

COUNTY HEALTH

[.https://www.westchestergov.com](https://www.westchestergov.com)

Winter Weather Safety Tips

With significant snowfall forecasted for Westchester beginning tonight and continuing through the day tomorrow, County Executive George Latimer is urging residents to take precautions to be prepared for the storm [↗](#). The storm is projected to make travel difficult, particularly during the morning rush hours, and may also lead to downed wires, fallen trees and power outages. As much as nine to 12 inches of snow is possible, particularly in northern Westchester. Health Commissioner Sherlita Amler, MD, said: "Dress warmly in several layers of loose-fitting clothing to trap body heat when you go out to shovel and keep a spare blanket in your car in case of breakdowns. Wear a hat, gloves and a scarf. Instead of waiting until the snow stops, shovel a few times to avoid straining yourself. Clear the snow off the roof of your car to avoid creating a hazard for others and don't shovel snow into the street. If you are able to, clear a path for your elderly neighbors and check on them. Low temperatures can be life-threatening, especially for seniors, infants and people who are at increased risk for hypothermia [↗](#)." If you lose power, call your utility company. Con Edison can be reached at 1-800-75-CONED; NYS Electric and Gas can be reached at 1-800-572-1131 for electrical outages and 1-800- 572-1121 for gas.

February 8, 2024: URGENT PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT

Toxoplasmosis Exposure Warning Issued for Two Game Dinners Held at The American Legion in Mount Kisco on January 19 and 20

The Westchester County Department of Health is investigating two cases of toxoplasmosis, an infection with a parasite. Those sick and those exposed attended two game dinners held on Friday, January 19, and Saturday January 20, at the Moses Taylor Jr. American Legion Post in Mount Kisco.

---The Health Department recommends that all individuals who ate food at, or ate leftovers from these game dinners contact their doctor about potential exposure to toxoplasmosis, an illness caused by a parasite.

---The Health Department is also asking that anyone who is pregnant, immunosuppressed, experiencing visual changes or eye symptoms, or any other symptoms call the Health Department at 914-813-5159 during business hours and 914-813-5000 after hours.

Toxoplasmosis is an illness that can cause birth defects or miscarriages in pregnant women, can be deadly for those with a weakened immune system, or result in prolonged visual deficits in those with eye symptoms. A healthy person's immune system usually keeps the parasite from causing illness, and most people do not require treatment. Some people with the parasite develop a flu-like illness that lasts a few weeks with symptoms that can include muscle aches, headache, fever with chills and sweats, tiredness, sore throat or swollen lymph nodes. Long-term effects, such as vision problems, are also possible.

Rabies Alert Update January 19, 2024: Two More People Come Forward After Being Bit By Rabid Fox Killed in Peekskill

Two more people who were bit by the rabid fox have come forward after the Westchester County Department of Health issued an alert to the community Wednesday, that a fox that bit two residents in Peekskill last Saturday, tested positive for rabies. The two subsequent residents who were bit were not receiving treatment for rabies, but

are now under a doctor's care. Health Commissioner Sherlita Amler, MD, said: "If you are bitten or scratched by a ^{an} wild animal, you must immediately contact the Westchester County Health Department – your life depends on it. Exposure to rabies when left untreated can lead to death. In this case the two subsequent individuals saw the news reports about the rabid fox and called the Health Department. That one news report and one phone call – quite literally saved their lives." **If you came in contact with the fox in Peekskill, please call the Westchester County Department of Health at (914) 813-5000, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.** [Learn more.](#) [↗](#)

Rabies Alert January 17, 2024: Rabid Fox Killed in Peekskill

The Department of Health is issuing an alert to the community after a fox that bit two residents in Peekskill last Saturday, now tested positive for rabies. Both residents, who were together during the incident, are currently receiving preventive treatment for rabies. The Health Department is reminding residents that unusual behavior in an animal may be the first sign of rabies. A rabid animal may become either abnormally aggressive or unusually tame. It may lose fear of people, become excited, irritable, or appear particularly passive and lethargic. Staggering and frothing at the mouth are sometimes noted. [Learn more.](#) [↗](#)

