

Q & A - Essex Center Outbreak of COVID Cases

How many of COVID-19 positive cases in Essex County are related to Essex Center?

All current positive cases are related to Essex Center.

32 positive cases of COVID that are Essex Center residents were identified from a test in August.

23 positive cases of COVID that are Essex Center employees were related cases identified from a test in August.

4 positive cases of COVID that are Essex Center employees were related cases identified from a test in July.

Additional data for Essex Center residents includes:

86 Census today

58 Negative

2 Unable to be tested/Refused

26 Positive

Current Status of Essex Center Positive Cases Today no longer at Essex Center

3 Deaths (including 1 person discharged to home & counted with Clinton County data)

3 Current Hospitalizations (at CVPH)

Does this constitute an outbreak?

Yes

How many pending resident/employee tests are there?

Residents: A testing event for Essex Center residents was conducted last week.

All test results are back/there are none pending.

All but 2 Essex Center residents have been tested. The two (2) residents Unable to be tested/Refused.

ECHD is facilitating re-testing of residents that tested negative early this week.

Employees: As a response effort, ECHD facilitated a testing event for Essex Center staff last week.

Early this week ECHD, in conjunction with UVM-Elizabethtown Community Hospital, is facilitating a re-testing of all staff that previously tested negative.

How many new positive are there since Friday?

Five (5) additional positive test results were received today.

Is the Health Department planning any pop up testing after the Essex Center outbreak?

In response to this outbreak, Essex County Health Department, in collaboration with Essex Center, NYSDOH Wadsworth Laboratory, and other healthcare partners, is working to ensure testing (swabbing) and rapid test result turn-around. This is necessary to isolate cases and identify contacts.

A testing event for close contacts, those under a Health Order of Quarantine due to exposure risk, will be facilitated by Essex County Health Department with UVM-Elizabethtown Community Hospital. Those people will be notified directly by this Department with details of the event.

Others seeking testing are encouraged to contact their provider and find local testing locations on the ECHD website:

www.co.essex.ny.us/Health

Why is Elizabethtown seeing a large number of positive cases?

ECHD uses a COVID-Tracker to identify Towns as directed by the Essex County Board of Supervisors/Board of Health. Elizabethtown is identified the community for those staff members that are currently living in and under a Health Order in the Town of Elizabethtown.

How many people are in quarantine county-wide?

Today, 400 people total are under an active Health Order of Quarantine in Essex County:

64 are close contacts of positive cases in the Essex Center outbreak

336 are travel-related

How many people are in quarantine because of Essex Center?

64

How are Contact Tracing efforts going?

The process of testing, isolating positive cases and quarantining contacts is very effective in halting the spread of COVID-19. However, the delay in getting test results back that has been experienced locally and throughout the US, means that cases are not identified as quickly and efficiently as needed.

ECHD works all positives cases immediately upon notification including an attempt to reach the positive case within 24 hours.

Upon successfully reaching a positive case, the Health Department conducts a thorough interview to determine potential contacts. Close contacts are also identified in collaboration with worksites/employers.

Cases typically notify their close contacts by their own choice. Once the Department is aware of contacts, an attempt to reach all contacts & place under a Health Order of Quarantine occurs within 48 hours of notification.

Has the Department seen an uptick in numbers outside the Essex Center facility?

No, there has not been an uptick in cases outside the facility. Today, all cases are associated with Essex Center.

This Department conducts daily monitoring of all positive cases while under isolation and close contacts while under quarantine. Health Orders of Quarantine serve to keep close contacts, those most at risk, out of the community.