Important Statement from Warren County on COVID-19 Response

Due to the prioritization of scarce testing supplies nationwide, our reality has changed and we are no longer able to utilize testing to diagnose everyone with symptoms or to fully monitor and contain COVID19 activity in our community.

The process has worked up until now. We have saved lives. But we must now shift our mindsets. In absence of available testing, treatment and vaccine, this now becomes about each person taking responsibility to protect the health and safety of others and themselves, following recommendations from the CDC, NYSDOH, Local Public Health Department, and healthcare providers.

It is critically important to stay home and isolate from others if you are symptomatic. Your new assumption must be that if you are sick, you have COVID19. Stay home, take care of yourself, and you will recover. If you are too sick to stay home and you need hospitalization, our hospitals can and will accommodate you.

If you have been in close proximity to somebody who believes they have the virus, the safest thing to do is stay home, and stay away from others. Relax and monitor yourself for symptoms. Use a calendar. If 14 days go by and you don't get sick, you do not have COVID19.

If you are well, it is critically important to stay away from those who are sick. Keep your distance from people in public even if they look healthy. Practice good personal health habits. Visit the CDC or NYSDOH websites and read their tips on what to do to keep yourself safe.

There is a very simple rule of thumb: stay home. Unless it's necessary to leave, stay home. Try to relax and spend time with your family.

Please ask yourself a question. Do I have a loved one who depends on me to take care of them? That could be a child, a parent or grandparent, a family member with a health condition. Think about that person. You need to keep yourself healthy so you can be there for that person.

Most people with COVID19 will experience mild to moderate symptoms and will recover at home. Those with more severe symptoms or with underlying medical conditions should seek medical advice and attention. When you call for assistance, make sure you notify them what symptoms you are experiencing. First responders and healthcare workers will help you. They know how to keep themselves safe from the virus.

Contact your provider or public health department with any questions you might have. We are here for you and we will help you.

Centers for Disease Control: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html

NYS Department of Health: https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home

Warren County Health Services: https://www.warrencountyny.gov/healthservices/