

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Healthcare

4/1/2021

ONEIDA AND HERKIMER COUNTIES NEED TO START EXERCISING AND CUT BACK ON THE PIZZA. THEY'RE RANKED AS THE 52ND AND 43RD HEALTHIEST COUNTIES IN NEW YORK ACCORDING TO A REPORT FROM THE ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION. THE ANNUAL STUDY LOOKS AT HEALTH FACTORS FROM DIET AND SMOKING TO AIR POLLUTION AND ACCESS TO MEDICAL CARE. ACCORDING TO THOSE FACTORS SARATOGA COUNTY IS THE HEALTHIEST PLACE IN THE STATE, WHILE THE BRONX IS THE WORST.

4/9/2021

THE SECOND WAVE OF THE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK APPEARS TO HAVE SPUTTERED OUT IN ONEIDA COUNTY. TOTAL ACTIVE CASES ARE DOWN TO JUST 371. MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE NUMBER OF NEW INFECTIONS HAS PLUNGED TO 33. THAT'S A FAR CRY FROM THE HUNDREDS OF NEW CASES REPORTED BACK IN JANUARY. THE NUMBER OF RESIDENTS TESTING POSITIVE FOR THE DISEASE HAS BEEN BELOW FIFTY FOR CLOSE TO SIX WEEKS. THOSE ARE THE BEST NUMBERS SINCE LATE NOVEMBER, WHEN THE CURRENT SPIKE IN CASES FIRST STARTED TO RAMP UP.

4/12/2021

IF YOU'VE BEEN WAITING TO GET THE COVID-19 VACCINATION, NOW IS THE TIME. FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE START OF THE PANDEMIC ONEIDA COUNTY IS ALLOWING WALK-IN VACCINATIONS. THE MOVE COMES AFTER THE COUNTY RECEIVED A SURGE OF DOSES FROM THE STATE. THAT COMES ON TOP OF AN INCREASING SUPPLY AT LOCAL PHARMACIES. HUNDREDS OF OPEN VACCINATION APPOINTMENTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE, INCLUDING SPOTS AT THE TURNING STONE POD ON WEDNESDAY. SEE THE O-C-GOV-DOT-NET WEBSITE FOR DETAILS.

4/16/2021

GETTING VACCINATED AGAINST COVID-19 IS NOW EASIER THAN EVER. BOTH ONEIDA AND HERKIMER COUNTIES ARE REPORTING A LARGE NUMBER OF AVAILABLE VACCINATION APPOINTMENTS AT MULTIPLE SITES. THAT COMES AFTER A SURGE IN THE NUMBER OF DOSES SENT BY THE STATE. RESIDENTS CAN SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT THROUGH THEIR COUNTY WEBSITE. ONEIDA COUNTY IS GOING A STEP FURTHER BY PROVIDING FREE TRANSPORTATION. ANYONE IN NEED OF A RIDE TO A COUNTY OPERATED POD SHOULD CALL THE COMMUNITY SERVICES HELPLINE AT 315-798-5439

4/21/2021

ONEIDA COUNTY IS DEALING WITH IT'S LARGEST COVID-19 CLUSTER YET- AND IT WAS TOTALLY PREVENTABLE. THAT'S ACCORDING TO ONEIDA COUNTY EXECUTIVE ANTHONY PICENTE. THE OUTBREAK COMES AFTER A DANCE COMPETITION OVER THE WEEKEND IN SYRACUSE THAT DIDN'T FOLLOW STATE MANDATED GUIDELINES. CLOSE TO THREE HUNDRED STUDENTS ARE CURRENTLY UNDER QUARANTINE, AND HUNDREDS MORE ARE SELF-MONITORING FOR SYMPTOMS. AT LEAST 21 PARTICIPANTS IN THE DANCE EVENT, MOST OF THEM CHILDREN, HAVE TESTED POSITIVE FOR THE DISEASE.

4/22/2021

THE SUPPLY OF COVID-19 VACCINATIONS IS STARTING TO OUTSTRIP DEMAND FOR THE FIRST TIME. FOR MONTHS VULNERABLE NEW YORKERS STRUGGLED TO BOOK VACCINATION APPOINTMENTS THANKS TO LIMITED ALLOTMENTS OF VACCINES. NOW THAT PIPELINE HAS OPENED UP, AND MASS VACCINATION SITES ARE INCREASINGLY UNABLE TO FILL OPEN VACCINATION SLOTS. IN RESPONSE, THE STATE IS PLANNING TO RETARGET VACCINATION EFFORTS TO SMALLER VENUES. IN THE MEANTIME, THERE'S AN INCREASING PUSH TO ALLOW WALK UP VACCINATIONS AT EVERY SITE.

