



2021 Communicable Disease Snapshot

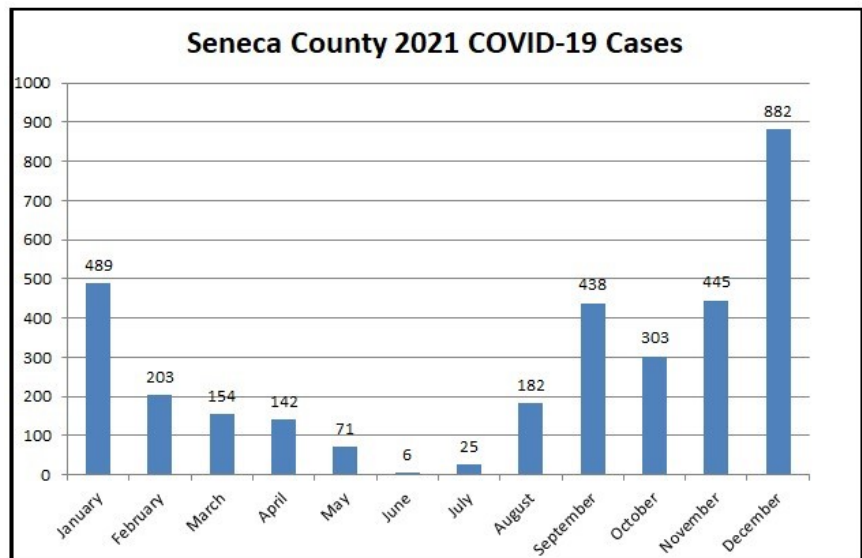
Disease	# of cases
Anaplasmosis	3
Campylobacteriosis	12
Chlamydia	65
COVID-19	3340
Cryptosporidiosis	5
Giardiasis	4
Gonorrhea	25
Group A Strep	1
Group B Strep	2
Hepatitis A—Acute	0
Hepatitis B - Chronic	14
Hepatitis C - Acute	0
Hepatitis C - Chronic	227
Influenza A (2020-2021)	1
Influenza B (2020-2021)	2
Legionellosis	1
Lyme Disease	29
Salmonellosis	8
Shiga Toxin Producing E. coli	3
Shigellosis	1
Strep pneumoniae	3
Syphilis	45
Vibriosis	1

Overview of Communicable Disease in 2021

COVID-19 was the main focus of Health Department communicable disease staff in 2021. Health Department efforts included COVID-19 case investigation, contact tracing, monitoring of individuals on quarantine, and patient and provider education.

As shown in the graph below, at the start of 2021 there was a post-holiday surge of COVID-19 cases. As Spring approached, cases in the county dropped, with an all time low for the year of 6 cases in June. However, by August cases were on the rise again as the delta variant emerged. As the holiday season approached, cases continued to rise and then skyrocketed with the emergence of the omicron variant.

Throughout 2021, Health Department staff continued to monitor and investigate other communicable diseases as they arose. The incidence of most communicable diseases remained low, similar to 2020 levels. Of note, influenza case counts for the 2020/2021 season were unprecedentedly low. As shown on the left, there were a total of 3 cases of influenza. This was likely due to physical distancing and mask wearing leading to less transmission of disease.



Visit our website!
www.SenecaCountyHealthDepartment.com

Thank you to our Seneca County medical providers for their cooperation in reporting communicable diseases and STI's. We value your partnership in helping us identify and mitigate potential outbreaks and for ensuring the health and wellness of our residents.

