

# NWS Buffalo Weekly Briefing

**Week of Wednesday 2/26/2020 – Tuesday 3/3/2020**

**Issued: 1:30 PM 2/26/2020**

- ✓ *Blizzard warnings east of both lakes*
- ✓ *Winter storm warnings and advisories elsewhere*
- ✓ *Lakeshore Flood Warning east/southeast of the lakes*

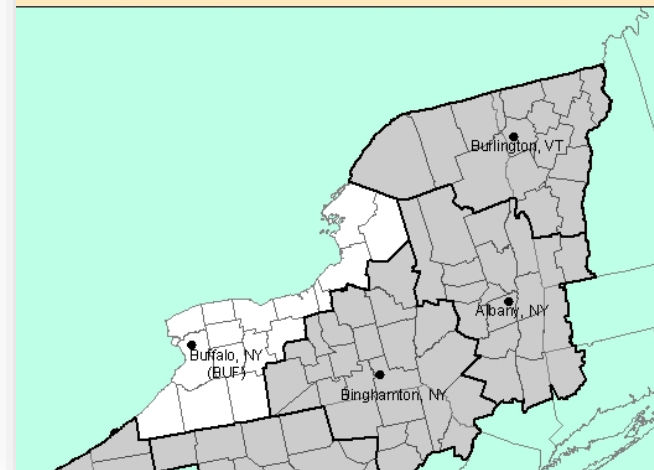
**Disclaimer:**

*The information contained within this briefing is time-sensitive.  
Do not use after 48 hours of creation time.*

**Next Scheduled Briefing: Wednesday, March 4, 2020**



**BUFFALO, NEW YORK**  
COUNTY WARNING FORECAST AREA



**Applies to NWS Buffalo Area  
of Responsibility Only**

# Overview of the Upcoming Week

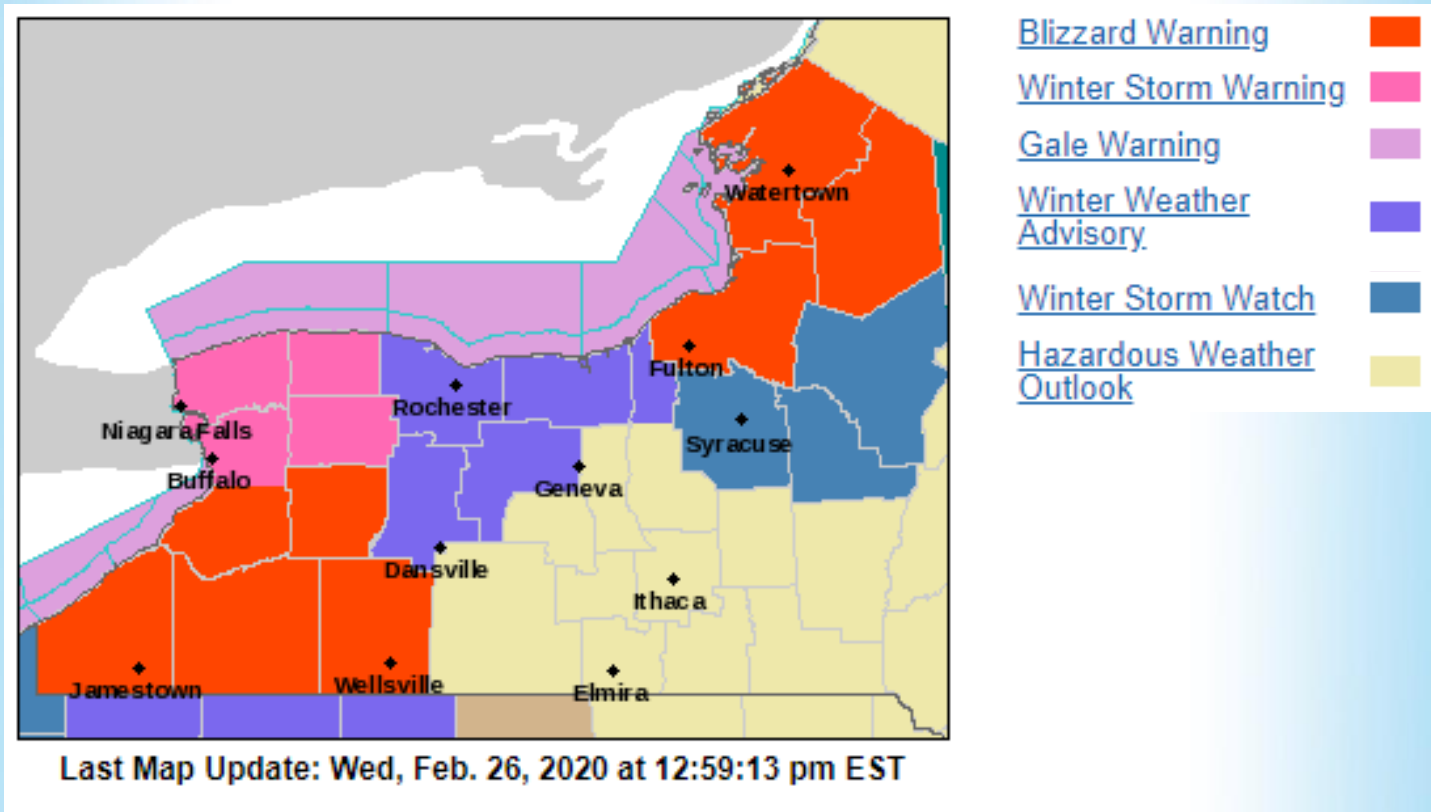
Long duration snow event, starting as widespread rain to snow across Western NY overnight and Thursday, evolving into significant lake effect snow with **BLIZZARD** conditions east and southeast of the lakes through Friday, with lake effect snow continuing through Saturday. Expect significant blowing and drifting snow.

## Storm totals

5-9" over Niagara Frontier with snow rates over 1"/hr at times  
2-3 feet, locally higher over the Tug Hill, snow rates over 2"/hr at times  
1-2 feet, locally higher terrain east of Lake Erie, snow rates over 1"/hr at times  
West winds gusting to 50 mph with whiteout conditions in blizzard areas.

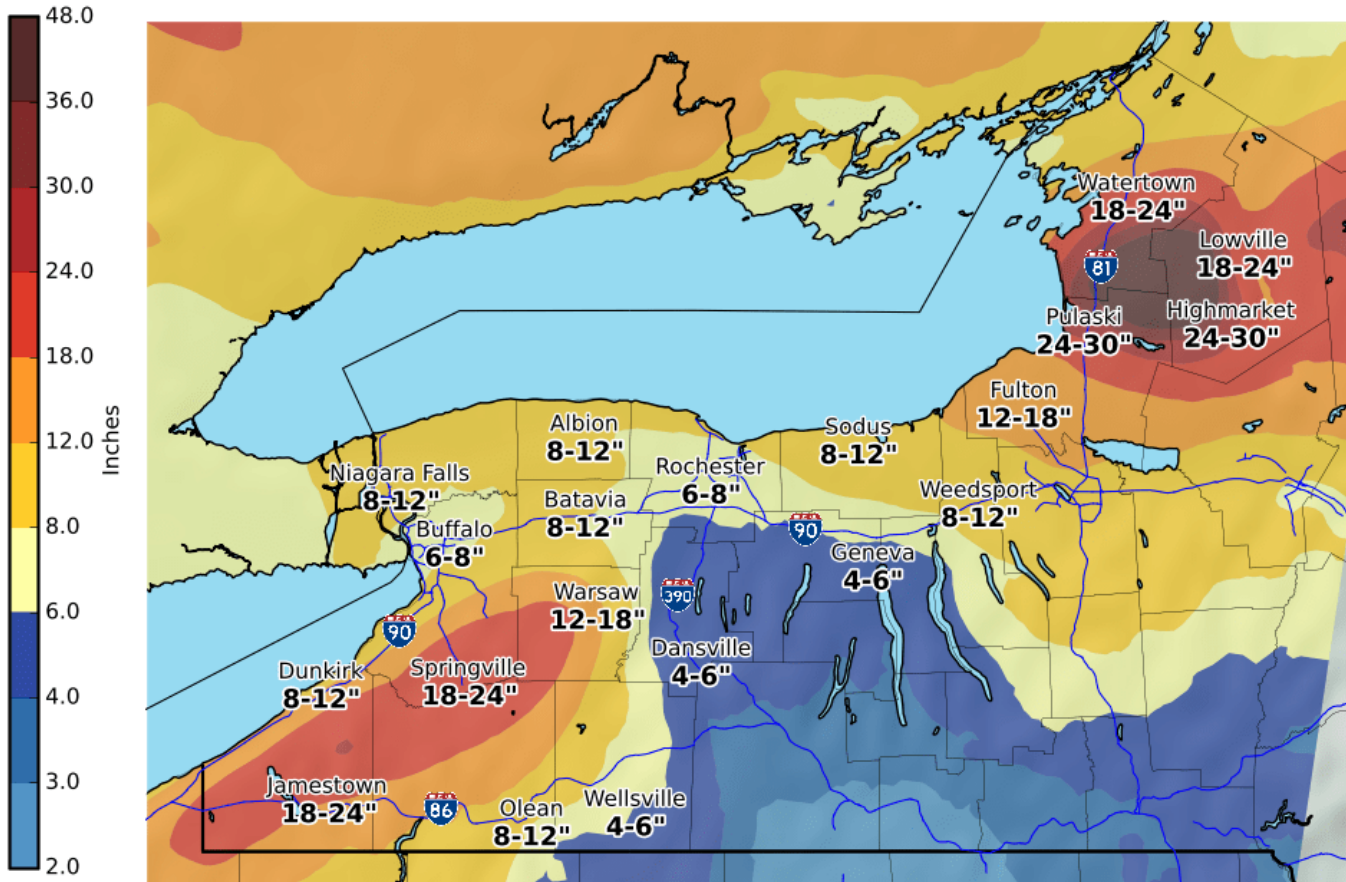
Dry weather returns for Sunday and Sunday night. Next system arrives later Monday and Tuesday. Expect much warmer weather with next system, with highs exceeding 50F.

