

9/10/20 Elected Officials Call Notes

We currently have 88 total active positive cases (as of 9/9), including more recent days reporting double digit numbers, many of which are associated with two clusters that the health department announced last week.

Announced public exposures at the Boatyard Grill, shifts worked August 28th-Sept 2nd.

Cornell, IC, and TC3 (through SUNY) have released dashboards of their data.

On Sept 1st we announced no-cost community-wide testing available for anyone who wants to seek a test. Medically necessary testing is still covered by insurance, we are encouraging businesses and local governments to contract directly with CMC if they'd like more intensive testing of employees.

We are eagerly anticipating the K-12 COVID dashboard through the state and the Health Dept. is working with districts to ensure information flows well between partners and to the state dashboard. This was done by the State without much forewarning.

We have begun to identify and re-assign some County staff to contact tracing and quarantine / isolation daily check in calls, with recent increase in positive cases there have been more contacts and more work put on our nursing staff and others at the health department.

We will be presenting an update of demographic data of the positives at the legislature meeting next week. This will include an update on source of exposure over time, including the number of individuals were exposed to a known positive case.

We are continuing to work with the City and Center for Policing Equity on police reform and will have an announcement early next week that will include a timeline for the process to share with the community.

Absentee ballots, per governor's recent announcement absentee ballots can be dropped off at the board of elections during business hours or up to 9pm on election day, they are planning to install a mail slot. An announcement will be shared tomorrow on this. Anyone who applied for an absentee ballot for the primary will have to do so again for the general election.

We have received 90 total calls regarding enforcing distance, mask wearing, and/or gatherings. Here is a breakdown of those – 70 were located in the City of Ithaca, 9 in the Town of Ithaca, 2 in the Town of Danby, 3 in the Village of Cayuga Heights, and 1 each in Town of Groton, 1 Town of Ulysses, Town of Enfield, Town of Newfield, Village of Trumansburg and Town of Dryden. The Sheriff responded to 81 calls, CHPD responded to 4, IPD responded to 3, 1 each by CUPD and TPD. 14 Calls were related to Higher Ed. 9 Violations in City of Ithaca, 3 Town of Ithaca, 3 Cayuga Heights, 1 Groton, 1 Danby, 1 Enfield – 18 total violations, 5 of which were related to higher ed.

We are hosting a town hall tonight and will be focusing on workforce and unemployment issues exacerbated by COVID-19.

Jason plans to deliver the proposed budget on Monday evening to the legislature. Sales tax as of last month (July #s) was about a 15% decrease from the prior year. Expectations shared by Counties across the state is that there will be a 4-10% decrease in August.

Is the Health Dept. Tracking the severity of cases? We've seen no uptick in hospitalizations.

We have daily video check ins with positive cases, we do track the severity of the cases and whether they are symptomatic but we do not share that information publicly. We use a NYSDOH system to manage the cases.

What's the latest from the governor re: in person meetings?

The previous orders are extended to October 4th, the most recent executive order extension came out Friday night.

Any progress for the Ithaca City Police to cooperate with enforcement?

Nothing has changed since the last legislature meeting – the County along with other agencies are responding to gathering calls, IPD is responding to noise complaints.

What's your reading on state aid?

The Governor has budget authority to make mid-year financial changes, a month ago he shared that if federal relief didn't come he'd fund education first and that municipalities could expect 20+% cuts in state aid. We are currently waiting to see what impact this will have, and have already seen the state withhold 20% of payments with ongoing state aid.

Have you heard anything about CHIPS funding?

There was the precautionary 20% withholding. If you don't use it in one year it generally rolls over to the next year. You should expect a change in CHIPS funding.

Is anyone hearing from NYCOM or NYSAT on federal legislation?

Nothing reported from assoc. of Towns (but are expecting a 20% decrease for 2021), NYCOM is lobbying, but everyone in the NY delegation is already on board for the most part. NYCOM is pessimistic for this year.

Health Dept. stated that there were 10 unique cases recently, are they exposing others?

If there is a public exposure there is always a separate announcement – otherwise all contacts were found through the contact investigation process.

Senior citizens are being told they need to go online to schedule appointments? Could the greeter have a tablet and help people schedule appointments?

To schedule appointments people can go online to the DMV webpage or facebook page.

If they are having challenges accessing it in that way, they can call the DMV and ask for the DMV Supervisor – Julie Seeley – who will assist them in registering for an appointment.