News Release

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For Immediate Release
Contact: 518-565-4840

4-19-20 COVID-19 Case Update

Plattsburgh, April 20, 2020. As of this morning, Clinton County Health Department (CCHD) is reporting 56 lab-confirmed positive cases of COVID-19, 38 of whom have recovered and two have died. CCHD also reports that there are 43 individuals who have been identified as suspect cases, 36 of whom have recovered. The number of probable (lab-indeterminate) cases since testing began, remains at 3 with 2 recovered and 1 death. When all categories are considered (i.e., positive, suspect, probable, recovered and deaths) the total number of active cases is 23.

On Sunday, Governor Cuomo announced the start of a statewide antibody testing survey to be conducted by the New York State Department of Health in communities across the State. According to the Governor’s website, “The testing survey will sample 3,000 people statewide. The antibody testing is expected to help determine the percentage of the population that is now immune to the virus.” Limited details were reported to the Clinton County Health Department just prior to the State team’s arrival in Plattsburgh where sample testing was conducted at Price Chopper on Sunday and continued on Monday morning.

CCHD confirmed that their department is not conducting antibody testing and that the purpose of the testing being done by the State Health Department is to collect statistical data. John Kanoza, Director of Public Health for Clinton County stated, “The information collected by the State Department of Health through the antibody testing survey is intended help State officials make decisions about how and when it might be safe for some people to return to work. At this time, there is not an option for residents to be tested to learn their individual immunity status.”

A hand-out provided as testing was conducted discussed the antibody test and the results it can produce. According to this document, it is unknown whether a person who has a reactive result (positive) on the WC SARS-CoV-2 IgG test is immune to COVID-19. The hand-out specifically stated, “This won’t be known until people who have IgG levels are exposed again to SARS-CoV-2 and we can study whether any of them are infected again. It is also unknown how long the IgG antibodies last. It will take time to find these answers. In the meantime, this test is the best we can do to indicate any level of immunity.” The document and additional information can be found at https://on.nys.gov/2KiZGtP.

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“Persons who have any physical mobility or other needs, call the telephone number above to arrange for accommodations”
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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