# Current Watches and Warnings



## Expected Snowfall - Official NWS Forecast

Valid: 02/26/2020 07:00 PM - 02/29/2020 07:00 PM EST

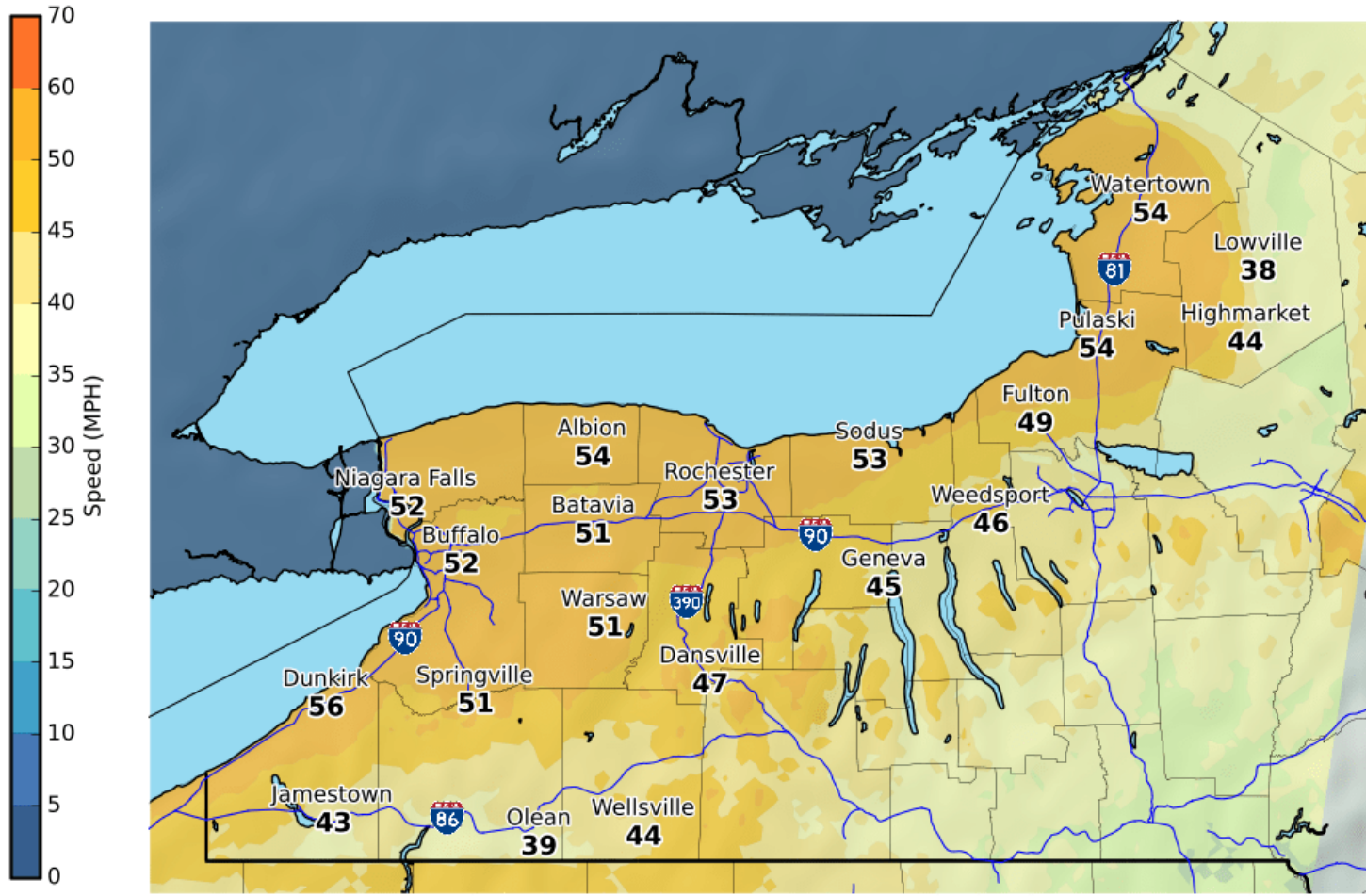


**National Weather Service**  
**Buffalo New York**  
 02/26/2020 01:09 PM EST

**Follow Us:**   
[weather.gov/BUF/winter](https://weather.gov/BUF/winter)

## Wind Gusts

Valid: 02/27/2020 06:00 AM - 02/28/2020 06:00 AM EST

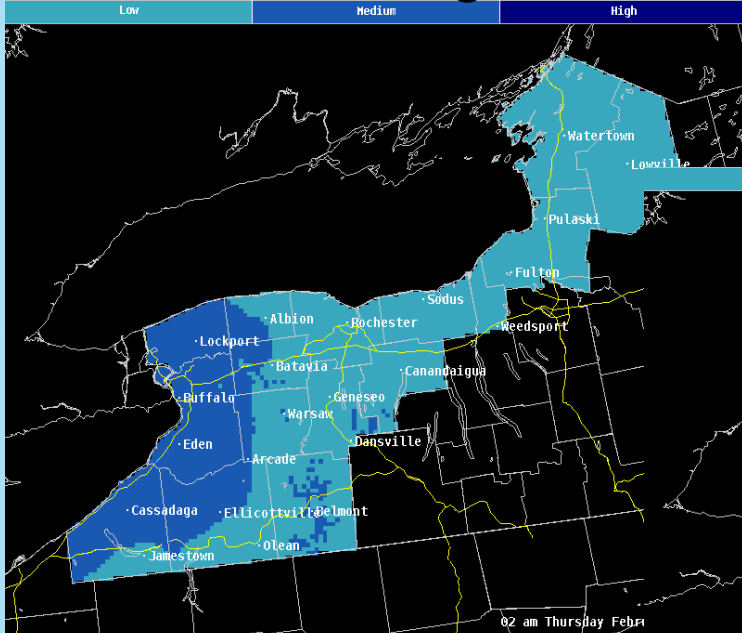


