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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**For More Information:**

Andrea Whitmarsh, Public Information Officer, Essex County Health Department  
518-873-3546 | [andrea.whitmarsh@essexcountyny.gov](mailto:andrea.whitmarsh@essexcountyny.gov)

**Essex County Leaders Request County Nursing Homes Suspend Visits**

Yesterday, the Essex County Board of Supervisors, which has the dual responsibility as the Essex County Board of Health overseeing the Essex County Health Department (ECHD), issued a request to suspend visitation at all nursing home facilities in the county.

“Protecting the health and welfare of all Essex County residents is our primary responsibility,” noted board Chairman, Shaun Gilliland in the request letter that went out. The request asks that facilities suspend all visitation for a period of fourteen (14) days as a way to prevent community spread. “We know that this disease is insidious and lethal when it gets into nursing and elder care facilities...I realize this is a significant hardship, especially on residents, but we need to take all measures to protect our most vulnerable,” Gilliland emphasized.

“We support this decision by Chairman Gilliland and the Board of Supervisors,” confirmed Linda Beers, Director of Public Health for ECHD. “We are taking extra precautions for this population, because the data shows that they are much more vulnerable to serious illness from COVID-19. We want to prevent further infections and limit the impact to our surrounding communities”, Beers continued.

The letter was sent to nursing home and adult care facilities in Lake Placid, Elizabethtown, Ticonderoga, Willsboro, Keene, and Saranac Lake.

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