



May 11, 2020

5/11/2020 COVID-19 Updates

One New Case of COVID-19 in Chautauqua County Today

Chautauqua County statistics:

- 43 confirmed cases, including one new case involving a female in her 80s;
- 7 active cases - continue to recover under orders of the Local Health Official per NYS Public Health Law;
- 32 recovered cases;
- 4 deaths;
- 102 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
- 1,358 negative test results to date.

Using the Emergency Department (ED)

Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have been encouraged not to utilize the ED unless there is a life-threatening emergency. As Robert Berke, M.D., MPH, Chautauqua County Physician and local Family Practice Provider, reported during the press conference last Friday, May 8, visits to the ED have decreased and deaths that are not directly related to COVID-19 have increased across the country.

“This suggests that people may be afraid to go to the ED because of the perceived risk that they will be exposed to COVID-19. As a result, people with serious illnesses are staying home and in many cases are dying from preventable causes,” said Dr. Berke. “I urge residents to please maintain contact with their doctors and if they are experiencing a serious illness to not hesitate to seek medical assistance.”

To help you make a more confident decision about conditions that are emergent or non-emergent in nature, here is a list of the top reasons to call 911 or visit your local ED and examples of illnesses that do not require a 911 call or ED visit. These lists are not exhaustive, and you should continue to use your best judgment.

Call 911 or GO to the Emergency Department:

- Signs of a Heart attack
 - Pressure, tightness, pain, or a squeezing or aching sensation in your chest or arms that may spread to your neck, jaw or back.
 - Nausea, indigestion, heartburn or abdominal pain.

- Shortness of breath.
- Cold sweat.
- Fatigue.
- Lightheadedness or sudden dizziness.
- Broken bone
- Signs of a Stroke
 - Sudden numbness or weakness in the face, arm, or leg, especially on one side of the body
 - Sudden confusion, trouble speaking, or difficulty understanding speech
 - Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes
 - Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance, or lack of coordination
- Sudden severe headache with no known cause
- Blinding headache
- Significant injury (gunshot wound or deep cut)
- Diabetic coma
- Severe shortness of breath
- Alcohol or drug overdose
- If you've developed a plan to kill yourself*
 - *For mental health emergencies, call the Crisis Hotline 24/7: 1-800-724-0461

All hospitals in Chautauqua County have regular and ICU beds available to patients in need of hospitalized care. Hospitals are taking all necessary precautions to assure a safe environment for patients visiting the ED and for those requiring a hospital stay.

Call your Healthcare Provider - DO NOT Call 911, DO NOT GO to the Emergency Department for:

- Toothache
- Rash
- Ear ache
- Sore throat
- Minor headache
- Boil
- Sunburn
- Diarrhea
- Low-grade fever (under 100.4F)
- Sprains and strains

Call your doctor if you have any of these non-emergent complaints. Health care providers in the county have increased their ability to provide telemedicine through a variety of means, and safe procedures are in place to address your issues.

If you are sick or showing symptoms of COVID-19, call your healthcare provider and discuss your symptoms and testing options. Testing is available in Chautauqua County.

Link to Chautauqua County COVID-19 Map:

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