



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 8, 2020

Contact: Tioga County Legislative Office

TIOGA COUNTY COVID-19 UPDATE – JULY 8, 2020

Owego, NY – Tioga County Legislative Chairwoman Sauerbrey reported the following Tioga County COVID-19 Statistics:

- **161 Confirmed Cases** – Total confirmed cases, to date.
- **44 Individuals in Mandatory Quarantine.** These are individuals who have had close contact (6 ft.) with someone who has tested positive, but is not displaying symptoms for COVID-19; or individuals that have traveled to China, Iran, Japan, South Korea, or Italy and is displaying symptoms of COVID-19.
- **129 Recovered** – Total number of individuals who had a confirmed case of COVID-19 and are now symptom and fever-free that meet the criteria to be released from Isolation.
- **24 Deaths**

This is a snapshot of data provided to Tioga County Public Health at this point in time.

Administered tests are tracked in various ways. Test results are reported.

Tioga County Legislative Chair, Martha Sauerbrey in conjunction with Tioga County Public Health **urge our residents to avoid all unnecessary travel to states where a travel advisory currently exists. This includes: Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nevada, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Utah.** Please visit <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory> for updates as states may be added and removed from this list.

If you have traveled from one of these states, Governor Cuomo has asked that you quarantine for 14 days upon returning to New York State. The travel advisory requires individuals to take personal responsibility for complying in the best interest of public health and safety. In some cases, travelers may be contacted by Tioga County Public Health from 607-687-8600 regarding their quarantine. Please be cautious of other calls regarding quarantine, as there are many scams going around right now.

During the 14-day period, you are asked to remain at home. No traveling to grocery stores, restaurants, friends and family member's houses, or any other activities outside of your home. You also cannot return to work for 14 days unless your job is deemed essential and your employer provides written documentation. If you choose to travel to one of the states on the travel advisory list for any other reason except for work, you will not be eligible to receive New York State's COVID-19 paid sick leave benefits.

Should you begin to develop symptoms of COVID-19 upon returning from one of these states, please contact your health care provider immediately. It is okay to leave your home from quarantine to be tested for COVID-19. Any questions, please reach out to Tioga County Public Health for further guidance.

While we understand that this travel advisory may have changed your summer vacation plans, we encourage you and your family to take day trips to visit nearby attractions in New York State and enjoy outdoor activities with your family! There are many ways for you to safely enjoy your summer locally!

Tioga County Chairwoman Sauerbrey further reported Governor Cuomo announced the following today:

- **School Re-openings:** New York State will decide whether schools will re-open in the fall during the first week of August. New York State is now consulting with stakeholders on guidance, which will be finalized on July 13. Plans to re-open schools are due on July 31.
- **County Fairs:** All county fairs will be canceled until further notice out of an abundance of caution. Governor Cuomo previously announced that the New York State Fair will be canceled this summer.
- **Shopping Malls:** Beginning Friday, July 10, malls can open in regions that have entered Phase IV of re-opening if they have implemented an enhanced Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning - or HVAC - filtration system and follow proper ventilation protocols. HVAC systems will be required to include filters with a Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value - or MERV - rating of which filters out the COVID-19 virus, but can, if the system makes additional protections, run on a minimum MERV of 11. Ventilation protocols include increased outdoor air, reduced air circulation, longer system run times and frequent filter checks.

For further information, please refer to the following resources:

- **NEW!** <https://covid19.tiogacountyny.com>
- **NEW! Tioga County Coronavirus Response Hotline – 687-8225**
- **Facebook** @Tioga County Public Health
- **Facebook** @TiogaMH (Tioga County Department of Mental Hygiene)
- **Tioga County Public Health Voicemail Line – 687-8623**
- **NYS Coronavirus Hotline: 888-364-3065** (for general questions or information about COVID-19)
- **Tioga County Emergency Food Hotline – 607-354-0965**

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