



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



For Immediate Release: Sunday, March 22, 2020

The Cayuga County Health Department would like to report two newly confirmed cases of COVID-19. These cases were confirmed and reported to the Department on Sunday, March 22, 2020. The newly confirmed positive people are a woman in her 20s and a woman in her 30s. One person was a known contact of a confirmed positive person and the other person's origin of contact is unknown.

Kathleen Cuddy, Public Health Director stated, "Prior to today we have only had one confirmed case; however, it is important that the community recognize COVID-19 is in the community. The Cayuga County Health Department, along with our community partners, have been working diligently and consistently since the inception of this disease, to protect the health of the community. We continue to do so".

Over the past two weeks, the Cayuga County Health Department has tested 74 individuals in our county for the presence of this virus. These individuals met criteria, including symptoms or other risk factors that merited them having a test.

As of today, the Health Department is waiting for results of 45 people in our county who have been tested and asked to self-isolate until their results are received. We cannot offer an accurate account of the pending results as people may be tested in sites other than the Cayuga County Health Department; however, the Department will receive results on all tests performed on Cayuga County residents including those performed by other healthcare providers and facilities.

In addition to testing individuals, the Health Department is monitoring the three individuals who tested positive for COVID-19. These individuals are in mandatory isolation. Contact tracing investigations are being performed by Health Department staff involving the two newly confirmed cases. Any individuals who were within six feet of contact of the confirmed cases will be placed into mandatory quarantine and monitored daily by the Department. As of this date, there are 11 people currently in mandatory quarantine monitored by the Cayuga County Health Department. These 11 people are either known contacts of a confirmed case or people who developed symptoms while in precautionary quarantine.

Cuddy said, "COVID-19 is killing people in New York State. This is not a drill. This is not a joke. At this time, social distancing is the only action we can perform to slow the spread of this virus amongst each other. There is no vaccine to prevent this and there currently is no treatment. It is imperative people comply with the recommendations to not congregate and do their best to keep a minimum of 6 feet from each other".



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



The intent of social distancing is to slow the spread of the virus and limit exposures. This means not gathering at a friend's home, limiting our trips to the grocery store or pharmacy. This is not something our society is used to having to do. Social distancing is crucial to our community so that we protect the really vulnerable and have a health care system intact to care for the really sick.

Right now personal protective equipment (PPE), testing and medical supplies are limited. By not complying with social distancing you are putting lives at risk and placing unnecessary burden on the healthcare system.

It is essential that our first responders, health care providers and public health professionals remain as healthy as possible so they continue to perform their jobs while not spreading disease to others.

For more information please refer to the following sources for information and updates regarding Novel coronavirus.

- Cayuga County website: www.cayugacounty.us
- 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.
