



COVID Mitigation Playbook

Guidance for Implementing COVID-19 Prevention Strategies in the Context of Infection Rates and Hospitalizations

Top Five Mitigation Strategies

1. **Stay home** if you are not feeling well.
2. **Get vaccinated** if you haven't yet.
3. **Wear a mask** indoors if you cannot socially distance.
4. **Get tested** to know your status before you go to an event.
5. **Get a booster** if you received both shots of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine at least six months ago or one shot of the J&J vaccine at least two months ago.

TIER 1: Moderate Mitigation

- <50 new cases per 100,000 population per day (7-day rolling average) AND
- At least 30% of hospital beds available (7-day rolling average) AND
- At least 30% of ICU beds available (7-day rolling average)

Suggested Mitigation Strategies

- Face masks for non-vaccinated residents.
- Promote behaviors that prevent spread and maintain healthy environments.
- Increase vaccination rates and promote booster shots to decrease case numbers and hospitalizations.

TIER 2: Substantial Mitigation

- 50-100 new cases per 100,000 population per day (7-day rolling average) AND
- <30% of hospital beds available (7-day rolling average) AND
- <30% of ICU beds available (7-day rolling average)

Suggested Mitigation Strategies

- Vaccine proof for mass gatherings.
- Face masks for indoors.
- Face masks for mass gatherings where social distancing is not achievable.
- Face masks for facilities that care for vulnerable residents.
- Social distancing.
- Remote work where appropriate.
- Increase vaccination rates and promote booster shots to decrease case numbers and hospitalizations.

TIER 3: High Mitigation

- 100+ new cases per 100,000 population per day (7-day rolling average) AND
- <15% of hospital beds available (7-day rolling average) AND
- <15% of ICU beds available (7-day rolling average)

Suggested Mitigation Strategies

- Vaccine proof for dining indoors and/or attending events.
- Face masks in indoor spaces.
- Limit mass gathering capacities.
- Social distancing and remote work where appropriate.
- Increase vaccination rates and promote booster shots to decrease case numbers and hospitalizations.

Disclaimer: This playbook was developed by county leaders based on their experience combatting the pandemic and previous guidance developed by the CDC, NYSDOH, and disease outbreak experts. NYSAC recommends consulting with your local health department, hospitals, emergency services providers, outpatient providers, and schools about local conditions and trends, as well as the appropriate interventions for each tier. More robust prevention strategies may be necessary to prevent hospitalizations and decrease transmission.