



Wednesday, May 20, 2020
From: Columbia County Board of Supervisors Chairman Matt Murell

PHASE ONE UNDERWAY

Columbia County and the Capital Region is busy navigating the first days of the reopening of the economy under Phase One of New York State's New York Forward Plan, Columbia County Board of Supervisors Chairman Matt Murell noted on Wednesday.

"There's definitely some confusion in terms of what businesses and individuals can and can't do as we begin to emerge from New York on PAUSE," said Chairman Murell. "For businesses looking to reopen under Phase One, a reopening plan must be completed and available on premises for health authorities before the business can open."

Phase One includes construction, manufacturing and wholesale supply chain; retail for curbside pickup and drop-off or in-store pickup; agriculture, forestry and fishing; as well as low-risk business and recreational activities, including drive-in movie theaters and some outdoor activities. Guidelines and templates relating to reopening plans can be found at <https://columbiacomeback.com/resources/phase-one/>

Also, New York State has recently added a "Reopening Tool," designed to let businesses know when they may reopen in a particular region. It can be accessed at <https://www.businessexpress.ny.gov/app/nyforward>

As for individuals heading out into public spaces, little has changed, said Chairman Murell. Masks covering the nose and mouth, as well as maintaining social distancing standards, are still required. One thing that does change is gatherings of 10 people or less, which are now permitted.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION PLANNED FOR NEXT WEEK

On Tuesday, May 26, from 10 a.m. until the food is gone, local food pantries and Catholic Charities will distribute food, fresh fruit, vegetables, and other items at the Columbia County Fairgrounds in Chatham.

Organizers ask that no one arrive until 10 a.m. to prevent large crowds. Those in vehicles are asked to remain in them, while pedestrians are reminded to practice social distancing. "Adhering to these instructions will allow us to distribute food in a timely fashion," said organizers.

Reminder:

THREE TESTING CLINICS UPCOMING

Recently, the Columbia County Department of Health announced a pair of coronavirus testing clinics set for the John L. Edwards Elementary School in Hudson, the first on Wednesday, May 27th, and the second on Tuesday, June 2nd: times are 10am to 12 noon. On Sunday, a third clinic, set for Sunday, June 10th, 10am to 2 pm, at the Columbia County Fairgrounds in Chatham.

"I would like to stress that although we are looking for individuals who are symptomatic for the Edwards clinics, or who have experienced symptoms in the recent past, we will gladly accept any essential worker who would like to be tested regardless of whether or not they have symptoms," said Director Mabb. "The Chatham clinic will be open to everyone."

Signup instructions and further instructions regarding the John L. Edwards clinics can be found on the Health Department's webpage on the Columbia County website, or by calling 518-828-3358

DONATION INFORMATION

Monetary: Monetary donations intended for the purchase of coronavirus testing kits and much-needed equipment for emergency responders, medical personnel, and others on the front lines of the coronavirus fight are advised to send a check in care of Columbia County, with coronavirus noted in the memo field. The check should be sent to the Columbia County Controller's Office, 401 State Street, Hudson, NY 12534. All money received is being placed in a dedicated account.

PPE: Those wishing to make donations of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), such as N95 masks, face shields, and gowns, are advised to contact the Emergency Management Office at 518-828-1212. If no one answers, leave a message and someone will return the call. Food: Donations should be directed to the county Office for the Aging (518-828-4258) and local food pantries.

Masks: Those interested in donating masks should contact Austerlitz Town Supervisor and county Health and Human Services Committee Chairman Rob Lagonia at rlagonia@austerlitzny.com. "It doesn't matter whether it's five or 100, we need every one," said Lagonia, who recommends that those wishing to help out with mask donations consult CDC guidelines at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

Free fabric: Currently, Ocean State Job Lot stores are offering free fabric for use in the construction of masks in a "Mask Fabric For Free" campaign. Visit any Ocean State location for the fabric, which is said to be of a high-quality cotton/polyester blend available in two sizes. Further information is available on the Ocean State Job Lot website. Jo-Ann Fabrics and Crafts is offering free mask kits. Those seeking to acquire a kit are advised to order online for curbside pickup. The Greenport store telephone number is 518-828-2621. Current store hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

AVAILABLE SERVICES

Family Assistance Network: As part of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, Columbia County Emergency Management has asked leaders in the human services and spiritual areas of our community for help, Director of Emergency Management David W. Harrison, Jr., said Saturday. The individuals were asked to form a Family Assistance Network to provide information to assist county residents who may be dealing with someone close to them who passed away as a result of the COVID-19 virus. Information on where someone can reach out for help is posted on various websites, including the Columbia County website and Emergency Management Facebook page.

Hotline for Elderly and Vulnerable: Columbia County Sheriff David Bartlett has established a hotline for the elderly and vulnerable in our county, including those with medical conditions or are disabled, who would welcome a deputy checking on their well-being on a daily basis. The number for the hotline is 518-828-0601, extension 1400.

