



Wednesday, April 15, 2020

4/15/2020 COVID-19 Updates

Two new cases of COVID-19 in Chautauqua County today

Chautauqua County statistics:

- 26 confirmed cases, including 2 new cases today: a male in his 70s and a woman in her 50s.
- 4 active cases - continue to recover under orders of the Local Health Official per NYS Public Health Law;
- 19 recovered cases;
- 3 deaths;
- 108 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
- 476 negative test results to date.

COVID-19 and the Use of Cloth Face Coverings

The New York State Department of Health has issued a Health Advisory on COVID-19 and the use of cloth face covering. It can be found at:

https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/04/doh_covid19_clothmasks_040820.pdf.

Recent studies have shown that about 25% of individuals infected with the virus are asymptomatic. Asymptomatic individuals, even if they eventually develop symptoms, can transmit the virus to others before showing symptoms. This means that the virus can spread between people in close proximity (6 feet) — for example, speaking, coughing, or sneezing — even if those people are not exhibiting symptoms at the time.

Health officials support members of the public wearing cloth face coverings in public settings, where social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies).

It is important to emphasize that maintaining social distancing, by staying at least 6 feet apart when in public and staying home whenever possible, is critical to slow the spread of the virus, even if wearing a face covering. While cloth face coverings may not prevent the wearer from becoming infected, they might help slow the spread from people who have the virus and are unaware.

Cloth face coverings fashioned from household items or made at home from common materials at low-cost, can

be used as an additional, voluntary public health measure, beyond the recommended social distancing. Surgical masks and N-95 respirators are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other first responders.

When wearing cloth face coverings:

- Make sure that they fit snugly and cover your nose and mouth.
- Be changed frequently and laundered when they are soiled or wet.
- Do not become complacent with other protective measures:
 - Do not touch the cloth covering or face.
 - Continue to be vigilant with thorough and frequent hand washing.
 - Soap and water, or alcohol-based hand sanitizer of 60%+ alcohol.
 - Practice respiratory etiquette and cover your coughs or sneezes.
 - Practice social distancing – even when wearing masks.
 - Stay home and help flatten the curve!

NYS Executive Order 202.16

Governor Cuomo issued an Executive Order requiring face coverings for public and private employees interacting with the public during the COVID-19 Outbreak. This requirement shall be effective *Wednesday, April 15 at 8 PM*.

Executive Order 202.16 provides the following directive: *For all essential businesses or entities, any employees who are present in the workplace shall be provided and shall wear face coverings when in direct contact with customers or members of the public. Businesses must provide, at their expense, such face coverings for their employees.*

- Face coverings include, but are not limited to, cloth (e.g. homemade sewn, quick cut, bandana), surgical masks, N-95 respirators, and face shields.
- Direct interaction with the public shall be determined by the employer, but, at a minimum, shall include any employee who is routinely within close contact (i.e. six feet or less) with members of the public, including but not limited to customers or clients.
- Direct interaction with the public shall be determined by the employer, but, at a minimum, shall include any employee who is routinely within close contact (i.e. six feet or less) with members of the public, including but not limited to customers or clients.
- Employees are required to wear face coverings when in direct contact with members of the public, except where doing so would inhibit or otherwise impair the employee's health.
- Employees who are unable to wear face coverings and are susceptible to COVID-19 based on the "Matilda's Law" criteria (i.e. individuals who are 70 years of age or older, individuals with compromised immune systems, and individuals with underlying illnesses) should consult with their employer to consider reasonable accommodations, including but not limited to different PPE, alternate work location, or alternate work assignment with fewer interactions with the public.

The complete Executive Order 202.16 can be found here: <https://sla.ny.gov/MandatoryFaceCoverings>

Link to Chautauqua County COVID-19 Map:

<https://chautauquacounty.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/012d07321ad6415c8cf17c4f673643c9>