



Saturday, April 25, 2020

4/25/2020 COVID-19 Updates

One new case of COVID-19 in Chautauqua County today

Chautauqua County statistics:

- 30 confirmed cases, including one new case of a male in his 70's;
- 3 active cases - continue to recover under orders of the Local Health Official per NYS Public Health Law;
- 24 recovered cases;
- 3 deaths;
- 52 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
- 707 negative test results to date.

ANTIBODY TESTING IS NOT YOUR TICKET OUT OF SOCIAL DISTANCING

The standard COVID-19 test is done using a nasal swab. It's done when a person is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms to determine active illness.

Antibody testing is for people who have experienced COVID-19 symptoms in the past, but are asymptomatic now. The blood antibody test takes a sample of an individual's blood and detects if they have been infected with the coronavirus at some point in the past.

The number of people with positive antibodies gives a glimpse into the true number of COVID-19 infections in an area.

Initial findings will not identify immunity to the virus. A positive result from an antibody test does not mean you can stop social distancing and get back to life as it was prior to coronavirus. Experts suspect that people who have had the virus can't immediately become infected a second time, although it is unclear how long the protection lasts. Only time will be able to determine whether immunity lasts several weeks, several months, or even a lifetime.

Just because you're antibody-positive doesn't necessarily mean you're immune," said Joel Baines, a virologist and professor of pathobiological sciences at Louisiana State University. "That's a very dangerous conclusion."

If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, have been exposed to COVID-19, or you had COVID-19 symptoms in 2020 and are asymptomatic now, and you want to have testing, contact your healthcare provider to discuss testing options, or go to WellNow Urgent Care in Dunkirk NY (other locations are available in WNY, but at this

time, this is the only WellNow location in Chautauqua County with testing). They are offering both COVID-19 and antibody testing without an appointment.

Information about testing at WellNow Urgent Care can be found here <https://wellnow.com/covid-19/> .

Link to Chautauqua County COVID-19 Map:

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

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