# The Center - COVID-19 Update
## March 20, 2020 (live date)

**New York State Updates:**

- Businesses should now work-from-home beginning Friday, March 20. Businesses that have in-office personnel must decrease their in-office workforce by 50 percent.
- Businesses that can stay open include shipping, media, warehousing, grocery and food production, pharmacies, healthcare providers, utilities, banks, and other businesses that are needed for supplies.
- The state will limit the number of people for social gatherings to 50 people.
- Restaurants and bars are take-out and delivery services only.
- Movie theaters, gyms, and casinos are closed, all inside shopping malls, amusement parks, and bowling alleys will close beginning at  8 p.m. Thursday, March 19, 2020.
- Services and businesses such as groceries, gas stations, pharmacies, and medical facilities will stay open.
- No one can be evicted from their home at this time.

**Nationwide Updates:**
- Beginning 3/18/20, 2020 Census activities will be suspended for two weeks until April 1, 2020.
- The Small Business Administration (SBA) will work with state Governors to provide low-interest loans to small businesses and non-profits that have been severely impacted by the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

**Oneida County Updates:**
- Face-to-face appointments for all DFCS services will be limited. Most service requests are now done through phone interviews and email, mail or fax. Because of this, time periods for compliance are longer so that people will not lose benefits.
- All Intervention and Preschool Related Services will be stopped beginning at 5 p.m. on March 20, 2020, until further notice. If your child has services scheduled for this week, please call your provider if someone in the home is sick and has symptoms of COVID-19.
- All senior centers are closed. Meals will continue to be delivered once a week instead of once a day.
- Two drive-in testing centers for Coronavirus have been set up at Utica College's Burrstone House and at Chestnut Commons in Rome only for patients with an appointment and a doctor's order for a coronavirus test.
  - To get an appointment, -call your doctor. Doctor's offices will contact the Oneida County Health Department with referrals for patients who should be tested. The county will contact the hospital to schedule patients for an appointment. The hospital will then call the patient with an appointment time.
- To protect patients and hospital staff, visitor restrictions have been put in place at the Mohawk Valley Health System (MVHS) community sites due to Coronavirus.

**Many Cultures. One Community.**

*English*