Allegany COUNTY New York

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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TO: **All Media Sources**
FROM: **Allegany County Department of Health**
RE: **Positivity Rate Increases in Allegany County**
DATE: **November 14, 2020**

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 mooretk@alleganyco.com or by fax at (585) 268-9264.

The Allegany County Department of Health (ACDOH) is seeing an increase in COVID-19 positivity rates in Allegany County with a current 7-day rolling average of 6.4 percent and a 14 –day rolling average of 5.0 percent according to the New York State - County dashboard (https://forward.ny.gov/percentage-positive-results-county-dashboard).

We are asking the public to prepare for a possible color zone designation(s) if this positivity rate does continue on this upward path. **We are also asking the public to continue to take the necessary steps in order to reduce your risk of becoming infected by the novel coronavirus. These steps can be as simple as socially/physically distancing, frequent handwashing, wearing a mask, and limiting social gatherings or parties in order to protect their fellow neighbors, residents, friends, and family.** If you are not able to wash your hands, bring an alcohol based hand sanitizer with you and use it when touching common surfaces. This information is not meant to alarm or panic anyone; it is simply a call to action for our community as we are all in this together. As a County, we have driven the infection rate down before and we can do it again with your assistance and cooperation.

A simple social gathering with one positive COVID-19 case can lead to several contacts and further spread of the virus outside of the gathering to schools, healthcare facilities, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, businesses, and other public domains. It is important to understand that the novel coronavirus depends on people to spread it and with our transient nature, the virus begins to spread rapidly and sometimes without the positive individuals knowledge. We are not asking the public to completely isolate themselves, just to conduct your business smartly and with understanding that the virus needs people to pass it along. When interacting with other people, maintain your 6-foot distance or talk with them virtually when possible.

We are starting to see an uptick in cases related to our K-12 schools linked with parents or other household members being ill. Although this is not the sole cause, if you are a parent of a K-12 student, it is imperative that if you are sick, keep your child home and get yourself tested. A parent or child that is ill or tests positive for COVID-19, has further implications for our school districts, both faculty and students. If you are officially quarantined or isolated, it is important to take it seriously in order to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.