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COVID-19 OUTBREAK

'We will get through this' 'Be kind, be brave, be a helper'

-Dutchess County Executive Marcus Molinaro

More local coverage of COVID-19 outbreak on pages 2,3,5,7,15-16

County under State of Emergency

By Kate Goldsmith

Based on an increase of confirmed cases of coronavirus/COVID-19 – with 10 (as of Monday) and an escalation of residents in mandatory and precautionary quarantine – Dutchess County Executive Marcus J. Molinaro declared a State of Emergency for Dutchess County on Friday. The State of Emergency expedites the county's sharing of resources and ability to better respond to this rapidly evolving situation, according to a statement by Communications Specialist Sean McMann.

The State of Emergency is issued pursuant to Section 24 of New York State Executive Law and is enforceable by local, county and state law enforcement agencies. Dutchess, Orange and Ulster counties have each issued emergency orders since confirming multiple cases of coronavirus/COVID-19 over the past several days.

"As coronavirus has emerged as a pandemic, reaching countries on each hemisphere, we in Dutchess County have prepared for the inevitability we would be touched by this emerging health situation," Molinaro said. "Today's declaration is the next step in providing Dutchess County the resources necessary to best respond. This declaration does not limit travel, but we urge residents to limit contact with those who are sick and stay home if sick."

The declaration followed a press conference on March 12 where Molinaro and Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health (DBCH) Commissioner Dr. Anil Vaidian announced the county's first confirmed case of COVID-19.

With the State of Emergency, Molinaro is taking the following steps:

Continued on page 2



County Executive Marcus J. Molinaro, who declared a State of Emergency in the county on Friday, discusses Dutchess County's first confirmed case of COVID-19 in a press conference on March 12. At left is Department of Behavioral and Community Health (DBCH) Commissioner Dr. Anil Vaidian.

-Photo by Curtis Schmidt

NY, NJ, CT governors issue uniform limits

On Monday, New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy and Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont announced a regional approach to combating the novel coronavirus - or COVID-19 - throughout the tri-state area.

These uniform standards will limit crowd capacity for social and recreational gatherings to 50 people, until further

notice. This follows updated guidance that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued Sunday recommending the cancellation or postponement of in-person events consisting of 50 people or more.

The three governors also announced restaurants and bars will close for on premise service and move to take-out and delivery services only. These estab-

lishments will be provided a waiver for carry-out alcohol. These measures will be in effect until further notice.

Finally, the three governors said they will temporarily close movie theaters, gyms and casinos, until further notice.

This uniform approach to social distancing is meant to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19.

Area schools, colleges closed through March 30; turn to online options

By Rich Thomaselli

Schools are places of schedule and structure, whether it's kindergarten or the final year of college.

Never has education been in such flux.

The rapid spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) has sent school districts across the country into a state of disarray, including in Dutchess County.

Here's a look at what's happening around the area.

Colleges

Marist – A Marist commuter student has received a presumptive positive diagnosis for COVID-19. Marist Health Services has notified all students, faculty, and staff who had contact with this individual.

As many colleges have done, Marist extended its spring break from one week to two. Students will be off completely

until March 30. Prior to that date, school president Dennis J. Murray said Marist "will be using our extended spring break to monitor the spread of the virus, and re-evaluate the risk of continuing our campus-based education. I will update all members of our community early next week about our decision." If students cannot come back to campus they will finish the semester with online courses."

SUNY New Paltz

SUNY New Paltz this week announced distance learning for the rest of the semester.

Bard

An employee has been diagnosed with the virus. As a result, Bard said all classes will be moved online.

Culinary Institute of America

All campuses, including Hyde Park, were closed on Friday the 13th through

Continued on page 2



The school year for students who attend Rombout Middle School has been interrupted by COVID-19, like thousands of students who attend schools and colleges in the local area.

-Photo by Kristine Coulter