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County Executive

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 4 2020

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CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY OFFICIALS PROVIDE UPDATE ON COVID-19

15 News Cases of COVID-19 in County Today

Residents Urged to Take Precautions to Prevent the Spread of the Virus



Pictured from left--PJ Wendel, Chautauqua County Executive, and Christine Schuyler, Chautauqua County Public Health Director.

MAYVILLE, N.Y.: – On September 4, Chautauqua County 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 September 4, Chautauqua County's statistics are:

- 173 active cases, continue to recover under orders of the Local Health Official per NYS Public Health Law including:
 - 15 new cases today of:
 - Three female young adults,
 - Two males and three females in their 20s,
 - Two males in their 30s,
 - A male in his 50s,
 - A male in his 60s, and
 - Two males and one female in their 80s.
- Fieldbrook Foods, Inc. cases: 58 employees, 21 close contacts.
- SUNY Fredonia cases: 50 students
- 630 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;
- 114 persons under domestic traveler quarantine for having arrived to Chautauqua County from a state listed on the New York State travel advisory;
- 5 persons hospitalized* in Chautauqua County as of 9/2/2020
 - *number of persons in Chautauqua County hospitals diagnosed with COVID-19, regardless of residency
- To date:
 - 311 recovered cases;
 - 10 deaths;
 - 494 total confirmed cases; and
 - 35,482 negative test results.

“On September 2, a walk-through inspection of Fieldbrook Foods manufacturing facility was completed by the County Health Department, NYS Department of Health, and NYS Ag & Markets,” said Christine Schuyler, Chautauqua County Public Health Director. “In general, the company proved to be in compliance with most of the prevention guidance although staff was able to identify some vulnerable points in their operations. Recommendations for improvement especially pertaining to common areas, break times, and handwashing, were made. Fieldbrook was very receptive to the suggestions and immediately took steps to implement all recommended actions.”

Chautauqua County Executive PJ Wendel also reported that starting this weekend, the County will return to providing the weekend update of COVID-19 cases in the County. He noted that the updates on the weekend will only report the number of new cases and the full report, which includes the number of individuals in quarantine/isolation, hospitalizations, and total cases and tests to date, will be given on weekdays only.

The daily updates are available by 5 p.m. each day on:

- Chautauqua County’s website at <https://chggov.com> by clicking on “COVID-19 Information” on the home page. You can also find a link to the Chautauqua County COVID-19 Map on this page.
- Chautauqua County Health Department Facebook page at www.facebook.com/myhealthycounty/
- Chautauqua County Government Facebook page at www.facebook.com/chautauquacountygovernment .

“With Labor Day this weekend, I urge all residents to please do their part by avoiding large gatherings and wearing face coverings when they are unable to maintain a six feet distance from others,” said Schuyler. “We are all in this together and we need everyone to do their part to help us prevent the spread of the disease in our communities and to keep each other safe.”

The public is reminded to:

- Stay home if you feel ill;
- Wear a mask or covering over your nose and mouth when you cannot maintain a physical distance of at least six feet from others;
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol;
- Avoid large gatherings;
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects;
- Avoid international travel or travel to states listed in the New York State Travel Advisory; if travel is unavoidable, quarantine for 14 days upon returning to Chautauqua County.

Wendel also announced that he has received permission from New York State to keep four rapid testing machines in Chautauqua County.

“In consultation with my team, which includes public and private partners, we have created a Rapid Response Plan,” said Wendel. “So if we have future clusters of COVID-19 cases in the County, we will be able to quickly deploy these machines and setup a rapid testing site where someone could be tested for COVID-19 and have their results in 15 minutes. This would allow us to quickly identify and isolate positive cases and their close contacts to further mitigate the spread of the virus, which will be an especially critical asset as grade schools begin to reopen this fall. In addition to the machines, the State has also provided us with 1,000 tests so our testing capabilities will be reserved for hotspots in the County. I thank New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo for providing us with these machines and tests, which provide us with one more tool in our toolbox to control the spread of the virus. I also thank The Chautauqua Center for its continued support in working with Chautauqua County during this pandemic. As early as March 18, The Chautauqua Center began testing to assist in diagnosing positive COVID-19 patients.”

The public is also reminded that all reports of businesses and individuals who are violating the state regulations and PAUSE restricts must be reported directly to the New York PAUSE Enforcement Task Force Hotline. To make a report, please call 1-833-789-0470 or visit <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/new-york-state-pause> .

For more information about COVID-19 in Chautauqua County, visit <https://chqgov.com>. For general information about COVID-19, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>.

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