

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Dr. Robert L. Yeager Health Center
50 Sanatorium Road, Building D
Pomona, New York 10970
Phone: (845) 364-2512 Fax: (845) 364-2628



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Patricia Schnabel Ruppert, D.O., M.P.H., CPE, DABFM, FAAFP
Commissioner of Health

September 29, 2020

Dear Practitioner,

We are alarmed that cases of COVID-19 are increasing in Rockland County with current numbers approaching the high levels we saw this past May. You can access the Rockland County COVID-19 Dashboard at <http://rcklnd.us/covid19> to monitor these developments.

We must work together to prevent the spread of this potentially deadly virus. I urge you to use the resources provided to educate your patients about preventing the spread of COVID-19. You may give them directly to patients and/or post them in your waiting room. Since COVID-19 is likely to overlap with the flu season, it is important to remind your patients to get the flu shot.

Many families need education regarding the need for a 14-day quarantine of all household members if even one person living among them is diagnosed with COVID-19 and placed on isolation. Further, if any other household members subsequently show symptoms of COVID-19, and/or test positive for the virus, they will also require a minimum of 10 days of isolation from the onset of symptoms or time of positive rapid antigen test or RT-PCR.

When a rapid antigen test for SARS-CoV-2 is reported as positive there is no need to follow-up with an RT-PCR unless the result is inconsistent with the clinical context. It is the responsibility of the provider to enter the positive rapid antigen test result into ECLRS, the NYS laboratory reporting system, within 3 hours of receiving results as per Executive Order 202.61 issued by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo on September 9, 2020.

Prevention messages to convey to patients:

- Wear a mask that fully covers the nose and mouth (ages 2 years and older) when in public or around people not part of the household.
- Remain at least 6 feet or 2 meters from others when outside the household. Do not gather in large groups.
- Hygiene: Wash hands with soap and water often for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer. Do not touch eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- If diagnosed with COVID-19, stay home in isolation during the illness to prevent transmission to others.
- After close contact with an infected person, get tested and stay home in quarantine until results are known.

Thank you for your efforts to keep Rockland residents healthy.

Sincerely,



Patricia S. Ruppert, DO, MPH, CPE, DABFM, FAAFP
Commissioner of Health
Rockland County Department of Health