

# County of Jefferson

## Office of the County Administrator



**Historic Courthouse**  
195 Arsenal Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Watertown, NY 13601-2567  
Phone: (315) 785-3075 Fax: (315) 785-5070

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### JEFFERSON COUNTY, NY DAILY COVID-19 STATUS REPORT

**DATE:**

August 10, 2020

**CONTACTS:**

Scott A. Gray, Chairman of the Board of Legislators	<a href="mailto:scottg@co.jefferson.ny.us">scottg@co.jefferson.ny.us</a>	(315) 778-6214
Robert F. Hagemann III, County Administrator	<a href="mailto:roberth@co.jefferson.ny.us">roberth@co.jefferson.ny.us</a>	(315) 785-3075
Stephen A. Jennings, Information Officer	<a href="mailto:stevej@co.jefferson.ny.us">stevej@co.jefferson.ny.us</a>	(315) 786-3710

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Jefferson County is participating with the State of New York to manage the outbreak of COVID-19, a.k.a the coronavirus. The strategy for management of the virus is threefold – density reduction, identify and isolate, and lastly, surge capacity for medical services. The actions administered will fit into one of these categories and we encourage the public to follow the guidelines issued by either the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), New York State and/or the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), or the Jefferson County Public Health Service (JCPHS), as well as educate yourself on the current situation and seek the appropriate medical attention from a provider immediately if necessary.

#### I. Confirmation of COVID-19 Test Cluster in Error

Between the dates of 7/29 – 7/31/2020, the Jefferson County Public Health Service received notice of 9 positive COVID-19 cases, with the testing completed by one clinic, who utilized one specific reference laboratory. The department questioned these results, engaged the NYSDOH on the findings and an investigation ensued with both the provider and the reference laboratory.

**ACTIONS TAKEN:**

1. The physician and all staff in the clinic were tested for COVID-19 to determine if disease transmission may be occurring from clinic staff to patients. The provider and all staff tested negative.
2. The NYSDOH Wadsworth Laboratory investigated the reference laboratory. It was determined that all tests were processed correctly, but some were analyzed incorrectly. Of the 9 Jefferson County cases in question, 4 Jefferson County cases tested on 7/29/2020 were investigated and determined to be accurate, positive cases.

The 5 cases tested on 7/31/2020, after investigation, were found to have errors in validation, due to human error. The NYSDOH investigation determined that the reference laboratory had a staff person who analyzed these results inaccurately. These case results have been corrected and are now deemed to be “not detected” or “negative”. These individuals are now released from isolation and are removed from Jefferson County’s official count of positive cases. Additionally, the contacts of these individuals are released from quarantine.

For more information about types of testing and accuracy:  
<https://www.fda.gov/media/140161/download>.

The Jefferson County Public Health Service recognizes that the people who tested positive and their contacts incurred stress from this situation and greatly appreciates everyone’s cooperation through completion of this investigation.

**II. Current statistics for testing and test results received by the Jefferson County Public Health Service, as well as quarantine and isolation status to date:**

**Total Tested\*: 13,947**

**Positive Tests to Date: 213**

**Mandatory Isolation^^: 16**

**Hospitalized: 0**

**Nursing Home: 0**

**Deaths: 1 - 7/30/2020**

**RECOVERED: 196**

**Negative Tests: 13,734**

**Precautionary Quarantine\*\*: 655**

**Domestic Traveler: 655**

**Mandatory Quarantine^: 54**

The way to stop the spread of COVID-19 is to isolate those with the disease from others. COVID-19 symptoms can take 2 to 14 days to appear after exposure. Symptoms include:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache

- **New loss of taste or smell**
- **Sore throat**
- **Congestion or runny nose**
- **Nausea or vomiting**
- **Diarrhea**

**COVID-19 spreads mainly from person to person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, talks, or raises their voice (e.g., while shouting, chanting, or singing). These droplets can land in the mouths or nose of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. To reduce the spread of COVID-19, people must wear cloth face coverings in public settings when around people outside of their household, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. For more information, visit [www.jcphs.org](http://www.jcphs.org).**

**Positive Tests represent unduplicated individuals (cases), and have always represented unduplicated individuals. If an individual recovers and later tests positive again, the number of positive tests (cases) does not increase. When a case retests positive, depending on the situation, the case may be hospitalized, or placed in mandatory isolation, which will accordingly decrease the RECOVERED statistic.**

**\*Total Tested** definition: The total of Jefferson County, NY positive and negative cases reported in the New York State Department of Health Communicable Disease Electronic Surveillance System (CDESS).

**\*\*Precautionary Quarantine** definition: 1. Persons whose contact to someone infected with SARS-CoV-2 is known to be proximate, not close, and are not displaying signs or symptoms of COVID-19. 2. LHDs who identify healthcare workers, whether direct care providers or other facility staff, who meet criteria in described above, may be allowed to work under the conditions set forth in NYSDOH's Health Advisory: Updated Protocols for Personnel in Healthcare and Other Direct Care Settings to Return to Work Following COVID-19 Exposure or Infection. 3. LHDs who identify individuals employed as essential personnel, as described in NYSDOH's Health Advisory: Protocols for Essential Personnel to Return to Work Following COVID-19 Exposure or Infection, and who meet criteria described in (1) above, may be allowed to work under the conditions described in the advisory. These individuals must, when not working, remain quarantined. 4. A person tested and awaiting test result confirmation, and is not a candidate for mandatory quarantine. 5. Any person the LHD believes should be quarantined for precautionary reasons.

**^Mandatory Quarantine** definition: 1. Persons who, while not displaying signs or symptoms of COVID-19, have been in close contact with someone who was infected with SARS-CoV-2, in the past 14 days. 2. Persons who, in the past 14 days, have traveled to a country for which the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued a Level 2 or Level 3 Health Notice, or who were on a cruise ship (including river cruises), and are not displaying signs or symptoms of COVID-19. 3. LHDs who identify healthcare workers, whether direct care providers or other facility staff, who meet criteria in described in either (1) or (2) above, may be allowed to work under the conditions set forth in NYSDOH's Health Advisory: Updated Protocols for Personnel in Healthcare and Other Direct Care Settings to Return to Work Following COVID-19 Exposure or Infection. This advisory expands eligibility for healthcare workers to return to work in other healthcare settings, provided the conditions in the advisory are met. The individuals must, when not working, remain quarantined. 4. LHDs who identify individuals employed as essential personnel, as described in the Department's Health Advisory: Protocols for Essential Personnel to Return to Work Following COVID-19 Exposure or Infection, and who meet criteria described in either (1) or (2) above, may be allowed to work under the conditions described in the advisory. These individuals must, when not working, remain quarantined.

**^^Mandatory Isolation** definition: 1. Persons who have tested positive for SARS-CoV-2, regardless of whether or not they are displaying signs or symptoms of COVID-19. 2. Persons who have traveled to a country for which CDC has issued a Level 2 or Level 3 Health Notice, or who were on a cruise ship (including river cruises), and are displaying signs or symptoms of COVID-19. 3. LHDs who identify healthcare workers, who meet either of the above criteria, may be allowed to work under the conditions set forth in the Department's Health Advisory: Updated Protocols for Personnel in Healthcare and Other Direct Care Settings to Return to Work Following COVID-19 Exposure or Infection. This advisory expands eligibility for healthcare workers to return to work in other healthcare settings, provided the conditions in the advisory are met. These individuals must, when not working, remain isolated.

