



Erie County Health Department
An Accredited Public Health Department

Erie County Community Health Center
A Federally Qualified Health Center

Peter T. Schade, MPH, REHS
Health Commissioner



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Erie Community Pharmacy to Open in October, Addressing Community Health Needs

Sandusky, OH, October 1, 2025 – The Erie County Health Department (ECHD) and the Erie County Community Health Center (ECCHC) are proud to announce the opening of the new Erie Community Pharmacy. Set to open its doors to the public in October, this full-service pharmacy will be a resource for both ECCHC patients and the broader Erie County community.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held to commemorate the grand opening on Monday, November 6th, 1:00 PM, at the pharmacy's location.

The new pharmacy at the ECHD/ECCHC is poised to provide accessible, community-based services to our Erie County region. This will be a pharmacy like no other here in Sandusky. It will enable us to expand clinical services, and it will fill gaps in access via technology and integration with our medical, dental, vision, and behavioral health stakeholders.

The Erie Community Pharmacy features a convenient, ground-level entrance directly at the main door of the Erie County Community Health Center, with ample parking that will be diligently maintained to be free of snow and ice, ensuring easy access for all. Patients of the new pharmacy will be assisted by our ECHD staff if they need help getting into the pharmacy.

One of the greatest assets of the new Erie Community Pharmacy is the local, talented and very knowledgeable pharmacist that will be the key driver of the pharmacy services. This Erie Community Pharmacy is an example of the new "Community Based Pharmacy" not yet seen here locally. The pharmacy will do much more than prescriptions, it will serve to integrate care in our Patient Centered, Award-winning Federally Qualified Health Center. Patient Care here at the ECHD/ECCHC will be exponentially increased due to this expansion.

"The Erie Community Pharmacy closes a critical gap in our service offerings, providing our patients and neighbors with a convenient, full-service pharmacy that prioritizes their health and well-being," said Joe Palmucci, CFO, ECHD/ECCHC. "We are thrilled to bring this resource to our community and look forward to celebrating its official opening."

The pharmacy will offer a full range of prescription services, over-the-counter medications, and personalized consultations. Its establishment is a significant step toward improving health outcomes by ensuring residents have convenient access to the medications and pharmaceutical advice they need.

As we all see retail pharmacies close, and those that remain become less and less interested in patient care or quality, we will see the Community Based Pharmacies, like the Erie Community Pharmacy, dominate the healthcare landscape. Coupled with the ECCHC, offering primary care, women's health, dental, behavioral, and mental health services, we will see our Erie Community Pharmacy expand in its services to augment vaccinations, non-emergency care, and, importantly, our pharmacist with local ties, will be a consultative resource to anyone who needs assistance with education on a possible drug interaction or pharmaceutical information.



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Some of the key points of the new Erie Community Pharmacy include:

- **Preventative Screenings**

Together with our ECHD/ECCHC, your Erie Community Pharmacy will offer infectious disease screenings. This new Community Based Pharmacy will support preventative screenings and will eliminate barriers to healthcare that most people are encountering today.

With its ease of availability, being just steps from our parking lot, and inside our current waiting room, it is easy to see why this new pharmacy will be such a great asset to all of Erie County and Sandusky.

- **Food Is Medicine**

Here at the ECHD/ECCHC, we have pioneered the “Food is Medicine” activities in an effort to improve the quality of life for all we serve.

With the FQHC, ECCHC, and now the Erie Community Pharmacy, we will team up to help manage chronic disease through the Food is Medicine Initiative. Nutrition is important to your health. Our pharmacist, with our current nutrition staff, will create opportunities to provide food directly to our patients and to consult with our patients about essential nutritional guidance. Nutrition is better built individually that for a family or group. This Erie Community Pharmacy will augment these initiatives by working one on one with our people.

The pharmacy will offer a full range of prescription services, over the counter medications, and personalized consultations. Its establishment is a significant step toward improving health outcomes by ensuring residents have convenient access to the medications and pharmaceutical advice they need.

Of course, building more stakeholders through existing and new partnerships is an exciting part of bringing the new Erie Community Pharmacy to the ECHD/ECCHC. Collaboration is key. Our network of FQHC's, including Lorain Health & Dentistry and Community Health Partners of Fremont, have pledged continual collaborations because our mission statements are aligned, and the Community Based Pharmacies are such a vital source for integration of care.

This new pharmacy will use enhanced technology. It is part of the evolution of a Community Based Pharmacy network. Data exchange and data management are tools we will use to assure continuity of care to our patients. The Erie Community Pharmacy will be a first in our region.

About the Erie County Health Department

The Erie County Health Department's mission is to promote and improve the health and safety of the communities and environment within Erie County while preventing disease through essential public health services. ECHD operates the Erie County Community Health Center, the Erie County Detox, Kaptur Rogowski House, and Compass Point. For more information about Health Department or Health Center services, visit www.ErieCoHealthOhio.com.

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