

3rd Quarter Healthcare

7/6/2021

THE HAZY DAYS OF SUMMER ARE HERE, AND WITH IT THE ANNUAL DROP IN BLOOD DONATIONS AS FAMILIES TRAVEL FOR VACATIONS. THAT'S LEAVING LOCAL HOSPITALS WITH A LIMITED BLOOD SUPPLY. LOCAL OFFICIALS ARE ASKING RESIDENTS TO STEP UP TO THE PLATE AND DONATE BLOOD TO HELP COVER THE SUMMER SHORTFALL, WHICH NORMALLY ENDS ONCE SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES ARE BACK IN SESSION. THE RED CROSS HAS SCHEDULED BLOOD DRIVES ACROSS THE AREA TO MAKE DONATING EASIER. A COMPLETE LIST OF DATES AND LOCATIONS IS AVAILABLE AT RED CROSS DOT ORG.

7/7/2021

ONEIDA COUNTY HAS LAUNCHED A NEW PROGRAM TO FIGHT FATAL OPIOID OVERDOSES. THE "LEAVE BEHIND" EFFORT PROVIDES FIRST RESPONDERS INCLUDING E-M-S PERSONNEL, SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES, AND POLICE WITH FREE NARCAN OVERDOSE KITS TO HAND OUT TO THE FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF OVERDOSE VICTIMS. EACH ONE INCLUDES A NARCAN INHALER, DIRECTIONS FOR USE, AND INFORMATION ON ADDICTION TREATMENT. THE DRUG TEMPORARILY REVERSES THE EFFECTS OF AN OVERDOSE AND GIVES THE VICTIM EXTRA TIME TO GET MEDICAL ATTENTION.

7/8/2021

DONATE A KIDNEY, GET FREE HEALTHCARE FOR LIFE. THAT'S THE IDEA BEHIND A BILL BEING FLOATED IN ALBANY. THE MEASURE IS DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE DONATIONS AND INCREASE THE ORGAN SUPPLY FOR THE OVER EIGHT THOUSAND PATIENTS CURRENTLY WAITING FOR A KIDNEY. THAT INCLUDES HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE IN NEW YORK ALONE. IF SIGNED INTO LAW IT WOULD CREATE A PERMANENT KIDNEY DONOR INSURANCE FUND THAT WOULD FUND HEALTHCARE FOR ALL KIDNEY DONORS FOR LIFE.

7/12/2021

THE SHORTAGE OF DOCTORS IN RURAL AREAS IS REACHING CRISIS PROPORTIONS, AND THE STATE NEEDS TO TAKE ACTION. THAT'S THE MOTIVATION BEHIND LEGISLATION BACKED BY STATE SENATOR JOE GRIFFO AND ASSEMBLYWOMAN MARIANNE BUTTENSCHON. THEY WANT NEW YORK TO PROVIDE MORE INCENTIVES TO PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS THAT LOCATE IN UNDERSERVED AREAS. THAT INCLUDES DIRECT FINANCIAL SUPPORT, LOWERED TUITION RATES AT STATE SCHOOLS, AND ALLOWING NEW PRIMARY CARE PRACTICES TO OPERATE TAX FREE FOR TEN YEARS.

DRUGS TAINTED WITH AN ANIMAL TRANQUILIZER HAVE ENTERED THE UTICA ROME AREA. THAT'S THE WARNING FROM THE ONEIDA COUNTY OVERDOSE RESPONSE TEAM. THEY SAY AT LEAST THREE PEOPLE HAVE SUFFERED FATAL OVERDOSES AFTER USING OPIOIDS CONTAINING THE DRUG XYLAZINE. IT'S USED BY VETERINARIANS FOR LARGE ANIMALS LIKE HORSES. IT'S BANNED FROM HUMAN USE BECAUSE OF THE TOXIC SIDE EFFECTS. EVEN SMALL AMOUNTS CAN TRIGGER A LETHAL OVERDOSE AND CAN REQUIRE MULTIPLE DOSES OF NARCAN TO TREAT.

7/13/2021

THE COVID-19 VACCINATION SITE AT SUNY POLYTECHNIC IN MARCY WILL BE CLOSING NEXT WEEK. IT'S ONE OF FOUR STATE RUN CLINICS GOVERNOR CUOMO ANNOUNCED WOULD BE SHUTTING DOWN YESTERDAY. THE SITE FIRST OPENED IN JANUARY OF THIS YEAR AND SINCE THEN HAS HELPED VACCINATE THOUSANDS OF PATIENTS. AT IT'S PEAK, DEMAND FOR VACCINATIONS WAS SO HEAVY THE STATE'S SCHEDULING WEBSITE REPEATEDLY CRASHED. BUT THE SUPPLY OF DOSES HAS OUTSTRIPPED DEMAND SINCE APRIL.

