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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**For More Information:**

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**Potential COVID-19 Exposures at Church Services in Lake Placid Prompt Testing Event**

The Essex County Health Department (ECHD) is reporting potential COVID-19 exposures at religious services held at 8:30AM on November 5 and 6, and 5:30PM on November 7 at St. Agnes Catholic Church in Lake Placid. While only one individual in attendance is known to have tested positive at this time, given how quickly this virus can spread in large gatherings, ECHD is taking proactive measures to protect the community and encourages anyone who attended any of these services to be tested for COVID-19.

"An initial investigation found that an individual who was present at the church during the dates/times listed above tested positive for COVID-19," stated Linda Beers, Director of Public Health at Essex County. "We have not been able to link this person's case to any known exposure, and we have seen an uptick in cases, especially in the Lake Placid/Saranac Lake region. With this information at hand, we feel it's in the best interest of public health and safety to offer a testing event to anyone who attended the church services in question," Beers continued.

"ECHD is working with Adirondack Health, St. Agnes Church, the Town of Lake Placid, the Lake Placid Police Department, and the Essex County Office of Emergency Services to stand up this testing event in an effort to protect our more vulnerable populations, trace and isolate any further potential infections, and slow any further spread of the virus," Beers noted.

The Essex County Health Department and Adirondack Health have arranged for testing to be held tomorrow, November 13, 2020, at the Lake Placid Horse Show Grounds, 5514 Cascade Rd, Lake Placid, NY 12946 from 9AM – 12PM. Attendees of the church services who would like to be tested are asked to call the Adirondack Health COVID Clinic at 518-897-2462 to pre-register.

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