






















# COVID-19 Response


## Onondaga County Health Department (OCHD)


-  CDC begins screening travelers at 3 major airports Jan 17, 2020
-  OCHD attends first weekly call with NYSDOH Jan 17, 2020
-  First case in the US Jan 21, 2020
-  First media interview with OCHD Medical Director Jan 23, 2020
-  Commissioner sends alert to local healthcare providers Jan 24, 2020
-  OCHD implements call triage strategy for public inquiries Jan 28, 2020
-  Public Health Emergency declared by WHO and US Jan 29/30, 2020
-  First county-wide COVID-19 response meeting Feb 5, 2020





Onondaga County Executive, Commissioners of Emergency Management and Health call meeting with health system and other community leaders
-  OCHD monitors travelers from mainland China per NYSDOH Feb 8, 2020
-  OCHD plans for wrap-around services for PUIs/cases Mid-Feb, 2020
-  First case of COVID-19 in New York State Mar 1, 2020
-  Onondaga County press briefing Mar 4, 2020




Briefing with County Executive, Commissioner of Health, Commissioner of Emergency Management
-  OCHD launches COVID-19 information hotline Mar 5, 2020
-  Onondaga County Emergency Operations Center activated Mar 10, 2020
-  Pandemic declared by the World Health Organization Mar 11, 2020
-  Onondaga County declares emergency March 12, 2020
-  Commissioner meets with local business leaders March 14, 2020
-  First case of COVID-19 in Onondaga County Mar 16, 2020
-  Case investigation and contact tracing begin Mar 16, 2000

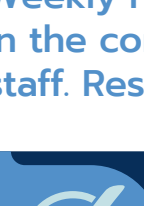






Bureau of Disease Control (BDC) case investigation and contact tracing now a 7 day-a-week operation.
-  All Onondaga County schools closed Mar 16, 2020
-  First Onondaga County public test site opens Mar 16, 2020








Test site opens at Syracuse Community Health Center in partnership with Onondaga County.
-  OCHD develops local guidance documents Mid-March 2020

Guidance for schools, congregate care facilities, employers, faith-based orgs, and general public
-  OCHD established supply distribution staging site Mar 18, 2020

OCHD worked with County agencies and community partners to provide wrap-around services for those in need during home isolation.
-  NYS issues order closing non-essential businesses Mar 20, 2020
-  Onondaga County launches COVID-19 website March 23, 2020
-  NYS Governor issues statewide mask mandate April 15, 2020
-  Contact tracing response ramped up May 2020

Staff provided with free Johns Hopkins University training. Launch of CommCare platform for case investigation and contact tracing. Other County departments trained and assigned to contact tracing.
-  NYSDOH issues travel advisory June 30, 2020
-  NYS Virtual Call Center begins contact tracing July 1, 2020
-  EM/OCHD begins testing at schools and in community October 2020

Weekly rapid testing provided at rotating locations in the community and at schools for students and staff. Results reported to NYSDOH.
-  FDA issues EUA for Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine Dec 11, 2020
-  FDA issues EUA for Moderna vaccine Dec 18, 2020
-  First vaccination in the US, to a nurse in Long Island, NY Dec 14, 2020
-  OCHD's first COVID-19 mass vaccination clinic Dec 28, 2020
-  County cases peak during Delta variant surge Jan 1, 2021
-  FDA issues EUA for Janssen/Johnson & Johnson vaccine Feb 27, 2021
-  Mass vaccination and pop-up clinics continue Through June 2021

Clinics held at Oncenter complex and throughout the community at schools, worksites, faith-based and community-based organizations
-  All core public health services resumed May 2021
-  Vaccination moved to OCHD weekly immunization clinic June 22, 2021
-  Test to Stay launched at 140 Onondaga County schools Sept 2021
-  NYS Governor issues indoor mask-or-vaccine requirement Dec 10, 2021
-  Onondaga County has first confirmed case of Omicron Dec 13, 2021
-  County cases peak during Omicron variant surge Jan 9, 2022
-  Onondaga the first county in NYS with BA.2.12 & BA.2.12.1 April 13, 2022

To date, bivalent boosters are being offered at OCHD immunization clinics; the department continues to work with schools to provide testing; BDC staff and Medical Director answer questions from the public, healthcare community, businesses, and agencies; case counts, demographics, hospitalizations, and other data points continue to be reported on the Onondaga County COVID-19 [data page and archive](#).