4/26/2021

THE CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK APPEARS TO HAVE PLATEAUED IN ONEIDA COUNTY. TOTAL ACTIVE CASES ARE DOWN TO JUST 371. MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE NUMBER OF NEW INFECTIONS HAS PLUNGED TO 30. THAT'S A FAR CRY FROM THE HUNDREDS OF NEW CASES REPORTED BACK IN JANUARY. POSITIVE TESTS HAVE BEEN BELOW FIFTY FOR CLOSE TO SIX WEEKS. COUNTY OFFICIALS SAY VACCINATION APPOINTMENTS ARE READILY AVAILABLE, AND EVEN MORE WILL OPEN UP NOW THAT THE JOHNSON AND JOHNSON VACCINE HAS BEEN CLEARED FOR USE.

HOSPITALS MAY SOON HAVE TO DISCLOSE HOW MANY NURSES ARE TAKING CARE OF PATIENTS. THAT'S ONE OF THE MEASURES INCLUDED IN A SAFE STAFFING BILL THAT COULD COME UP FOR A VOTE THIS WEEK. THE MEASURE WOULD SET MINIMUM PATIENT TO CAREGIVER RATIOS AT NURSING HOMES, WHILE HOSPITALS WOULD BE REQUIRED TO CONSULT WITH STAFF BEFORE SETTING A NURSE TO PATIENT RATIO. STAFFING LEVELS AT BOTH TYPES OF FACILITIES WOULD HAVE TO BE APPROVED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

4/28/2021

AS OF TOMORROW YOU'LL BE ABLE TO WALK INTO ANY STATE-RUN VACCINATION SITE AND GET A SHOT. STATE OFFICIALS ANNOUNCED THE CHANGE IN POLICY YESTERDAY. THE MOVE COMES AFTER RESIDENTS SPENT MONTHS FRANTICALLY TRYING TO SCHEDULE APPOINTMENTS. THAT'S ALL CHANGED IN THE LAST TWO WEEKS. THE DEMAND FOR VACCINATIONS HAS DROPPED, LEAVING LARGE BLOCKS OF VACCINATION APPOINTMENTS

UNFILLED. LOCALLY, THE STATE RUN VACCINATION POD AT SUNY POLYTECHNIC IN MARCY WILL BEGIN ACCEPTING WALK INS TOMORROW MORNING.

5/4/2021

IF YOU WANT TO GET VACCINATED, JUST WALK IN. THAT'S THE MESSAGE FROM THE MOHAWK VALLEY HEALTH SYSTEM. ALL THIS WEEK THEY'RE HOLDING POP-UP VACCINATION EVENTS FOR ANYONE EIGHTEEN OR OLDER. THE FIRST HAPPENS TODAY FROM TEN TO ONE AT THE F-X MATT APARTMENTS ON ARMORY DRIVE IN UTICA. THAT WILL BE FOLLOWED BY DAILY EVENTS IN ROME AND UTICA. THE CLINICS WILL BE OFFERING THE JOHNSON AND JOHNSON VACCINE, WHICH REQUIRES JUST ONE SHOT. DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE AT M-V-HEALTH-SYSTEM-DOT-ORG.

5/12/2021

ONEIDA COUNTY IS POISED TO BOUNCE BACK FROM THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC. THAT WAS THE MESSAGE FROM COUNTY EXECUTIVE ANTHONY PICENTE DURING HIS ANNUAL STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS YESTERDAY. HE ANNOUNCED A VARIETY OF NEW PROGRAMS. THE BIGGEST IS AN INITIATIVE THAT WOULD PAY COUNTY RESIDENTS TO GET VACCINATED. OTHER PLANS INCLUDE EXPANDING HIGH SPEED INTERNET ACCESS AND OFFERING LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN FUNDS AND ASSISTANCE TO REVITALIZE THEIR MAIN STREETS.

5/14/2021

KEEP THOSE MASKS ON. THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL RELEASED NEW GUIDANCE ON MASKS YESTERDAY, SAYING THEY'RE RARELY NEEDED FOR ANYONE WHO'S BEEN VACCINATED. DESPITE THAT RULING, THE CUOMO ADMINISTRATION IS REFUSING TO ROLL BACK THE STATE'S LEGAL MASK MANDATE. INSTEAD, THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WILL REVIEW THE NEW REQUIREMENTS. THE MOVE COMES EVEN AS THE NUMBER OF NEW COVID-19 INFECTIONS ACROSS THE STATE HAS PLUNGED TO NEAR RECORD LOWS.

6/3/2021

THE COST OF HEALTH INSURANCE IS LIKELY TO MAKE A BIG JUMP THIS YEAR. PROVIDERS ARE ASKING FOR AN AVERAGE INCREASE OF JUST OVER ELEVEN PERCENT ACCORDING TO NEW FIGURES FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES. HEALTHFIRST P-H-S-P IS LOOKING FOR A WHOPPING 34 PERCENT HIKE, WHILE SOME SMALLER PLANS ARE CUTTING RATES BY UP TO FOUR PERCENT. LAST YEAR INSURANCE COSTS GREW BY LESS THAN TWO PERCENT. THE CLOSURE OF HOSPITALS BY COVID-19 CUT INSURANCE PAYOUTS, AND SOME PROVIDERS ACTUALLY PAID OUT REFUNDS.

