APRIL 25, 2020 Albany, NY

Amid Ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, Governor Cuomo Announces Expansion of Diagnostic Testing Criteria to Include All First Responders, Health Care Workers and Essential Employees

Issues Executive Order Allowing Pharmacists to Conduct Diagnostic Testing for COVID-19

State is Conducting Antibody Testing for Frontline Health Care Workers at Four New York City Hospitals and Health Care Systems

State Will Conduct Antibody Testing for First Responders and Transit Workers Starting Next Week

Confirms 10,553 Additional Coronavirus Cases in New York State - Bringing Statewide Total to 282,143; New Cases in 57 Counties

Amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced the state is expanding diagnostic testing criteria to include more frontline New York workers - a direct result of rapidly increasing diagnostic testing capacity. The expanded criteria will now allow all first responders, health care workers and essential employees to be tested for COVID-19 even if they aren't symptomatic. The state will continue to expand testing criteria as testing capacity increases.

Governor Cuomo also announced he will issue an Executive Order allowing pharmacists to conduct diagnostic testing for COVID-19. This action will unlock a network of over 5,000 pharmacies as COVID-19 testing locations and help the state build a collection network to meet laboratory capacity and increase overall testing capacity.

The Governor also announced the state is continuing to conduct antibody testing for frontline health care workers, including at four hospitals and health care systems in New York City today. The antibody testing will be conducted at Bellevue Hospital, Elmhurst Hospital Center, Montefiore Medical Center and SUNY Downstate Medical Center which is currently being used only for COVID-19 patients. Additionally, the state will begin conductl NG antibody testing for first responders and transit workers starting next week, including MTA employees and transit workers, New York State Police and the New York City Police Department.

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>
> **Governor Andrew M. Cuomo**

"We know that testing is a key component of re-opening the economy and getting to a new normal, and New York State is already doing more tests per capita than any state or country," **Governor Cuomo said.** "We've been working with the federal government to increase the capacity of labs that process these diagnostic tests, and now we need more collection sites so we continue to ramp up our testing across the state. I am issuing an Executive Order allowing our state's 5,000 pharmacies to conduct diagnostic testing for COVID-19, which will greatly increase our testing capacity and allow us to expand eligibility for these tests to the frontline workers and essential employees who have been going to work and interacting with the public throughout this crisis."

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Finally, the Governor confirmed 10,553 additional cases of novel coronavirus, bringing the statewide total to 282,143 confirmed cases in New York State. Of the 282,143 total individuals who tested positive for the virus, the geographic breakdown is as follows:

County	Total Positive	New Positive
Albany	899	94
Allegany	35	4

County	Total Positive	New Positive
Broome	251	19
Cattaraugus	45	6
Cayuga	47	8
Chautauqua	27	0
Chemung	103	24
Chenango	91	7
Clinton	54	1
Columbia	140	11
Cortland	28	3
Delaware	58	7

County	Total Positive	New Positive
Dutchess	2,660	143
Erie	2,773	170
Essex	24	2
Franklin	14	1
Fulton	61	32
Genesee	141	14
Greene	107	17
Hamilton	3	0
Herkimer	56	0
Jefferson	59	1

County	Total Positive	New Positive
Lewis	9	0
Livingston	58	14
Madison	121	15
Monroe	1,285	86
Montgomery	46	7
Nassau	33,798	1,033
Niagara	344	12
NYC	155,113	4,640
Oneida	364	41
Onondaga	664	25

County	Total Positive	New Positive
Ontario	82	9
Orange	7,973	818
Orleans	75	15
Oswego	57	6
Otsego	60	10
Putnam	885	266
Rensselaer	221	23
Rockland	11,091	1,000
Saratoga	320	42
Schenectady	431	134

County	Total Positive	New Positive
Schoharie	33	12
Schuyler	7	0
Seneca	36	18
St. Lawrence	156	12
Steuben	204	33
Suffolk	31,368	762
Sullivan	689	61
Tioga	71	31
Tompkins	126	5
Ulster	1,166	190

County	Total Positive	New Positive
Warren	132	10
Washington	113	30
Wayne	65	12
Westchester	27,231	598
Wyoming	57	14
Yates	16	5

Contact the Governor's Press Office

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