



CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 12, 2020

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CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY OFFICIALS PROVIDE UPDATE ON COVID-19

1 New Case of COVID-19 in Chautauqua County Today

Phase 3 Businesses Encouraged to Prepare for Reopening

Older Adults Provided with Guidelines to Protect Their Health as Communities Reopen



Pictured above from left: Dr. Mary Ann Spanos, Chautauqua County Office for Aging Services Director; PJ Wendel, Chautauqua County Executive; and Christine Schuyler, Chautauqua County Department of Health and Human Services Director.

MAYVILLE, N.Y.: -- On June 12, 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 12, Chautauqua County's statistics are:

- 12 active cases, continue to recover under orders of the Local Health Official per NYS Public Health Law including:
 - 1 new case today of a female in her 30s;
- 130 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 6/12/2020
 - *number of persons in Chautauqua County hospitals diagnosed with COVID-19, regardless of residency
- To date:
 - 88 recovered cases;
 - 6 deaths;
 - 106 total confirmed cases; and
 - 8,427 negative test results.

“As you will notice, the number of county residents being tested for COVID-19 has increased,” said Christine Schuyler, Chautauqua County Department of Health and Human Services Director. “I attribute much of this to more widespread testing in long term care facilities. There are about 2,500 staff who work in long term care facilities in the county, and less than 10 have tested positive for COVID-19. No residents have tested positive for COVID-19. I feel that the skilled nursing homes and assisted living facilities in our county should be commended for their infection control practices. They have demonstrated that wearing protective equipment and practicing excellent hygiene work to safeguard those most vulnerable to complications of this disease. I think that as our society reopens, it's important to remember that these increased safety precautions can help prevent staff and hopefully soon, visitors, to long term care facilities from spreading COVID-19 and other contagious illnesses to residents.”

Earlier this week, Chautauqua County Executive PJ Wendel received clarification from New York State that garage and yard sales are permitted in regions that have entered Phase 2 of Reopening.

“As residents complete their spring cleaning, I have received numerous inquiries on when yard sales may be permitted again in Chautauqua County,” said Wendel. “I am pleased to report that garage and yard sales are now allowed with certain requirements. Whether holding or going to a yard sale, I encourage residents to please take precautions to protect themselves from the spread of the virus.”

Individuals holding yard sales must ensure that occupancy of the space used for the sale is limited to the number of people who can be safely and appropriately spaced so that each person is at least six feet away from others and in no case should the space be occupied by more than 10 people at any given time. People in situations where they are likely to come within six feet of another individual must also wear face coverings. In addition, hand sanitizer should be available and regular cleaning and disinfection protocols in place.

Sellers can also consult the [NY Forward Safety Plan Template](#) available at forward.ny.gov for additional precautions they should consider during their garage and yard sales.

As for the next phase of reopening, Wendel said there is a good chance the region could move to Phase 3 next week.

“We are still waiting on final approval from the Governor on when we can enter our next phase of reopening, but there is a good possibility that the Western New York Region will be able to move to Phase 3 on June 16,” said Wendel. “I encourage all Phase 3 businesses to review the state’s guidance and develop their plans so when our region is given the final approval they will be ready to reopen.”

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.

The website also provides guidance for Child Care and Day Camp Programs that are able to open statewide on June 29.

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.

As Chautauqua County begins to reopen, county officials also reminded older adults to continue to take precautions to protect their health.

“In New York State, 85 percent of the 24,133 COVID-19 deaths are people over the age of 60,” said Dr. Mary Ann Spanos, Director of the Chautauqua County Office for Aging Services. “Even though the county and the country are slowly opening businesses, it does not eliminate the risk for older adults, who are still the most at risk population for dying if they catch COVID-19. Everyone, but especially older adults, need to be careful as they start to venture out to restaurants, businesses or when considering to gather with their friends. While we feel the best approach for older adults is to stay at home and limit their interactions with others as much as possible, we also want to ensure they have the information they need to protect their health when they do go out.”

In an effort to provide guidance for older adults, the Chautauqua County Office for Aging Services has adapted Eagle County Colorado’s “Safer at Home” guidelines for older adults in our communities. The County’s guidance, “Safe at Home to Safer at Home Guidelines for Older Adults,” provides three phases of recommended actions to help seniors protect their health. These phases include:

Initial Phase (starting June 2020):

- Limit group size to 5-6 people. The more people in a gathering the greater the risk. Continue to limit the gathering size as much as possible.
- If anyone has any signs of illness, they must remain at home.
- Keep 6-8 feet of distance between people - avoid close, face-to-face conversations.
- Wear a facemask that covers both nose and mouth when in groups or public settings.
- Wash or sanitize hands frequently and avoid touching your face.
- Keep gatherings to outside settings when possible.
- Keep interactions with larger numbers of the general public to a minimum by utilizing senior shopping hours at stores and keeping indoor interactions with the public brief (under 10 minutes).
- Avoid personal contact with others (hugs, handshakes, etc.).
- Avoid sharing eating utensils or drinking glasses.
- Return to work as comfortable, working with your employer if special accommodations need to be made.
- Contact your health care provider immediately at onset of symptoms for testing.
- Senior congregate meals continue to be takeout or home delivery.
- Transportation for older adults should limit the number of riders to 25 percent capacity.
- Organized group senior programs should remain suspended.

Secondary Phase (starting July 2020):

- Limit group size to 10 - 12 people. The more people in a gathering the greater the risk. Continue to limit the gathering size as much as possible.
- If anyone has any signs of illness, they must remain home.
- Keep 6 feet of distance between people whenever possible.
- Wear face coverings while in public settings and wash/sanitize hands frequently.
- Keep gatherings to outside settings when possible.
- When gathering inside, ensure proper space between people and sanitize surfaces, door handles, bathrooms, etc. before and after use.
- Senior programs may start to organize small group activities (10 or less) for exercise, arts and crafts, book clubs, etc. adhering to social distancing and sanitizing protocols.
- Congregate senior meals will be provided via takeout or delivery.
- Transportation should limit riders to 50 percent of total capacity with social distancing.
- County organized large group senior gatherings remain suspended.

Future Phases (starting late summer/ early fall and until a vaccine/proper treatment is available):

- Limit group size to 15-20 people. The more people in a gathering the greater the risk. Continue to limit the gathering size as much as possible.
- If anyone has any signs of illness, they must remain home.
- Keep 6 feet of distance between people whenever possible.
- Wear face coverings while in public settings and wash hands frequently.
- Keep gatherings to outside settings when possible.
- When gathering inside, ensure proper space between people and sanitize frequently.
- Senior programs may organize small group activities (15 or less) - exercise programs, health education, support groups, art classes, book clubs, etc. while adhering to social distancing.

- Organized high touch activities such as card games or puzzles should be suspended for the foreseeable future as multiple people touching the same items can spread the virus.
- Senior nutrition programs may start to offer congregate meals limited to less than 15-20 participants at each seating. Meals will also continue to provide via takeout or delivery.
- Transportation should limit riders to 50-60 percent of total bus capacity and encourage distancing.
- County organized large group senior gatherings will remain suspended.

The Office for Aging Services has also received 15,000 cloth masks to distribute to older adults. The department continues to distribute face masks and hand sanitizer to senior organizations and housing units across Chautauqua County. For seniors who still live in their own homes, the department will be holding a Mask and Sanitizer Drive by Distribution event to help them receive personal protective equipment (PPE). The distribution event will be held on Friday, June 19, 2020 from 10 a.m. to noon at all of 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. Seniors can drive by and pick up hand sanitizers, face masks, and resource booklets.

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

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