7/19/2021

THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT NEW YORK HAS ONE OF THE LOWEST OBESITY RATES IN THE NATION. THE BAD NEWS IS THAT ONE IN FOUR RESIDENTS ARE STILL PACKING ON THE POUNDS. THAT'S ACCORDING TO A REPORT FROM THE TRUST FOR AMERICA'S HEALTH. IT RANKED NEW YORK 45TH IN THE NATION FOR OBESITY. COLORADO HAD THE HEALTHIEST POPULATION, WITH AN OBESITY RATE OF 22.6 PERCENT, WHILE WEST VIRGINIA TOPPED THE CHARTS AT A WHOPPING 38.1 PERCENT. THE FULL REPORT IS AVAILABLE AT STATE OF OBESITY DOT ORG.

7/22/2021

A BAD BATCH OF DRUGS HAS TRIGGERED AN OVERDOSE SPIKE ALERT FROM THE ONEIDA COUNTY OVERDOSE RESPONSE TEAM. IN THE SPAN OF JUST 24 HOURS THERE HAVE BEEN SIX OVERDOSES, INCLUDING ONE FATALITY IN VIENNA. OFFICIALS SAY THE CULPRIT MAY BE COCAINE CONTAMINATED WITH THE OPIOIDS FENTANYL OR CARFENTANIL, AN ANIMAL TRANQUILIZER. THEY'RE CURRENTLY WAITING FOR LAB RESULTS TO DETERMINE EXACTLY WHAT THE CONTAMINANT IS. FIRST RESPONDERS WERE ABLE TO SAVE FIVE VICTIMS WITH NARCAN.

7/29/2021

ALL STATE EMPLOYEES WILL HAVE TO GET VACCINATED AGAINST COVID 19 OR UNDERGO WEEKLY VIRUS TESTING. THAT WAS THE BOMBSHELL DROPPED BY GOVERNOR CUOMO YESTERDAY. THE MOVE COMES IN RESPONSE TO THE GROWTH

OF THE DELTA VARIANT OF COVID-19. BUT UNIONS REPRESENTING THE STATE'S WORKERS AREN'T ON BOARD WITH THE MANDATE. THE MAJORITY, INCLUDING GROUPS REPRESENTING STATE POLICE, AND HEALTH CARE WORKERS HAVE REJECTED CALLS FOR MANDATORY VACCINATIONS, SAYING THEIR MEMBERS SHOULDN'T BE FORCED TO VACCINATED TO KEEP THEIR JOBS.

8/4/2021

THE AREA'S BLOOD RESERVES ARE NEAR RECORD LOWS. DONATIONS HAVE BEEN DOWN SINCE THE START OF SUMMER, BUT THEY'VE DROPPED OFF A CLIFF IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS AS MORE FAMILIES AND REGULAR DONORS TRAVELED FOR SUMMER VACATION. NOW LOCAL OFFICIALS ARE ASKING FOR DONATIONS TO HELP MAKE UP THE SHORTFALL. CLOSE TO A DOZEN BLOOD DRIVES ARE SCHEDULED OVER THE NEXT WEEK ALONE, WITH A FULL LIST AVAILABLE AT RED CROSS DOT ORG. THE RED CROSS BLOOD DONATION CENTER ON COMMERCIAL DRIVE IS ALSO AVAILABLE DAILY.

8/6/2021

THERE'S A SUBSTANTIAL RISK OF CATCHING COVID-19 IN ONEIDA COUNTY. THAT'S ACCORDING TO THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL. THE DESIGNATION COMES AFTER THE NUMBER OF POSITIVE TESTS FOR THE VIRUS CLIMBED UP TO 3-POINT-2 PERCENT OVER THE PAST WEEK. WITH THAT SPIKES COMES GUIDANCE FROM THE C-D-C THAT EVERYONE RETURN TO WEARING MASKS INDOORS. COUNTY OFFICIALS AREN'T MANDATING MASKING YET, BUT THEY ARE ASKING RESIDENTS TO GET VACCINATED TO HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF THE VIRUS.

