Board of Legislators
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Press Release

March 25, 2020

For Release: Immediately
Confirmation: Curtis W. Crandall, Chairman
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COVID-19 Statistics, Guidance, and Testing

We are pleased to release the following COVID-19 statistics for Allegany County as of 11:00 a.m. on March 25:

Confirmed Cases: 2
Total Quarantined/Isolated to Date: 98
Released from Quarantine/Isolation: 90
Currently Quarantined/Isolated: 8

Although this is great news for all of us, we must continue to practice social distancing, remain diligent with personal hand hygiene, limit exposure throughout the community, and remain home if possible as the COVID-19 threat is still very real.

The Allegany County Health Department is not conducting any testing at this point in time; however, that may change in the near future with supply availability or changes to testing requirements. The hospitals and medical providers are able to test, and they have been based on specific criteria. If your provider is not ordering testing, you may not meet the criteria, or other issues may need to be ruled out first, prior to jumping to COVID-19 testing. Attached below is the NYS Department of Health's Interim Guidance and Protocol of COVID-19 Testing.

The Health Department continues to receive results through their electronic lab reporting system for any providers that test in Allegany County or for anyone residing in Allegany County, and we will continue to share that information in our press releases. For additional COVID-19 questions and information:

Call: 585-268-9700 (Weekdays: 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Weekends: 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.)
Email: healthinfo@alleganyco.com
Website: www.alleganyco.com
Facebook: Allegany County, NY, Government

We know with each passing day it becomes more challenging to maintain social distancing with our friends, neighbors, and loved ones, and we would like to thank each one of you for doing your part to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Your actions are enabling our medical community to better prepare and may also help our most vulnerable citizens avoid contracting the COVID-19 virus. If needed, please call the COVID-19 Emotional Support Hotline at 1-844-863-9314 for mental health counseling.

Please see our volunteer link where people can sign up whether they are medical or non-medical staff: https://apps.health.ny.gov.pub/servny/

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2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)
Interim Guidance: Protocol for COVID-19 Testing
Applicable to All Health Care Providers and Local Health Departments (LHD)

Background: NYSDOH is closely monitoring an outbreak of respiratory illness caused by COVID-19 that was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China and which continues to expand. Health officials in China have reported thousands of infections with COVID-19, with the virus reportedly spreading from person-to-person in many parts of that country. Infections with COVID-19, most of them associated with travel from Wuhan, are also being reported in a growing number of international locations, including the United States. The United States reported the first confirmed instance of person-to-person spread with this virus on January 30, 2020. New York has now confirmed its first cases of person-to-person spread, and this number is expected to continue to increase.

Purpose: Appropriate and efficient standards for testing are an essential component of a multi-layered strategy to prevent sustained spread of COVID-19 in New York State and to ensure resources are being efficiently distributed. Testing capacity for COVID-19 in New York State is being increased on a daily basis. However, until such time as we are at full capacity, this guidance is necessary to ensure that New York State prioritizes the resources to meet the most urgent public health need.

Testing for COVID-19 shall be authorized by a health care provider when:

- An individual has come within proximate contact (same classroom, office, or gatherings) of another person known to be positive; or
- An individual has traveled to a country that the CDC has issued a Level 2 or Level 3 Travel Health Notice, and shows symptoms of illness; or
- An individual is quarantined (mandatory or precautionary) and has shown symptoms of COVID-19 illness; or
- An individual is symptomatic and has not tested positive for any other infection; or
- Other cases where the facts and circumstances warrant as determined by the treating clinician in consultation with state and local department of health officials.

Precautions:

Any release of information must adhere strictly to HIPAA and any other applicable laws governing personal health information. Contact NYS Department of Health for guidance.

Any health care provider or LHD that has any request or would like to discuss a particular case should contact Dr. Debra Blog and the NYS Department of Health for specific guidance.