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Seneca County Adopts New COVID-19 Case Investigation Process

In response to changes in support from the New York State Health Department, Seneca County will be adopting a new case investigation process. Changes will take effect on **Friday, April 29**, which includes discontinuing case investigation for most individuals and continuing to focus efforts on vaccination and educational outreach.

Seneca County residents who test positive with either an at-home test kit or a test administered through a health care provider or pharmacy are still expected to:

1. Isolate at home for five days

- **If you show symptoms:** Day one starts no more than two days prior symptoms starting
- **If you don't show symptoms:** Day one starts the day of the positive test result.
- Following isolation, if you don't have symptoms, continue to wear a well-fitting mask around others and in public for days six through ten.
- If you still have symptoms, please continue to isolate through day 10.

Please note: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has an online calculator to help you determine your isolation period: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html>

- 2. Notify your close contacts** especially those who live in the same household, that they may have been exposed during your contagious period. Close contacts should follow quarantine guidance listed on Seneca County Health Department's website: <https://senecacountyhealthdepartment.com/>

Your employer or school may require Isolation or Quarantine paperwork which is downloadable on the Seneca County Health Department's website. If you test positive, you may receive a text message from the New York State Department of Health but will not receive a follow-up phone call.

The changes in health department priorities are in response to the increased transmissibility of the COVID-19 virus and the shortened isolation and quarantine periods that are now required. As a result, case investigations and contact tracing have become less effective in stopping the spread of the virus among the general population.



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The health department will investigate when case clusters and outbreaks in high-risk settings – such as schools and day care centers – are reported.

Due to these changes in the state system, it will be more difficult to identify case clusters than it was in the past, so the health department encourages residents, employers and facilities to contact the health department if they notice an increase in cases in a particular area. Seneca County will continue to focus resources towards vaccination efforts and education – two tools that continue to have a large impact on keeping our community healthy and, at the same time, support community cluster and outbreak response

We continue to encourage residents to take precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 including:

- Getting vaccinated and keeping your COVID-19 vaccinations up-to-date.
- Staying home if you are sick and keeping your children home if they are sick.
- Wearing a well-fitting mask in public.
- Maintaining your distance from others who are not from your household.
- Avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces.
- Testing to prevent virus spread to others.
- Frequently washing your hands.
- Following recommendations for isolation and quarantine.

Residents should contact their medical providers directly for personal medical advice about COVID-19 vaccinations, booster shots, antiviral medication or other treatment options.

For information about emotional supports, visit the Seneca County Mental Health website at: [Seneca County Community Counseling Center Mental Health Services » Directory of External Agencies – Seneca County, New York](#)

For further information about COVID-19 please visit: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Information – Seneca County Health Department](#)