

## HAMILTON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING SERVICE

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Public Health Programs: (518)648-6497  
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Certified Home Health Agency: (518) 648-6141  
After Hours: (518) 548-3113 Sheriff's Office  
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For Immediate Release: Public Health Director Update on Hamilton County Coronavirus

Date: March 17, 2020

As reports of the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) continue, the Hamilton County Public Health Department is monitoring for potential cases and taking precautions to limit the impact if the virus is found in Hamilton County. The local health department is working closely with the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors and multiple county partners to monitor the outbreak and maintain the health and safety of our residents.

As of 3/16/20, there are 950 cases of COVID-19 in New York State, including counties that neighbor Hamilton County. Currently we have 0 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Hamilton County, however, there are 17 persons under investigation countywide. These individuals have mild illness, but have sought healthcare for their condition and are recovering. If testing confirms a case of novel coronavirus, Hamilton County Public Health will share that information and protective recommendations with both the affected parties and the public as quickly as possible.

Healthcare providers are required to alert Hamilton County Public Health Department if they identify patients with travel to areas where COVID-19 are prevalent, who become ill with fever or respiratory symptoms within 14 days of travel so as to assist with testing and ensure isolation of the ill patients to prevent potential spread of COVID-19.

The novel coronavirus outbreak is a rapidly evolving situation and it is still unknown how easily it spreads, but person-to-person transmission has been identified. Reported symptoms of illness have included primarily fever, cough, and difficulty breathing. There are currently no vaccines available to protect against the novel coronavirus. The CDC recommends taking precautionary measures similar to those for flu prevention, including frequent handwashing with soap and water, avoiding sick people, staying home if you are sick, covering your nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing, and cleaning and disinfecting surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs. Social distancing will also be an effective way to slow the spread of this virus. Please refrain from hosting and attending social gatherings greater than 10 people. These steps can help prevent infection from many different viruses circulating this time of year.

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Those planning a trip should be cautious of any travel restrictions. With spring break on the horizon, please be cautious and consider the risk associated for you and your family. Residents who have recently returned from a trip and are feeling sick should call their health care provider and let them know of their travel and symptoms.

This is a rapidly changing situation, and we remain committed to providing timely updates to residents of Hamilton County and our health care providers. 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.