



## PRESS RELEASE

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 9, 2020**

**Contact: Tioga County Legislative Office**

### TIOGA COUNTY

### COVID-19 UPDATE - DECEMBER 9, 2020

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

- **1,315 Confirmed Cases** – Total confirmed cases, to date.
- **498 Individuals in Mandatory Quarantine** - These are individuals who have had close contact with someone who has tested positive, but is not displaying symptoms for COVID-19; or individuals who traveled outside of New York State.
- **1,072 Recovered** – Total number of individuals who had a confirmed case of COVID-19 and are now symptom free that meet the criteria to be released from isolation.
- **179 Active Cases**
- **64 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 from various locations.*

Tioga County Legislative Chairwoman Sauerbrey reports increases continue to come from community spread throughout the entire County. Continue to encourage wearing masks, social distancing and remain home if you are sick or have symptoms.

Last week over 950 people were tested for COVID-19 after 5 full days of rapid testing were conducted in Waverly. The Rapid Test Site was a joint effort between several agencies to address the high number of COVID-19 cases being seen in Waverly, which is currently designated as a “Yellow Zone” by New York State.

A special thank you to all of our partners that played a major role in making testing possible this past week including Guthrie, The New York State Department of Health, Village of Waverly, Waverly School District, Tioga County Emergency Management, and Waverly Police Department. Testing made it possible for our department to locate several individuals in our community who have COVID-19 along with their close contacts who had a direct exposure to the virus. This enabled us to isolate and quarantine a large number of individuals as we continue to contain and control further community spread of the virus.

Under New York State’s guidance, we are now beginning to focus on our COVID-19 Vaccination Distribution Plan in anticipation of the COVID-19 vaccine becoming available in the coming weeks. We are following the guidelines prioritizing healthcare workers and nursing home residents as the first to receive the vaccine once it is provided by the state. In collaboration with our partners, we are preparing for when New York State begins to distribute the vaccines to the local level.

Tioga County Public Health continues case investigations and contact tracing with individuals who test positive for COVID-19. We are relying on our residents to do their part to help slow the spread of the virus over these next several months.

Please continue to be vigilant every day! Wear a mask while in public places and when you're around anyone who does not live within your household. If you feel sick and have **ANY** symptoms of COVID-19 including minor symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, headache, loss of taste and smell, stomach problems and more, get tested for COVID-19. Stay quarantined until you receive your test results. Because many new cases can be tied to small gatherings, it is best to avoid all gatherings with those who live outside your immediate household as we work to get through this crucial stage of the pandemic. We have already suffered the heartbreaking loss of 64 members of our community to this virus. Please do your part to help prevent the loss of even more lives to this virus and prevent the spread of COVID-19!

For further information, please refer to the following resources:

- **County Reporting:** <https://covid19.tiogacountyny.com>
- **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: Dial 2-1-1**
- **New York State Guidance:** <https://forward.ny.gov/>

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