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CHAIRMAN'S PRESS RELEASE

COVID-19 CASES EXPERIENCE SLIGHT DROP

COVID-19 cases

The current dominant variants of the COVID-19 virus, Omicron B.4 and B.5, continue to not push numbers up much in Columbia County, said county Department of Health Director Jack Mabb today. Through the four days of this week the DOH has recorded 76 positive cases, a slight drop from last week. Hospitalizations remain fairly low, with eight hospitalized and one in the ICU.

Director Mabb noted that new variants of the COVID-19 virus, in particular the one called Gryphon, continue to appear in different locations. Gryphon, for instance, has been observed in Singapore, Australia, and countries of Africa. It has been detected in the United States in small numbers, he added.

Attendance at the county's weekly Thursday vaccination clinic continued strong. Last Thursday, 72 received a COVID-19 booster and 19 received a flu shot. The clinics continue on Thursdays at A.B. Shaw Fire Department in Claverack from 3-5:30 p.m.

Upcoming DOH COVID-19 vaccination clinics

The Columbia County Department of Health will offer COVID-19 and flu vaccine clinics at the A.B. Shaw Fire Department in Claverack on Thursdays (not on Thanksgiving) from 3-5:30 p.m. throughout the month of November. All vaccines are available on a walk-in basis. For additional information, contact the county DOH at 518-828-3358.

County vaccination rates

As of Saturday, November 5, the Columbia County Department of Health had administered 11,295 first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. Second doses now number 9,571. The vaccine administered is Pfizer, Moderna, or Johnson & Johnson. Note: J&J – a single-dose vaccine – is added as a first shot.

Third shots (boosters) of Moderna or Pfizer now number 4,132. Fourth shots (boosters) of Moderna or Pfizer now number 715. Johnson & Johnson boosters number 65. Pfizer bivalent boosters stand at 328, and 604 of Moderna.

Pediatric first shots number 689, with 660 second shots and 53 boosters.

The total number of Columbia County residents by all vaccine providers, as shown on the NYS COVID-19 vaccine tracker website:

45,997 have received at least one dose, or 76.8 percent of the county's 59,916 population.

Student testing, home testing and affirmation reports

The DOH continues to provide testing for students and staff of Columbia County schools who require a negative test to return to school. This will be by appointment only at the DOH Monday-Friday between the hours of 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 12:45-3:30 p.m. Parents may contact (518) 828-3358 X1251 to schedule these appointments when needed. This testing will still only be for staff/students of Columbia County schools who need a negative COVID test to return to school.

Also available on the county DOH website is information on filing home testing reports as well as affirmation letters of quarantine and/or isolation that may be required by employers.

Disclaimer

It is the county's intention to issue accurate information regarding the coronavirus situation under conditions that can change by the minute. For the most up-to-date, accurate information, visit the County Department of Health's website at <https://www.columbiacountynyhealth.com> or their Facebook page @: <https://www.facebook.com/Columbia-County-Department-of-Health-469399129790791>. The state's coronavirus website, with up-to-the-minute information, can be located at <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>.

Every Thursday afternoon, Columbia County Board of Supervisors Chairman Matt Murell will issue a press release on the coronavirus situation. The releases can be found on the Columbia County website and the Facebook pages of the Sheriff's Office, the Department of Health, and the Emergency Management Office.