



Monday, May 18, 2020

## 5/18/2020 COVID-19 Updates

### No New Cases of COVID-19 in Chautauqua County Today

#### Chautauqua County statistics:

- 53 confirmed cases;
- 14 active cases - continue to recover under orders of the Local Health Official per NYS Public Health Law;
- 35 recovered cases;
- 4 deaths;
- 230 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
- 1,827 negative test results to date.

#### PHASE 1 INDUSTRY REOPENING IN WNY, per Governor Cuomo's Announcement from Buffalo Today

Phase 1 reopening in WNY tomorrow, May 19, is not a political exercise. It is a plan based on science, data, and numbers. The scorecard, with metrics of hospitalization, deaths, hospital beds, ICU beds, testing, and contact tracers, will be monitored closely. We are going to continue to track the spread of the disease to make the best decisions possible. The infection rate will not be allowed to go above 1.1. Renowned doctors will be reviewing out data, and science will continue to be used for decision-making.

Increasing economic activity is going to lead to increased contact between people. We don't know what that impact will be. It is going to be important for employers to follow strict reopening guidelines, and for consumers to do the same. Reopening means we continue to follow guidelines of social distancing, face covering, hand washing/sanitizing, keeping hands away from faces. The smarter we are, the lower the infection rate will be. The lower the infection rate, the more that will be opened up.

You decide the future that starts today.

**IMPORTANT TOBACCO RELATED NEWS: Sale of flavored e-cigarettes statewide and all tobacco sales at pharmacies end May 18 in New York State**

*Per a Press Release earlier today from Tobacco Free CCA, Roswell Park*

The sale of flavored e-cigarettes ends in New York State on May 18, as does the sale of all tobacco products in pharmacies. These are huge steps forward in helping New Yorkers live free from nicotine addiction.

The new laws were passed as part of the state's fiscal year 2021 budget. New York becomes the second state in the nation to restrict the sale of tobacco products in pharmacies.

Research shows that the flavors in e-cigarettes attract kids and the nicotine addicts them. Nearly 40% of high school seniors in New York State use e-cigarettes, also referred to as "vaping," and 27% of *all* high school youth vape. This new law ending the sale of flavored e-cigarettes in New York State will protect kids from a lifetime of nicotine addiction.

Selling tobacco products in pharmacies has long sent a contradictory message to consumers by offering tobacco alongside medicine or products for illnesses either caused by or made worse by smoking. It also reduces the number of stores that sell tobacco products in every community, an effective way of reducing youth exposure to tobacco marketing. There is overwhelming evidence that the more young people see tobacco, the more likely they are to start smoking.

For help quitting smoking or vaping, including free nicotine replacement therapy for eligible residents, individuals can contact a health care provider, call the New York State Smokers' Quitline at 1-866-NY-QUITS or visit [www.nysmokefree.com](http://www.nysmokefree.com). Effective medications and counseling are covered by Medicaid and most insurance programs.

**Link to Chautauqua County COVID-19 Map:**

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

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