



CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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

1 New Case of COVID-19 Confirmed in County



Pictured above, from left to right—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 9, 2020.

MAYVILLE, N.Y.: -- On April 9, 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 9, Chautauqua County has 22 confirmed cases of COVID-19, which includes 11 individuals who have fully recovered, 2 individuals who has passed away, and 1 new positive test reported today. This new case includes a male in his 20s.

In addition, there are 117 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 256 negative test results to date.

“With the Easter holiday this weekend, we urge residents to please stay home and refrain from gathering for religious or family functions,” said Christine Schuyler, Chautauqua County Department of Health and Human Services Director. “Unfortunately, now is not the time to go out and celebrate the holiday with extended family and friends as you may have done in the past. We all need to adhere to the social distancing measures in place to protect ourselves, our loved ones, and others in our community. If everyone takes these social distancing measures to heart and practices them every day, we can better make it through this pandemic.”

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.

To assist local authorities with the enforcement of these orders, New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo recently established the New York State PAUSE Enforcement Assistance Task Force where individuals can file complaints regarding the operation of non-essential businesses or gatherings. Complaints can be made 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling 1-833-789-0470 or by completing the online complaint intake form available at <https://mylicense.custhelp.com/app/ask>.

Once a complaint is made, the task force will review it for completeness, accuracy, and applicability under the Governor's Executive Orders.

"It is important that if residents have a complaint about the operation of non-essential businesses or social gatherings that they do not call local police departments or our Sheriff's Office to respond," said Wendel. "The complaint needs to go through the Governor's Task Force and if the task force believes a complaint is warranted, it will be referred to our local police departments or Sheriff's Office for further investigation and enforcement."

For employees who have COVID-19-related complaints against their employers, they can file a complaint with the New York State Department of Labor by visiting its website at www.labor.ny.gov.

County officials also reminded residents to wear homemade masks, bandannas or scarves when they are out doing essential tasks such as shopping for food or going to medical appointments. This action is something that Federal and state officials are now recommending to the general public.

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

There are also resources available for individuals who would like to make and donate handmade masks. 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.

“There are many agencies in our county that have a high need for homemade masks,” said Wendel. “The United Ways of Northern and Southern Chautauqua County have setup six collection sites where individuals can donate cloth masks or the materials to make the masks.”

The United Ways’ collection sites include:

- Bemus Point United Methodist Church, 4954 Ellery Rd., in Bemus Point, N.Y. Open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation, 212 Lakeshore Dr. W., in Dunkirk, N.Y. Open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8 to 10:30 a.m. and 3 to 4 p.m.
- The Relief Zone, 5 Frew Run Rd. in Frewsburg, N.Y. Open Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The drop off is in the parking lot entrance across from the library.
- New Creation Assembly of God, 116 S. Main St. in Jamestown, N.Y. Open Monday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The drop off is available at the front entrance.
- Sherman Fire Department, 122 Park St. in Sherman, N.Y. Open Thursday from 2 to 4 p.m. Go to the lower door, banquet hall entrance.
- Park Church, 49 Sinclair Dr. in Sinclairville, N.Y. Open Tuesday and Thursday from noon to 4 p.m.

In addition to cloth masks, individuals can also donate personal hygiene items such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, and women’s sanitary products at these collection sites. The United Ways will be distributing donated items to the community through local organizations. Masks will be donated to organizations as the supply exists and priority will be given to organizations on the immediate frontlines of responding to COVID-19. To request donated masks, organizations can contact the United Way of Northern Chautauqua County at (716) 366-5424 or the United Way of Southern Chautauqua County at (716) 483-1561. For more information, visit the United Way of Southern Chautauqua County’s website at <https://www.uwayscc.org/>.

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.

Chautauqua County also recently setup a new option on the Chautauqua County Public Health COVID-19 Hotline, which allows individuals to call in and hear the daily update. To do so, individuals can call the hotline at 866-604-6789 and then press 6 to hear the daily numbers of COVID-19 cases in Chautauqua County.

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