**National Weather Service**  
**Buffalo New York**  
 02/26/2020 01:21 PM EST

**Follow Us:**   
[weather.gov/BUF](http://weather.gov/BUF)

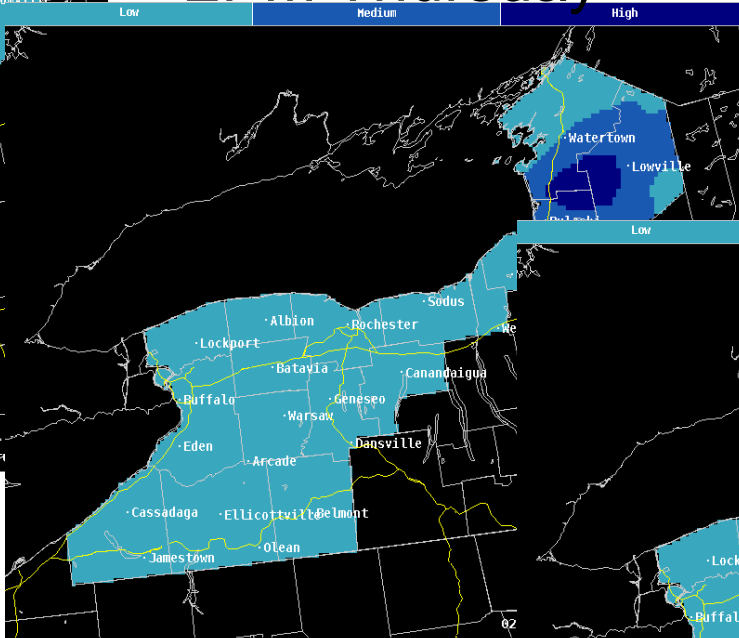
# Snow rates

2AM tonight



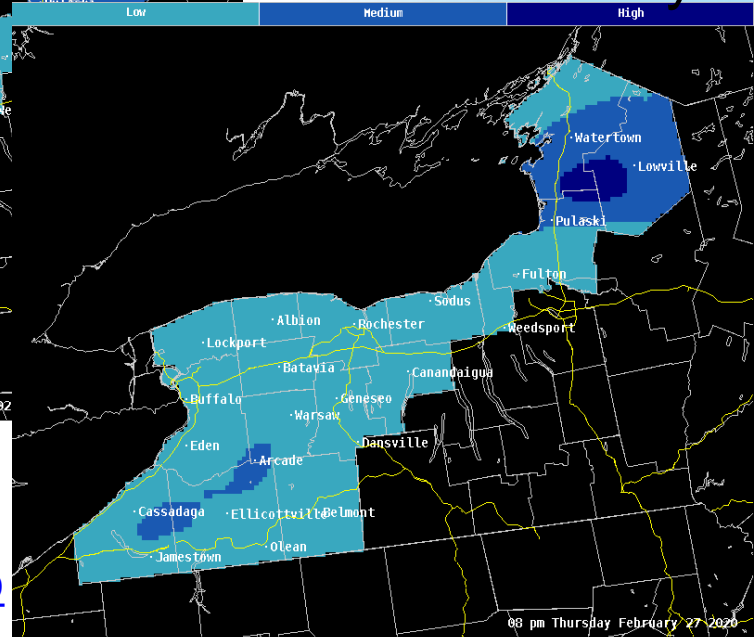
MMS Buffalo, NY

2PM Thursday



MMS Buffalo, NY

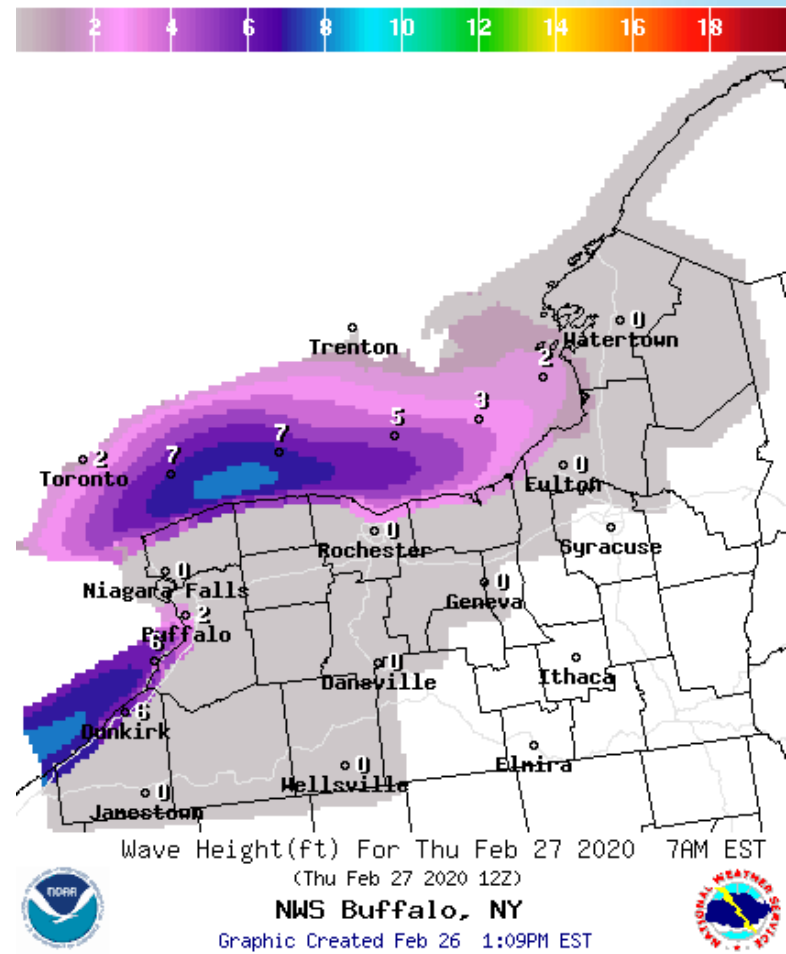
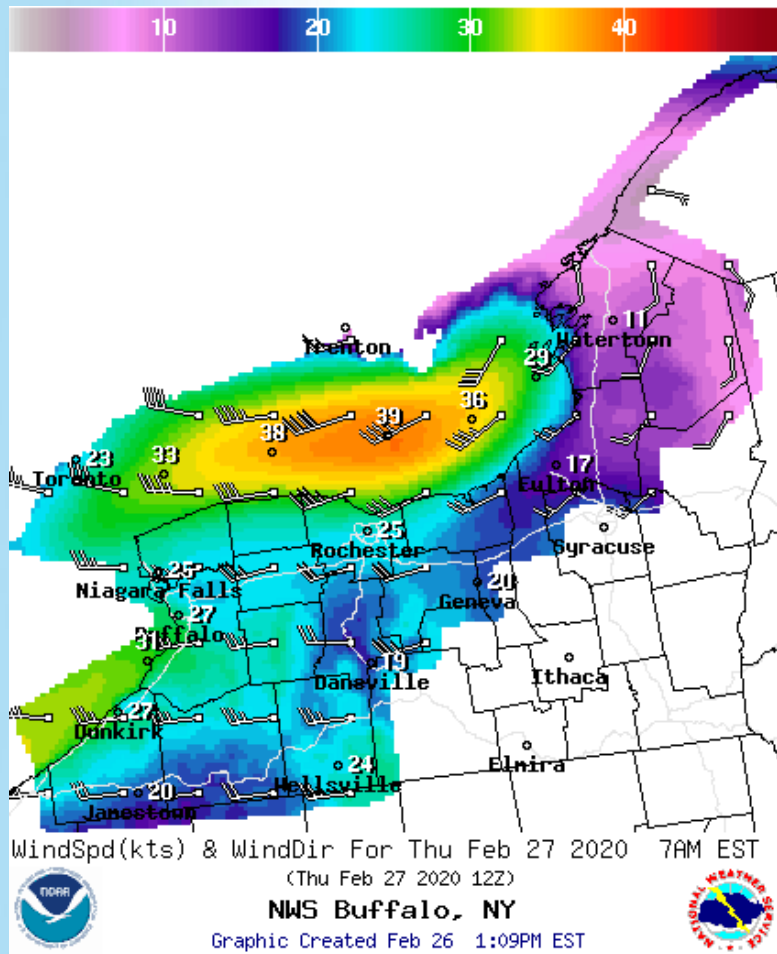
8PM Thursday



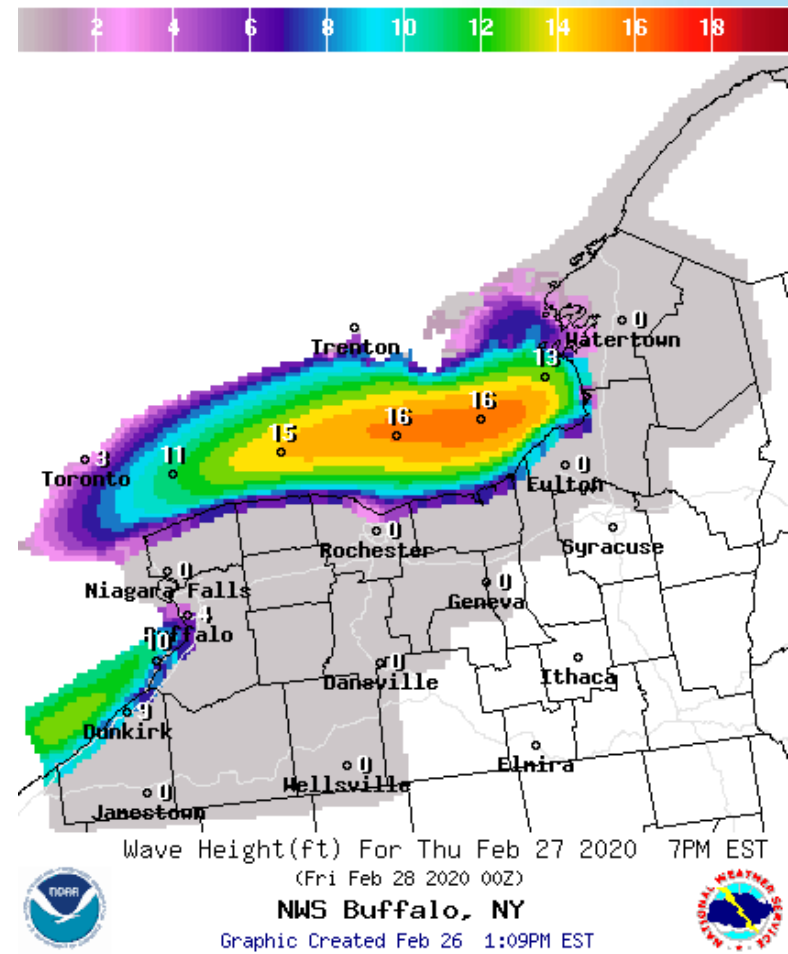
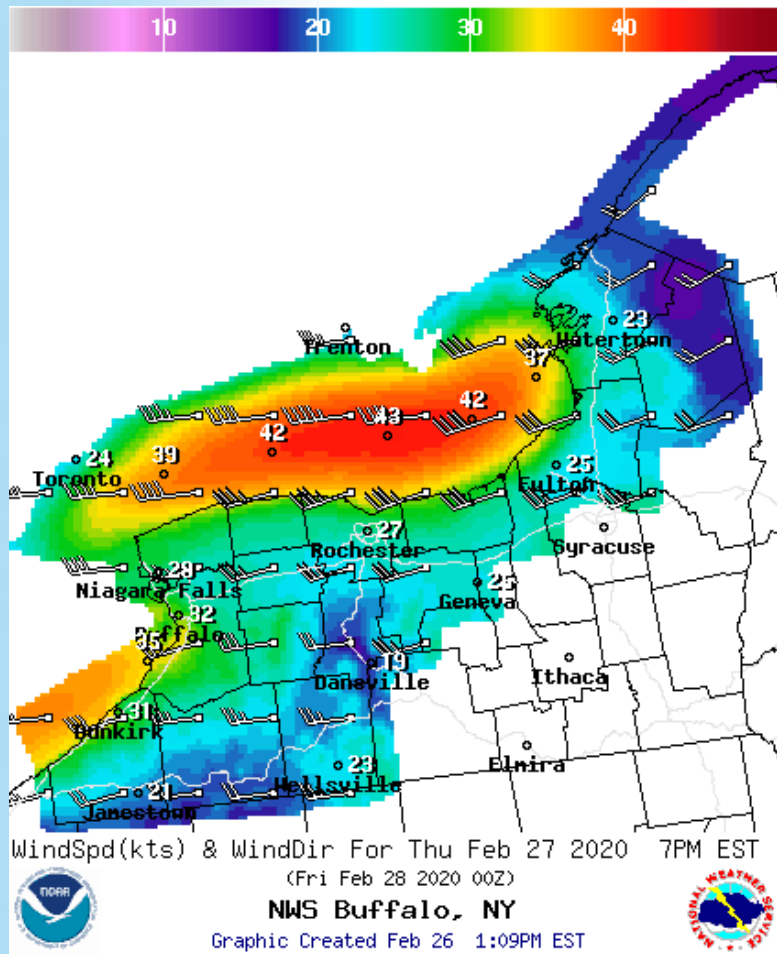
MMS Buffalo, NY

