

George Latimer
County Executive

Sherlita Amler, M.D.
Commissioner of Health

ATTENTION

Public Health Alert

DATE: March 23, 2020

SUBJECT: **WESTCHESTER COUNTY STANDING COMMISSIONER'S ORDER
FOR ISOLATION OF LAB CONFIRMED COVID-19**

Attached is a copy of the "Standing Commissioner's Order for Isolation of Lab Confirmed COVID-19", which I issued today. This Standing Order directs any person who has tested positive for COVID-19 to isolate themselves until such time as they have been cleared from isolation by the Westchester County Department of Health. This Standing Order also contains the following directives for medical professionals:

- 1) Any doctor, hospital, or other medical provider or facility operating within the County of Westchester shall provide a copy of the Standing Order to any person who has tested positive for COVID-19 at the same time as the provider or facility is providing the results of the positive test or, in lieu of providing the order, shall inform the person of the order and direct them to the Health Department's website for a copy (health.westchestergov.com). The provider or facility **must** maintain documentation that this provision has been complied with.
- 2) Every doctor, hospital, or other medical provider or facility operating within the County of Westchester shall conspicuously place a copy of this Standing Order in their place of business, where it may be viewed by any persons seeking treatment or testing.

It is critical that our medical community assist in preventing the spread and transmission of this highly infectious disease. As such, the Westchester County Department of Health encourages you to take additional steps to ensure that your patients are aware of their obligation to isolate if they become infected with COVID-19, such as posting the Commissioner's Order on your website, and explaining the duty to isolate at the time of testing.

Additionally, please understand that the current guidance stating that a person can be released from isolation after 7 days if they have been fever free for at least 72 hours **applies to Healthcare Personnel ONLY**. This is not the release criteria for the general public. As such, please do not inform your patients that they can be released on those grounds unless they are healthcare personnel. If the release guidance for the general public changes, we will inform you of the same.

Sincerely,



Sherlita Amler, M.D.
Commissioner of Health

STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

In re: 2019-Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

**STANDING COMMISSIONER'S ORDER
FOR ISOLATION OF LAB CONFIRMED COVID-19**

Pursuant to Section 2100 of the Public Health Law and Section
873.401 of the Westchester County Sanitary Code

WHEREAS, on January 30, 2020 the World Health Organization designated the COVID-19 outbreak as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, advising that further cases may appear in any country; and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2020, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency for the entire United States to aid the nation's healthcare community in responding to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, as of March 7, 2020, Andrew Cuomo, the Governor of the State of New York, declared a State of Emergency by Executive Order 202 as a result of the spread of COVID-19 in the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, as of March 13, 2020, Donald Trump, the President of the United States of America, declared a National Emergency as a result of the spread of COVID-19 in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Section 2100 of the Public Health Law mandates that all local health officers, being Commissioners of Health and Public Health Directors, as the case may be, of County Health Departments, guard against the introduction of such communicable diseases as are designated in the

State Sanitary Code, by the exercise of proper and vigilant medical inspection and control of all persons and things infected with or exposed to such diseases; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Health has issued “2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Interim Containment Guidance: Precautionary Quarantine, Mandatory Quarantine and Mandatory Isolation Applicable to all Local Health Departments (LHD)” (“NYSDOH Guidance”); and

WHEREAS the NYSDOH Guidance requires that any person who has tested positive for COVID-19 be isolated; and

WHEREAS, as of March 20, 2020, the County of Westchester has over 1,000 individuals who have laboratory confirmed COVID-19 infections; and

WHEREAS, it is expected that the number of persons infected will continue to increase given recently expanded testing capabilities; and

WHEREAS, given the volume of positive test results and the critical need to protect the public health;

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me by section 2100 of the Public Health Law of the State of New York and 10 NYCRR 2.25(f) and Section 873.401 of the Westchester County Sanitary Code, as Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Health, I do hereby:

