

**OFFICE OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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MEDIA RELEASE
December 15, 2021

The Wyoming County Community Health System, as with most hospitals in our region, is under significant stress due to the increase in confirmed COVID-19 cases in residents throughout the community. A State of Emergency remains in place to assist in the procurement of goods and services and to better render all required, available assistance to WCCHS, Wyoming County Health Department, municipalities and school districts. Those resources are vital to the security, well-being, health and safety of the citizens of Wyoming County and beyond.

The seven day positivity average for Wyoming County as of December 13, 2021 is 10.2%. The county's vaccination rate stands at 54.2% of the total population, representing 62.5% of residents 18 years and older having at least one dose. Last week 87.5% of hospitalized COVID patients, including those in the ICU were **unvaccinated**.

The Wyoming County Board of Supervisors met yesterday afternoon and acknowledged that we all need to collectively do our part to ensure we and those close to us stay safe. With the Health Department's limited resources, their primary focus needs to be on the critical mission of COVID vaccination, booster and testing clinics. This includes working with school districts, and educating the public on the importance of health and safety measures needed to prevent the spread, especially as new COVID variants become more prevalent.

While vaccinations and the use of masks are strongly encouraged, businesses and public venues should determine what is in the best interest of their operations in light of the mask mandate, current infection rates and the NYS HERO Act, which is already a part of their business safety plan.

Seventy-one (71) Wyoming County residents have lost their lives due to the COVID pandemic. Those 71 individuals have families who will not have their loved ones with them for Christmas this year. Please take time to reflect and remember those families, they are our neighbors and friends. And, please do everything possible to ensure that you and your loved ones remain safe and healthy during this holiday season.

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Rebecca J. Ryan, Chairwoman

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rebecca J. Ryan".

Wyoming County Board of Supervisors