



December 17, 2021

News Headlines

Glens Falls Hospital, HHHN, and Irongate Family Practice Warn that This COVID Spike is Much Worse Than Any Other

The message from these doctors could not be more clear. More people are dying, more people are ill, Glens Falls Hospital is past capacity, the Emergency Department is seeing more people than ever before and they are sicker – and this is *before* the Holiday Season even gets under way. The regional Walk In and Urgent Care facilities are also seeing more patients than ever before.

“Let me be blunt,” states Dr. Howard Fritz, Chief Medical Officer at Glens Falls Hospital. “If you are not vaccinated, get the vaccine immediately. If you are eligible for the booster, get it. Your life, your loved one’s lives, and those of your friends and neighbors depend on it. This is not hype; we currently have over 50 patients admitted with COVID-19, and the vast majority are unvaccinated. This spike far outpaces what we saw last winter. And please – wear your mask and sanitize your hands.”

Dr. William Borgos, Chief Medical Officer at Hudson Headwaters Health Network is in complete agreement. “We are seeing, on average, 80 new COVID-19 patients *every day*. Again, the vast majority are unvaccinated and those who are unvaccinated are much sicker than the cases we see in fully vaccinated patients. As a community, we need to do everything we can to cut off transmission of the virus. We urge everyone to get vaccinated, get a booster dose if you are already vaccinated, and to wear masks in any indoor public setting.”

According to Dr. Robert Reeves of Irongate Family Practice, “You are 11 times – eleven times – more likely to die from COVID 19 as an adult if you are not vaccinated. I simply can’t put it any other way; you owe it to yourself and those you love to get vaccinated.”

Glens Falls Hospital’s total census – the total number of patients admitted – is higher right now than at any time during the pandemic, with the Emergency Department seeing more ambulances and more walk-in emergency cases than at any time since COVID-19 struck the North Country. Saratoga Hospital, Albany Medical Center and Columbia Memorial are experiencing the same surge of COVID positive patients adding to the non-COVID patients, filling the inpatient beds.

Says Dr. Fritz, “please, friends, let’s take care of each other by getting the vaccine

and getting the booster as soon as you can. With this spike happening now, we are all very worried about what is to come one or two weeks after the Thanksgiving gatherings, much less what may come in January. As Warren County Public Health appropriately warned, you should assume that any large gathering you attend will expose you to COVID-19, so always wear your mask. Remember, masks reduce your risk of becoming ill, but also your likelihood of making *someone else* sick if you are infected but not yet aware of the symptoms.”

Community Vaccination Clinic to be Held Saturday, December 18

The YMCA, Mountain View Pediatrics, Plattsburgh Primary Care Pediatrics, and Plattsburgh Pediatrics will be partnering with the NYS Department of Health in hosting a COVID-19 community vaccination point of distribution (POD) on December 18, 2021 from 11:00AM – 3:00PM.

Multiple vaccines will be offered: Pediatric (ages 5–11), ages 12+; initial vaccine shot or a booster, and each of the Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson doses will be available for adults. Pre-registration is not necessary, and there will be sufficient staff present to process participants quickly.

All community members are welcome! All children must be accompanied by a guardian.

Location: YMCA, 52 US Oval, Plattsburgh, NY 12903

[Any new family to the YMCA that gets vaccinated will get a free week to the YMCA at any location!](#)

Gobble Wobble Update

From Open Door Mission:

We are so excited with the turn out from everyone in the community! In the words of our event coordinator Matthew Waddilove, "It felt like the North Country was giving the Mission a giant hug in the form of Showing Up, Sponsoring, and Volunteering."

There were approximately **150 same day sign ups**.

There were **787 registrants! Raising about \$18,000**

Their contributions will provide 818 nights of shelter for someone experiencing homelessness in our region, this includes a warm meal and shower for each of those nights.

We had over 50 Volunteers 38 Flaggers, our Registration Team, our Servers, Packing Team, and Parking Team.

[Click here](#) to view photos from the day!

TASTE OF MALONE DINNER RAISES \$6,000 TO ELIMINATE CHILDHOOD HUNGER

MALONE, N.Y. – The community came out in full force for the new-look Taste of Malone Dinner, which raised \$6,000 for the Citizen Advocates Backpack Program. The Taste of Malone fundraiser was held at eight local restaurants who agreed to

donate 20 percent of revenue generated from dinner orders – both dine-in and take-out – made on Oct. 21.

The eight participating restaurants were: Donovan's Steak & Ale, Hearth of Malone, Hosler's Family Restaurant, King's Wok Buffet, Malone Golf Club, Mo's Pub & Grill, The Pine's and Riverside Restaurant.

To read more about the success of this great event, visit [Citizens Advocates](#) [here](#).

Telehealth Learning Collaborative – January 24, 2021

The North Country Telehealth Partnership will be hosting the first **Telehealth Learning Collaborative of 2022** on January 24th from 2:00 – 3:00pm. The featured speaker will be Chris Gaur of Vital Care Services giving a presentation on Remote Physiological Monitoring.

