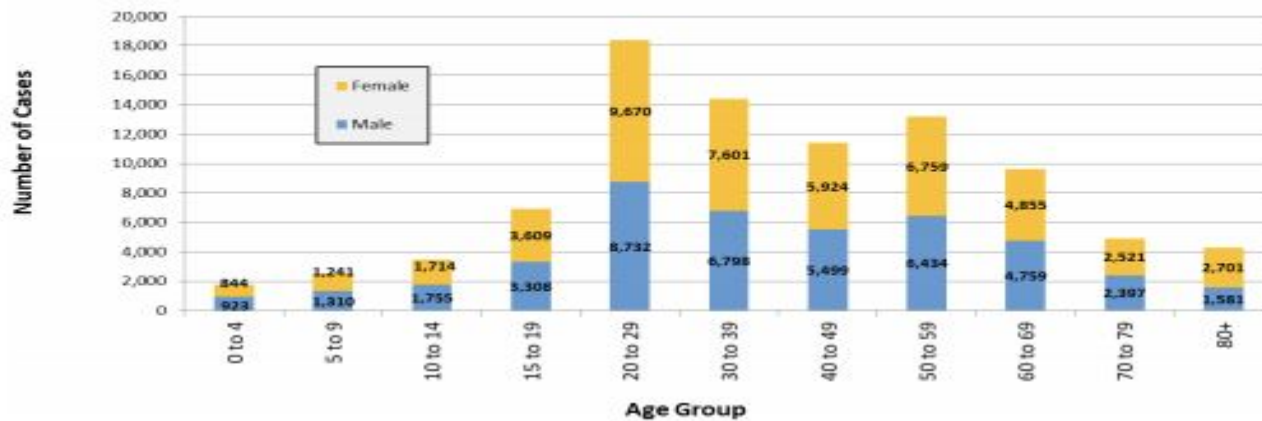


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Erie County Confirmed COVID-19 Cases by Age Group and Gender through 8/7/21

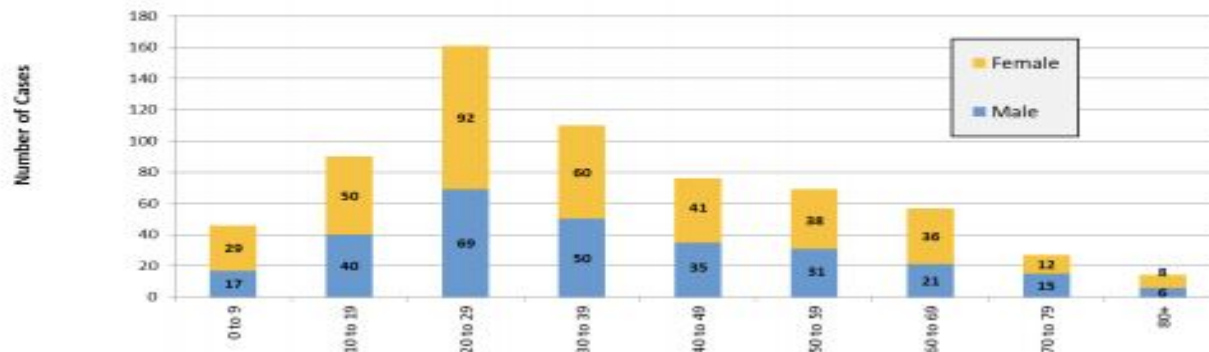
Confirmed COVID-19 Cases by Age Group and Gender

March 2020-8/7/2021



Confirmed COVID-19 Cases by Age Group

8/1/2021-8/7/2021



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Erie County Confirmed COVID-19 Cases this Summer Through 8/7/21

Week Ending	New Cases in the Past 7 Days	Total New Cases in the Past 7 Days per 100,000 Persons
7/3/2021	75	8.2
7/10/2021	68	7.4
7/17/2021	173	18.8
7/24/2021	297	32.3
7/31/2021	529	57.6
8/7/2021	650	70.7

<https://www2.erie.gov/health/sites/www2.erie.gov.health/files/uploads/pdfs/ECDOH-data-vis-08072021.pdf>



