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For Immediate Release

For More Information:

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The Essex County Health Department (ECHD) is reporting 2 additional suspect cases of COVID-19 as of Tuesday afternoon. This brings the total number of suspect cases to 7. A suspect case means that a healthcare provider has clinically determined that the patient meets a case definition for COVID-19. The total number of lab confirmed positive cases remains at 9. Currently, there are 10 people in isolation, 21 people under a mandatory quarantine order, and 10 people under precautionary quarantine. Four individuals have recovered. A total of 115 tests have been processed to date.

Reporting of suspect or confirmed communicable diseases is mandated under the NYS Sanitary Code (10NYCRR 2.10,2.14) which, since February of 2020, includes COVID-19. Essex County Health Department has been working with our healthcare providers since the beginning of this outbreak to align reporting efforts. The guidelines for reporting/coordinating testing have evolved, with the latest change being that providers are now reporting suspect cases to the Essex County Health Department. We continually reach out to our providers to ensure that our processes match.

“Suspect cases are handled in the same manner as lab confirmed cases,” emphasized Linda Beers, Director of Public Health for Essex County. “We issue a Health Order of Isolation to the individual and begin the contact tracing process to identify contacts of the suspect case. Anyone who is considered at risk of exposure is placed under quarantine,” added Beers.

Yesterday, the Essex County Board of Supervisors voted to direct the Essex County Health Department to disclose the name of each individual town where a positive case of COVID-19 exists.

The 9 lab confirmed positive cases have been reported in the following towns:

Crown Point – 1

Essex – 2

Keene – 1

Moriah – 1

North Elba – 3

Westport – 1

The 7 suspect COVID-19 cases have been reported in these towns:

Elizabethtown – 1

Moriah – 2

North Elba – 1

Ticonderoga – 3

Four individuals have now recovered.



“We want to urge Essex County residents to treat every public space in the county as a possible site of COVID-19 exposure, regardless of whether cases have been reported in your town or not,” Beers stressed. “Continue to practice social distancing, stay home as much as possible, and limit the frequency and duration of trips for essential items. We know that we haven’t reached our peak here in the North Country, so we have to remain vigilant.”

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) offers a county-by-county breakdown of testing and positive cases around New York State at <https://covid19tracker.health.ny.gov/>. ECHD understands there is some confusion about this information because it doesn’t match what the county is reporting. According to this tracker, as of April 6, NYSDOH notes 7 lab confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Essex County. ECHD is reporting nine, as noted above. “This discrepancy occurred because people provided a local address when tested, but do not live in Essex County,” Beers clarified. “Once the person lists a local address when tested, the results are visible to ECHD and we follow-up by notifying the local jurisdiction where the case resides. We also conduct local contact tracing, as appropriate.”

Daily updates from ECHD are available at www.facebook.com/EssexCountyPublicHealth. These updates also stream on our website at www.co.essex.ny.us/Health. Scroll to the bottom of the home page to view them.

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