



IN THE NEWS
LIVINGSTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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Jennifer Rodriguez, M.S. - Public Health Director



For Immediate Release

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Pandemic is Declared by the World Health Organization
Be Prepared. Don't Panic.

Livingston County, NY (March 11, 2020) – The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared COVID-19 (coronavirus) a pandemic. According to WHO, the definition of a pandemic is the worldwide spread of a new disease.

“It is important not to panic. We all need to continue to work together to slow the spread of COVID-19,” said Jennifer Rodriguez, Public Health Director. “Livingston County Department of Health and community partners have been preparing to deal with a possible pandemic situation.” To date, Livingston County does not have a confirmed case of COVID-19.

Currently, there is no vaccine for COVID-19. Until a vaccine is developed, there are things that you and your family can do to help slow the spread of this disease:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue.
- Clean surfaces and objects that are touched often including tables, countertops, light switches, doorknobs, and cabinet handles often throughout the day using a regular household detergent and water.
 - If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using a detergent and water prior to disinfection. For disinfection, a list of products with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-approved emerging viral pathogens claims, maintained by the American Chemistry Council Center for Biocide Chemistries (CBC), is available at Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Fighting Products. Always follow the manufacturer’s instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not

readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Always wash your hands with soap and water if your hands look dirty.

COVID-19 is spread by close contact with people who are sick. Symptoms include cough, fever, and shortness of breath. If you have recently traveled to areas with widespread, ongoing community spread of COVID-19 or have been in contact with someone who has recently traveled to those areas, and are experiencing any symptoms please call your physician right away. New Yorkers can call 1-888-364-3065 with questions or concerns about travel and symptoms. Information on this virus in English and other languages can be found on the following websites: www.cdc.gov or www.health.ny.gov. To contact the Livingston County Department of Health, please call 585-243-7299 or visit www.livingstoncounty.us/doh.htm.

Livingston County Public Health will provide local updates as appropriate.

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