

HAMILTON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING SERVICE

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For Immediate Release: Public Health Director Update on Hamilton County Coronavirus

Date: March 20, 2020

The Hamilton County Public Health Department has been working with all our responding partners to monitor and control the outbreak of COVID-19 in Hamilton County, in an effort to maintain the health and safety of our residents.

When you are looking at the data, two things to keep in mind is that all data is considered preliminary at this point, and it is a tool to guide decisions. The COVID-19 testing is being conducted, results sent to local health departments and released to the public before it can be analyzed and confirmed. The two cases which appear to be positives in Hamilton County have gotten some attention, yet that data was not accurate and there are no actual positive test for Hamilton County. Despite that, everyone should behave as if COVID-19 is here, because it isn't a matter of if, but the reality of when. Do not panic based on this, but follow the guidance of New York State and the Center for Disease Control (CDC), to assure we are all working together in maintaining Public Health and safety for all.

Data that we can confidently provide you with at this time is that there are 4,152 cases of COVID-19 in New York State. We have sent 10 individuals for COVID-19 testing. Six individuals have tested negative, and we are waiting for four tests results to come back. We currently have 23 individuals that we are monitoring countywide due to possible exposure.

It is important to remember that our local primary care providers and hospitals are faced with many challenges during this pandemic. They are fielding questions from concerned residents, putting in long hours and running out of personal protective equipment and supplies. If you are sick, stay home and monitor your symptoms and temperature, seeking medical care only when necessary.

We encourage you to continue to practice non-pharmaceutical interventions, such as handwashing, social distancing and avoiding large gatherings. Expect that COVID-19 exists in Hamilton County, regardless of what the data shows.

Please contact our office at (518) 648-6141 with any questions or concerns, or utilize the NYSDOH COVID-19 Hotline at 1-888-364-3065.