

State of Emergency declared in Dutchess

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- Suspending all large social and community gatherings, including county-sponsored events, to allow adequate social distancing;
- Suspending all visitation at Dutchess County Jail;

- Postponing all Civil Service Exams;
- Suspending all classroom and extracurricular functions for 14 days (effective March 16), including extra-curricular activities. Schools may remain open to administration, staff and staff functions. This order does not include private daycare facilities, Head Start or other daycare programs, unless there is a direct need based on school facility logistics; and

- Closing the Dutchess County Office for the Aging's eight Senior Friendship Centers.

Dr. Vaidian, an infectious disease specialist with more than 20 years' experience, said, "We have long predicted Dutchess County would be affected by COVID-19, and we have put into practice our weeks of planning. We are dealing with an unprecedented situation, but I am confident that steps we are taking today will keep our community healthy and safe. Closing schools and limiting large community gatherings is a preventative measure that is intended to reduce the spread of COVID-19. We continue to ask residents for their cooperation – practicing proper hygiene, disinfection, social distancing and the like – to help mitigate the spread of this virus."

As of March 15, there were 729 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in New York State, with most in New York City (329) and Westchester County (196). In counties surrounding to Dutchess, there are currently 6 cases in Orange, 2 in Putnam and 5 in Ulster. Columbia County currently has no confirmed cases.

Molinaro emphasized the importance of proper hygiene – such as washing hands for 20 seconds, coughing/sneezing into a tissue or the crook of one's elbow, and regularly disinfecting frequently touched surfaces – as well as social distancing, to minimize the spread of the novel coronavirus, which causes the disease known as COVID-19.

COVID-19 symptoms may appear in as few as two days or as long as 14 days after



DBCH Commissioner Dr. Ail Vaidian discusses Dutchess County's first confirmed case of COVID-19 in a press conference on March 12.

-Photo by Curtis Schmidt

exposure. Symptoms include fever, coughing and shortness of breath. Residents experiencing these symptoms are reminded to call ahead to their doctor's office, urgent-care facility or hospital, so they may take necessary precautions to prepare. However, anyone who is in respiratory distress should call 9-1-1.

Testing for COVID-19 is occurring in Dutchess County; tests are administered at the discretion of the attending physician following guidelines established by the NYS Department of Health (DOH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Dutchess County has set up a web page (www.dutchessny.gov/coronavirus) as well as a hotline, (845) 486-3555, to provide residents the most current information regarding Coronavirus/COVID-19.

BHS students show PRIDE in 2nd quarter

The following is a list of Beacon High School students who were recognized for showing Beacon PRIDE (Positivity - Respect - Integrity - Determination - Engagement) during the second-quarter. Certificates were awarded to:

Tianna Adams, Jared Alston, Javier Antonio Perez, Gabriel Aquino, Hannah Barker, Joseph Battle Jr., Mya Bauer, Mia Beaty, Nicole Belgrave, Bridget Bell, Derek Bilyeu, Madeline Bobnick, Owen Bozisk, Delaney Brennen, Jeremy Brinas, Hanna Burch, Liam Byrne, Ronan Byrne, Anaya Camacho, Shianne Canada, Kevin Candia Candia, Joseph Cardona Jr., Dasani Carmichael, Ashley Casserly, Eva Chapin, Crystal Chen, Sara Chin, Logan Claudio, Hope Cleveringa, Analiese Compagnone, Jayden Council, Shane Creighton, Jacquelyn Cruel, Caden Cutinella, John Darcy, Lindsay Darcy, Anastasia DeCarlo, Logan Decker, Erika DeHaas, Dylan Derasmo, Bryan Diaz Jr, Besim Dika, Jacob DiNobile, Jaeden Drysdale, De Mya Elliott, Angel Feliz, Tatyanna Fernandez, Cleo Fiedler, Journey Fleming, A'Janae Foreman, Thomas Galimore Rhodes, Marilyn Gamey, Cassandra Garrett, Elizardo Garriga II, Lejdina Gecaj, Isabella Ghent, Nyah Gibbs, Ashley Gonzalez, Ezekiel Gonzalez, Kaizer Gonzalez, Isaac Hansen, Samaya Harris, Tyler Haydt, Michael Hernandez Jr., Elizabeth Herrera, Jonathan Hibbert, Ka jae Hill, Amya Horace, Dylan Horton-Ungar, Michael

