



For Immediate Release
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Happy Thanksgiving and COVID-19 Reminders

November 20, 2020—Olean--William J. Aiello, Mayor of the City of Olean, would like to extend Thanksgiving wishes to residents and remind them of the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) suggestions to protect themselves from the COVID-19 virus.

"Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays, I generally spend the day with my wife, children and grandchildren. The house is filled with laughter and friendship and everyone lends a hand to put a magnificent meal on the table," Mayor Aiello said. "However this year is different; we have altered our plans because of the spike in COVID-19 cases. We will still spend time together, but it will not be the big family gathering that we had last year."

"With Cattaraugus County seeing an increase in the number of cases of COVID-19, I recommend all Olean residents review the CDC and Governor Cuomo's guidelines for Thanksgiving travel and gatherings," Mayor Aiello added. "In addition, residents can continue throughout the holiday season to protect themselves by the steps suggested by the CDC, including:

- Wear a mask with two or more layers that fit snugly against the face and covers both mouth and nose.
- Avoid close contact and stay at least 6 feet away from people who do not live with you.
- Wash hands frequently with soap and hot water, if they are not readily available use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, throw used tissues into the trash and immediately wash your hands with soap and water.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces. If surfaces are dirty, clean with soap and water then use a household disinfectant on the surface.
- Be alert for symptoms of COVID-19 and follow CDC guidance if symptoms develop.

The CDC has additional advice to people who plan to attend a Thanksgiving gathering, including:

- Bring your own food, drinks, plates, cups and utensils;
- Wear a mask and store it safely while eating and drinking;
- Avoid going in and out of areas where food is being prepared;
- Use single use options, such as salad dressing and condiment packages and disposable items like food containers, plates and utensils.

The CDC's advice for those hosting a Thanksgiving gathering includes:

- Have a small outdoor meal with family and friends who live in your community;
- Limit the number of guests;
- Set expectations for celebrating together and discuss with guests ahead of time;
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and items between use;
- Open windows if celebrating indoors;
- Limit the number of people in food preparation areas;
- Have guests bring their own food and drink;
- If sharing food have one person serve the food and use single use options, like plastic utensils.

The CDC's advice for Thanksgiving travel includes:

- Check travel restrictions before you go;
- Get your flu shot before you travel;
- Always wear a mask in a public setting and on public transportation;
- Stay at least 6 feet apart from anyone who is not in your household;
- Wash your hands often or use hand sanitizer;
- Avoid touching your mask, eyes, nose and mouth;
- Bring extra supplies, such as masks and hand sanitizer.

Mayor Aiello added, "Happy Thanksgiving to all Olean residents. It will be different this year, but we have so much to be thankful for, including vaccines that are on their way to distribution. In the meantime let's continue to be vigilant in our efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19."

For more information, please see the CDC Website at www.cdc.gov.

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