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Madison County Ready to Reopen

Wampsville, NY – Governor Andrew Cuomo announced today that Central New York region can reopen on May 15, 2020. Madison County says we are ready. Chairman John M. Becker says the county is ready to begin the phased reopening of the county on Friday, beginning with qualifying businesses that are part of Phase 1 of the Governor’s NY Forward Plan.

“Madison County has been working regionally with Onondaga, Oswego, Cayuga, and Cortland Counties to develop a reopening plan,” said Chairman Becker. “We know as a county and as a region we are ready to reopen. We have reached all of our metrics laid out by the state. I know there were some questions regarding testing numbers. We have shown this week with the help of our regional partners that we are able to reach those numbers.”

“We have been working on our recovery plan for weeks. We have other counties contacting us about our plan so they can build their own,” continued Becker. “Our [Madison County COVID-19 Recovery Task Force](#) has put together a comprehensive document that can be utilized by all types of businesses along with a toolkit that will serve as a useful guideline for those who will be putting together their own plans in the coming days and weeks.”

There was some concern regarding the Central New York region meeting the metric of diagnostic testing. Madison County is confident that the region will meet that benchmark without any issues by Friday. Madison County is asking essential workers to get tested regularly and if you have not yet been tested, please go out and do so. Moving forward, Madison County is working on developing additional testing sites for the public that will be up and running next week. A list of the current testing sites can be found at <https://www.madisoncounty.ny.gov/2589/Diagnostic-Testing-Sites-for-COVID-19>.

Phase 1 of the NY Forward Plan includes the reopening of construction, manufacturing, retail (Available for Delivery and Curbside Pickup only at this time), wholesale trade, agriculture, fishing, and hunting. Moving forward, each business will have to register with New York State and have a plan in place to protect their employees as well as consumers. This includes creating a safe work environment and implementing processes and procedures to reduce the risk of infection in the business.

“We have worked hard as a community to limit the spread of COVID-19. Our fight is not over, but we are one step closer to the end of this,” said Public Health Director Eric Faisst. “It is important to

remember as we reopen to continue to wear face coverings when you are unable to maintain social distancing and to practice good hygiene.”

“As we begin to reopen we will likely see small hotspots pop up. That is expected,” continued Faisst. “What is important is that we identify early, test, and get people the care that they need so we can limit the spread and the size of those hot spots. We have done that before and we will continue to do that.”

To see the most current Madison County COVID-19 Workplace Recovery Guide and a toolkit for employers, visit the Health Department’s website at <https://www.madisoncounty.ny.gov/2584/Recovery>. This guide is a working draft that will continue to be updated as more information becomes available.

Again, if you must go out, be sure to stay at least 6 feet away from others at all times and wear a cloth face covering. Please remember to wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use hand sanitizer before you touch your face.

For more information please visit <https://www.madisoncounty.ny.gov/2479/Coronavirus-COVID-19> or call the Madison County non-medical COVID-19 Hotline at 315-366-2770.

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