



Monday, April 6, 2020

4/6/2020 COVID-19 Updates

One new case of COVID-19 and one additional COVID-19 related death in County

Chautauqua County now has a total of nineteen (19) confirmed cases of COVID-19, with one (1) new confirmed case reported today, a male in his 40s. In addition, one (1) positive case has resulted in a death, a male in his 70s, making the COVID-19 related death count a total of two (2).

- 19 confirmed cases;
- 10 active cases - continue to recover under orders of the Local Health Official per NYS Public Health Law;
- 7 recovered cases;
- 2 deaths;
- 91 cases 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 have either shown symptoms, are awaiting results, or have risk factors; and
- 199 negative test results to date.

We follow the guidelines put forth by NYSDOH and CDC. As you know, this virus is a novel, or new virus. This means that the guiding agencies change guidelines based on what they are learning. This is frustrating and hard to understand. However, it is good practice to review your guidelines and update them when necessary. Everyone is working very hard to understand the novel coronavirus and stop the spread.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT POSITIVE COVID-19 CASES:

Chautauqua County Public Health staff is conducting investigations to identify close contacts of positive COVID-19 cases.

Following NEW guidance from NYSDOH, contact tracing will now begin 48 hours before the day the person with the positive test started having symptoms. NYSDOH deems this the beginning of the infectious period. Once identified, our department notifies the close contacts of their potential exposure to COVID-19 and they are placed under mandatory or precautionary quarantine to monitor for symptoms. If you do not personally hear from a public health nurse, you are not a close contact of an individual who has been confirmed to have COVID-19. Per NYSDOH, close contact refers to a person who cared for or lived with a person with COVID-19. It does not include activities such as walking by a person or sitting across a waiting room or office for a brief time.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TESTING SUPPLIES AND PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

Testing supplies and PPE (used when doing a test and treating infected patients) continue to be in low supply

across the state and especially in rural areas where population density is low. At this time, tests MUST BE prioritized for hospitalized patients, ill healthcare workers, and those who have underlying health conditions. Currently there are three locations in Chautauqua County where outpatient testing is performed: UPMC's Jones Hill Center; The Chautauqua Center in Jamestown and Dunkirk. Testing is not done without a healthcare provider's order.

Federal and state officials are NOW recommending the wearing of homemade masks or scarves by the general public. This act will protect the public from your respiratory droplets. It is now estimated that 30% of those infected with coronavirus don't know they are infected. This is one more step to try and decrease the spread of coronavirus. (Surgical masks and N-95 respirators are for healthcare workers only.)

PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONALS – THANK YOU FOR PROTECTING THE COMMUNITY AND SHARING THE FACTS

In the midst of the most challenging public health crisis of our time, it is more important than ever to celebrate National Public Health Week (April 6 – 12).

COVID-19 is causing heightened levels of stress. In particular, isolation and quarantine can be highly stressful. As can separation from loved ones. Many in the public health and health care sectors, as well as those working in affected industries, are shouldering a significant mental health burden. Reach out and check on your loved ones and community members.

Link to COVID-19 Map:

<https://chautauquacounty.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/012d07321ad6415c8cf17c4f673643c9>

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