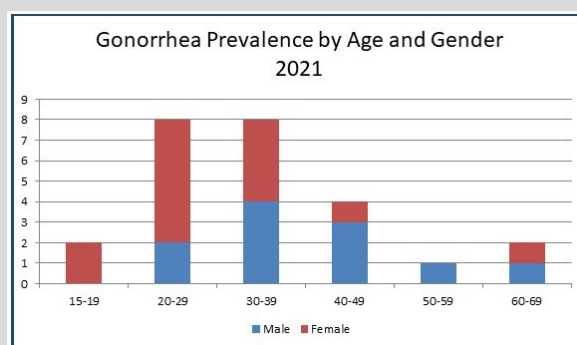
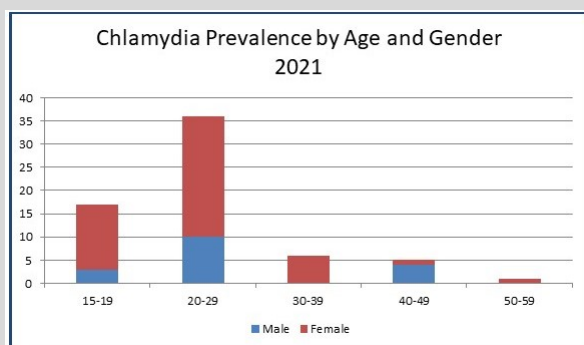
For questions regarding this report or services provided by Seneca County Health Department please contact us at (315)539-1920





Sexually Transmitted Infection Trends

- **NEW:** The treatment of choice for chlamydia is doxycycline 100 mg orally twice daily for 7 days. When nonadherence to doxycycline regimen is a substantial concern, azithromycin 1 g regimen is an alternative treatment option but might require post-treatment evaluation and testing because it has demonstrated lower treatment efficacy among persons with rectal infection.
- The recommended treatment for gonorrhea is a single 500 mg dose of ceftriaxone IM. The two drug approach is no longer recommended. Because re-infection is common, men and women with gonorrhea should be retested three months after treatment of the initial infection, regardless of whether they believe that their sex partners were successfully treated.
- Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) is the clinical practice of treating the sex partners of patients diagnosed with chlamydia or gonorrhea by providing prescriptions or medications to the patient to take to his/her partner without the health care provider first examining the partner. EPT is legally permissible in New York and providers are strongly encouraged to prescribe EPT when possible to help curb the spread of chlamydia and gonorrhea. For more information on EPT, go to www.cdc.gov/std/ept.
- Primary, secondary or early latent syphilis is treated with a single IM injection of benzathine penicillin G (2.4 million units) while late latent syphilis or latent syphilis of unknown duration requires three doses at weekly intervals. Please contact Public Health for assistance with staging.
- The NYSDOH requires Local Health Departments to collect pharmacy or dispensing information on all STI treatment. Please continue to report how medication was provided to the patient and whether EPT was offered.



Rabies

In 2021 Seneca County held 4 free drive-thru rabies clinics which resulted in the vaccination of 276 animals. Environmental Health handled 96 bite reports resulting in 10 day confinements for the animals. Eleven animals were sent for rabies testing, of which none tested positive for rabies. Twenty people were sent for post exposure rabies shots. It is very important to catch and save any bat found in the home, then contact the Health Dept. to determine if it needs to be tested for rabies.

Please remember that animal bites are reportable to Seneca County Environmental Health. Please obtain as much information as possible about the biting animal, so that we can follow up with the owner and ensure the animal is healthy or start rabies post-exposure treatment if necessary.

Tuberculosis

Due to the restrictions during COVID-19, no TST's were placed by Seneca County Public Health in 2021. Public Health received 3 referrals for positive TST's, of those referrals— 2 were ruled in for Latent TB. One patient chose to complete their treatment with the Seneca County Health Department TB clinic overseen by Dr. Eric Shives, and one patient completed treatment at Rochester General Hospital. No cases of active TB were identified in 2021.

CDC and NTCA preferentially recommend the following for treatment of latent TB infection (as of 2/2020):

- Three months of once-weekly isoniazid plus rifapentine (3HP). 3HP is strongly recommended for adults and children older than 2 years, including HIV-positive persons.
- Four months of daily rifampin (4R). 4R is strongly recommended for HIV-negative adults and children of all ages. Three months of daily isoniazid plus rifampin (3HR) is conditionally recommended for adults and children of all ages and for HIV-positive persons. If short-course treatment is not a feasible or available option, CDC and NTCA recommend six or nine months of daily isoniazid (6H/9H) as alternative, effective latent TB infection treatment regimens.