Juzefyk, Kieran Kacur, Dillon Kelly, Natalie Khalil, Veronica Klein, Emma Labodin, Gavin LaDue, Regan Ladue, Kayla Lare, Irijah Leiner, Makayla Lesniak, Aileen Li, Tylynn Lindsay Jordyn Long, Ty Long, Yahya Lorick, Olivia Lynch, Miranda Lyons, Malaika Malik, Julissa Manso, Pamela Massey, Alexandra McKeon, Renae McLeish, Daniel Mercado, Janelle Mercado, Anna Miller, Catherine Mitchell, Jonathan Montoya, Jonathan Morocho, Isabella Nocerino, Alyssa Oberle, Isabella Ortiz, Isis Ortiz-Whitehead, Mia Osuba, Beyonce Otero, Jah'el Padilla-Colon, Nevaeh Panko, Kathryn Park, Janiah Parker, David Paschal, Tahji Patterson, Leibinson Perez Novas, John Philipbar III, Jordan Phillips, Javier Piguave Espin, Stephen Quintero, Kaila Ramdeen, Jonathan Ramirez, Kaylina Ramos, Austin Ray, Jose Resendiz, Avian Resto, Natalee Reynolds, Jesus Rivera, Daniel Rodriguez, Enita Rodriguez, Lulu Romer, Frederick Rosa, Amelia Sanker, Erick Santos, Quincy Savage, Stephen Schneider, Sebastian Scott-Hamblen, Senan Scott-Hamblen, Stella Serpico, Kalyn Sheffield, Eisa Smith, Joseph Spiconardi Jr., Alexxus Torres, Ian Torres, Saniyah VanDemark, Nayelie Vasquez, Emilie Vega Cruz, Javan Verdile, Imani Waller, Cody Wansor, Arycia Williams, Allura Williamson, Jaylen Ynoa, Bing Shu Zhu.

Area schools closed

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April 6. "This closure will replace the planned intersession and part of our traditional summer break, so there will be minimal disruption to our students' education," the CIA said on its website. The CIA's famed restaurants are also closed during this time.

Dutchess Community College

All classes canceled until March 30.

Vassar

Spring break ends on March 23, at which time the school will switch to online classes through April 6 and re-evaluate from there.

Public Schools

All Dutchess, Ulster and Putnam county schools are closed until March 30 as per the state of emergency declared in each county. For the most part, each district has already informed students and parents that at least the first week, from March 16-23, will be completely off. Each district will then determine whether the second week will be spent with online learning from home.

Much also depends on whether the county lifts the state of emergency on March 30 or extends it. Also, 13 of the 17 school districts in Dutchess County agreed to postpone high school sports until April 30.

Arlington

Off until March 30, will assess the

situation prior to that.

Beacon

Off until March 30. "Supplemental learning activities for students" has been implemented for students' return.

Roy C. Ketcham High School, John Jay High School, Poughkeepsie High School

Off until March 30. Will decide this week how to handle the return of classes.

Catholic Schools

Our Lady of Lourdes

Off until April 20; remote learning begins Wednesday.

Superintendent of Catholic Schools Mr. Michael J. Deegan has announced Catholic Schools within the Archdiocese of New York will close all elementary schools effective Monday, March 16 2020 ... It was announced earlier this week until Monday, April 20.

"Informed by expert health officials and the Health and Safety Task Force of the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, this decision was made out of an abundance of caution," Deegan said. "The health and safety of our students, staff and families is of the utmost importance." Additionally, after consultation with the leadership of the Catholic Youth Organizations and the Catholic High School Athletic Associations, all activities and all sporting events and practices have been canceled indefinitely.

State DEC announces ban on residential brush burning

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos announced a statewide ban prohibiting residential brush burning will begin March 16 and run through May 14. With spring approaching, DEC is reminding residents that conditions for wildfires are heightened in springtime when most wildfires occur.

"While many associate wildfires with the western United States, the start of spring weather and the potential for dry conditions increase the risk for wildfires in New York," Commissioner Seggos said. "To protect our communities and

natural resources, New York prohibits residential burning during the high-risk fire season to reduce the potential for wildfires. The burn ban has effectively reduced the number of wildfires over the last decade, and we're encouraging New Yorkers to put safety first."

Even though areas of the state remain blanketed in snow, warming temperatures can quickly cause wildfire conditions to arise. DEC will post a Fire Danger Map rating forecast daily for the 2020 fire season and the NY Fishing, Hunting & Wildlife App, on DEC's website. Currently, fire conditions in most of the state are low risk.

CAMO advises Glenham residents to limit water use March 23 - April 9

Residents of the Glenham Water District in the Town of Fishkill are being advised to limit water use.

CAMO Pollution Control, Inc. will be flushing hydrants between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. beginning Monday, March 23, through Friday, April 9.

During the flushing, residents may experience erratic water pressure and

turbid water conditions. This condition will only be temporary. At all times the water will meet satisfactory sanitary quality, according to CAMO. The flushing will bring about long-term improvements in water quality.

If you have any questions, please call CAMO Pollution Control, Inc. at 845-463-7310.

Egg Hunt tentatively set April 4

The annual Evening Egg Hunt at Christ Church in Beacon will be held on Saturday, April 4 at 8 p.m. Beacon

It is for children ages preschool through 5th grade.

Bring a small flashlight or cell phone and meet at 60 Union St. for a unique egg

hunt. Bags will be provided and there will be separate areas for pre-schoolers-1st graders and 2nd-5th graders. Adults need to stay on site.

For information or questions, call the church office 845-831-0365.

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