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7 Day Moving Averages

Erie County, New York

Tue, Jan 21st 2020 - Sun, Aug 15th 2021



**7-Day Totals,
Rates, Percentages,
and % Change in Last
7 Days**

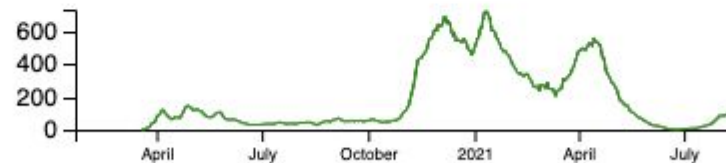
Cases

795

(86.54 per 100k)

↑ 27 % change

Data through Sun Aug 15 2021



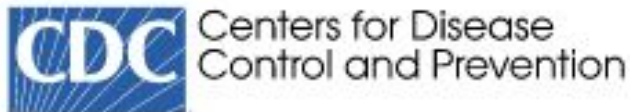
<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>



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Opening Plan for the 2021-2022 School Year

- Districts are currently working with the CDC guidelines for opening schools and recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics to develop plans.



American Academy
of Pediatrics



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Key Takeaways from the CDC

- Students benefit from in-person learning. Safely returning to in-person instruction this fall is a priority.
- Due to the Delta variant, the CDC recommends universal indoor masking by all students (age 2 and older), staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.
- The CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms to reduce transmission risk. When not possible, schools should layer other prevention strategies such as screening and testing.



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Key Takeaways from the CDC

- Screening testing, ventilation, handwashing, and respiratory etiquette, staying at home when sick and getting tested, contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation, and cleaning and disinfecting are also important layers of prevention to keep schools safe.
- Students, teachers, and staff should stay home when they have signs of any infectious illness and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care.
- Localities should monitor community transmission, vaccination coverage, screening testing, and occurrence of outbreaks to guide decisions on the level of layered prevention strategies.



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NYSED Guidance for Opening Schools (Aug. 12, 2021)

- Based on CDC Guidelines and AAP Guidelines
- Recommends a Layered Approach to Health and Safety Measures
- Strategies include
 - Promoting Vaccination
 - Correct Use of Masks
 - Physical Distancing
 - Screening Testing to Quickly Identify Cases
 - Improved Ventilation (SH is well equipped in this area).
 - Proper Hygiene
 - Staying Home When Sick
 - Contact Tracing
 - Cleaning and Disinfecting



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Sweet Home Central Opening Plan Items for Consideration

- The health, safety and wellness of our students in our opening plan is of the utmost priority as we bring all students back for in-person instruction, five days a week.
- Guidance and/or mandates from the Erie County Department of Health are expected very soon.
- This guidance and/or mandates will help us customize our plan.
- Our plans will be solidified immediately upon arrival of the guidance/mandate and be communicated to families as soon as possible. We know the clock is ticking.



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Sweet Home Central Opening Plan Items for Consideration

- Mask Mandate or Highly Recommended?
- Health Screenings
- 3ft Social Distancing when Possible
- Pool Testing
- Seating charts and attendance records in common areas
- Vaccine promotion (clinics)
- Transportation
- Proper Hygiene
- Visitor Access
- Limit/restrict the number of indoor crowds
- Cleaning and Disinfecting



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Proximal and Surveillance Testing Layer

- Paid for and administered through Erie County.
- Parental consent is obtained.
- Proximal testing is conducted on a classroom that has a positive case.
- Surveillance testing is randomized testing of 10 percent of the population on a weekly basis.
- If we sign up, the county provides a medical professional to run the testing program.



Welcome to Erie County, NY

Erie County, NY Department of Health



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Next Steps

- Superintendent call with Erie County DOH tomorrow to review their guidance on school opening.
- Cabinet meeting on Thursday to discuss district and building level safety protocols.
- Communications/discussions with BOE and stakeholder groups.
- Communications to families likely the week of August 30 as the situation is fluid and changes rapidly.



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Questions from the Board?

STRENGTH OF MIND AND BODY

Discipline yourself to be at your best to conquer adversity and challenge.

Preparation * Perseverance * Resilience * Focus * Energy

QUALITY RELATIONSHIPS

Build a support network of people that inspire you and challenge you to thrive.

Honesty * Empathy * Thoughtfulness * Respect * Trust

ACCOUNTABILITY

Take ownership of your life direction and master the sea.

Discipline * Responsibility * Reliability * Independence * Problem Solving

COURAGE TO LEAD

Believe in something that can improve the human condition, and show others the way.

Character * Humility * Communication * Service * Inspiration

