Allegany COUNTY New York

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

County Office Building,
7 Court Street, Room #30
Belmont, New York 14813
Phone: (585) 268-9250
Fax: (585) 268-9264

Theresa Moore	Jami D'Arcy	Lori Ballengee	Brittney Schuld	David Rahr
Supervising PHE	Env. Health Director	Director	Dir. Patient Services	Accountant

TO: **All Media Sources**
FROM: **Theresa K. Moore, Supervising Public Health Educator/Public Information Officer**
RE: **COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions From This Week**
DATE: **October 30, 2020**

The following is a news release on COVID-19 frequently asked questions from this week. Please release this information as soon as possible. Thank you for your assistance and cooperation. If you have any questions or need more information, please send the request in writing to me at mooretk@alleganyco.com or by fax at 585-268-9264.

News Release: Allegany County Department of Health COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions From This Week

What does Quarantine/Isolation mean?
Isolation is for symptomatic people and is needed to separate the sick from the well.
Quarantine is for asymptomatic people or people that do not have any symptoms, those people that may have been exposed to a contagion and may have a likelihood of developing the disease.

It is very important that you follow the instructions of the Allegany County Department of Health. If you are quarantined or isolated, you will need to remain home or at your quarantine/isolation location determined at the time of contact tracing. You cannot visit public spaces, grocery shop, come into contact with other people, or go to work unless you are an essential worker who does not have symptoms and has not tested positive for COVID-19. You are issued an official quarantine/isolation order by the Allegany County Department of Health, a violation of this order is a misdemeanor and may subject you to arrest, fines, and/or criminal prosecution.

I am a positive COVID-19 case, what does that mean?
This means that you have been laboratory confirmed by one of the various lab methods approved for testing/analyzing COVID-19 samples. You may have one of the following outcomes below:
If you have no symptoms: Quarantine for at least 10 days after the positive result
If you are symptomatic: Isolate for at least 10 days after symptom onset (a contact tracer can assist with your dates) and you must be fever free (if you had one) for at least 72 hours

I am a close contact to a positive COVID-19 case, what does that mean?
The New York State Department of Health defines a close contact for COVID-19 purposes as someone who has been within 6 feet of an infected person for greater than 10 minutes.
If you have no symptoms: quarantine for 14 days from last exposure to positive COVID-19 case.
If you have symptoms: isolate for a minimum of 14 days or longer, depending on whether symptoms subside or you become a COVID-19 positive case.

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

I have a relative/household member that recently tested positive for COVID-19, what does this mean for me and my family?

If you have a relative that lives in the house with you and they have tested positive for COVID-19, you may be considered a close contact. This means that your 14-day quarantine/isolation period would not begin until the positive household/relative member recovers. The SARS-CoV-2 virus can take anywhere from 2-14 days to show up after exposure. If the positive case has not been considered recovered, they may still be within the infectious period and passing the virus along to others. A household member that is considered a contact and cannot quarantine away from the positive case, will be placed in quarantine for a minimum of 24 days.

I was considered a close contact, I received a COVID-19 test and my results were negative, am I released from quarantine/isolation?

NO-A negative COVID-19 test after coming into close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case will not release you any earlier from quarantine/isolation. This is mainly due to the incubation period of SARS-CoV-2 which can take anywhere from 2-14 days to develop symptoms as stated in Question #7. A negative result is valid for that snap shot in time, and may only indicate that you are not shedding the virus at that point in time, but could be later. It is important for you to stay put and follow all of the directions explained to you by the Allegany County Department of Health regarding your quarantine/isolation.

I am an essential worker (employer told me) and I was deemed a close contact to a confirmed positive COVID-19 case, what does this mean?

If you are an essential worker, deemed a close contact, and your employer cannot do without you, you are allowed to go to work. While at work, you must stay a minimum of 6 feet away from all others and wear a mask at all times. You cannot work if you have symptoms and/or test positive for COVID-19. Again, you are to go to and from work ONLY, no stops in between (no grocery store, no gas station, no drive thru bank or restaurant). If your employer can do without you for your quarantine period, we recommend you stay completely in quarantine.

I am a confirmed case of COVID-19 and I am an essential worker, can I work?

NO-If you are a confirmed positive case you cannot work until you are considered recovered and outside of the infectious period. The point to limiting the spread of COVID-19 is to get people who are infectious out of the public.

For additional questions please call the Allegany County Department of Health at 585-268-9250 or send an email to healthinfo@alleganyco.com. COVID-19 information is available on our website, www.alleganyco.com, click on the small blue button called "All COVID-19 Updates" below the message from the Chairman of the Allegany County Board of Legislators. Check out Allegany County DOH on Facebook.

###

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.