

Archived Information

Out of an abundance of caution, the Senior Nutrition Program at the Joseph G. Caputo Community Center will transition to only serving home delivered meals starting Friday, March 13. All events and programs at the Senior Center have been cancelled for the foreseeable future.

In conjunction with Westchester County, the Village of Ossining is monitoring the Coronavirus (COVID-19) very closely along with our partners at the County Health Department and the EMS Division of the Department of Emergency Services. We will be taking precautions in all of our municipal facilities and we encourage you to do the same at home.

The Governor has declared a state of emergency to be in effect as of March 7, 2020. The full text of the emergency declaration can be read [here](#).

The County has informed us that New York State Emergency Services has opened command centers at the Westchester County Department of Health in New Rochelle and the Traffic Management Center in Valhalla. They are expanding their staff to answer questions and they are increasing the capability for testing.

Below is the information received from New York State regarding [testing](#) and [quarantine/isolation](#) protocols. The [testing](#) and [quarantine/isolation](#) protocols are also available in Spanish.

Testing will occur if:

- An individual has come within proximate contact (same classroom, office, or gatherings) of another person known to be positive; or
- An individual has traveled to a country that the CDC has issued a Level 2 or Level 3 Travel Health Notice, and shows symptoms of illness; or
- An individual is quarantined (mandatory or precautionary) and has shown symptoms of COVID-19 illness; or
- An individual is symptomatic and has not tested positive for any other infection; or
- Other cases where the facts and circumstances warrant as determined by the treating clinician in consultation with state and local department of health officials.

Quarantine is mandated for:

- An individual who has been in close contact (6 ft.) with someone who is positive, but is not displaying symptoms for COVID-19; or
- An individual who has traveled to China, Iran, Japan, South Korea or Italy and is displaying symptoms of COVID-19.

Isolation is mandated for:

- An individual who has tested positive for COVID-19, whether or not displaying symptoms for COVID-19.

A toll-free hotline has been launched for consumers to report instances of price gouging in relation to items such as household cleaning supplies and hand sanitizer. The number to call is 1-800-697-1220. Complaints can also be filed online by [clicking here](#).

The Department of Homeland Security has warned individuals to remain vigilant for scams related to Coronavirus (COVID-19). See their full release [here](#).

Below, you will find a series of frequently asked questions courtesy of Westchester County:

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Hotline

The New York State Department of Health has set up a hotline at (888) 364-3065 where Department of Health experts will be available to answer questions regarding COVID-19.

Am I likely to become infected with COVID-19?

Currently, the risk of becoming infected with COVID-19 in Westchester County remains low. If cases were to occur in our area, most people are likely to experience mild to moderate disease with full recovery. In addition to staying informed, you can reduce your risk of becoming infected by taking proper prevention measures similar to what is recommended to avoid the common cold and flu.

What is a coronavirus?

Coronaviruses are a group of viruses that can cause either mild illness, such as a cold, or can make people sick with pneumonia.

What is a novel coronavirus?

A novel coronavirus is a new strain of coronavirus that has not been previously identified in humans. Recently, a novel (new) coronavirus called COVID-19 was detected in thousands of people worldwide, primarily in China. Multiple cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in the U.S. and it is expected that more cases of COVID-19 will be identified in the future. For the most recent case information, visit the [CDC Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Situation Summary webpage](#).

How is COVID-19 spread?

Many of the initial patients with COVID-19 in China had links to a large seafood and live animal market, suggesting animal-to-person spread. However, cases being reported at this time have been occurring through person-to-person spread. The virus is thought to spread mainly:

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

The most common symptoms include fever, cough and shortness of breath. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and even death.

What should I do if I (or someone I know) traveled to an area where COVID-19 is spreading?

Anyone who has traveled to a CDC Level 3 destination (one that is experiencing widespread sustained transmission of COVID-19) should self-quarantine at home for 14 days following their return. For the most recent travel alerts, visit the [CDC Coronavirus Disease 2019 Information for Travel webpage](#). You should monitor your symptoms and call your health care provider if you

feel sick with fever, cough, or have difficulty breathing. If you need to go to your doctor's office or an emergency room, call ahead and tell them about your recent travel and your symptoms. The same precautions should be taken if you have been in close contact with someone who has confirmed COVID-19. You should also avoid contact with others.

Who can be tested for COVID-19?

New York State is now able to perform testing for COVID-19. All testing performed on patients in Westchester County must be approved by the Westchester County Department of Health. The CDC has developed specific criteria for who can be tested for COVID-19. As the situation evolves, the criteria may change. For the most current testing criteria, visit the [CDC Evaluating and Reporting Persons Under Investigation \(PUI\) webpage](#).

Is there a vaccine or treatment for COVID-19?

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. There is also no specific treatment for COVID-19 disease at this time. However, most people will recover on their own after resting and drinking plenty of fluids. To relieve symptoms, people with the virus can take pain and fever medication, use a room humidifier or take hot showers to help ease a sore throat and cough.

What can I do to protect myself?

You should go about your daily life, but take the same precautions that you would during cold and flu season:

- [Wash your hands](#) often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use alcohol based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Cough or sneeze into your sleeve or a tissue (not your hands), then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- [Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces](#) using a cleaning product that contains bleach

Will wearing a surgical mask protect me from COVID-19?

Surgical masks do not protect the person wearing the mask from infection with COVID-19.

Surgical masks should only be worn by people showing symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of disease to others. In addition, N95 respirator masks are not recommended for the general public and should only be worn by health care workers who have been properly fitted for them.

Should I travel during the COVID-19 outbreak?

If you are planning to travel, visit the [CDC Coronavirus Disease 2019 Information for Travel webpage](#) for the latest travel advisories related to COVID-19.