8/10/2021

LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS ARE WARNING RESIDENTS TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS AGAINST RABIES. THE DISEASE IS ENDEMIC ACROSS CENTRAL NEW YORK THANKS TO THE LARGE POPULATION OF WILD ANIMALS. PET OWNERS SHOULD MAKE SURE ALL OF THEIR ANIMALS HAVE BEEN VACCINATED AGAINST THE VIRUS, AND RESIDENTS SHOULD AVOID CONTACT WITH ANY ANIMALS ACTING STRANGELY. MORE INFORMATION ON PREVENTIVE MEASURES, INCLUDING PET VACCINATION CLINICS, IS AVAILABLE FROM YOUR COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

8/13/2021

OFFICIALS IN ONEIDA COUNTY HAVE ISSUED AN ALERT AFTER A SPIKE IN OPIOID OVERDOSES. THE WARNING COMES AFTER AT LEAST FOUR PEOPLE O-D'D ON DRUGS MIXED WITH THE DANGEROUS OPIOID FENTANYL IN JUST 24 HOURS. THAT'S HAPPENED BEFORE WITH CONTAMINATED BATCHES OF HEROIN. WHAT MAKES THESE CASES UNUSUAL IS THAT THE FENTANYL WAS MIXED IN TO STIMULANTS LIKE COCAINE, METHAMPHETAMINE, AND M-D-M-A, OR MOLLY. ANYONE SUSPECTING A LIFE THREATENING OVERDOSE SHOULD IMMEDIATELY CALL 9-1-1.

8/27/2021

ONEIDA COUNTY IS SEEING ANOTHER COVID-19 SPIKE. YESTERDAY OFFICIALS REPORTED 97 NEW CASES, THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF NEW INFECTIONS SINCE JANUARY. AT THE SAME TIME, 21 PEOPLE ARE CURRENTLY HOSPITALIZED WITH THE DISEASE, THE LARGEST NUMBER SINCE APRIL. THE VAST MAJORITY OF THOSE PATIENTS WERE UNVACCINATED. IN RESPONSE, ONEIDA COUNTY EXECUTIVE ANTHONY PICENTE IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGING RESIDENTS TO GET VACCINATED AGAINST THE VIRUS AND ONCE AGAIN DON MASKS ANY TIME THEY'RE INDOORS.

8/31/2021

THE AREA'S BLOOD RESERVES ARE NEAR RECORD LOWS, WITH LESS THAN A THREE DAY SUPPLY NOW ON HAND. IN RESPONSE THE RED CROSS IS MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPEAL FOR DONATIONS, IN PARTICULAR PLATELET DONORS AND THOSE WITH TYPE O BLOOD. THE STOCKPILE HAS BEEN STEADILY DECLINING SINCE THE HOLIDAY SEASON AS REGULAR DONORS SKIPPED DONATIONS. YOU'LL FIND A FULL LIST OF SCHEDULED BLOOD DRIVES AT RED CROSS DOT ORG. THE RED CROSS BLOOD DONATION CENTER ON COMMERCIAL DRIVE IS ALSO AVAILABLE DAILY.

9/1/2021

ONEIDA COUNTY IS EXPANDING ITS EFFORTS TO FIGHT THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC. THE MOST VISIBLE SIGN OF THE PROGRAM WILL BE OVER A HUNDRED EMERGENCY NARCAN CABINETS INSTALLED IN AREAS WITH A HIGH OVERDOSE RATE. EACH ONE WILL HOLD TWO DOSES OF THE DRUG, WHICH STABILIZE AN OVERDOSE VICTIM UNTIL THEY CAN RECEIVE MEDICAL CARE. THE COUNTY WILL ALSO BE SENDING OUT SPECIAL TEAMS TO HOT SPOTS. THEY'LL BE ABLE TO OFFER COUNSELING AND BE EQUIPPED WITH MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND CARE KITS.

9/2/2021

THERE'S NO END IN SIGHT FOR THE SPREAD OF THE CORONAVIRUS IN ONEIDA COUNTY. THE LATEST FIGURES CONFIRM 71 NEW CASES, BRINGING THE TOTAL TO 640. 33 PEOPLE ARE HOSPITALIZED, TEN OF THEM IN INTENSIVE CARE. THE BIGGER PROBLEM IS THAT THE POSITIVITY RATE HAS SOARED TO FOUR PERCENT, ONE OF THE HIGHEST IN THE ENTIRE STATE. IN RESPONSE, OFFICIALS ARE ONCE AGAIN EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF GETTING VACCINATED. A FULL LIST OF SCHEDULED CLINICS IS AVAILABLE AT THE ONEIDA COUNTY WEBSITE.

