



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

DELAWARE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Delaware County Public Health Services adheres to HIPAA standards for all services provided to the public including communicable disease investigations. We are responsible for protecting the privacy of an individual so they do not become stigmatized by the public. In rural sparsely populated areas disclosing the town where an individual resides could be identifiable information. Public Health will not be releasing individually identifiable health information concerning persons under investigation (PUI) for COVID-19 or an individual that has tested positive for COVID-19.

Currently, Delaware County has one confirmed positive case of COVID-19. The individual is in mandatory isolation and contacts of this individual have been contacted and are under mandatory quarantine requirements.

The 2019 Novel (New) Coronavirus is spread person to person by droplets when coughing. It can cause an illness ranging from mild to severe. This virus causes a disease called COVID-19 and can lead to fever, cough and shortness of breath.

If you have any of the COVID-19 symptoms (cough, fever, trouble breathing or pneumonia) check with your primary care provider. Do not come to the emergency room unless there's a pressing emergency.

Older adults and persons who have severe underlying chronic medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at a higher risk for more serious complications from COVID-19. People who are at higher risk are encouraged to avoid crowds as much as possible.

PREVENTION

To prevent spread of this virus, the flu and other respiratory illnesses, individuals are encouraged to:

Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

Stay home when you are sick.

Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surface.

TESTING

The “testing kits” that have been referred to in the media are for the laboratories that run testing on the actual specimens. There are no “test kits” for the public. Weekly, more commercial labs are being credentialed to run testing for COVID-19.

There is a screening process for testing that is done via a primary care provider. If you have any of the COVID-19 symptoms (cough, fever, trouble breathing or pneumonia) check with your primary care provider. Do not come to the emergency room unless there’s a pressing emergency.

Triage sites for testing have begun to be set-up in certain in areas in New York State.

Sites that are close to Delaware County include:

- Catskill Regional Medical Center COVID triage and testing site.
- Vestal Virtual Walk-In Clinic

Effective, March 13, 2020, the New York State Governor has issued the following restrictions:

- Events with 500 or more individuals in attendance are to be cancelled or postponed.
- Any gathering under 500 individuals in attendance are required to cut capacity by 50%.
- Additionally, visitations to nursing homes and assisted living facilities are

restricted to only medically necessary visits.

https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/docs/guidance_for_large_gatherings.pdf

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