**Kathleen Cuddy, MPH**
**Public Health Director**
**Cayuga County Health Department**
**8 Dill St.**
**Auburn, NY 13021**

## For Immediate Release:  Wednesday, March 18, 2020

## Cayuga County's First Confirmed Case
## Of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The Cayuga County Health Department is informing the public of a laboratory confirmed **positive** case of COVID-19. A man in his early thirties was traveling through the area, became ill and sought care. The individual was screened and tested by a healthcare professional on Saturday, March 14, 2020 and immediately placed under Health Department Mandatory Quarantine.

The laboratory results were received late this afternoon, Wednesday March 18, 2020. The individual is not a Cayuga County resident who is recovering and will remain in quarantine.

Public Health Director Kathleen Cuddy said, "this case demonstrates the need for social distancing and practicing personal protective measures, including not traveling and staying home.

### Prevent the spread –

Cayuga County residents are urged to take common sense approaches when trying to prevent the spread of illnesses including Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- **Stay home when you are sick.**
- **Do not return to work or school until you are fever free for 24 hours.**
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

### Testing for COVID-19 –

Members of the community are encouraged to stay home if they are ill and contact their healthcare providers if their symptoms include fever, cough, and/or difficulty breathing so they can get further guidance about testing. Your doctor will determine if you have signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and order the test if needed.

**If you do not have a doctor** and have questions, symptoms, or may have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, call Upstate University Hospital's **Triage Line** at **315.464.3979.** You will be advised about testing. The line is open 24 hours.

Chairwoman Aileen McNabb Coleman said, "we understand that life has been and will continue to be difficult, but we appreciate the community's cooperation with social distancing efforts put in place so far.

The community can utilize the following sources for information and updates regarding Novel coronavirus.

- Cayuga County Health Department website: www.cayugacounty.us/health
- New York State Department of Health https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html
- United States Department of State - https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/covid-19-information.html
- World Health Organization – https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019

*New York State Department of Health has set up a COVID-19 hotline for the general public to use if they have questions. Call 1-888-364-3065.*