



# ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANTHONY J. PICENTE, JR.  
ONEIDA COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DANIEL W. GILMORE, PH.D., MPH  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH



"PROMOTING & PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF ONEIDA COUNTY"

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## News Release

**Date: July 30, 2021**  
**For Immediate Release**

**Contact: Megan Graziano**  
**315-798-5882**

## **Oneida County Health Department Reminds Parents of Vaccinations Requirements for School and Urges All Eligible Students Get Vaccinated for COVID-19**

It's almost back to school time! Kids will soon be picking out their backpacks and first day of school outfits and parents will be busy purchasing new lunch bags, notebooks and pencils on their children's school supply list. Don't forget the most important task on the list: vaccinations.

All required doses of vaccines on the recommended schedule must be received in order for a child to attend day care and pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade in New York State unless exempt due to a valid medical reason. Although not required, the COVID-19 vaccine is also available to all children 12 years or older. Vaccines are safe and highly effective at protecting children from potentially life-threatening diseases. They provide immunity before children are exposed to the disease. Not only do vaccines protect the person receiving the vaccine, but also help prevent the spread of disease to others especially those who are more vulnerable to serious complications.

The COVID-19 pandemic may have caused a delay in important check-ups and vaccinations. Any child who does not have up to date required immunizations may be excluded from school. Check with your child's doctor and schedule your appointment now if needed.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also put a lot of stress on children, parents and schools. Positive COVID-19 cases caused illness and deaths, but also caused countless quarantines for children resulting in children missing important life events such as proms, graduations, sporting events, tests, etc. Help protect your child from illness but also from missing out on these important events by getting your child vaccinated for COVID-19. If your child receives the Pfizer vaccine by August 3, 2021 and completes the series on time, your child will be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 by the first day of school.

Talk to your child's doctor to make sure your child is up to date with all required vaccines. Also, if you are still undecided, have a conversation with your child's doctor about the COVID-19 vaccine. The COVID-19 vaccine is widely available throughout the community. Appointments can be made at [www.ocgov.net](http://www.ocgov.net) or <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>. For more information about immunizations, visit <https://www.ocgov.net/oneida/health/ImmunVaccines>

### ADMINISTRATION

ADIRONDACK BANK BLDG., 5<sup>TH</sup> FL.,  
185 GENESEE ST. UTICA, NY 13501  
TEL: (315) 798-6400 • FAX: (315) 266-6138

### SPECIAL CHILDREN SERVICES

ADIRONDACK BANK BLDG., 5<sup>TH</sup> FL.,  
185 GENESEE ST. UTICA, NY 13501  
TEL: (315) 798-5249 • FAX: (315) 731-3491

### ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

ADIRONDACK BANK BLDG., 4<sup>TH</sup> FL.,  
185 GENESEE ST. UTICA, NY 13501  
TEL: (315) 798-5064 • FAX: (315) 798-6486

### CLINICAL SERVICES

406 ELIZABETH ST. UTICA, NY 13501  
TEL: (315) 798-5748 • FAX: (315) 798-1057