News Release

CCHD to Change COVID-19 Reporting Categories to Match State Guidance

Plattsburgh, May 5, 2020. The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) has notified local health departments that the reporting requirement related to cases of COVID-19 has been updated to capture two distinct classifications.

Prior to this notification, Clinton County Health Department (CCHD) along with other local health units had been using three categories to describe the status of COVID-19 cases. “Lab-confirmed positive” is used when an individual who has been tested for COVID-19 receives a positive result indicating that they have the virus. The term “suspect” had been used to define individuals suspected of having COVID-19 based on clinical assessment (by a medical provider), and for whom a test was not performed. The term “probable” previously described individuals tested for COVID-19 with inconclusive test results.

Beginning today, CCHD will follow updated NYSDOH guidance and use two designations only. Cases will be listed as lab-confirmed positive (tested with a positive result) or probable. Individuals who were previously listed as suspect will now be included in probable cases, as will those who were tested but for whom results were indeterminate.

A probable case is defined as:

- meeting clinical criteria AND epidemiologic evidence with no confirmatory laboratory testing performed for COVID-19; or
- meeting presumptive laboratory evidence AND either clinical criteria OR epidemiologic evidence; or
- meeting vital records criteria with no confirmatory laboratory testing performed for COVID-19.

Clinical criteria refers to the symptoms associated with COVID-19 and epidemiological evidence is based on whether an individual was, or may have been, exposed to the virus.

Ms. Erin Streiff, Director of Health Care Services at the Clinton County Health Department noted, “Federal agencies such as the CDC, along with state and local health departments use very specific language in order to accurately track how diseases spread and how they affect people. The case definitions can be confusing. Our goal is to report easily understandable numbers to the public. From this point forward, cases will be referred to as lab-confirmed positive or probable.”

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“Persons who have any physical mobility or other needs, call the telephone number above to arrange for accommodations”
People who are tested and who receive a positive test result will always be part of the lab-confirmed positive case count, even after they have recovered. However, Ms. Streiff also noted “A probable case, may move from the probable category to the positive category if they are tested and found to be positive, or they may be tested and receive a negative result, which would take them off the probable list. A detailed explanation of the COVID-19 case definition that New York counties will begin using today can be found at https://wwwn.cdc.gov/nndss/conditions/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/case-definition/2020/.

The Clinton County Health Department reported the following case numbers for May 5, 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cases</th>
<th>Recovered</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lab-confirmed positive</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probable*</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Active Cases 14 Tested 885

*Probable cases:

- meet clinical criteria AND epidemiologic evidence with no confirmatory laboratory testing performed for COVID-19; or
- meet presumptive laboratory evidence AND either clinical criteria OR epidemiologic evidence; or
- meet vital records criteria with no confirmatory laboratory testing performed for COVID-19.

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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