Monday, April 20, 2020

4/20/2020 COVID-19 Updates

No new cases of COVID-19 in Chautauqua County today

Chautauqua County statistics:

- 27 confirmed cases;
- 2 active cases - continue to recover under orders of the Local Health Official per NYS Public Health Law;
- 22 recovered cases;
- 3 deaths;
- 36 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
- 577 negative test results to date.

WHERE DO THE REPORTED NUMBERS COME FROM?

There seems to be a lot of concern and discussion about tracking of cases, explanation of terms, and the numbers presented.

It is important to remember that this is a new virus; the World Health Organization and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are learning things about the virus every day. Because of this, the guidelines continuously change based on what is learned.

You can find the definitions of mandatory isolation, mandatory quarantine, and precautionary quarantine here – https://chqgov.com/sites/default/files/inline-files/DOH_COVID19_FAQs_Updated_041720.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1jtH5lZwuiKGdswVDjDVsGGhIPjfcjXZKPC_PhoR3AtgZXS-nqqc7EBb4, page 7 and 8.

Professional Public Health Nurses who have been trained in case management, monitor cases that have tested both positive and negative for COVID-19. They work seven days a week and are in daily contact with NYSDOH about cases. They are managing cases correctly to help stop the spread of this virus. Case management includes moving patients from mandatory isolation, mandatory quarantine, and precautionary quarantine (all included in cases reported as active and "being monitored") into recovered status. The variables that allow a person to be moved to recovered are different for each case.

The Chautauqua County Health Department is not responsible for ordering testing, thus we do not report the

number of tests administered. A healthcare provider is responsible for ordering a test, and there are guidelines to prioritize testing because of limited testing capability. The Health Department asks that the testing sites, where samples are obtained, report the number of test samples to us, but it is not a legal requirement. The number of tests, accuracy of tests, and laboratory locations where tests are analyzed are out of the control of the Chautauqua County Health Department.

The number of test results we receive from the NYS electronic reporting system equals the positive and negative cases reported in our County. These numbers are current, every day. The number of active and recovered cases is reported by the health department professionals who are managing the cases.

The numbers being reported on the NYSDOH COVID-19 Tracker (https://covid19tracker.health.ny.gov/views/NYS-COVID19-Tracker/NYSDOHCOVID-19Tracker-Map?%3Aembed=yes&%3Atoolbar=no&%3Atabs=n) display case counts that differ from our actual totals, because NYSDOH uses results from a reporting system and does not perform checks to ensure that all the data is applicable to the county in question. This appears to be an issue for several counties. Chautauqua County nurses work to confirm the data we report is accurate and relevant. At this time, per information from the State, it is not possible to make updates to the dashboard to resolve the apparent discrepancy given the automation and timing of the State tracker's production process. The NYSDOH COVID-19 Tracker is a useful tool to look at statistics across NYS, but understand that the numbers may not be exactly as reported by the County managing the cases and doing the contact tracing.

The numbers Chautauqua County reports every day are accurate. The number of cases monitored; the number of positive – active and recovered - and negative test results received, and the areas where those cases are located, are accurate. Whether a monitored case is under mandatory isolation, mandatory quarantine, or mandatory isolation, honestly, does not affect you.

We are a rural county with a relatively small population. The people that are working to control and manage this virus are your neighbors. Continue to ask questions to educate yourselves about the situation we are in but please do so with respect. We are all in this together.

Access daily updates on COVID-19 in Chautauqua County in any of these ways:
- The COVID-19 page of the Chautauqua County website at chqgov.com;
- Chautauqua County Health Department Facebook page at www.facebook.com/myhealthycounty/;
- Chautauqua County Government Facebook page at www.facebook.com/chautauquacountygovernment;
- Listen to 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.

Link to Chautauqua County COVID-19 Map:
https://chautauquacounty.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/012d07321ad6415c8cf17c4f67 3643c9

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