



Columbia County Board of Supervisors

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FROM: Chairman Matt Murell

FOLLOW THE PLAN, CHAIRMAN URGES

"In previous press releases, we passed along information learned in meetings with state officials that a business opening in violation of the governor's Executive Order and the New York Forward four-phase plan may not be covered through their insurance," Columbia County Board of Supervisors Chairman Matt Murell said on Saturday.

"Late this week, the possibility of the State Liquor Authority pulling an establishment's liquor license before their time to open has been authorized by the Executive Order was discussed. As it turns out, I learned this morning that a local business, following several warnings, has had its license suspended for operating in violation of the Order," Chairman Murell said.

"The way I understand it, anyone operating in New York under a state-issued license faces the same type of penalty. Business owners should think through the consequences of their actions. We want to see businesses succeed," added Chairman Murell.

"Personally, if I were a business owner looking to open in any of the next three phases, I would be taking this time to prepare for the things I'll need to do to operate safely for both my customers and staff. I understand that keeping up with guidance coming down from the state and federal governments' is a full-time job all by itself, but I think it's critical that we all do our part to create a safe environment for everyone."

Columbia County, as part of the Capital Region, looks to reopen under Phase II of New York Forward on Wednesday, June 3.

Guidelines and templates relating to business reopening plans can be found at

<https://columbiacomeback.com/resources/phase-one>

IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

TWO CORONAVIRUS TESTING CLINICS

Tuesday, June 2nd 10:00am-12:00pm: at the John L. Edwards Elementary School in Hudson

Sunday, June 7th 10:00am – 1:00pm: at the Columbia County Fairgrounds in Chatham

Signup instructions and further instructions regarding the clinics can be found on the Health Department's webpage on the Columbia County website <https://www.columbiacountynyhealth.com/>, or by calling 518-828-3358.

COLUMBIA COMEBACK MEETING

Monday, June 8th, at 1:00pm: Columbia Comeback Meeting. The meeting is open to the public and can be accessed at <https://columbiacomeback.com>. Columbia Comeback was established by Chairman Murell as a resource for local businesses as they work to safely and successfully reopen under state guidelines.

Resources.....

BUSINESS REOPENING TOOLS

Phase One of New York Forward, which began on Wednesday, includes construction, manufacturing and wholesale supply chain; retail for curbside pickup and drop-off or in-store pickup; agriculture, forestry and fishing; as well as low-risk business and recreational activities, including drive-in movie theaters and some outdoor activities.

Guidelines and templates relating to reopening plans can be found at:
<https://columbiacomeback.com/resources/phase-one/>

Also, New York State has recently added a "Reopening Tool," designed to let businesses know when they may reopen in a particular region. It can be accessed at: <https://www.businessexpress.ny.gov/app/nyforward>

AVAILABLE SERVICES

Family Assistance Network: As part of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, Columbia County Emergency Management has asked leaders in the human services and spiritual areas of our community for help, Director of Emergency Management David W. Harrison, Jr., said Saturday. The individuals were asked to form a Family Assistance Network to provide information to assist county residents who may be dealing with someone close to them who passed away as a result of the COVID-19 virus. Information on where someone can reach out for help is posted on various websites, including the Columbia County website: www.columbiacountyny.com and the Emergency Management Facebook page.
<https://www.facebook.com/columbiacountyemergencymanagementoffice>

Hotline for Elderly and Vulnerable: Columbia County Sheriff David Bartlett has established a hotline for the elderly and vulnerable in our county, including those with medical conditions or are disabled, who would welcome a deputy checking on their well-being on a daily basis. The number for the hotline is 518-828-0601, extension 1400.

Reminders.....

SELF-ISOLATION

Columbia County Board of Supervisors Chairman Matt Murell continues to urge anyone migrating from outside Columbia County to self-quarantine for 14 days upon their arrival. "Everyone should consider they are a carrier of the coronavirus," said Murell.

DONATION INFORMATION

Monetary: Monetary donations intended for the purchase of coronavirus testing kits and much-needed equipment for emergency responders, medical personnel, and others on the front lines of the coronavirus fight are advised to send a check in care of Columbia County, with coronavirus noted in the memo field. The check should be sent to the Columbia County Controller's Office, 401 State Street, Hudson, NY 12534. All money received is being placed in a dedicated account.

PPE: Those wishing to make donations of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), such as N95 masks, face shields, and gowns, are advised to contact the Emergency Management Office at 518-828-1212. If no one answers, leave a message and someone will return the call.

Food: Donations should be directed to the county Office for the Aging (518-828-4258) and local food pantries.

Masks: Those interested in donating masks should contact Austerlitz Town Supervisor and county Health and Human Services Committee Chairman Rob Lagonia at rlagonia@austerlitzny.com. "It doesn't matter whether it's five or 100, we need every one," said Lagonia, who recommends that those wishing to help out with mask donations consult CDC guidelines at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

Currently, Ocean State Job Lot stores are offering free fabric for use in the construction of masks in a "Mask Fabric For Free" campaign. Visit any Ocean State location for the fabric, which is said to be of a high-quality cotton/polyester blend available in two sizes. Further information is available on the Ocean State Job Lot website. Jo-Ann Fabrics and Crafts is offering free mask kits. Those seeking to acquire a kit are advised to order online for curbside pickup. The Greenport store telephone number is 518-828-2621. Current store hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

DISCLAIMER

It is the county's intention to issue accurate information regarding the coronavirus situation under conditions that can change by the minute. For the most up-to-date, accurate information, visit the County Department of Health's website at <https://www.columbiacountynyhealth.com/home/coronavirus-covid-19> or their Facebook page @: <https://www.facebook.com/Columbia-County-Department-of-Health-469399129790791/>. The state's coronavirus website, with up-to-the-minute information, can be located at <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>.

The county will issue a daily press release on the coronavirus situation every afternoon at 4. The releases can be found on the Columbia County website and the Facebook pages of the Sheriff's Office, the Department of Health, and the Emergency Management Office.