**Kathleen Cuddy, MPH**
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**8 Dill St.**
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## For Immediate Release: Monday, March 30, 2020

# Cayuga County COVID-19 Situational Update – as of 3pm

**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.

**COVID-19 Testing in Cayuga County**
104 tests have been performed by Cayuga County Health Department

We are awaiting the results of 31 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 – 234

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

**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.

**Mandatory Quarantine/ Isolation**
46 in mandatory quarantine
1 in mandatory isolation

We were able to discharge one individual from mandatory isolation today, Monday, March 30, 2020. This person is recovered from COVID-19.

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The Cayuga County Health Department is performing testing and has been for over two weeks. We are communicating daily with our local healthcare providers and Auburn Community Hospital. 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.

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. 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.

Our testing supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE) is limited in our County. Cayuga County 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.

Kathleen Cuddy, Public Health Director reminds everyone that, "the mission of the Cayuga County Health Department is to promote and protect the health and well-being of the individuals and families we serve. The Health Department has been responding to confirmed cases of COVID-19 swiftly and aggressively. Our staff perform contact tracing investigations on all confirmed cases of COVID-19. Contact tracing investigations are not new to local health departments. We perform these routinely for a variety of communicable diseases."

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. "Our 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" stated Cuddy.

Laws are in place to protect the health information of any individual, therefore, we will not be releasing detailed information of a personal nature regarding these cases. "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", Cuddy said.

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.", stated Cuddy.

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.