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County Executive

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CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY OFFICIALS PROVIDE UPDATE ON COVID-19

10 New Cases of COVID-19 in Chautauqua County Today



Pictured above: Mark Geise, Deputy County Executive for Economic Development and CEO of the County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency (CCIDA); PJ Wendel, Chautauqua County Executive, and Christine Schuyler, Chautauqua County Department of Health and Human Services Director.

MAYVILLE, N.Y.: -- On May 22, 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 health consequences.

In honor of National Emergency Medical Services Week from May 17 to May 23, 2020, Wendel recognized our county's medical personnel.

"EMS personnel continue to serve on the front lines during the current pandemic, and I thank our Chautauqua County Office of Emergency Services staff and all EMS personnel throughout our county for their tireless efforts now and throughout the year to safeguard the health, safety and well-being of our citizens," said Wendel.

The County also released its daily statistics of COVID-19. As of May 22, it has:

- 70 confirmed cases, including 10 new cases today of:
 - 1 individual under the age of 18;
 - 2 young adults (male and female);
 - 1 female in her 20s;
 - 2 in their 30s (male and female);
 - 1 male in his 40s;
 - 2 males in their 50s;
 - 1 female in her 60s;
- 27 active cases, including no hospitalized cases - continue to recover under orders of the Local Health Official per NYS Public Health Law;
- 39 recovered cases;
- 4 deaths;
- 189 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
- 2,146 negative test results to date.

"This is serious; take it seriously," said Christine Schuyler, Director of Health and Human Services. "COVID-19 has been identified in every part of Chautauqua County. Persons, with or without symptoms, and of any age, gender, race or religion, could be infected and spread the virus. Please wash your hands, cover your face, and respect six feet of space."

On May 19, the Western New York Region moved to Phase 1 Reopening. This allowed construction; agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting; retail (limited to curbside or in-store pickup or drop off); manufacturing, and wholesale trade businesses to reopen.

"As we move forward with reopening in a safe and responsible manner, I urge everyone to please remain diligent and continue our preventive and social distancing measures so we don't backtrack by having a spike of COVID-19 cases in our region," said Wendel.

Additional phases of reopening include:

- Phase 2 - Reopening of professional services, retail (in-store), administrative support and real estate / rental and leasing businesses.
- Phase 3 - Reopening of restaurants/food services (on-premises);
- Phase 4 - Reopening of Arts/Entertainment/Recreation businesses and education.

“In order to successfully reopen during their appropriate phase, businesses must comply with the state’s guidance requirements,” said Mark Geise, Deputy County Executive for Economic Development and CEO of the County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency (CCIDA). “Business must go to the NY Forward website and electronically sign the detailed guidance documents, after they’ve read them for their business type, before they can reopen. They also need to complete the business guidance template, print it out, communicate it with their employees, and keep it close at hand at their business location in case of an inspection by the New York State Department of Health, or local health or safety authorities.”

Businesses can go online to forward.ny.gov to find guidance documents, including safety plan templates, and complete the necessary paperwork.

Businesses who have any questions can contact Empire State Development (ESD) at (716) 846-8200 or the CCIDA at (716) 661-8900.

“As we look to restarting our economy and our future, we also received some exciting news this week that Petri Baking Products will return and reopen its soft cookie baking operation in Silver Creek, N.Y.” said Wendel.

Petri Baking Products, which closed in 2013, is expected to begin its operations in the first quarter of 2021. It will initially focus on producing chocolate chip, oat raisin, oatmeal, molasses, and fruit-filled cookies with intentions to add in other soft cookie varieties and producing other items in the snack food aisle.

Renovations to the 18 Main St. facility will return it to food grade status and brand new machinery and equipment will be installed. Approximately 40 new jobs are planned when operations begin in early 2021, with over 100 jobs projected during the first three years.

“Our CCIDA and Chautauqua Region Economic Development Corporation (CREDC) staff have been actively initiating and coordinating extensive technical support to Petri Baking Products for many months, along with the identification and processing of economic programs to incentivize the company to locate here,” said Geise. “This is great news for Silver Creek and Chautauqua County, and it couldn’t come at a better time.”

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