[https://www.weather.gov/buf/Snowfall Rate Threat Loop](https://www.weather.gov/buf/Snowfall_Rate_Threat_Loop)

# Wind and Waves Thursday 7AM

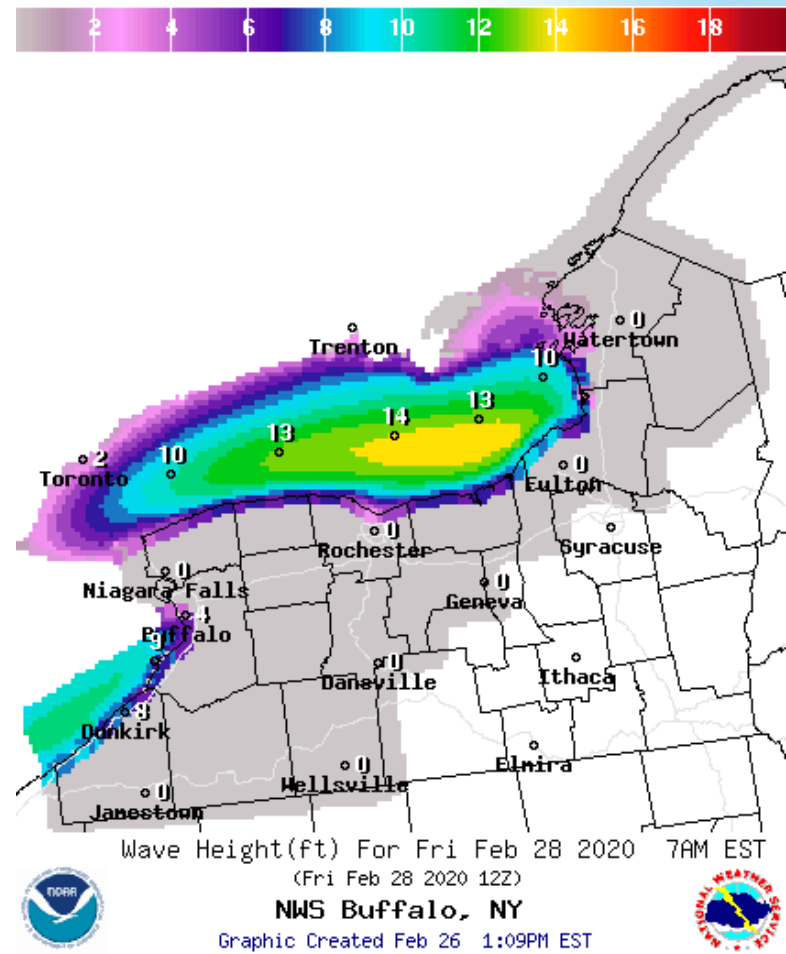
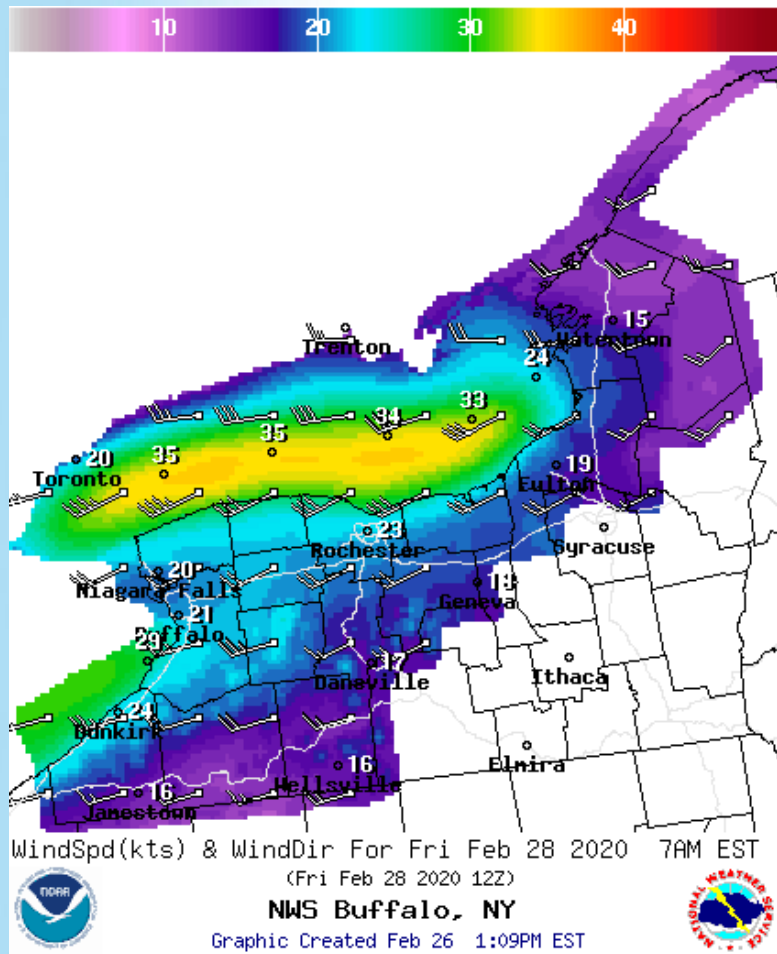


