

**VILLAGE OF GOUVERNEUR COVID-19 PANDEMIC
UPDATE AS OF NOON, TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 2021**

Well Gouverneur here we are on week sixty-six of this dreadful pandemic. Remember the following five pillars:

- 1. WEAR A MASK AND MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING WHERE AND WHEN APPLICABLE AND ESPECIALLY IF YOU HAVE NOT BE FULLY VACCINATED**
- 2. PRACTICE HYGENE**
- 3. STAY HOME IF SICK**
- 4. GET TESTED (IF NEED ARISES)**
- 5. GET VACCINATED 100% (IF HAVENT YET)**

In breaking news yesterday the Governor held a news conference and had several announcements. First and foremost the vaccination rate in the State which stands currently at 69.9% is near the 70% threshold which once attained by New York adults who have received at least one dose, restrictions on capacity, social distancing, cleaning, health screening, and contact tracing will be optional at businesses along with other social gatherings. In another announcement the Governor who was speaking in Syracuse at the NYS Fairgrounds has lifted all NYS Fair COVID-19 restrictions except for people who have not been fully vaccinated. So it would appear the NYS Fair will be at full capacity in 2021.

Today (6/15/21) at midday the Governor announced from One World Trade Center that indeed the state had attained the seventy percent vaccination threshold and as a result state COVID restrictions are lifted effective immediately. Certain CDC regulations are still enforced but we anticipate a change in the not to distant future. Tonight all NYS office buildings will be lite in blue and gold. Many state facilities will have

fireworks to commemorate this great mile stone at 9:15 p.m. this evening. Our current COVID rate across NYS stands at 0.40 percent which leads the country. This day which is day 472 from when NYS declared the initial pandemic day was certainly a good one. Our state has gone from the worst with a rate of 48.16 percent positivity to being under a one percent positivity rate on a daily basis recently. We also lead the country in so called large states with 20.2 million vaccines administered.

In International COVID news the trend continues to be of great concern. A so called new China variant that may involve bats is being studied. Here in our country a forth vaccination company called Novavax has submitted an application to be approved by our Federal government. When and if approved this could be a great help on an international level. Our neighbor to the north Canada still appears to be unwilling to open our borders before July 21st of this year to non-essential travel. However there appears to be high level talks involving our two federal governments that may alter this severe economic restriction.

Here in Northern NY our state to east of us (Vermont) is also in the process of lifting many mandated restrictions. Our positivity rate here in Northern New York continues to average 0.50 percent on a daily basis. Our vaccination rate is 9 percent lower than the state wide average. Our Northern New York region vaccination rate stands at 63.95 percent somewhat lower than the state rate of 70 percent as of today. Our local and state governments continue to strive to vaccinate our youngsters that are between the ages of 12-17 and average about a 20 percent vaccination rate. SUNY scholarships are still being raffled off weekly to children who get vaccinated that are in this age group. This low vaccination rate compares to the 64-75 age group which has a rate of over 80 percent. However we must remember that this youngest age group just became eligible relatively recently. As an

interesting note, NYC has announced plans to have the biggest so called reopening concert ever on August 21st in Central Park. Also of note our local and state governments are concentrating on local municipality zip codes that have a low vaccination rate and for our area they are Richville and Rensselaer Falls.

In St. Lawrence County news our Board of Legislators did meet last evening but did not have a formal COVID-19 report. The following is countywide COVID-19 data for this past week:

TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 2021 – MONDAY, JUNE 14, 2021

NEW CASES - +23 = 7,523 TOTAL (vs 13 new cases a week ago)

RECOVERED CASES - +14 ESTIMATED = TOTAL 7,399 (vs 43 a week ago)

HOSPITALIZATIONS - +4 = 8 CURRENTLY

DEATHS – NO CHANGE = 97 TOTAL

**COVID TESTS ADMINISTERED ESTIMATED - +3,539 = 335,751 TOTAL
(vs 4,212 a week ago)**

ACTIVE CASES - +9 = 27 CURRENTLY

Also as a reminder, if you were vaccinated out of state or through a Federal Program and would like your vaccine recorded on the NYS system, please call the LHD at 315-386-2323. Send proof of your vaccination to the LHD to be entered into NYSIIS. This will allow you to use the NYS Excelsior Pass as an option for verifying immunization status at events.

Please also note the following which I believe is still a need for several of our residents. If you are homebound and would like to receive a vaccine at home, please call our office at 315-386-2325.

Here in Gouverneur we have had one new case in the past week which stands at a total of 648 the same as the week before last. At present our isolations are two versus one the week before.

My friends it's never been more evident than as noon today that better days lay ahead in our fight to survive this COVID-19 pandemic. However let me remind you that for whatever reason that if you have not been completely vaccinated as of yet please reconsider. In doing so you can protect yourself along with your family, co-workers and friends. With respect to the future of booster shots I believe it is a likely possibility based upon scientific data. For now this will be my last weekly COVID update. Hopefully it will be my final one. I am cautiously optimistic that we have turned a significant corner and we are in the final stretch of this 15 month disease and economic saga. Be well my friends and God Bless each and every one of you.

Submitted by Mayor Ron McDougall