

FROM: Chenango County Health Department
DATE: 12/1/2020

BUILDING OUR CONTACT TRACING CAPACITY

The Chenango County Health Department would like to let our residents know that we are getting ready for a possible spike in COVID-19 cases through the holiday season. We are busy making the preparations needed to deal with any rapid COVID-19 increases in Chenango County. Plans are in place to deal with a surge in cases. We remain diligent with contact tracing and investigation protocol.

More than 1 million COVID-19 cases were reported in the United States over the last week. As cases continue to increase, the safest way to celebrate holidays or special events is to celebrate at home with the people you live with. Gatherings with family and friends who do not live with you increase the chances of getting or spreading COVID-19 or the flu.

Please be aware of the following important points related to COVID-19 in Chenango County:

- ✓ We are increasing our contact tracing capacity to prepare for a surge in cases that could occur in the next few weeks through the middle of January. Social gatherings have now been identified as the number one spreader of COVID-19. 65% of the new COVID-19 cases are from large social gatherings and parties over the 10 persons recommendation held during the Thanksgiving holiday week.
- ✓ The Center for Disease Control and the New York State Health Department recommend staying home and not traveling this holiday season. Everyone should have celebrated Thanksgiving with ONLY household members and/or groups under 10 individuals and NOT with relatives from out of state or persons outside of your household. This model should continue through The Holidays.

Please remain diligent and keep social distancing, wearing masks/ face coverings in public, practicing good handwashing, and cleaning/ disinfecting techniques. We want to stress the importance of continuing to social distance while in a group

setting, gathering, or out in public. Always take steps to protect yourself and your health. Stay at least 6 feet away from others, wear a mask and wash your hands often. Please be aware, stay informed, and stay safe. Thank you

For more information visit the following websites:

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html>