Recalled Cinnamon Applesauce Pouches Due to Elevated Lead Levels

The FDA, along with CDC and state and local partners, is investigating reports of elevated blood lead levels in individuals with reported exposure to Apple Cinnamon Fruit Puree pouches manufactured in Ecuador and sold under WanaBana, Weis, and Schnucks brands. [View more information on lot codes and UPCs.](#) [↗](#) View this short, but informative video that shows families how to keep their [children safe from lead](#) [↗](#) (English and Spanish).

Single-Use Foodware Law



Westchester County is reminding residents and business owners of its "[Upon Request](#)" single-use foodware law (<https://www.westchestergov.com/home/all-press-releases/9920-westchester-county-s-upon-request-law-aimed-at-curbing-use-of-single-use-foodware-takes-effect-on-september-2>), which took effect on September 2, 2023. This legislation aims to reduce the consumption of single-use plastics by promoting a more mindful approach to their usage within food service establishments by limiting the use of single-use foodware products to only when specifically requested by the customer.

Food service establishments are required to [prominently display this clearly legible sign](#) [↗](#) (in [Spanish](#) [↗](#) and [Chinese](#) [↗](#)) informing customers that plastic utensils, condiments, and straws are available only upon request.

For more information, view the county's [press release](#) [↗](#), [webpage](#) (<https://environment.westchestergov.com/laws/single-use-waste-legislation>), and [fact sheet](#) [↗](#) (in [Spanish](#) [↗](#) and [Chinese](#) [↗](#)) on the law.

Up to 8 FREE At-Home COVID-19 Tests Per Household Available




The federal government has relaunched its free at-home COVID-19 testing program. Beginning September 25, 2023 every household in America can order up to 4 at-home test kits. The no-cost tests will be delivered for free by the United States Postal Service. Beginning November 20, 2023 every U.S. household can again place an order to receive four more free COVID-19 rapid tests delivered directly to their home. [Visit COVIDtests.gov to place your order](https://www.covidtests.gov) . Before You Throw Out "Expired" Tests: [Check FDA's website to see if your COVID-19 tests' expiration dates have been extended.](#) 

FREE At-Home COVID-19 Tests Available for Blind or Low Vision People

As of September 25, 2023, you can place another order for one set of #12 free at-home tests with enhanced accessibility for blind or low vision people, while supplies last. Here's what you need to know about your order:


Limit of one order per residential address



Your order will include #12 rapid antigen COVID-19 tests with enhanced accessibility for blind or low vision people. [COVIDTests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov)  has more details about at-home tests, including extended shelf life and updated expiration dates)


Supplies of tests with enhanced accessibility are limited. Only order these tests if you do not have other options for using the standard COVID-19 tests

Tests require you to use a compatible, Bluetooth-enabled smartphone, as well as download and install an app from the App Store (for iOS) or Google Play (for Android)

COVID Vaccine Information 10-18-23

An updated monovalent COVID vaccine targeting the Omicron XBB.1.5 variant [has been approved for use](#)  and is recommended for everyone six months and older to protect against serious illness. We are now offering the updated monovalent COVID vaccine at our Health Department vaccination clinics.

Please be advised that we are no longer able to provide COVID vaccine to everyone interested in receiving it at our clinics. As a safety net provider, COVID vaccines are now only available to children [eligible for the Vaccines for Children program](#)  and adults who are not insured or are underinsured through the [Bridge Access Program](#)  at our clinics. If you meet this criteria, you can make an appointment at one of our vaccine clinics by calling (914) 995-5800.

If you have health insurance, you are able to get the updated COVID vaccine at places where you would normally go to get vaccines, such as at pharmacies and medical provider offices. Use the [Vaccine Finder Tool](#)  to schedule a COVID vaccine near you.