9/7/2021

A BAD BATCH OF DRUGS HAS TRIGGERED AN ALERT FROM THE ONEIDA COUNTY OVERDOSE RESPONSE TEAM. THE MOVE COMES AFTER TWO OVERDOSE FATALITIES IN THE SPAN OF JUST 24 HOURS. OFFICIALS SAY THE CULPRIT MAY BE COCAINE CONTAMINATED WITH THE OPIOIDS FENTANYL OR CARFENTANIL, AN ANIMAL TRANQUILIZER. THEY'RE CURRENTLY WAITING FOR LAB RESULTS TO DETERMINE EXACTLY WHAT THE CONTAMINANT IS. THEY'RE WARNING ANYONE USING COCAINE TO ASSUME THEIR DRUGS CONTAIN DANGEROUS LEVELS OF OPIOIDS.

9/9/2021

CENTRAL NEW YORK IS ALREADY SUFFERING FROM A LACK OF HEALTH CARE WORKERS, AND THAT PROBLEM COULD BECOME A LOT WORSE. THAT'S ACCORDING TO LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS, WHO SAY THE STATE'S NEW VACCINE MANDATE COULD LEAD THOUSANDS OF NURSES, AIDES, AND OTHER STAFF TO RESIGN. UNDER THE CURRENT RULES ALL EMPLOYEES AT HOSPITALS, NURSING HOMES, AND GROUP CARE FACILITIES HAVE TO BE VACCINATED BY SEPTEMBER 27TH. OFFICIALS SAY THEY'RE ALREADY SEEING AN UPTICK IN WORKERS GIVING THEIR TWO WEEK NOTICE.

9/10/2021

NEARLY TWENTY PERCENT OF THE MOHAWK VALLEY HEALTH SYSTEM WORKFORCE IS UNVACCINATED, AND THAT COULD TRIGGER A MAJOR STAFFING SHORTAGE. THE STATE HAS MANDATED THAT ALL HEALTHCARE WORKERS BE VACCINATED BY THE END OF THE MONTH. IF THEY AREN'T, THEY'LL BE FIRED. THAT WOULD LEAVE LOCAL HOSPITALS STRUGGLING TO MEET THE NEEDS OF PATIENTS. M-V-H-S IS ALREADY SHORT STAFFED. THEY WERE FORCED TO LAY OFF HUNDREDS OF WORKERS AT THE PEAK OF THE PANDEMIC, AND MANY NEVER CAME BACK.

9/14/2021

ONEIDA COUNTY IS SEEING ANOTHER COVID-19 SPIKE. YESTERDAY OFFICIALS REPORTED 224 NEW CASES, THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF NEW INFECTIONS SINCE JANUARY. AT THE SAME TIME, 49 PEOPLE ARE CURRENTLY HOSPITALIZED WITH THE DISEASE, THE LARGEST NUMBER SINCE APRIL. THE VAST MAJORITY OF THOSE PATIENTS WERE UNVACCINATED. IN RESPONSE, ONEIDA COUNTY EXECUTIVE ANTHONY PICENTE IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGING RESIDENTS TO GET VACCINATED AGAINST THE VIRUS AND ONCE AGAIN DON MASKS ANY TIME THEY'RE INDOORS.

9/27/2021

GET A FLU VACCINATION. THAT'S THE MESSAGE FROM STATE AND LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS. THEY'RE HOPING TO AVOID A SPIKE IN FLU CASES COMBINED WITH A THIRD WAVE OF CORONAVIRUS INFECTIONS. THAT ONE-TWO PUNCH COULD OVERWHELM THE STATE'S TESTING CAPABILITY, MAKING IT EASIER FOR BOTH VIRUSES TO SPREAD. FLU VACCINATIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT NEARLY EVERY PHARMACY, BUT SOME DO REQUIRE APPOINTMENTS. IT TAKES JUST A FEW MINUTES TO GET THE SHOT, WHICH IS FREE UNDER MOST INSURANCE PLANS.

9/28/2021

HOSPITALS AND NURSING HOMES ACROSS NEW YORK BEGAN FIRING THOUSANDS OF HEALTHCARE WORKERS YESTERDAY. THE MOVE COMES AFTER THE EMPLOYEES REFUSED TO COMPLY WITH THE STATE'S VACCINE MANDATE. THE FIRINGS ARE EXPECTED TO CAUSE SERVICE DISRUPTIONS AT SOME FACILITIES. IN RESPONSE, GOVERNOR HOCHUL HAS DECLARED A STATE OF EMERGENCY AND SIGNED AN EXECUTIVE ORDER TO USE NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS AND OUT OF STATE WORKERS TO FILL IN THE GAPS.