



GENESEE & ORLEANS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENTS



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COVID-19 Press Briefing
March 18, 2020 / 4:00 p.m.

GO Counties Situational Summary

- **1 case of COVID-19 identified in Genesee County. 0 cases confirmed in Orleans County.**
- Genesee County: 7 people are under precautionary quarantine, 10 people are under mandatory quarantine, and 1 person (positive case) is under mandatory isolation.
- Orleans County: 2 people are under precautionary quarantine, 5 people are under mandatory quarantine, and 0 people are under mandatory isolation.
- Contact tracing has been underway at the Genesee County Health Department in regard to the positive case identified yesterday, March 17, 2020.
- Direct contacts (within 6' of symptomatic period) with the confirmed case have been notified, interviewed, and have been placed under mandatory quarantine.
- Swabs have been conducted on symptomatic individuals.
- Public Health nurses will complete daily checks on mandatory quarantined individuals. Temperatures will be recorded two times per day. The nurses will visit the homes once per day to make sure the individuals are in compliance with the orders.

- We are working with the Girl Scouts of America to identify exposures and to identify dates and locations.
- Nurses **do not** have to be in direct contact with quarantined individuals.
- Parents are encouraged to communicate with their child's school to learn about how food or other services will be provided during this time.
- GO Health has provided education, posters, and information to the Mennonite and Amish communities in Orleans County in regard to COVID-19. We plan to relay information regularly to these communities who do not receive media through technology.
- For general questions, we ask community members to contact the NYS Hotline **1-888-364-3065**. Contact your primary care provider if you have questions about symptoms or illness.
- **CALL YOUR PROVIDER** before visiting your primary care provider, going to the urgent care, or emergency department.
- GO Health is working with partners including the NYSDOH, CDC, County Attorney's Offices, Emergency Management Offices, Schools, Universities, Hospitals/ Nursing Homes / Providers, Churches, **Amish & Mennonite communities**, etc.
- **COVID-19 swabbing / testing at the Health Departments is limited.** Primary care providers and some health systems are offering testing in both Monroe and Erie Counties. More public / private labs to sign-on soon.

- If a patient is exhibiting symptoms, GO Health will do the following:
 - Collect clinical information on patients from hospitals, clinics, and providers
 - Relay information to NYSDOH
 - NYSDOH and/or CDC will determine if patient requires swabbing. If so, patient is designated a Person Under Investigation (PUI)
 - Specimens tested at NYS Wadsworth Lab or one of the labs the state and federal government have certified for increased testing.
 - PUI may be admitted to hospital, if clinically indicated, or may be on home isolation pending results.
 - At this point community swabbing will be available by health care providers based on screening criteria.

New York State Cases / Restrictions / Guidance

- As of Wednesday morning there are 1,008 new positive cases, bringing the total to **2,382**. 549 people are currently hospitalized. Twenty people have died from the virus.
- At this time, roughly 23 percent of the people with COVID-19 in New York are hospitalized.
- Monroe County: 18 confirmed cases of COVID-19, 1 death.
- Erie County: 20 confirmed cases of COVID-19.
- Wyoming County: 1 confirmed case of COVID-19.
- Niagara County: 1 confirmed case of COVID-19.
- Today, **Cuomo declared that businesses must reduce their in-house staffing by 50%**. This means that no more than 50% of employees can work within the building / establishment at the same time. It is up to the employer or business what the remaining 50% of employees are required to do (work from home or stay home). However, essential services are exempt from this requirement. The governor says this includes food, healthcare, shipping and supplies.

- **DOH Test Kits are NOT available.** More information will be forthcoming when we receive notice.
- **PPE is in extremely short supply** with no guidance as to when more will be supplied.
- **President Trump announced Wednesday that non-essential travel between the US and Canada will be in place indefinitely.** Trade between the two countries will not be affected.
- All schools in NYS to close by Wednesday, March 18 for two weeks, ending April 1. This will be reevaluated to determine if it is safe for schools to proceed.
- Gatherings with 50 people or more are not permitted for the next 8 weeks.

COVID-19 Healthy Daily Practices to Build Immune System

- Encourage people to take care of themselves to take care of their immune systems.
 - Eat healthy – fruits & vegetables, whole grains, low fat meats, etc.
 - Get plenty of rest
 - Drink plenty of water
 - Stop smoking or abusing drugs and alcohol, seek appropriate help
 - Limit media time to help decrease stress
 - Keep in contact with older family members by phone, Face Time, cards and letters if you can't visit in person
 - Take time for walks, play outside, do puzzles, help keep you children engaged with their studies
 - Start or continue a hobby

Social Distancing / Preventative Measures to suppress / flatten the epi curve

- Hand Hygiene. Washing hands with soap and water for 20 seconds OR use of hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Stay 6 feet away from others
- Disinfect high-touch surfaces
- Avoid touching your face
- Avoid contact with people who are sick
- Stay home when sick
- Avoid crowded places
- Cancelling events / closure of public spaces
- If you feel you may have COVID-19, call your primary care provider or healthcare facility ahead of time. **DO NOT GO DIRECTLY THERE, CALL AHEAD TO GET GUIDANCE.** The Health Departments follow the NYSDOH

and CDC guidelines to determine if someone is at risk of COVID-19 and testing is warranted.

- Protective measures can delay and decrease the outbreak peak, reduce the burden on hospitals and decrease the overall number of cases.
- Communities that implement more interventions proactively have better outcomes than communities that introduce interventions reactively
- In cases of severe pandemics, cities should maintain interventions longer than 2-8 weeks (the norm in 1918)
- We need to be creative in how we go about our day-to-day business to prevent the spread and overload of this outbreak
- Checklist to Get Ready for Households - Print out:
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fcommunity%2Fhome%2Fchecklist-household-ready.html

Get Information from Trusted Sources

- County Health Departments (Website / Social Media)
- New York State Department of Health
- Center for Disease Control
- **NYS COVID-19 Hotline: 1-888-364-3065**

Mental Health Resource

- Care & Crisis Helpline of Genesee and Orleans Counties
- (585) 283-5200
- 741741 textline

Miscellaneous

- World Health Organization (WHO) declared a Worldwide Public Health Emergency of International Concern on January 30, 2020
- United States declared Public Health Emergency January 31, 2020
- NYS declared State of Emergency March 7, 2020
- WHO declared a global pandemic on March 11, 2020

