



Sunday, May 17, 2020

5/17/2020 COVID-19 Updates

Three New Cases of COVID-19 in Chautauqua County Today

Chautauqua County statistics:

- 53 confirmed cases, including new cases of two young adult males and one female in her 50s;
- 14 active cases - continue to recover under orders of the Local Health Official per NYS Public Health Law;
- 35 recovered cases;
- 4 deaths;
- 214 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
- 1,754 negative test results to date.

There has been an increase in the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases and in the number of ordered quarantine/isolation cases due to people not abiding by social distancing guidelines and gathering together. New cases develop when people are in the same location at the same time and in close contact (defined as closer than 6 feet for longer than 10 minutes) with someone who is infected with the coronavirus. Large gatherings and parties cause an increase in the number of people being monitored.

Those who are identified as having been in close contact with a confirmed positive case are ordered, by the Public Health Director, to quarantine for 14 days.

"New York was put on PAUSE to decrease the spread of COVID-19 so that our healthcare systems were not overrun by too many seriously ill patients at one time," said Christine Schuyler, County Public Health Director. "So far, it has worked here, but we are not out of the woods. We need to remain vigilant and smart about our actions."

NYS ON PAUSE IS STILL IN EFFECT IN CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY.

Whether you support Governor Cuomo's "New York State on PAUSE" order or not, Chautauqua County remains on PAUSE until lifted by the Governor. The Western Region is now close to reopening under Phase 1. Our residents must be diligent and continue to abide by the state's rules so that this area can begin to reopen when appropriate.

When you choose to not attend a gathering, to abide by social distancing recommendations, to wear a covering over your mouth and nose, to frequently wash your hands and surfaces, you decrease your chance of contracting a virus that has the ability to cause severe illness and even death. A virus that you can bring home to your loved ones – some of whom might not be able to fight it off. A virus that will force you into quarantine for 14 days. Make the right choice. Stay home.

"When our area begins to reopen and more people are out and about and having closer contact, we know we will see more illness and more people isolated and quarantined," said Schuyler. "Our community must be able to handle the consequences that will bring."

"Please, for your sake, and for the sake of your family and friends, follow the guidelines set forth in New York State on PAUSE," said County Executive PJ Wendel.

A reminder of NYS on PAUSE:

- All non-essential businesses are closed;
- Non-essential gatherings of individuals of any size for any reason (e.g. parties, celebrations or other social events) are canceled or postponed at this time;
- Any concentration of individuals outside their home must be limited to workers providing essential services and social distancing should be practiced;
- When in public individuals must practice social distancing of at least six feet from others;
- Businesses and entities that provide other essential services must implement rules that help facilitate social distancing of at least six feet;
- Individuals should limit outdoor recreational activities to non-contact and avoid activities where they come in close contact with other people;
- Individuals should limit use of public transportation to when absolutely necessary and should limit potential exposure by spacing out at least six feet from other riders;
- Sick individuals should not leave their home unless to receive medical care and only after a telehealth visit to determine if leaving the home is in the best interest of their health;
- Young people should also practice social distancing and avoid contact with vulnerable populations; and
- Use precautionary sanitizer practices such as using isopropyl alcohol wipes.

Governor Cuomo issued executive orders 202.17 and 202.18 requiring all people in New York to wear masks or face coverings in public, including when taking public or private transportation or riding in for-hire vehicles. If you are aware of any non-essential gatherings or any non-essential businesses or entities operating in violation of "New York on PAUSE" you may file a complaint. Governor Cuomo also announced the state is increasing the maximum fine for violations of the state's social distancing protocol from \$500 to \$1,000 to help

address the lack of adherence to social distancing protocols.

- To file a complaint against an employer or place of work: <https://labor.ny.gov/workerprotection/laborstandards/coronavirus-complaints.shtm>
- To file a complaint against a business, location, or incident in your community: <https://mylicense.custhelp.com/app/ask>
- You may also call 1-833-789-0470 to file a complaint.

Health care workers can text NYFRONTLINE to 741-741 to access 24/7 emotional support services.

New Yorkers can call the COVID-19 Emotional Support Hotline at 1-844-863-9314 for mental health counseling.

Link to Chautauqua County COVID-19 Map:

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

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