Long COVID Survey



The Westchester County Department of Health has launched a survey to better understand how Long COVID has impacted the health and well-being of community members. Survey responses will be used to advise the medical community and policymakers on the needs of Westchester County residents managing Long COVID. For more information email wccares-health@westchestercountyny.gov (<mailto:wccares-health@westchestercountyny.gov>).

COVID-19 and Flu Resources

[Vaccination Clinic Registration and Information \(/vaccine-information\)](#) (Ages 6 months and up)

[Testing and Treatment Information](#)

([/testing-results-treatment](#)) [Quarantine and Isolation Guidance \(/quarantine-and-isolation\)](#)

[WCDH Coronavirus Updates \(/covid-19-updates\)](#) (school resources, data and more)

[Find your COVID-19 community levels](#) [↗](#) (low, medium, or high), and prevention steps to take based on the latest CDC data.

COVID-19 Treatment is Available

Oral antiviral medications are available for treatment of COVID-19 and have been proven to decrease hospitalization for those that are at risk for severe disease. When given soon after a positive diagnosis, these antivirals also help fight infection and shorten recovery time. All treatments require a prescription and those who test COVID-19 positive should talk to their health care provider.

Westchester County residents who test positive and do not have a health care provider, regardless of income or health insurance coverage, are eligible to be evaluated for treatment by calling 888-TREAT-NY (888-873-2869) or completing an evaluation at the [NYS COVID-19 ExpressCare Therapeutics Access](#) [↗](#) website, which includes a telemedicine visit. The Hotline is available 24-hours per day, seven days a week and operated by experienced Health + Hospitals professionals who have the clinical training to prescribe treatment and referrals if needed.

Mpox (Monkeypox) Vaccines are available at our clinics. Appointments are required, call (914) 995-5800.

If you meet the NYSDOH guidance outlined below, you are eligible to register for the Mpox vaccine:

Individuals with recent exposure to a suspected or confirmed mpox case within the past 14 days.

Those at high risk of a recent exposure to mpox, including gay men and members of the bisexual, transgender, and gender non-conforming community and other communities of men who have sex with men and who have engaged in intimate or skin-to-skin contact with others in the past 14 days areas where mpox is spreading.

Individuals who have had skin-to-skin contact with someone in a social network experiencing mpox activity, including men who have sex with men who meet partners through an online website, digital application ("app"), or social event, such as a bar or party.

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Any individual that may be at risk of future exposure to infection with mpox, even though they are not at high risk of a recent exposure to mpox.

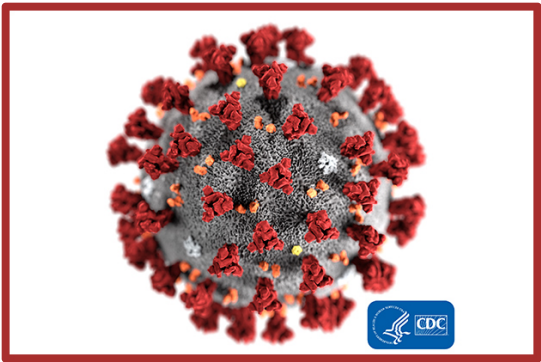
Find out [What to Expect After Your Mpox Vaccine](#).

Mpox Vaccine appointments are also available at:

- Westchester Medical Center, 15 Oval Connector, Valhalla, NY 10595
Monday through Friday from 9 am - 5 pm, appointment required.
Call (914) 326-2060 to schedule an appointment.
- Use the [Mpox Vaccine Locator Tool](#) to find other sites offering the vaccine in your area.

More information about mpox can be found on the [WCDH Mpox Information \(/monkeypox-information\)](#) web page.

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) (/2019-novel-coronav... ^



[\(/2019-novel-coronavirus\)](#)

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