



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 17, 2020

Contact: Tioga County Legislative Office

TIOGA COUNTY COVID-19 UPDATE – AUGUST 17, 2020

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

- **206 Confirmed Cases** – Total confirmed cases, to date.
- **73 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; or individuals who traveled outside of New York State to one of the states identified by the Governor with a mandatory 14-day quarantine period upon return.
- **175 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.
- **6 Active Cases**
- **25 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 Chairwoman Sauerbrey reported Governor Cuomo announced today that gyms and fitness centers can re-open in New York starting August 24 with a 33% occupancy capacity limit. Facilities that re-open will be subject to rigorous health and safety standards and all gyms and fitness centers will be able to open by September 2.

Local elected officials may choose to delay the re-opening of gyms and fitness centers until September 2 to, in part, provide time for required local health department inspections, and may also choose to delay the reopening of indoor fitness classes until a date beyond September 2.

Guidance for Gyms and Fitness Centers

- **Capacity:** 33% occupancy limit.
- **Access:** Sign-in with contact information and health screening required.
- **PPE:** Appropriate face coverings required at all times.
- **Distancing:** 6 feet of separation at all times.
- **Hygiene/Cleaning:** Cleaning and disinfection supplies made available to customers; shared equipment cleaned after every use; staff must also be available to clean and disinfect equipment in between uses; rental equipment must be cleaned and disinfected between customer use.
- **Classes:** By appointment/reservation only; maximum class capacity capped at number of people that can adhere to the 6-foot social distancing rules, but in no case more than 33% of the typical class size (i.e., leave stations, cycles, etc. vacant); classes should be scheduled to allow additional time for cleaning and disinfection in between each session.
- **Amenities:** Water bottle refill stations permitted, but not shared water fountains; communal showers are closed, but individual showers/stalls can remain open so long as they are cleaned in between use.
- **Air Handling Systems:** Gyms should operate at MERV-13 or greater; if they are unable to operate at that level, they must have heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) professional document their inability to do so and adopt additional ventilation and mitigation protocols from American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

- **Inspection:** Local health departments shall inspect before or within two weeks of the gym/fitness center opening to ensure compliance.

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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