# Wind and Waves Thursday 7PM

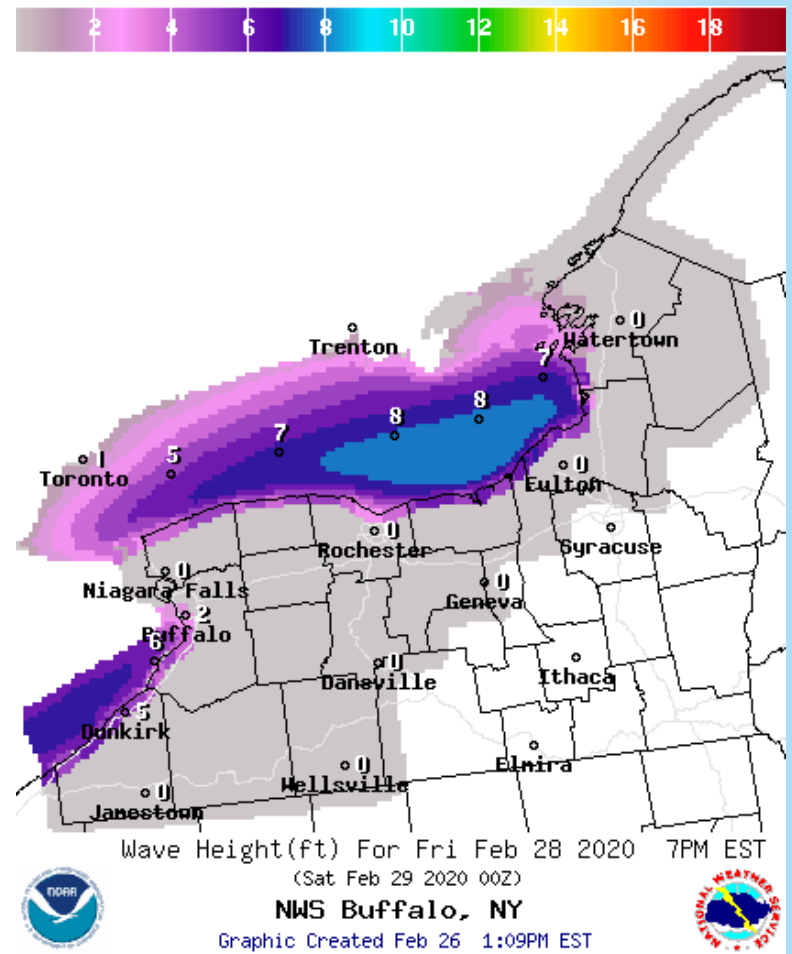
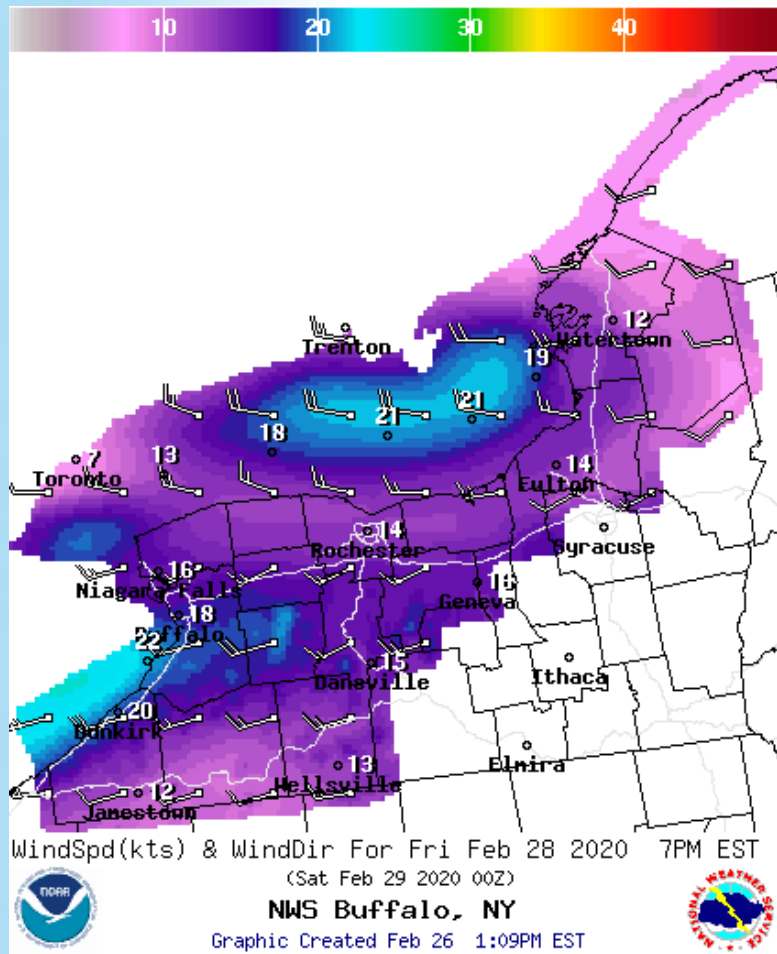




# Wind and Waves Friday 7AM

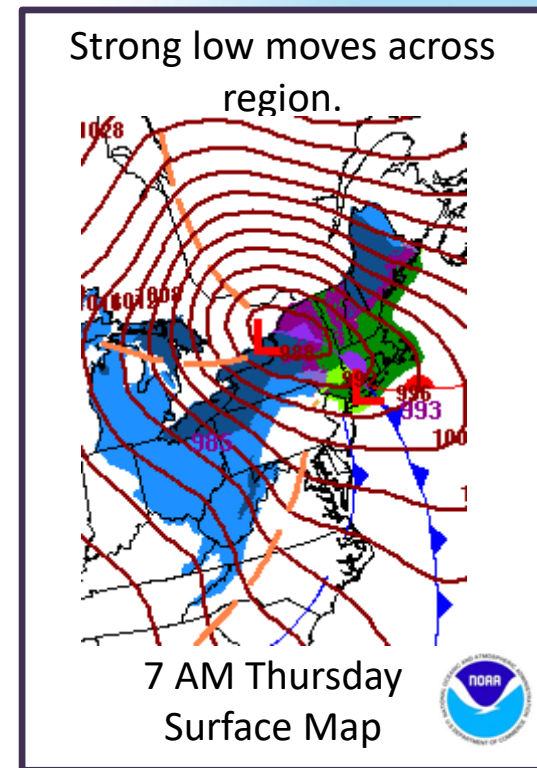


# Wind and Waves Friday 7PM



# Today through Thursday

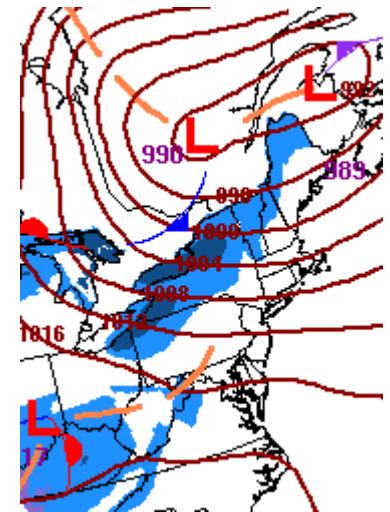
- Rain arrives by this evening, then changes over to snow from southwest to northeast overnight. Snow will be heavy at times with lake effect conditions developing east of the lakes by Thursday. Accumulations tonight:
  - 3-5" Western NY, Niagara Frontier
  - 1-3" Genesee Valley
  - 0-T Northern Finger Lakes, maybe an 1" Tug Hill Plateau
- Widespread snow tapers off Thursday while lake effect ramps up and becomes heavy, particularly east of Lake Ontario. West winds gusting 45-55 mph with **BLIZZARD** conditions within lake effect bands. Blowing/drifting snow elsewhere. Accumulations Thursday:
  - 1-4" Western NY, Niagara Frontier, but 4-8" east of Lake Erie
  - 1-3" Genesee Valley and Northern Finger Lakes
  - 3-6" eastern Lake Ontario, up to 1 foot Tug Hill Plateau
- Temperatures:
  - Today: near 40
  - Tonight and Thursday: mid 20s to near 30



# Thursday Night through Saturday

- HEAVY lake effect snow and **BLIZZARD** conditions continue east of the lakes. Heaviest snow will be Thursday night and Friday. Most other areas will see mainly blowing and drifting snow into Friday, but with some additional accumulations as flow becomes more WNW. Lake effect event continues Saturday into Saturday night with decreasing impacts.
- Accumulations:
  - 1-3" Western NY, Niagara Frontier, Northern Finger Lakes
  - 2-5" Genesee Valley
  - 2-4" St Lawrence Valley
  - 6-18" east of Lake Erie
  - 1-3 FEET Tug Hill Plateau
- Temperatures:
  - Highs:
    - Mid 20s
  - Lows:
    - Teens, near zero by Saturday Night east of Lake Ontario.

Lake effect snow with significant impacts east of the Lakes

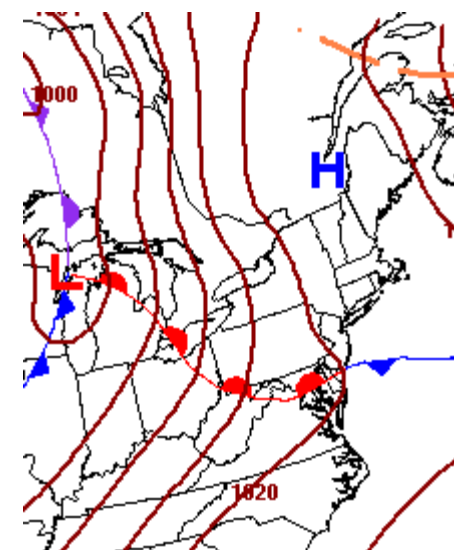


7 AM Friday  
Forecast Surface Map

# Sunday through Tuesday

- High pressure Sunday. Any residual lake effect ends.
- Rain may arrive Monday, if not Tuesday.
- Temperatures:
  - Highs: 30s Sunday, 40s Monday, and 50s Tuesday
  - Lows: Teens Sunday night, and upper 30s Monday night and Tuesday night.

