



May 7, 2020

5/7/2020 COVID-19 Updates

Two New Cases of COVID-19 in Chautauqua County, including the First Confirmed Case in Battalion 2

Chautauqua County statistics:

- 40 confirmed cases, including two new cases of females, both in their 20s;
- 5 active cases - continue to recover under orders of the Local Health Official per NYS Public Health Law;
- 31 recovered cases;
- 4 deaths;
- 74 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
- 1,151 negative test results to date.

THERE ARE CURRENTLY NO VACCINES OR MEDICINES FOR COVID-19

While you are sheltering at home to help “flatten the curve” and slow the spread of coronavirus disease, you might be tempted to buy or use questionable products that claim to help diagnose, treat, cure, and even prevent COVID-19.

Because COVID-19 has never been seen in humans before, there are currently no vaccines to prevent or drugs to treat COVID-19 approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The FDA is an agency within the US Department of Health and Human Services; they protect the public by assuring the safety, effectiveness, and security of human and veterinary drugs, vaccines and other biological products for human use, and medical devices. The agency is also responsible for the safety and security of our nation’s food supply, cosmetics, dietary supplements, products that give off electronic radiation, and for regulating tobacco products.

The FDA is working with vaccine and drug manufacturers to develop new vaccines for and find drugs to treat COVID-19 as quickly as possible, but these products are in the early stages of development.

Meanwhile, some people and companies are trying to profit from this pandemic by selling unproven and illegally marketed products that make false claims of being effective against the coronavirus. These products

that claim to cure, treat, or prevent COVID-19 haven't been evaluated by the FDA for safety and effectiveness and might be dangerous to you and your family. Fraudulent COVID-19 products can come in many varieties, including dietary supplements and other foods, as well as products claiming to be tests, drugs, medical devices, or vaccines. It is likely that the products do not do what they claim, and the ingredients in them could cause harm and could interact and interfere with essential medications.

The FDA has seen unauthorized test kits for COVID-19 being sold online. Currently, the only way to be tested for COVID-19 is to talk to your health care provider or visit an authorized testing site/clinic.

The FDA advises consumers to be cautious of websites and stores selling products that claim to prevent, treat or cure COVID-19. There are no FDA-approved products to prevent COVID-19. Products marketed for veterinary use, or "for research use only," or otherwise not for human consumption, have not been evaluated for safety and should never be used by humans.

The FDA has taken – and continues to take – a number of steps to find and stop those selling unapproved products that fraudulently claim to alleviate, prevent, treat, diagnose or cure COVID-19. As of May 7, 2020, the FDA has issued 42 warning letters to companies making bogus COVID-19 claims. Additionally, the agency has discovered hundreds of products including fraudulent drugs, testing kits and personal protective equipment (PPE) sold online with unproven claims. The FDA works with online marketplaces, domain name registrars, payment processors and social media websites to remove false COVID-19 products from their platforms. Here are some FDA tips to identify false or misleading claims:

- Be suspicious of products that claim to treat a wide range of diseases.
- Personal testimonials are no substitute for scientific evidence.
- Few diseases or conditions can be treated quickly, so be suspicious of any therapy claimed as a "quick fix."
- If it seems too good to be true, it probably is.
- "Miracle cures," which claim scientific breakthroughs or contain secret ingredients, are likely a hoax.
- Know that you can't test yourself for coronavirus disease.

The FDA encourages anyone aware of suspected fraudulent medical products for COVID-19 to report them by emailing FDA-COVID-19-Fraudulent-Products@fda.hhs.gov

Link to Chautauqua County COVID-19 Map:

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

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