



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Cortland County Health Department

CORTLAND COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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TO: Local Media

FROM: Nicole Anjeski, Public Health Director, Cortland County Health Department

RE: End of COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Declaration May 11th, 2023

DATE: 5/10/2023

The federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency declaration will end on May 11, 2023. **Access to most of the tools we've been using to prevent COVID-19 in Cortland County over the past three years will not be impacted.**

The end of the federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency does not mean COVID-19 is no longer a threat and community members should continue to stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines, get tested, and stay away from others when experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.

Vaccines:

The availability, access, and costs of COVID-19 vaccines, including boosters, will not be impacted by the end of the public health emergency since these factors are determined by the supply of federally purchased vaccines, not the public health emergency.

- As long as the federal government's supply of vaccines lasts, COVID-19 vaccines will remain free to all people, regardless of insurance coverage.
- Once the federal supply of vaccines is depleted, vaccines will continue to be available and free for most people with private and public insurance.

Cortland County community members should schedule an appointment to remain up to date on COVID-19 vaccines as soon as possible using this link: <https://www.vaccines.gov/>

Treatment:

Medication to prevent severe COVID-19, such as Paxlovid, will remain available for no cost while the supply purchased by the federal government lasts. After that, the price will be determined by the medication manufacturer and your health insurance coverage. If you test positive for COVID-19 contact your healthcare provider and follow their treatment instructions.



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Home Tests:

Insurance providers will no longer be required to waive costs or provide free COVID-19 home tests. Coverage for COVID-19 home tests will vary by insurance type:

- **Medicaid:** home tests *will be covered* at no cost until September 2024.
- **Traditional Medicare:** home tests *will not be covered*.
- **Private Insurance & Private Medicare:** *some insurances may choose to cover home tests at their discretion.*

Community members can use this link to find no cost testing locations: <https://testinglocator.cdc.gov/>

COVID-19 Data Reporting:

Over the past several weeks, CCHD has relied on the CDC's Community Level to communicate risk and COVID-19 prevention recommendations for individual community members. After May 11th, CDC Community Level is being discontinued by the CDC and replaced with other metrics in order to provide sustainable and timely data to inform decisions.

The Cortland County COVID-19 Data Dashboard relies on the data sets provided by the CDC and NYSDOH. At this time, we are unsure what our local data reporting will look like for COVID-19 moving forward, however, we will continue to report out data as long as it is made available by the NYSDOH and CDC.

During this transition period, the Cortland County COVID-19 Data Dashboard may experience changes in the data reporting or delays in reporting. The dashboard can be viewed here: <https://sites.google.com/view/cortgovhealthcoviddata>

We encourage community members to provide feedback on the COVID-19 Data Dashboard. Community feedback will be considered over the next several weeks as we determine what publicly available COVID-19 data reporting will be sustained locally in the future. Please provide feedback using this google form: <https://sites.google.com/view/cortgovhealthcoviddata/contactfeedback>