



# MADISON COUNTY DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE Release:**

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## **Madison County Health Department Working with Schools for COVID-19**

**Wampsville, NY** – Madison County Health Department (MCDOH) is in regular contact with the three colleges and ten K-12 school districts within Madison County regarding COVID-19 testing, guidelines for safety, and much more. Most recently, that includes providing support and contact tracing for the recent positive cases at Colgate University among students and faculty.

Colgate University, as part of their reopening plan, has been performing multiple rounds of diagnostic testing for all of their students and staff. Since August 26, 2020, Colgate University has done several rounds of testing of staff and students. To date 33 tests have come back positive, 4 staff and 29 students, of the 4,878 diagnostic tests conducted. Colgate's testing reveals a 0.68% positivity rate among their population, and all cases were asymptomatic. The New York State average is 0.8% as of September 2, 2020.

The MCDOH receives all of the test results from the diagnostic testing. Once a positive case is identified the MCDOH staff do contact tracing of that individual. MCDOH has been and will be conducting all contact tracing investigations for any positive at any of the colleges or any of the K-12 school districts. Any individuals identified as being in close proximity of a positive are placed on quarantine and the positive cases are put into isolation.

"We are closely monitoring the situation in Hamilton," said Madison County Public Health Director Eric Faisst. "We understand that this will heighten the concern of many of our residents, but at this time the risk to the general public is still considered low. We have been working with Colgate for over a month on their reopening plan and it is being executed as it was stated. I have faith in the University as well as my staff to put the health of all members of our community in the highest regard."

MCDOH supports that each college has their own dashboard for reporting of COVID-19 cases within their community. The number of Active Cases of COVID-19 on the Madison County map and website may differ from the numbers reported by college campuses. The Madison County map only shows the number of residents in Madison County who have tested positive for COVID-19. The college dashboards include students and staff from the college community who live in both Madison County and outside counties.

For more information, please go to <https://www.madisoncounty.ny.gov/2479/Coronavirus-COVID-19>.

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