

Declaration Extended

No New Cases Reported As State Of Emergency Renewed

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For consecutive days, the number of confirmed cases of the coronavirus remained the same in Chautauqua County at 24.

The county Department of Health and Human Services said three active cases of COVID-19 remain locally, while 123 people were either in quarantine or in isolation. To date, 18 county residents have fully recovered, with three deaths attributed to the virus.

Of the tests administered, 463 have come back negative.

In Cattaraugus County, the number of confirmed cases remained the same as well, at 26. As of Tuesday afternoon, 153 people were in mandatory quarantine while five people have fully recovered.

Of the 425 tests administered in Cattaraugus County, 365 have come back negative.

"The lack of testing kits throughout the U.S. continues to be an issue and therefore, the lack of confirmed cases probably isn't a true measure of COVID-19 activity in our communities," the Upper Allegheny Health System said in its daily update for Bradford Regional Medical Center and Olean General Hospital. "Therefore, it is important for our patients and residents to practice social distancing, stay home and practice good hygiene to prevent the spread of the virus."

In related news, Chautauqua County Executive PJ Wendel on Tuesday extended the county's state of emergency for up to 30 additional days. In addition to the extension, Wendel noted that the county's protocols were now in compliance with Gov. Andrew Cuomo's executive order that requires employees of essential businesses that deal with the public to wear a face mask.

Screeners will ask any visitor entering a county building or workspace if they have any of the

symptoms and individuals will not be allowed to enter to conduct business if they have any one of the symptoms: a fever greater than 100 degrees at entry site or reported at home; subjective fever/chills; cough; difficulty breathing; body aches; headache; sore throat; runny nose; nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea

"The threat of this virus is still very severe for Chautauqua County," Wendel said. "It is necessary that Chautauqua County remains proactive and fully prepared to deal with its effects, and I ask all County citizens and visitors to venture out only for essential business.

Added Christine Schuyler, county health director, "We must remain vigilant in all of our efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. As stated by Dr. Anthony Fauci of the White House task force, we have to keep our foot on the accelerator when it comes to mitigation and keeping the physical separation. If we fail to do so, all of our hard won progress will be lost.

"As employers work to supply their essential non-health care personnel interacting with the public in person to wear face coverings, we ask that cloth/home-made face masks or face shields be used so that surgical masks can be preserved for health care workers."

Sheriff James Quatrone, meanwhile, asked area residents to be kind to another and to avoid calling 911 with general virus-related questions. He directed questions to the state Health Department at 1-888-364-3065.

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A face mask is pictured on the statue dedicated to the area's comedic icon at Lucille Ball Memorial Park in Celoron. For consecutive days, the Chautauqua County Department of Health and Human Services and Cattaraugus County Health Department reported no new confirmed cases of the coronavirus.

Photo by
Phil Zimmer

