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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 5, 2020

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CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY AND STATE OFFICIALS PROVIDE UPDATE ON COVID-19

Western New York Entered Phase 2 of Reopening

2 New Cases of COVID-19 in Chautauqua County Today

MAYVILLE, N.Y.: -- On June 5, Chautauqua County and State Officials provided an update on the novel Coronavirus-19 (COVID-19) in Chautauqua County.

COVID-19 is an infection associated with fever and signs and symptoms of pneumonia or other respiratory illness. If spread in the population, COVID-19 could have significant health consequences.

As of June 5, Chautauqua County's statistics are:

- 22 active cases, continue to recover under orders of the Local Health Official per NYS Public Health Law including:
 - 2 new cases today of a male and female in their 20s;
- 269 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;
- 0 people hospitalized* in Chautauqua County as of 6/3/2020
*number of persons in Chautauqua County hospitals diagnosed with COVID-19, regardless of residency
- To date:
 - 71 recovered cases;
 - 6 deaths;
 - 99 total confirmed cases; and
 - 4,463 negative test results.

"So far, we've had a low prevalence of COVID-19 disease and death here and I attribute that to effective community mitigation efforts and the rural nature of this area," said Christine Schuyler, Director of Health and Human Services. "We will see further spread of the virus as we reopen and I hope people will continue to take

reasonable precautions. Given the chance to ride a droplet from one person to another, the virus will do so, whether those people are in close contact at work, at church, or a protest.”

This week, New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo announced the Western New York Region, which includes Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie and Niagara Counties, could enter Phase 2 of Reopening on June 2, 2020. He also announced that outdoor dining at restaurants is permitted during Phase 2.

“This is great news for our area restaurants and local businesses,” said PJ Wendel, Chautauqua County Executive. “Entering Phase 2 gives our small businesses the opportunities they need to get back on their feet as we move another step forward to safely reopening our economy. I encourage residents to support our local businesses while still practicing social distancing and taking precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Together we are CHQ Strong.”

“I am grateful to the members of our region’s business community for the way they’ve cooperated amongst themselves and with our state and local governments during this unprecedented and prolonged shutdown. They’ve had to make difficult choices and sacrifices to get through the last two and a half months,” said Senator George Borrello. “I am also proud that we were proactive and took so much initiative as a community. That has allowed us to move into Phase 2 this week with a sense of optimism and ready to start the recovery and rebuilding process. Business owners have submitted sound and thoughtful reopening plans that are aimed at restarting their operations while prioritizing the safety of both employees and customers. We are on the right track and just need to stay vigilant and keep the positive momentum going.”

“Starting Phase 2 is great news for Chautauqua County and our residents,” said New York State Assemblyman Andrew Goodell. “Helping our friends and neighbors keep their jobs and helping everyone to minimize future tax increases are reasons why I have been urging Governor Cuomo to allow Chautauqua County to reopen as quickly as possible consistent with appropriate safety protocols. Residents, small businesses and locally-owned stores have all suffered severe economic set-backs during the shutdown. Reopening is great news for those out of work and for businesses to get back on their feet. I urge everyone to support our local businesses and keep following safety protocols as outlined by the Department of Health and the CDC to prevent the spread of the virus.”

Phase 2 businesses include:

- All office-based jobs (professional services, administrative support, and information technology);
- Retail (in-store shopping; and rental, repair and cleaning);
- Real estate services (building and property management; and leasing, rental and sales services);
- Barbershops and hair salons (limited to hair services only with no massages, hair removal, facial and nail services);
- Motor vehicle leasing, rental and sales; and
- Outdoor and take-out/delivery food services.

Before Phase 2 businesses reopen, they must complete New York State’s guidance documents, which are available at <https://forward.ny.gov/>. Guidance includes Summary Guidelines for employers and employees; Detailed Guidelines, which contain a business affirmation component; and a Business Safety Plan Template, which must be completed and posted at the premises.

“I encourage our municipalities and local code enforcement to collaborate with area restaurants that normally don’t have outdoor seating to find creative ways to add it to their operations,” said Wendel. “This would allow

restaurants to reopen some of their operations now instead of waiting until Phase 3 when indoor dining is expected to reopen.”

The New York State Liquor Authority also has guidance available for restaurants and facilities that would like to add an outdoor space to their license. For more information, visit <https://sla.ny.gov/>.

Businesses who have any questions about the guidance or reopening can also contact the County of Chautauqua Industrial Development Agency (CCIDA) at (716) 661-8900 or Empire State Development (ESD) at (716) 846-8200.

“In an effort to assist hair salon owners, our Office of Emergency Services has a limited supply of face shields that are offered free of charge to any hair stylist in Chautauqua County,” said John Griffith, Chautauqua County Office of Emergency Services Director.

The Chautauqua County Office of Emergency Services (EMS) will provide face shields, face masks, and hand sanitizer to barbershops and hair salons while supplies last. This personal protective equipment (PPE) can be requested by visiting the EMS website at www.chautcofire.org and completing the PPE fillable request form. Hair stylists should ensure the name on the request form matches the name on their state license.

Griffith also reminded Chautauqua County First Responders that as New York State begins to open up it is good to note that COVID-19 is not over.

“Chautauqua County will continue to see new cases and as First Responders you will be dealing with new cases,” said Griffith. “Chautauqua County will continue to test and our positive numbers will rise. Don’t let your guard down, keep using the precautions as you have. Use PPE on all calls, limit contact to only the number of responders needed for the call, and most of all keep track of one another.”

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