



CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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County Executive

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY OFFICIALS PROVIDE UPDATE ON COVID-19

No New Cases of COVID-19 in Chautauqua County Today



Pictured above, PJ Wendel, Chautauqua County Executive, and Christine Schuyler, Chautauqua County Department of Health and Human Services Director, address the public during a press conference on April 17, 2020.

MAYVILLE, N.Y.: -- On April 17, Chautauqua County Officials provided an update on the novel Coronavirus-19 (COVID-19) in Chautauqua County.

COVID-19 is an infection associated with fever and signs and symptoms of pneumonia or other respiratory illness. If spread in the population, COVID-19 could have significant public health consequences.

As of April 17, Chautauqua County has 27 confirmed cases of COVID-19, which includes 20 individuals who have fully recovered, 4 active cases, 3 individuals who has passed away, and 0 new positive tests reported today.

In addition, there are 60 individuals under quarantine/isolation orders by the Public Health Director and being monitored. Not all of those being monitored are confirmed to have COVID-19 but they either have shown symptoms, are awaiting results, or have risk factors.

The County also has 534 negative test results to date.

“As the coronavirus pandemic has progressed, the quantity of testing supplies and the ability to analyze tests for COVID-19 in Chautauqua County has increased,” said Christine Schuyler, Director of the Chautauqua County Department of Health and Human Services. “Because our ability to test has increased, the guidelines for who should be tested have also been expanded. It is important for individuals in these priority populations to consult with a healthcare provider and be referred to one of the testing sites in the county for testing. While the supply is better, we still do not have ample testing capabilities to test individuals who are not displaying symptoms of COVID-19 infection.”

Priorities for testing include:

1. Hospitalized patients (including those in the ER who will be admitted).
2. Symptomatic healthcare workers including but not limited to those working in hospitals, ERs, urgent care centers, medical offices, nursing homes, home care, private duty, and EMS.
 - a. Because of their often extensive and close contact with vulnerable patients in healthcare settings, even mild signs and symptoms of COVID-19 should be evaluated among potentially exposed healthcare personnel.
3. Symptomatic residents of Skilled Nursing or Adult Care Facilities.
4. Symptomatic persons who have underlying comorbidities such as chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma; serious heart conditions; diabetes; chronic renal disease; and liver disease.
5. Symptomatic persons who are immunocompromised such as those undergoing cancer treatment, bone marrow or organ transplantation; those with immune deficiencies, HIV or AIDS; or with prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications.
6. Symptomatic essential workers with person-to-public contact including but not limited to Public Health staff, child care staff, jail/prison staff, first responders such as law enforcement, child protective services, and firefighters, and store/business personnel.

Residents are reminded to continue to follow the 10 points of the New York State on PAUSE plan:

1. Effective at 8 p.m. on Sunday, March 22, all non-essential businesses statewide will be closed;
2. Non-essential gatherings of individuals of any size for any reason (e.g. parties, celebrations or other social events) are canceled or postponed at this time;
3. Any concentration of individuals outside their home must be limited to workers providing essential services and social distancing should be practiced;
4. When in public, individuals must practice social distancing of at least six feet from others;
5. Businesses and entities that provide other essential services must implement rules that help facilitate social distancing of at least six feet;
6. Individuals should limit outdoor recreational activities to non-contact and avoid activities where they come in close contact with other people;
7. Individuals should limit use of public transportation to when absolutely necessary and should limit potential exposure by spacing out at least six feet from other riders;
8. Sick individuals should not leave their home unless to receive medical care and only after a telehealth visit to determine if leaving the home is in the best interest of their health;
9. Young people should also practice social distancing and avoid contact with vulnerable populations; and
10. Use precautionary sanitizer practices such as using isopropyl alcohol wipes.

“The threat of this virus is still very severe for Chautauqua County,” said Wendel. “It is necessary that Chautauqua County remain proactive and fully prepared to deal with its effects, and I ask all County citizens and visitors to venture out only for essential business.”

County officials also reminded residents to wear face coverings such as homemade masks, bandannas or scarves when they are out doing essential tasks such as shopping for food or going to medical appointments.

Governor Andrew Cuomo recently issued an Executive Order on April 15, 2020, where New York State residents must wear a face-covering when they are in a public place and are unable to be at least six feet away from others. This order goes into effect at 8 p.m. on April 17, 2020

and applies to any individual who is over the age of two and is able to medically tolerate a face-covering.

“If you must leave your home and enter a public place, wear a cloth mask or scarf to cover your mouth and nose,” said Schuyler. “It is also important to remember that wearing a cloth face-covering provides little or no personal protection for the individual wearing it, but it will help protect others from your respiratory droplets.”

The NYSDOH recommends that face coverings should:

- fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face;
- be secured with ties or ear loops;
- include multiple layers of fabric;
- allow for breathing without restriction; and
- be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape.

For more information about face-coverings, how to purchase them locally, or simple steps to make your own face-coverings at home, visit <https://chqgov.com/public-health/face-masks>.

Chautauqua County has also issued new protocols for its facilities.

“Effective April 16, 2020, members of the public visiting County government facilities will be screened as to whether they have the symptoms of COVID-19, and all County employees who have direct contact with visitors to County facilities will wear a cloth face covering or face shield,” said Wendel.

Screeners will ask any visitor entering a County building or workspace if they have any of the symptoms below, and individuals will not be allowed to enter to conduct business if they have any one of the symptoms:

- Fever - Either of the following:
 - o >100 °F at entry site or reported at home
 - o Subjective fever/chills
- Cough
- Difficulty Breathing
- Body Aches
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Runny Nose
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea

Residents are also encouraged to continue to check for daily updates on COVID-19 in our county by visiting the COVID-19 page of the Chautauqua County website at chqgov.com, Chautauqua County Health Department Facebook page at www.facebook.com/myhealthycounty/, or Chautauqua County Government Facebook page at

www.facebook.com/chautauquacountygovernment. Daily COVID-19 updates also are emailed directly to the “Monday Morning Memo” distribution list. Individuals can sign-up to receive these alerts by going to chqgov.com and under the County Executive’s page signing up under the Monday Morning Memo Newsletter tab.

Individuals can also hear the daily update of COVID-19 cases in Chautauqua County by calling the Chautauqua County Public Health COVID-19 Hotline at 866-604-6789 and selecting option 6.

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