Next system approaches early next week

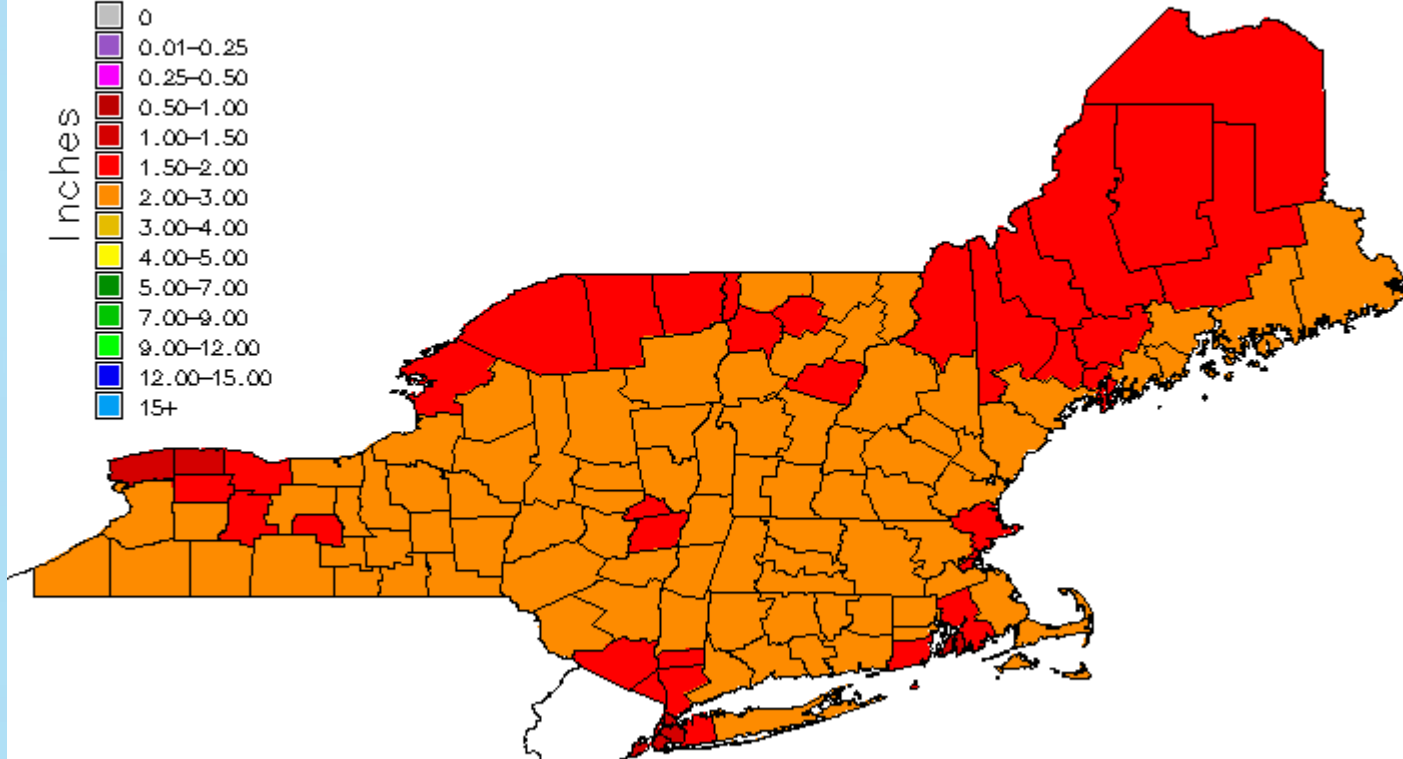
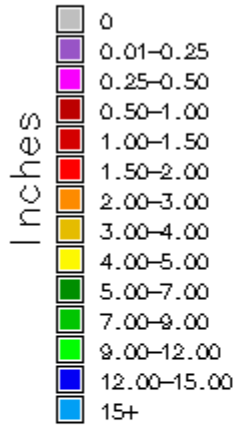


7 AM Monday  
Forecast Surface Map



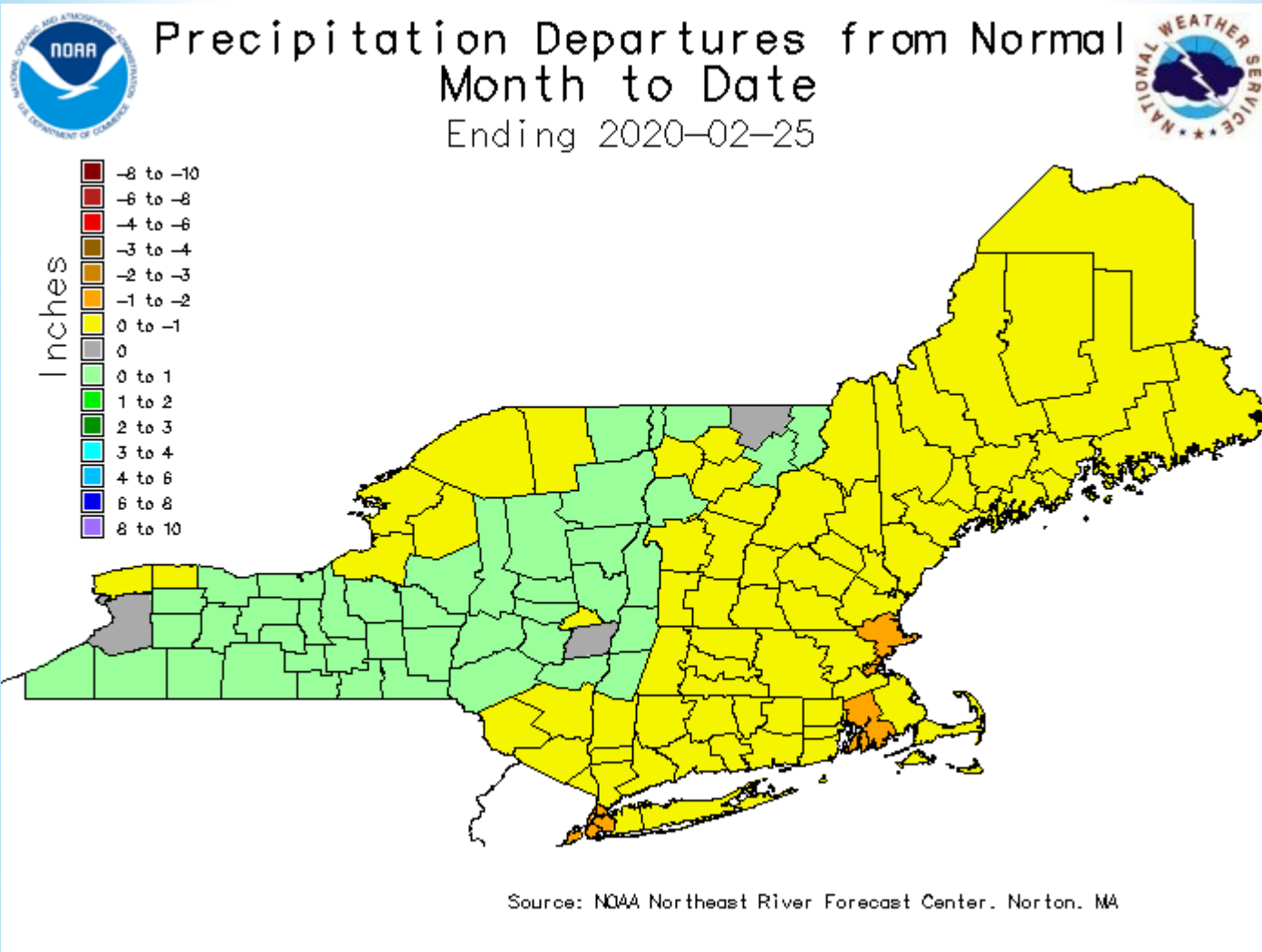


## Precipitation Totals Month to Date Ending 2020-02-25



Source: NOAA Northeast River Forecast Center, Norton, MA

<http://www.weather.gov/nerfc/watersupply>



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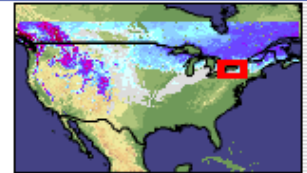
# Stats and Climatology (through 2/18)

		Buffalo	Rochester	Watertown
Precipitation	Month to Date– <i>February</i>	1.68"	1.98"	0.98"
	Departure from Normal	-0.53"	+0.26"	-0.99"
	Annual (Since January 1)	4.40"	4.79"	3.31"
	Departure from Normal	-0.99"	+0.66"	+1.34"
Snowfall	Month to Date – <i>February</i>	15.1"	18.9"	
	Departure from Normal	-0.5"	-0.3"	
	Seasonal (Since September 1)	57.0"	80.9"	
	Departure from Normal	-20.1"	+4.3"	
Temperature	Average – Month to Date - February	29.9°	28.8°	24.4°
	Departure from Normal	+3.9°	+2.7°	+3.6°
Temperature	Normal High Temperature (2/26)	36°	37°	34°
	Normal Low Temperature (2/26)	21°	21°	13°

