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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY OFFICIALS PROVIDE UPDATE ON COVID-19

3 New Cases of COVID-19 in Chautauqua County Today

Residents Attending Graduation Ceremonies Urged to Take Precautions to Prevent the Spread of the Virus

MAYVILLE, N.Y.: -- On June 19, 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.

As of June 19, Chautauqua County's statistics are:

- 10 active cases, continue to recover under orders of the Local Health Official per NYS Public Health Law including:
 - 3 new cases today of a male in his 20s, female in her 30s, and male in his 50s;
- 101 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;
- 0 persons hospitalized* in Chautauqua County as of 6/18/2020
 - *number of persons in Chautauqua County hospitals diagnosed with COVID-19, regardless of residency
- To date:
 - 98 recovered cases;
 - 7 deaths;
 - 115 total confirmed cases; and
 - 11,800 negative test results.

This week, New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo announced the Western New York region, which includes Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie and Niagara Counties, entered Phase 3 of Reopening effective June

16, 2020. He also announced that any region in Phase 3 will be permitted to have gatherings of up to 25 people.

“Moving to Phase 3 is an exciting milestone for our county and region,” said PJ Wendel, Chautauqua County Executive. “Our responsible approach to reopening has proven effective, but we must remember we are not completely clear so we still need to be cautious.”

Phase 3 businesses include:

- Indoor dining at restaurants and food services; and
- Personal care services such as nail salons, UV and non-UV tanning, waxing, tattoo and piercing facilities, appearance enhancement practitioners, massage therapy, and spas.

Before Phase 3 businesses reopen, they must complete New York State’s guidance documents, which are available at <https://forward.ny.gov/>. Guidance includes Summary Guidelines for employers and employees; Detailed Guidelines, which contain a business affirmation component; and a Business Safety Plan Template, which must be completed and posted at the premises.

Businesses who have any questions about the guidance or reopening can also contact the County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency (CCIDA) at (716) 661-8900 or Empire State Development (ESD) at (716) 846-8200.

The Chautauqua County Office for Aging Services also held its first Free Mask and Sanitizer Give-Away today and over 250 older adults stopped by to obtain their free masks, hand sanitizer, and resource booklets.

The event was so successful that the department will be holding two more distribution events. The events will be held on Friday, June 26 and Friday, July 10, 2020 from 10 a.m. to noon both days at its three offices, which are located at 610 West Third St. in Jamestown, 7 N. Erie St. (back of the HRC Building) in Mayville, and 45 Cliffstar Ct. in Dunkirk.

Supplies have also been given to all senior housing units in the county. Seniors who need masks and sanitizer and are unable to get to the distribution events can also call NY Connects to make arrangements.

For more information about the distribution event or senior services in Chautauqua County, please contact the NY Connects Helpline at (716) 753-4582.

In early June, Governor Cuomo also announced that outdoor, socially distanced graduations of up to 150 people will be allowed beginning June 26, which is subject to any outbreaks or significant changes in the metrics.

With high school graduations coming up next week, county officials congratulated area seniors and reminded individuals who may be attending graduation ceremonies to please be safe and take precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

“While the COVID-19 pandemic has required us to look at graduation ceremonies in a new way, there is no denying that every student has worked very hard to reach this special moment in their lives,” said Wendel. “My congratulations go out to this year’s graduates for the hard work and dedication they have put into their educational careers and extracurricular activities. I wish them all the best as they start the next chapter in their lives. I also thank our parents, superintendents, principals, and teachers for the education and

encouragement they have provided our graduates over the years as they have given students the tools they need to continue to be successful.”

“Whether you are attending a drive-in, drive-thru or outdoor, socially distanced graduation, I ask everyone to please do their due diligence in preventing the spread of the virus,” said Christine Schuyler, Chautauqua County Department of Health and Human Services Director. “This means staying home if you are sick, staying six feet away from others, wearing a face mask, keeping your hands away from your face, and washing your hands or using hand sanitizer. By working together, we can ensure our graduating seniors have the safe and positive graduation experience they deserve.”

Wendel also announced today will be his final weekly COVID-19 press conference.

“Throughout this pandemic, members of my COVID-19 team have stepped up to the plate to work tirelessly to keep the residents of Chautauqua County safe,” said Wendel. “I thank my COVID team, which includes Chris Schuyler, John Griffith, Jim Quattrone, Dr. Robert Berke, Dr. Michael Faulk, and Dr. Brian Walters, for all of their hard work. My team and I will continue to work diligently as Chautauqua County continues to reopen and should we see a spike in COVID-19 cases in our county we will convene other COVID-19 press conferences as needed.”

“Through this all, I thank the first responders in Chautauqua County,” said John Griffith, Chautauqua County Office of Emergency Services Director. “The unselfish dedication to EMS as needed has not wavered during this crisis. I ask first responders to continue to use the precautions as they have been doing. Don’t stop, don’t let up. Thank you for all you do.”

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