To register, click [here](#).

2022 Food Justice Summit

AHI is excited to announce our Save the Date for the 2022 Food Justice Summit, hosted by AHI in collaboration with the Adirondack Food System Network.

For more information on submitting a proposal or sponsoring, visit <https://ahihealth.org/2022fjs>.



The poster for the 2022 Food Justice Summit features a top section with a hand-drawn illustration of hands holding a carrot. The text reads "2022 feed back: FOOD meeting in the JUSTICE middle SUMMIT" and "February 23-24 | on Zoom". Below this is a photograph of a vast agricultural field with rows of crops stretching to the horizon under a blue sky. At the bottom, there are icons for a megaphone, a call for presenters button, a green leaf icon, and a sponsorship opportunities button. The text "Visit ahihealth.org/2022fjs/" is also present. The bottom of the poster lists the organizing organizations: AHI, Adirondack Foundation, Adirondack Land Trust, Comfort Food Community, AdkAction, Craigardan, Adirondack Council, Cornell Cooperative Extension Essex County, and ANCA (Growing The New Economy).

NY Project Hope – Coping with COVID

As New York continues to reopen and new challenges arise due to COVID-19, individuals continue to seek emotional support to help them cope with transitions, stress, and anxiety. [NY Project Hope](#) is available to provide emotional support for all NYS residents.

NY Project Hope has an emotional support helpline, educational materials, trusted referrals, and local provider agencies... all dedicated to helping you manage and cope with changes brought on by COVID-19.

NY Project Hope also provides free virtual presentations and printed materials (including posters) to share additional information about the services they offer. Click [here](#) to submit a request for materials.

Important Information

AHI Career Opportunities

AHI is hiring! AHI is seeking dedicated, motivated, and highly passionate individuals who share our drive and commitment to making a difference by improving the health of our community. We are hiring for the following position: **Enrollment Specialist (Part-Time or Full-Time)**. AHI provides a friendly and challenging work environment and a comprehensive benefits package. For more information or to apply online, visit [AHI Careers](#).

EOE/M/F/V/D.

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION – NENY CHAPTER is Hiring!

[Click here for the job description!](#)

Health Insurance Enrollment Assistance

AHI's **EASE (Enrollment Assistance Services and Education) program** assists individuals, families and small business owners enroll in health insurance coverage through the NY State of Health Marketplace. We serve eight counties: Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Saratoga, Warren, and Washington.

We don't charge and we're not an insurance company. We help clients look at available insurance plans and find out if they're eligible for financial assistance.

Request an appointment online or call toll-free, 1.866.872.3740, to make an appointment with a certified enrollment specialist. We'll help to review health insurance choices via phone, for free. To learn more, click [here](#).

AHI also provides assistance with helping individuals and families resolve issues in accessing substance use disorder and mental health services, as well as care management services.

Events

Glens Falls Hospital Career Fair

You're invited to the **Glens Falls Hospital Career Fair on January 6th, 2022** where you can meet with our team as you learn more about the opportunities available, and participate in on-the-spot interviews! Choose from a variety of clinical and non-clinical positions to schedule a 10-minute appointment with a specific manager.

WHEN: 9:00am – 3:00pm

WHERE: The Queensbury Hotel, 88 Ridge Street, Glens Falls, NY 12801

Register now at GlensFallsHospital.org/CareerFair

Appointments required. No walk-ins. Please bring your resume.

Other Information

Become a Foster Parent today!

For more information or to register for virtual foster parent pre-certification classes, visit Berkshire Farm Center & Services for Youth at



One Ordinary Person can Have an Extraordinary Impact

Virtual foster parent pre-certification classes beginning in January
Call today to register!



1-844-427-5747 Berkshirefarm.org/foster

www.berkshirefarm.org/foster.

FREE TAX RETURN ASSISTANCE

Available for families and individuals whose household income is \$57,000 or less per year in Warren, Washington and Northern Saratoga counties

Attached are the flyers and postcard handouts promoting the Free Volunteer Income Tax Service for the 2022 tax filing season.

The IRS certified Tax preparers will be hosting day, evening, and weekend hours throughout Washington County following the current health guidelines.

The postcard size is good to include in food baskets, backpacks, and to have on counters or desk where there is a traffic flow or appointments.

The full page flyer is larger for bulletin boards etc.

Feel free to include any these in your newsletters or other promotions over the next few months. We have learned from experience when they see something multiple times they will take notice.

Thank you for your continued support of VITA to the local communities.

COVID-19 Resources

For links to various COVID-19 resources for community partners, please visit [AHI's website](#).

Share Your Updates

Please note that AHI will now be publishing the AHIInformer mid-month.

AHI partners in Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Saratoga, St. Lawrence, Warren, and Washington counties are encouraged to send news items to communications@ahihealth.org to be considered for inclusion in the AHIInformer.

This edition and past issues of the newsletter are available at <https://ahihealth.org/ahi-news/ahinformer/>.

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