DISCLAIMER

It is the county's intention to issue accurate information regarding the coronavirus situation under conditions that can change by the minute. For the most up-to-date, accurate information, visit the County Department of Health's website at <https://www.columbiacountynyhealth.com/home/coronavirus-covid-19> or their Facebook page @: <https://www.facebook.com/Columbia-County-Department-of-Health-469399129790791/>. The state's coronavirus website, with up-to-the-minute information, can be located at <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>.

Update from the Columbia County Health Department As of 3 PM on May 20, 2020

- Unfortunately, Columbia County has had a 29th resident pass away from COVID-19.
- 353 positive cases of COVID-19 (One of the positive cases from yesterday actually belonged to another county)
- 165 of the 353 cases have recovered from COVID-19
- 18 of the positive cases are hospitalized, 1 of those hospitalized are in the ICU
- We have received 3,526 test results completed for Columbia County residents
- 156 residents are under mandatory quarantine and 4 under precautionary quarantine

<https://www.columbiacountynyhealth.com/.../coronavirus-covid.../>

CONFIRMED POSITIVE CASES BY TOWN AND NURSING HOMES

Below you can find the breakdown of TOTAL confirmed, positive cases of COVID-19 in Columbia County by Town and nursing homes as of Friday, May 15. We will be sharing this information each Friday afternoon going forward. PLEASE continue to practice social distancing.

By learning the positive by town cases we don't want anyone to feel a sense of false confidence that the virus is not in their community. In order to slow the spread, we need to stay vigilant on prevention measures no matter where the positive, confirmed cases reside.

Ancram 5
Canaan 9
Chatham 12
Claverack 8
Clermont 4
Copake 14
Germantown 7
Ghent 16
Greenport 13
Hillsdale 8
Hudson 32
Kinderhook 30
Livingston 8
New Lebanon 4
Stockport 1
Stuyvesant 9
Livingston Hills 2
Pine Haven 36
Barnwell 121

For further clarity of the information we share please see below:

The data we share pertains to individuals who have positive cases of COVID-19 confirmed by test results (aside from the suspected, not tested). The information we get comes from an NYSDOH database that distributes test results for residents to counties based on their address provided at time of testing. This means that results of Columbia County residents who get tested outside of the county and other county residents who get tested here all reach the Department of Health of their home county through the NYSDOH database. Additionally, those deemed “recovered” are residents who have tested positive, have endured their required isolation and are well enough to end their isolation.

We still strongly recommend that everyone treat each and every person you see like they are COVID-19 positive by practicing social distancing, proper hand hygiene, avoid touching your face and common surfaces, and most importantly STAY HOME until absolutely necessary to leave. By learning the towns' positive cases we don't want anyone to feel a sense of false confidence that the virus is not in their community. In order to slow the spread, we need to stay vigilant on these prevention measures no matter where the positive, confirmed cases reside.

Social distancing continues to be a priority for the community's health. Prevent the spread by staying home, staying 6ft away from everyone, and understanding that commonly touched items ARE a possible means for the virus to transmit from person-to-person. Do not touch your face, sanitize these surfaces frequently and STAY HOME to protect those who cannot.

Columbia County Emergency Management Family Assistance Network (FAN)

The purpose of this group is to provide emotional, spiritual and logistical support for residents who have non-health related COVID 19 related needs. Support providers for the FAN include spiritual leaders of religions and denominations and mental health professionals.

Emotional/Mental Health Support Columbia County Department of Human Services/Mental Health Center:

Phone: 518-828-9446

Website: www.columbiacountymhc.com

Hours: Monday – Friday, 9am-5pm

24/7 crisis line; Counseling services for children and adults offered remotely (telephone or video sessions); Care Coordination services for adults and children offered remotely; website resources

Mobile Crisis Assessment Team (MCAT) of the Mental Health Association of Columbia and Greene Counties, Inc.

Phone: 518-943-5555

Website: www.mhacg.org/mcat-team

Hours: 7 days/week 8am-10pm

Crisis counseling offered remotely; referrals to local services; wellness checks offered remotely

Columbia County Sheriff's Office Emergency Management Division

Phone: 518-828-1212

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/columbiacountyemergencymanagementoffice/>

Hours: 24/7 (leave a message if necessary and someone will call back)

Comprehensive computerized directory of Columbia County worship sites and religious leaders.

Overcomes Ministries w/GOD Belongs in our County

Phone: 515-604-9094 Access Code: 425879573 Toll Free Prayer Line

Hours: Daily 7-9am; 5-9pm

Faith leaders from across the County will be available to provide support for anyone who wants to reach out. Group reflections, compassionate prayers, encouragement to go through this with verses that build courage and strength, referrals for 1:1 pastoral care; partnering with the Emergency Operation Center.

Logistical Support

Columbia County Emergency Operations Center (EOC)

Phone: 518-828-1212

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/columbiacountyemergencymanagementoffice/>

Hours: 24/7 (leave a message if necessary, and someone will call back)

Assistance obtaining information for a family member of someone who passed away during the COVID-19 crisis in Columbia County; assistance with contacting a local Funeral Home; assistance with contacting a County Coroner; assistance with determining the location of a deceased loved one; assistance with moving required documents that need signatures, between the person making arrangements for a deceased loved one and a local Funeral Home if no transportation is available.