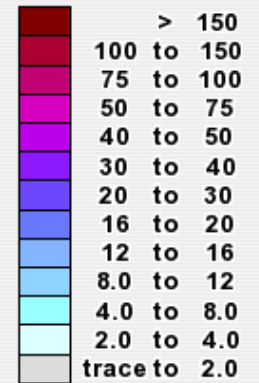


## Modeled Snow Depth forecasted for 2020 February 26, 12:00 UTC

263.6 mi

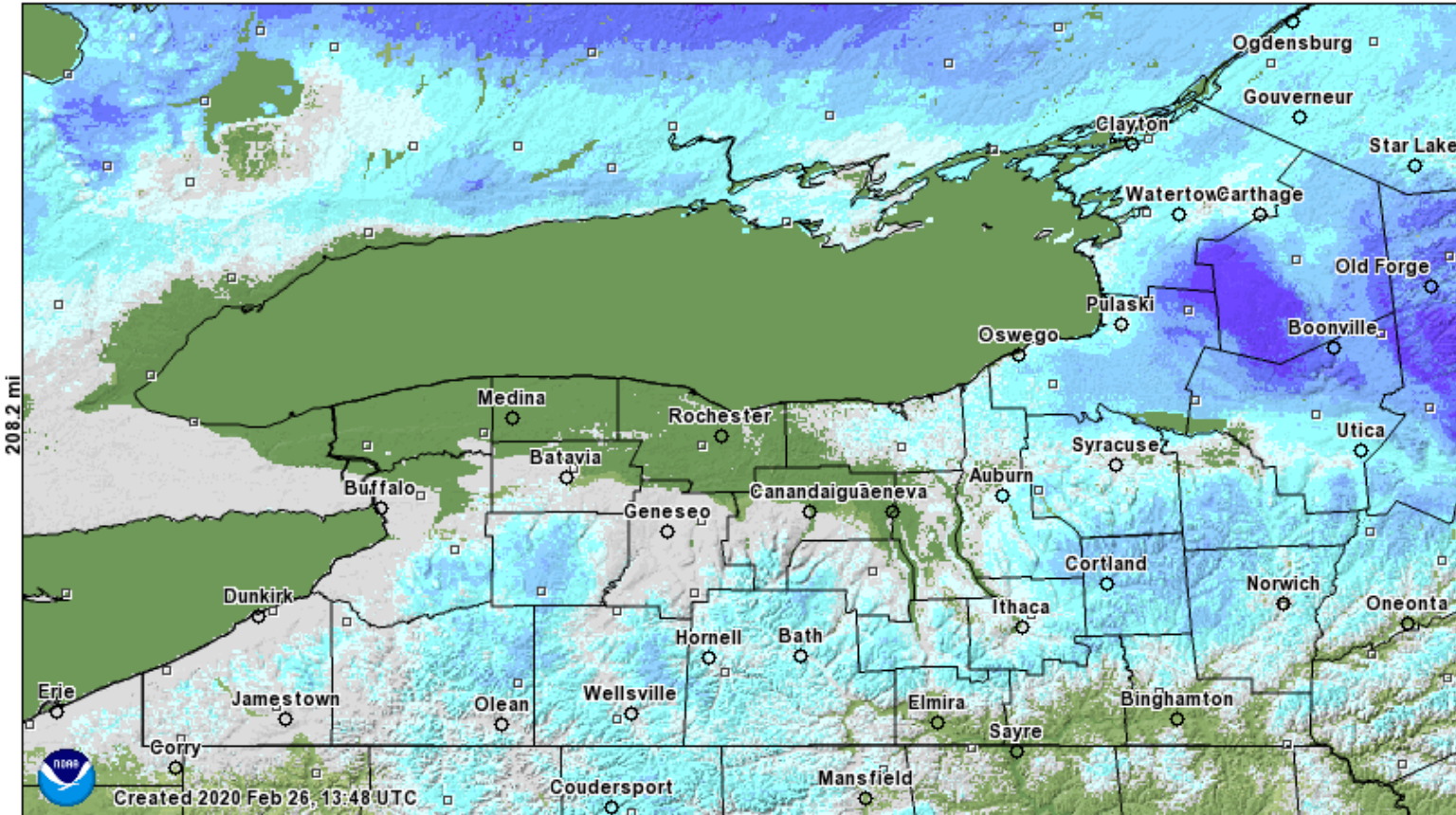
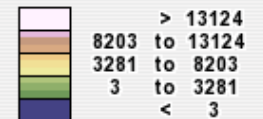


### Inches of depth



Not Estimated

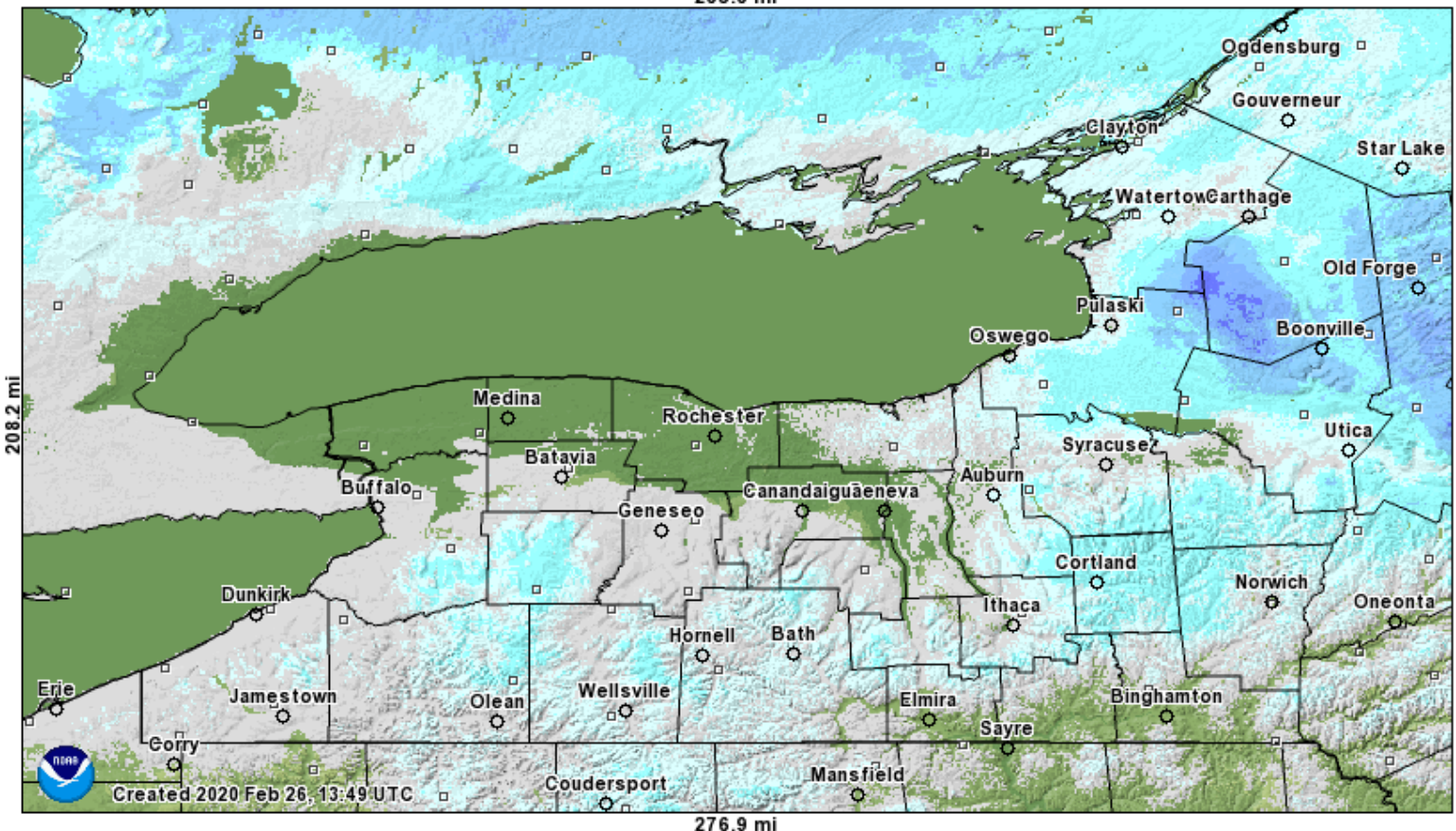
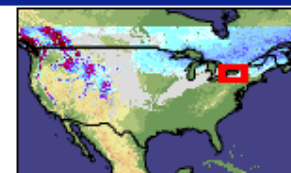
### Elevation in feet