ORDER that, any person who has tested positive for COVID-19 through laboratory testing is required to remain isolated at the individual’s place of residence until such time as the Westchester County Department of Health determines that the individual are no longer

infectious in accordance with the clearance criteria as set forth by the CDC and/or the New York State Department of Health;

FURTHER, I DO HEREBY ORDER that, any person so isolated must adhere to the Isolation Protocol attached hereto;

FURTHER, I DO HEREBY order that, any doctor, hospital, or other medical provider or facility operating within the County of Westchester shall provide a copy of this Standing Order to any person who has tested positive for COVID-19 upon delivery of the results of the positive test, or shall inform said person of this Standing Order and direct the individual to the website for the Westchester County Department of Health to obtain a copy. Documentation shall be maintained that this provision has been complied with, and shall be provided to the Westchester County Department of Health upon request;

FURTHER, I DO HEREBY ORDER that, every doctor, hospital, or other medical provider or facility operating within the County of Westchester shall conspicuously place a copy of this Standing Order in their place of business, where it may be viewed by any persons seeking treatment or testing;

FURTHER, I DO HEREBY give notice that the failure to comply with the provisions of this Order may subject an individual to criminal prosecution pursuant to the terms of Section 12-b of the Public Health Law, and/or confinement to a medical facility upon court order;

FURTHER, I DO HEREBY give notice that an individual subject to this Standing Order has a right to challenge this Order in a Court of competent jurisdiction and to be represented by legal counsel or to have counsel provided, and that if the person qualifies to have counsel provided, such counsel will be made available. To the extent necessary, the Health Department will request that an individual subject to isolation be allowed to participate in any such proceeding by telephonic or video-conferencing means;

FURTHER, I DO HEREBY ORDER that, this Standing Order shall remain in effect until
revoked, in writing, by my hand.

DATED: WHITE PLAINS, NEW YORK
MARCH 23, 2020

Dr Sherlita Amler MD
DR. SHERLITA AMLER, M.D., COMMISSIONER
WESTCHESTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Westchester County Department of Health
Isolation Protocol for 2019-Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

1. I will remain at my location for the duration of the isolation period.
2. I am not permitted to attend work or school outside my home. I will not visit enclosed public spaces (grocery stores, drugstores, department stores, shopping malls, theaters, religious services, community centers) or attend any social gatherings.
3. WCDH staff may contact me at least daily to check my condition and symptoms during the isolation period. During the isolation period, WCDH may make unannounced visits.
4. If I am housed together with family or others then such household members are permitted to remain in the home but will not be permitted to leave the home. Other non-household members/visitors are not permitted in my living quarters. I will not share my bed, bedroom or bathroom with household members and will keep my bedroom door closed. I will not eat in the same room with household members and I will not share linens, towels, eating utensils, cups and plates. I will limit my time in common household area such as bathrooms and kitchens.
5. Persons in the household can walk outside their house on their own property, but they must not come within six feet of neighborhoods or other members of the public. Persons living in a multiple dwelling may not utilize common stairways or elevators to access the outside. Likewise you need to refrain from walking in your neighborhood.
6. All household members will be informed of my isolation status.
7. Garbage should be bagged and left outside by door for pickup.
8. If I have a fever of $\geq 100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$ / $\geq 38.0^{\circ}\text{C}$ (or feel feverish) or develop any other symptoms of 2019-nCoV infection, I will call my medical provider or if I don't have a provider I will call WCDH immediately at: **(866) – 588-0195**.

Symptoms include:

- fever
 - cough
 - shortness of breath
 - any other lower respiratory symptoms
9. If I, or any household member, experiences a life threatening condition, call 911 and notify the caller that a person in the living quarters is under isolation for 2019-nCoV infection so that responders can take proper precautions.
 10. I am aware that if I become symptomatic or ill, those persons staying with me in my living quarters, may be subject to mandatory isolation and I may be subject to isolation.
 11. I will notify the WCDH of any needed care or services such as food, supplies, medicine or other supports that I require by calling **866-588-0195**
 12. I, or my legal guardian, may contact the WCDH for any questions or concerns with this protocol. Please contact the number above.