News Release

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For Immediate Release
Contact: 518-565-4840

Are Your Neighbors in Need?
Avoid Risks Associated with Distancing Requirements

Plattsburgh, April 8, 2020 Requirements for distancing to slow the spread of COVID-19 have separated us from friends, co-workers, neighbors and even extended family, at least physically. Technology and innovative communication solutions are helpful as people try to stay connected to one another. But, these don’t work for everyone. Clinton County leaders are asking residents to check on neighbors, especially those who may not have a strong social network, are elderly, or in some other way may be more vulnerable to falling through the cracks during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Karen Derusha, Public Information Officer for the Clinton County Health Department, admitted “It may seem like a bit of a contradiction to ask residents to stay inside, but also check on your neighbors,” she noted. “But, there are safe ways to do this. If you don’t have a phone number to call, it is appropriate to knock on a neighbors door, then step back 6 feet.” Asking how someone is feeling is appropriate, and you may also want to check to see if they have essential items that they need to stay healthy such as medications and food. If you are able, you can offer to pick these items up for them, the next time you go out for your own supplies. If they have needs that you are not able to help with, remind them that dialing 2-1-1 on their phone will connect them with an information service that covers our region to connect residents to organizations that can help.

Ms. Derusha also noted, “Many of our seniors are known to the Office for Aging and JCEO. These organizations have been reaching out to the seniors within their database. Drivers for the Senior Nutrition Program are making meal deliveries, leaving the meals at the door, and waiting until someone comes out to pick it up.”

Some indications that a neighbor might be in trouble include newspapers piling up at the door or lights that are on or off at the wrong time of day. If you are concerned, and can’t make contact with someone who you suspect may be in danger, call 9-1-1.

CCHD is also reporting that as of Wednesday morning, 321 Clinton County residents have been tested for COVID-19, with 39 lab confirmed cases of COVID-19. Fifteen of these individuals have recovered, and 0 have died. Residents may access the NYS Department of Health COVID-19 Tracker at https://on.ny.gov/2JLTaeZ.

About the Clinton County Health Department:

The Health Department is an accredited full service department serving the residents of Clinton County. The Health Department’s Mission is to improve and protect the health, well-being and environment of the people of Clinton County. Visit our website at www.clintonhealth.org or connect with us on Facebook (@clintonhealth), Twitter (@ClintonCountyHD), and Instagram (clintoncountyhealth).

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