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### **Update for the State COVID-19 Contact Tracing Software**

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) will be “retiring” the COVID-19 case investigation and contact tracing software program, CommCare, on Friday December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

NYSDOH states:

“Since this program was launched in the spring of 2020, the New York State COVID-19 outbreak response program (aka CommCare) has helped us manage the tremendous number of COVID-19 cases and contacts and centralized the case investigation and contact tracing process statewide. Although COVID-19 remains in our community, today we are in a much stronger place than we were in spring of 2020 or even the winter of 2021-2022. We are in a new phase of the pandemic.”

- There is significantly less risk of severe illness, hospitalization, and death compared to earlier in the pandemic due to tools such as vaccination, boosters, testing, and treatments.
- The CDC has eased guidelines related to quarantine and contact tracing.
- New York State has adopted these guidelines and the Cayuga County Health Department continues to adhere to the state guidelines.

The Cayuga County Health Department has been utilizing the CommCare program since 2020 to respond to and manage the local COVID-19 outbreak in our county. With this program going away on December 30th, the Cayuga County Health Department will no longer accept at-home test results. If you test positive with a home test, continue to follow the current isolation guidance:

- Stay home and isolate from others for 5 days where day 0 is the day symptoms began or the day you took the test
- You can return to normal activity on day 6 if your symptoms are improving and you have been fever-free for at least 24-hours
- You must wear a mask around others day 6 through day 10

If you are feeling sick, you should seek testing for not just COVID-19, but other respiratory illnesses, like flu and RSV. If your symptoms are worsening or you are immunocompromised, seek health care because there are treatment options available for severe illness.

For more information, contact the Cayuga County Health Department at 315-253-1560 or [www.cayugacounty.us/health](http://www.cayugacounty.us/health). Be sure to like and follow the Cayuga County Health Department on Facebook and Instagram for updates and information as well.

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