



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
**Yates County, NY**

## YATES COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

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Public Health Director

**For Immediate Release**

**April 13, 2020**

### **Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 in Yates County**

Yates County Public Health has received positive COVID-19 test results on two residents at The Homestead in Penn Yan. Public Health is working with the staff of the facility to identify all close contacts. The residents had been in isolation while laboratory results were pending. Both residents are hospitalized in an acute care setting for treatment of their illness. In addition, three other residents were tested over the weekend for COVID-19 infection. These three tests were negative.

Soldiers and Sailors Homestead Administrator, Robert Burlingham, confirms “that all staff have been following New York State Department of Health guidelines for PPE and screening of health care workers at the start of their shift for symptoms of COVID-19, including temperature checks. The Homestead has reached out to family members to make required notifications”. Finger Lakes Health and The Homestead will continue to work with NYSDOH and Yates County Public Health to monitor all residents and staff and conduct testing as appropriate.

Social distancing remains the most important prevention method at this time, health officials said. “While we are seeing evidence that New York State, particularly in the downstate area might have reached a peak, we continue to ask everyone to stay at home as much as possible. Some experts believe that the peak in Western New York may not yet have occurred and there continues to be community transmission in the region”, states Deborah Minor Director of Public Health.

Please continue to protect yourself and others by the following:

- Stay home and practice social distancing; only leave your house for absolute necessities.
- If you are sick, please stay home. Most cases of COVID-19 are mild and can be managed at home.
- If you have symptoms such as cough, fever, or shortness of breath and think you are too sick to stay home or if you have questions, call your healthcare provider.
- Wash your hands often with warm water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are unavailable, use an alcohol based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are ill.
- Do not return to work until you have been fever free for 72 hours without the use of fever reducing medications.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw in the trash or cough or sneeze into the inside of your arm.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces such as faucet handles, door knobs, countertops and other surfaces.

For questions about COVID-19, contact the New York State hotline at 1-888-364-3065 or Public Health at 315-536-5160. For more information, please visit [www.yatescounty.org](http://www.yatescounty.org) or <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/>.