



City of Beacon, New York
Office of the Mayor
Lee Kyriacou, Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Beacon COVID-19 Update

BEACON, NY – The City of Beacon is working closely with Dutchess County and New York State to ensure public health and safety in connection with COVID-19, and wants to inform the community of the following current information and actions.

- 1. Public Information:** The City of Beacon recognizes that the best local health expertise lies with the Dutchess County Health Department, and that best overall information is provided by way of collaboration with Dutchess County and New York State. Accordingly, the City is promptly re-communicating relevant, accurate information provided by the best sources, whether electronically on the Beacon Public Access Channel (Channel 22) , the City of Beacon website (<http://www.CityofBeacon.org>), links in documents, or in printed form.
- 2. City Preparedness:** The City is working closely with expert state and county partners, participating in multiple daily calls and meetings involving communities throughout the region. Information is passed on to all city staff, including police, fire and other departments, and the community, and is taking the appropriate recommended actions to properly inform to safeguard our community, including actions and recommendations to reduce the pace of transmission of COVID-19.
- 3. Large Public Events:** As State and County directives recognize, the major risk of COVID-19 transmission involves large public events. Accordingly, the City is canceling or postponing public-supported events involving large attendance scheduled between now and the end of April – including the Parade of Green, Good Friday Procession, Easter at Memorial Park, Easter Sunrise Service and the Beacon Barks Parade.
- 4. Beacon Recreation Programs:** The City is following the lead of the Beacon City School District, and discontinuing programming consistent with the school district schedule. Other City-sponsored recreational activity involving small groups in large enough venues will continue, with City staff monitoring and ensuring allowance for “social distancing.”
- 5. Public Board Meetings:** Meetings of the Beacon City Council, Planning and Zoning Boards, and other regular and ad hoc city board meetings – will continue to meet on schedule, with a change of location from the Court Room at the Municipal Building to the much larger public meeting room across Route 9D at the Lewis Tompkins Hose Meeting Room located at 13 South Avenue. This will allow for appropriate “social distancing” in a much larger venue; if necessary, the City will monitor and limit public attendance appropriate to venue size. The City will continue to televise City Council and

other board meetings, and is working on installation of teleconferencing for meetings. Board members are of course free to make individual choices regarding attendance specific to their individual circumstances.

- 6. City Hall & Municipal Buildings:** Our City Hall at One Municipal Plaza and all other public municipal facilities remain open. Municipal buildings are being cleaned twice a day, and are safe for the public. Residents are encouraged to contact the City by phone or e-mail, where you will receive excellent customer service.
- 7. Some Accurate Sources of Information:** Below are some links to accurate and up-to-date local information on health and safety. Take care to find and rely on accurate official sources, and not unofficial, informal or uninformed ones.
 - Dutchess County Coronavirus Information Hotline: 845-486-3555
 - NYS DOH Novel Coronavirus Hotline: 1-888-364-3065
 - Dutchess County State of Emergency:
<https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/County-Executive/Dutchess-County-Announces-State-of-Emergency.htm>
 - Dutchess County Department of Health:
<https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/DBCH/2019-Novel-Coronavirus.htm>
 - NYS DOH
Website: <https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/coronavirus/>
- 8. Public Health Reminders:** The City of Beacon wishes to repeat some official common-sense public health guidelines including personal hygiene, social distancing, and avoiding large public gatherings and events. These come from the Dutchess County Department of Health and the New York State and the New York State Department of Health.
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
 - Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
 - Stay home when you are sick.
 - Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
 - Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Please see attached COVID-19/Coronavirus Fact Sheet.

DUTCHESS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL & COMMUNITY HEALTH

COVID-19/CORONAVIRUS FACT SHEET

Coronavirus (COVID-19) is an emerging health situation and it is important to know how to keep yourself and your family healthy. Stay informed with guidance, precautions and news at...

DutchessNY.gov/coronavirus

WHAT IS COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a droplet-spread disease, like the flu or common cold. Person-to-person spread occurs mainly via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. This strain of coronavirus is resilient and can survive long periods of time (possibly up to 9 days) on surfaces.

WHO IS AT RISK?

The majority of people recover from COVID-19 without needing special treatment. Older people, and those with underlying medical problems like an underlying lung disease, heart problems or diabetes, are more likely to develop serious illness. Approximately 1 out of 6 people who get COVID-19 becomes seriously ill and develops difficulty breathing.

WHAT ARE WE DOING ABOUT IT?

Dutchess County Government prepares and trains for a variety of emergencies. Our dedicated team of emergency preparedness experts, healthcare professionals, and volunteers from the Medical Reserve Corps have been monitoring and prepping for COVID-19. We are coordinating with schools, colleges, medical providers, and local hospitals to make sure that we are ready for cases in our community.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Website: DutchessNY.gov/Coronavirus
Coronavirus Information Line: (845) 486-3555

Marc Molinaro
County Executive



A.K. Vaidian, MD, MPH
Commissioner

WHAT CAN I DO TO PROTECT MYSELF?



Wash your hands regularly! Avoid touching your face, eyes, nose etc.



Disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects. Viruses can survive for days on surfaces.



Avoid contact with sick people. Keep at least 6 feet between you and others.

Practicing good hygiene is key to keeping yourself healthy and preventing the spread of COVID-19.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?



Shortness of Breath



Fever



Cough

COVID-19 symptoms may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure.

WHAT IF I AM SICK?



Stay home when you are sick! Rest, recover, avoid others.



Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing.



Call your doctor if you have flu like symptoms

If you believe you have contracted COVID-19, call ahead to your primary care doctor or urgent care so that they can take necessary precautions upon your arrival. Do NOT go directly to the hospital unless you are in distress.