



YATES COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

417 Liberty Street, Suite 2021

Penn Yan, New York 14527

Phone: 315-536-5160

Fax: 315-536-5146

Email: publichealth@yatescounty.org

<http://www.yatescountypublichealth.org>



Deborah Minor, R.N. MPH

Public Health Director

For Immediate Release

October 14, 2020

Keuka Park, NY- On Thursday October 8, 2020, Yates County Public Health received positive COVID-19 laboratory results for 10 Keuka College students. Case investigations were conducted with these students to determine close contacts. Throughout the weekend and over the past two days, additional positive cases have been identified, bringing the current count to 63 students and 2 staff; with approximately 100 close contacts. Both positive cases and close contacts are being monitored daily for the duration of their isolation or quarantine. Willful violation or refusal to comply with the isolation or quarantine order is a misdemeanor and may subject the individuals to additional actions, including involuntary detention in an appropriate facility.

Yates County Public Health is continuing to work closely with the college and the New York State Department of Health to contain further spread of the virus. The College canceled all classes on Friday, October 9 and has transitioned to distance learning for a period of two weeks. In addition, on-campus activities have been limited, including the suspension of in-person athletics, extracurricular activities and all non-essential student services. All non-essential staff are being advised to work from home. College leadership was advised by Public Health on October 12 that all students living on campus, even those not identified as a close contact should be advised to remain on campus to avoid further community spread. Additional actions will be taken at the recommendation of NYSDOH to contain this cluster.

Through the investigation process it was learned that the onset of this cluster can be attributed to a large social gathering that took place at an off campus location where social distancing and face covering precautions were not adhered to. This demonstrates how quickly and easily this virus can spread between unmasked individuals, especially when the gatherings are held indoors. We encourage everyone to continue to be diligent about social distancing measures and always wear a face covering. As more activities move indoors with the colder weather, please consider the social gatherings that you plan to attend and possible risk to you and your family for infection.

“To bring about a healthier, safer, better informed community.”

Early Intervention

Preschool Special Education

Children with Special Health Care Needs

EMS Coordination

Disease Control & Immunizations

Lead Poisoning Prevention

Health Education

Emergency Preparedness

Maternal & Child Health Program

Rabies