



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 May 1, 2020.

MAYVILLE, N.Y.: -- On May 1, 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 May 1, Chautauqua County has 36 confirmed cases of COVID-19, which includes 26 individuals who have fully recovered, 7 active positive cases, 3 individuals who has passed away, and 0 new positive tests reported today.

In addition, there are 47 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 869 negative test results to date.

To help prevent the spread of disease, the public is reminded to:

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds, and wash them more frequently throughout the day;
- Avoid touching your face;
- Cover your coughs or sneezes;
- Avoid close contact with others by keeping a distance of six feet, especially around people who are sick;
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces;
- Work from home if you can;
- If you are 60 years of age or older, have serious medical conditions such as heart disease or diabetes, or have a chronic medical condition (no matter what age), you are at high risk. Individuals who meet any of the above criteria should avoid groups of people including small family gatherings and stay in their homes as much as possible.
- If you are sick, stay home and avoid contact with others. Talk to your health care provider if you want to be tested for COVID-19. Talk to your health care provider **before** you visit a clinic or hospital emergency department.
- Only if your symptoms are severe or you are experiencing a life-threatening emergency, call 911 and the 911 dispatcher will screen your call per established protocol.

The Chautauqua County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), in conjunction with the Chautauqua County Office of Emergency Services, also recently announced it will be offering three drive-thru testing clinics next week.

“As more testing kits become available, we now have the opportunity to offer drive-thru COVID-19 testing clinics to certain essential workers who may be asymptomatic and want to be tested to see if they have the coronavirus in their system,” said Christine Schuyler, Director of DHHS. “At this time, the drive-thru testing clinics are available to essential healthcare workers; first responders such as law enforcement, fire, EMS, and CPS personnel; correction officers; and child care center staff in Chautauqua County.”

The drive-thru testing will take place at the Chautauqua Lake Central School Bus Garage, 100 N. Erie St. in Mayville, N.Y. on:

- Tuesday, May 5, 2020 from 3– 7 p.m.;
- Thursday, May 7, 2020 from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.; and
- Saturday, May 9, 2020 from 8 a.m. – noon.

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. If you are an essential worker as described above and want to be tested for COVID-19, pre-register by calling (716) 753-4491 or 866-604-6789 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays.

Individuals being tested will remain in their car during the testing process. They will also be asked to bring their driver’s license/picture ID, employer ID, and insurance card to their appointment. Test samples will be analyzed at a New York State licensed laboratory, and results should be available within 24 to 48 hours.

Earlier today, New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo announced that K-12 schools and college facilities will remain closed for the rest of the academic year.

In light of this news, Chautauqua County Executive PJ Wendel is encouraging residents to reach out and continue to stay connected with their friends and loved ones.

“I remind everyone that while social distancing measures are effective at slowing the spread of COVID-19, they can be difficult to deal with,” said Wendel. “The longer we stay on PAUSE, the cabin fever and feelings of loneliness or frustration will increase. It is important that we remember we are all in this together and I encourage everyone to make an extra effort to connect with others. It could be your family, your friends, old school friends, or neighbors.”

There are many ways for people to stay connected by video chatting. Some options include:

- **FaceTime**-- If you and others in the group have an iPhone or iPad, you can use FaceTime. You can call someone using FaceTime in the FaceTime app, or from your

contact list. You can also initiate a FaceTime group call from inside an existing group text.

- **Zoom**-- Zoom has become very popular for work meetings, but individuals can use it for free on video calls up to 40 minutes. You can download the app or visit their website at zoom.us to create an account, then send the meeting link to your family and friends.
- **Skype**-- Skype is also a great option to video chat with someone. You must both set up a skype account, and then you can call each other anytime through the skype app or computer program. For more information, visit skype.com .
- **Facebook Messenger**-- There is a video chat feature in Facebook Messenger. All you have to do is open the Messenger app, open the chat thread you want, and click the camera icon in the upper right corner. This works great for individual or group calls.

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 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 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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