



County of Erie

Mark C. Poloncarz
County Executive

DEPARTMENT OF SENIOR SERVICES

DAVID J. SHENK
Commissioner

(716) 858-8526
FAX: (716) 858-6468

September 2, 2021

Directors and Site Managers,

Confirmed Covid-19 positive cases have drastically increased in Erie County and are steadily rising every day. The Delta variant has proven more contagious than its previous form, and is capable of infecting **both** NON-vaccinated and FULLY-vaccinated individuals. We all know that older adults are highly susceptible to this virus and experience true life-threatening symptoms that often lead to hospitalization. We are all partners together providing crucial programming for our seniors and I know we all agree that their safety is our number one priority.

The CDC and the ECDOH currently recommends that ALL people who participate in indoor community activities, FULLY-vaccinated or NON-vaccinated wear a face mask and social distance to help combat this current spike in transmission. As of Monday, September 13th, 2021, we ask that all Erie County Senior Service nutrition and wellness programs adhere to the following guidance.

- Upon entering the building, all participating seniors, staff, and volunteers must be screened and asked if they currently:
 - a. Have COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, chills, shortness of breath)
 - b. Have had a positive COVID-19 test in the past 10 days
 - c. Have been told they have been identified as a close contact to a positive COVID-19 case in the previous 10 days and are **un-vaccinated**. (Fully vaccinated close contacts do not have to quarantine)

If the person currently has a fever, or answers "YES" to any of the above questions, they are to be sent home to isolate or quarantine.

- All Congregate Dining participants, staff, and volunteers must wear masks while indoors. Masks may be removed once seated during lunch service and consuming the meal.
- A 6ft. social distance between people will be maintained for all indoor events and programs.
- Masks may be removed during exercise programs only if a 6ft. distance is maintained between each participant, including the instructor.



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- Congregate meals must be served to the table by staff or volunteers, no cafeteria style pick-up.
- The Frozen meal program will again require an outside, drive-thru service method to limit contact.
- All wellness program participants must follow the mask and distancing guidance.
- Take-out/take-home meals will be allowed in the **Go & Dine Program**.

*Congregate Dining sites are still obligated to adhere to their approved re-opening plan with Erie County.

Please call me with any questions or concerns with this update. As always, our team is available to assist you with anything you need. Thank you for your commitment and hard work to assure the health and well-being of our older adults.

Yours truly,

James M. Strusienski
Assistant Project Director-Nutrition
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