

QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

COVID-19 Commonly Asked Questions from Chenango County residents Part 2

This is a rapidly evolving situation and information is subject to change.

FACE MASKS: *Should I wear a face mask to prevent getting COVID-19?*

People should wear cloth face coverings while out in the public when they cannot social distance 6 feet. They should also stay home when they are sick and wash their hands often and thoroughly. If you are sick with COVID-19 (or any respiratory illness), you should wear a face mask before going inside a healthcare provider's office or a hospital. If you are caring for someone who is sick you should wear a face mask when you enter their room.

CHILDREN: *Can children get COVID-19?*

According to CDC, children can develop COVID-19 but they tend to have much milder symptoms than older adults. It is not yet known for certain whether or not children with underlying health conditions who develop COVID-19 are at risk for having more severe illness.

PREGNANCY: *Are pregnant women more at risk for COVID-19?*

We do not currently know if pregnant women have a greater chance of getting sick from COVID-19 than the general public nor whether they are more likely to have serious illness as a result. Pregnant women experience changes in their bodies that may increase their risk of some infections. With viruses from the same family as COVID-19, and other viral respiratory infections, such as influenza, women have had a higher risk of developing severe illness. It is always important for pregnant women to protect themselves from illnesses. We still do not know if a pregnant woman with COVID-19 can pass the virus that causes COVID-19 to her fetus or baby during pregnancy or delivery.

BREASTFEEDING: *Should breastfeeding mothers be concerned about COVID-19?*

Breast milk is the best source of nutrition for infants. However, much is unknown about COVID-19. Whether to start or continue breastfeeding should be determined by the mother in coordination with her healthcare provider. It is not currently known if COVID-19 is transmitted from breastfeeding mothers to their children. If a mother is positive for Covid-19, she may have to take extra precautions to avoid spreading the virus to the infant. In some limited studies, the virus has not been detected in breastmilk.

PETS: *Should I be concerned about pets or other animals and COVID-19?*

While this virus seems to have emerged from an animal source, it is now spreading from person-to-person. While CDC recommends that people traveling to affected countries avoid animals both live and dead, there is no reason to think that any animals or pets in the United States might be a source of infection. CDC has not received any reports of pets or other animals becoming sick with COVID-19.

SOCIAL DISTANCING: *What are some examples of social distancing?*

- ✓ Not shaking hands, hugging or kissing when greeting people
- ✓ Limiting visitors
- ✓ Maintaining at a least six feet apart from others
- ✓ Avoiding mass gatherings
- ✓ Working at home
- ✓ Closing schools and providing remote learning instruction to students

TREATMENT: *Can COVID-19 be treated?*

There is no specific antiviral treatment recommended for COVID-19 and there is currently no vaccine. People infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 should receive supportive care to help relieve symptoms. For severe cases, treatment in a hospital might be required. Work with your healthcare provider for recommendations.