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Madison County Looks Ahead with Recovery Plan

Wampsville, NY – As May 15 approaches and NY PAUSE comes to an end, the Madison County Recovery Task Force has been working diligently to answer the impending question of what comes next. The Recovery Task Force is spearheaded by Kipp Hicks, Director of the Industrial Development Agency, and comprised of a variety of community members from both the Private and Public Sector including Madison County Board of Supervisors members, Office of Emergency Management staff, local school and college administrators, hospital leaders, small businesses and more.

The Recovery Task Force's goal is to develop a responsible plan for reopening specific business segments while keeping in mind policies pertaining to proper protective equipment, social distancing, hygiene, monitoring, customer interactions, business partner interactions and actions to be taken for sick employees.

Keeping these elements in mind, the Recovery Task Force is working hard to draft recovery guidance and a toolkit to help businesses open responsibly and prevent workplace exposures to COVID-19.

There are four essential elements to consider when reopening:

1. Preparing the Workplace and Workforce – Cleaning, engage with vendors, reconfigure spaces for social distancing, return to work policies; communicate steps taken to create a safe working environment and reduce anxiety of returning to work
2. Develop a Plan – Establish safety, health and cleaning protocols; redesign policies and work practices and communicate through signage and proper supplies as needed
3. Monitor the Workforce – Establish daily health screening and monitoring protocols
4. Communicate to the Workforce – Set expectations and establish two-way communication and plans for safety; present new guest, travel and HR policies

The Madison County Recovery Task Force is using these elements to construct guidance for businesses such as construction, retail, manufacturing industry, transportation and package delivery, agriculture and more. When a business needs to come up with their own plan please check out the Madison County resources to see if what guidance works to help you develop your own plan.

“We have worked hard to slow the spread of COVID-19 here in Madison County, it is now time to reopen our community,” said Madison County Chairman John M. Becker. “A reopening plan has to be looked at from a regional, to a county, to an individual business level. That is why we created the Madison County

Recovery Task Force, so that we can work on guidance that makes sense for our local businesses, not for profits, schools and more. Working together is the best way to get our economy back up and running.”

To see the most current 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 meant as a working draft and will be updated as more information becomes available.

As we move forward a reminder that 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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