



IROQUOIS

Healthcare Association

To: IHA Emergency Preparedness Contacts

From: Andrew Jewett, *Director, Hospital Preparedness Program*

Date: March 9, 2020

RE: Important Updates from NYSDOH on Coronavirus (COVID-19)

NYS Situational Update

There are 105 confirmed cases in NYS as of the March 8th 12:45 pm [announcement](#) by Gov. Cuomo. Of the 105 total individuals in New York State who tested positive for the virus, the geographic breakdown is as follows:

- Westchester: 82
- New York City: 12
- Nassau: 5
- Suffolk: 1
- Rockland: 2
- Ulster: 1
- Saratoga: 2

Gov. Cuomo [announced](#) yesterday that Northwell Laboratories has been authorized to perform testing, and that manual testing of 75 to 80 samples per day will begin at Northwell immediately.

Gov. Cuomo [declared](#) a state of emergency on March 7th to expedite procurement of testing supplies and equipment, and essential supplies and resources. The declaration also allows:

- Qualified professionals other than doctors and nurses to conduct testing;
- Expedited personnel onboarding;
- Expedited leasing of lab space;
- EMS personnel to transport patients to quarantine locations other than just hospitals.

NYSDOH Updates COVID-19 Testing Criteria

NYSDOH issued a new [protocol](#) on 3/6 for COVID-19 testing in New York State which reads:

“Testing for COVID-19 shall be authorized by a health care provider when:

- An individual has come within proximate contact (same classroom, office, or gatherings) of another person known to be positive; or
- An individual has traveled to a country that the CDC has issued a Level 2 or Level 3 Travel Health Notice, and shows symptoms of illness; or
- An individual is quarantined (mandatory or precautionary) and has shown symptoms of COVID-19 illness; or
- An individual is symptomatic and has not tested positive for any other infection; or
- Other cases where the facts and circumstances warrant as determined by the treating clinician in consultation with state and local department of health officials.”

Please note that New York State's testing criteria differs from CDC's guidance on evaluating and testing as outlined in [CDC's Health Advisory](#) dated March 8.

Governor Declares State of Emergency

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New Guidance for Nursing Homes

A [letter](#) to nursing home administrators on 3/6 provides directives for preventing spread of COVID-19. The guidance addresses:

- What to do if a Resident is suspected of having a COVID-19 infection
- Visitor screening and restriction policies, and signage;
- Staff illness and sick leave policies;
- Staff exposure, quarantine and active monitoring ;
- PPE conservation; respirators

Quarantine and Isolation

NYSDOH issued [Interim Containment Guidance](#) for local health departments on 3/6. The interim guidance provides conditions for local health departments to issue orders for Mandatory Quarantine and Isolation as well as Precautionary Quarantine. The guidance establishes requirements for monitoring, sheltering conditions and provision of personal needs.

Health Commerce System Contact Information

Because NYSDOH distributes alerts and advisories through the HCS notification system, it is essential that hospitals and providers ***maintain up-to-date contact information*** in the HCS Communications Directory ***for their administrative and clinical leadership*** to be assured of receiving this information.

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