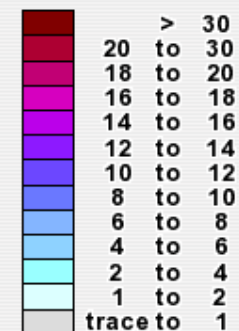
Created 2020 Feb 26, 13:48 UTC

## Modeled Snow Water Equivalent forecasted for 2020 February 26, 12:00 UTC

263.6 mi



### Inches of water equivalent



Not Estimated

### Elevation in feet

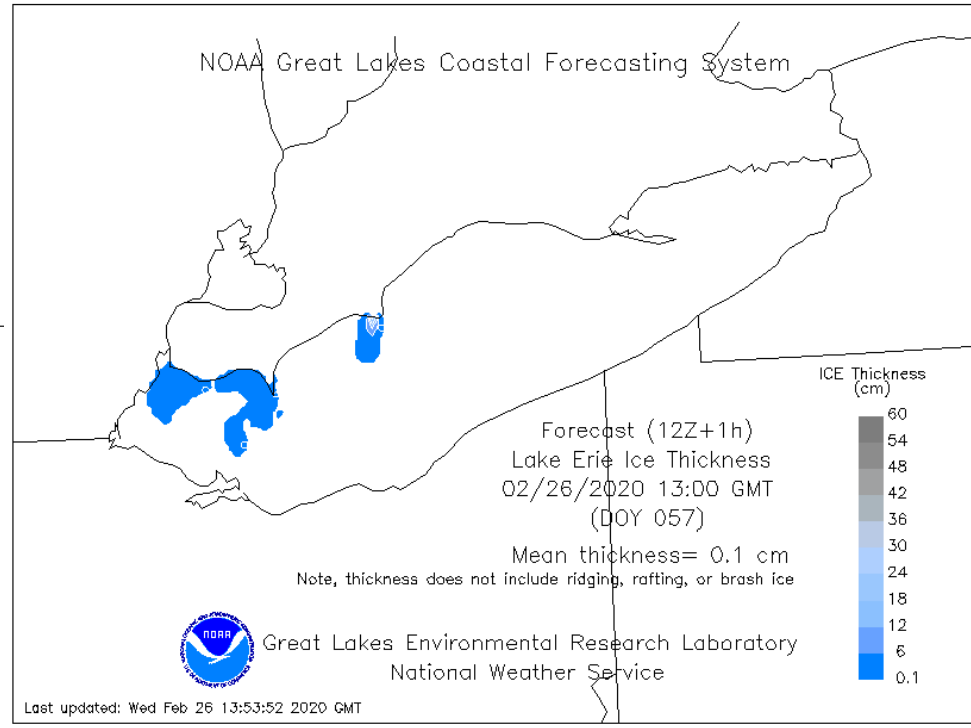
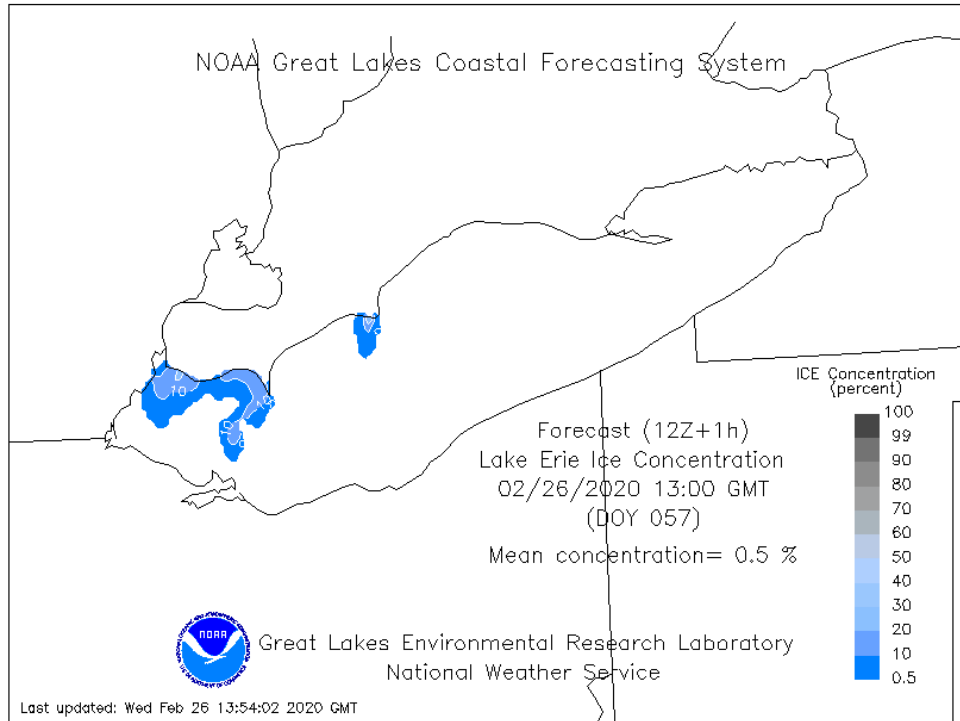


Created 2020 Feb 26, 13:49 UTC

# Ice Cover

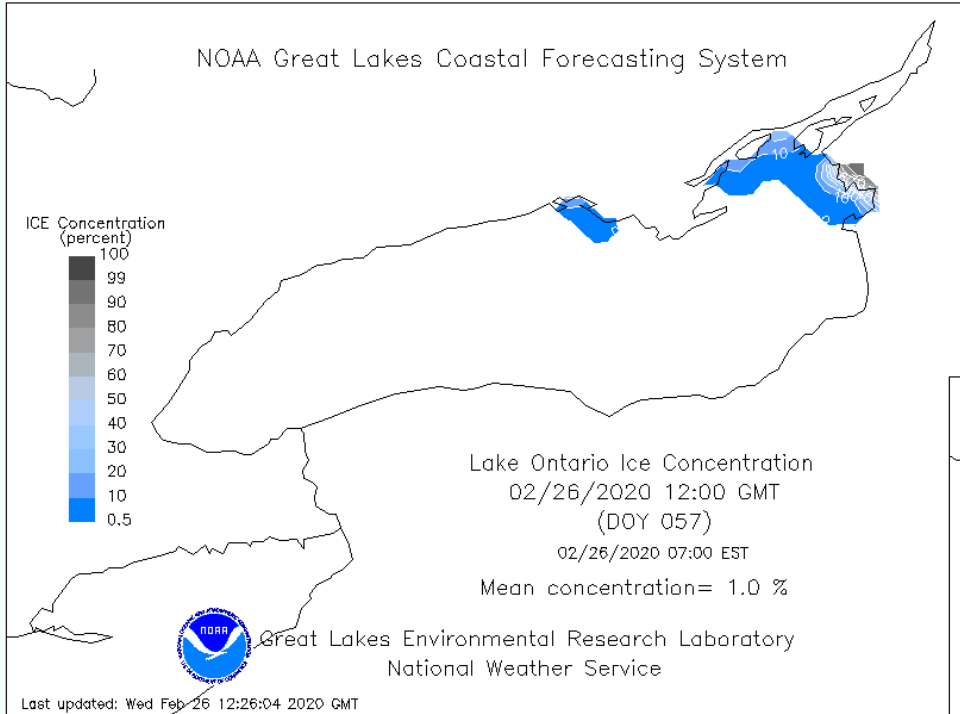
# Lake Erie Ice

## Ice Thickness

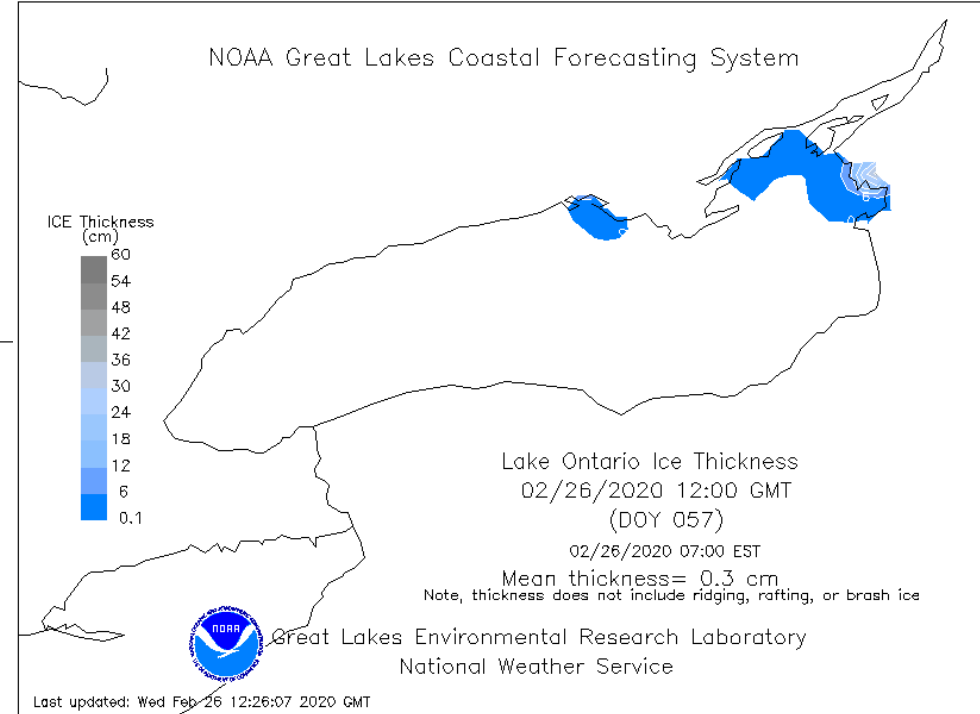


# Ice Cover

# Lake Ontario Ice



# Ice Thickness



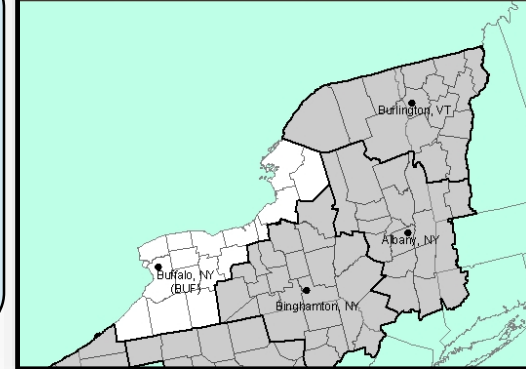
# Contact and Next Briefing Information



## Next Briefing

*The next weekly briefing will be issued 3/4/2020*

BUFFALO, NEW YORK  
COUNTY WARNING FORECAST AREA



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