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**Cayuga County COVID-19
Press Conference March 31, 2020 at 1pm
Numbers updated at 4:15pm**

New Cases

Zero new cases today.

Confirmed Cases – total year to date

There have been four total confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Cayuga County.

Breakdown of cases –

The first confirmed case identified on Wednesday March 18, 2020

- Not a Cayuga County resident. A man in his 50's.
- This case is counting towards our total year to date numbers, because the individual did not have a place to go and was required to remain in mandatory isolation until they were able to be discharged.
 - New York State is not reflecting this as a case for Cayuga County because he was not a permanent resident of our county.
- The confirmed case recovered and both he and the contact have been discharged from our monitoring.

The second confirmed case was identified on Sunday, March 22, 2020.

- This individual was a Cayuga County female resident in her 20's living outside the City of Auburn.
- Two known contacts were notified and were placed in mandatory quarantine.
 - The two individuals are in quarantine until criteria are met for discharge.
- The confirmed individual recovered and was discharged from isolation.

The third confirmed case was identified on Sunday, March 22, 2020.

- This individual was a Cayuga County female resident in her 30's living outside of the City of Auburn.
- Three known contacts were notified and were placed in mandatory quarantine as well.
 - Two have been discharged from quarantine. One remains in quarantine until criteria are met for discharge.
- The confirmed individual has recovered and was discharged from isolation.



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The fourth confirmed case was identified on Friday, March 27, 2020.

- This individual was a Cayuga County male resident in his 30's living outside of the City of Auburn.
- Ten known contacts were notified and placed into mandatory quarantine. They will remain in quarantine. They will remain in quarantine until criteria are met for discharge.

The Cayuga County Health Department will receive results on any Cayuga County resident who was tested for COVID-19 even if:

- we did not perform the testing (testing was performed by a healthcare provider or Auburn Community Hospital)
- they were tested out of County.

New York State uses an electronic laboratory confirmation system that notifies local health departments of testing performed on their residents.

Just to remind the public, we are getting the results from people being tested at different sites and out of county. The numbers of people tested in our community reflect that.

Former inmate of Auburn Correctional Facility –

- The inmate was transferred from Auburn Correctional Facility to another site on Tuesday, March 17, 2020.
- The Health Department was notified Sunday, March 22, 2020 of the laboratory confirmed result.
- Our contact tracing investigation led us to identify there were 17 staff who are Cayuga County residents that were in direct contact with inmate.
- All identified staff were placed under mandatory quarantine.
- All are expected to be able to return to work tomorrow.

Cayuga County Jail –

- An employee, who is not a Cayuga County resident tested positive for COVID-19.
- The Health Department was notified of this on Sunday, March 29, 2020.
- As part of our contact tracing investigation it was determined that two staff have been placed into mandatory quarantine.



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The other Sheriff Department employees have been allowed by our Sheriff the opportunity to work or be at home, out of an abundance of caution for their well-being and that of office mates.

Mandatory Quarantine/ Isolation

44 in mandatory quarantine

1 in mandatory isolation

Individuals that are confirmed COVID cases are placed into Mandatory Isolation. Contacts of confirmed cases are placed into Mandatory Quarantine. These are written legal orders issued by the Public Health Director. The purpose of these orders is to reinforce the importance of compliance and restricts their movement.

Health Department staff are in contact with these individuals daily. Phone calls and an unannounced in-person visits are used for individuals under a mandatory order to verify compliance with staying home.

Hospitalized patients

Of the one case currently in isolation, zero are hospitalized.

Deaths

There have been no deaths related to COVID-19 in our county.

COVID-19 Testing in Cayuga County

New York State Department of Health is not allowing people who do not have symptoms to be tested.

The Cayuga County Health Department is performing testing and has been for over two weeks. As of today, our Health Department has directly performed 104 tests in total.

We are not deciding who should be tested, healthcare providers are making that determination. Health Department staff are performing the test.

Individuals who are experiencing symptoms contact their healthcare providers first. The healthcare providers are assessing their patients for the appropriateness of COVID testing. Healthcare providers notify the Health Department when a test is needed and we will schedule an appointment.



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As of today, we are awaiting the results of 45 tests that were performed on Cayuga County residents by the Cayuga County Health Department, physicians, healthcare facilities and licensed clinical laboratories.

Number of test results received since testing began earlier in March – **251** as of this morning.

- This information includes all testing of Cayuga County residents by physicians, healthcare facilities and licensed clinical laboratories.

Supplies –

Our testing supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE) are very limited in our County.

We are working with our local Emergency Management Office to make official requests to New York State. In addition, we immediately began making request for supplies including PPE and viral testing swabs to through various vendors. We continue to make these requests to County EMO, NYS and our vendors on a daily basis.

Included in our requests were hand sanitizer, PPE and viral testing swabs. To date, we have received hand sanitizer and some PPE. We have not received any swabs from New York State.

The only swabs we have received have been given to us by Auburn Community Hospital. This is how we have been able to perform testing in Cayuga County.

The Cayuga County Health Department remains committed to testing as long as testing is beneficial and necessary and appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) that keeps our staff and patients safe is available.

Each county in New York State is responding to and offering testing in different ways. Onondaga and Tompkins counties, **have opened self-referred testing for people with symptoms**. Some Cayuga County residents have chosen to get tested at these sites.

Other local health departments like Cortland County, are not performing testing at all, relying on the healthcare providers in their county to do this.

Monroe County is only testing those seriously ill, healthcare workers and first responders.



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With each confirmed COVID-19 case, we will be following New York State Department of Health guidance and will not be releasing de-identifying information such as town of residence for those who test positive for COVID-19.

Our Health Department staff live in our County. They are dedicated public health professionals, working to protect the health of individuals we serve and protect the privacy rights of patients.

Our messaging is the same whether we have three cases or three hundred. COVID-19 is in Cayuga County.

It is likely we have more cases than our numbers reflect. This is for a variety of reasons including, people have mild symptoms and are recovering without seeking healthcare, people whose healthcare providers did not order testing and ordered appropriate care for their symptoms to be managed at home, and people can be asymptomatic (not showing symptoms) but could be transmitting the virus.

It is essential that our community continue to practice social distancing. We appreciate everyone's efforts to keep their distance from family and friends. Please remember to be good neighbors, social distancing, staying home when sick and washing your hands frequently are our only forms of prevention against COVID-19.
