



CONSENSUS STATEMENT OF ILI/COVID WORKING GROUP OF WESTERN NEW YORK November 22, 2020

Our community needs your help.

For the good of all Western New Yorkers, **we urge everyone to closely follow recommendations from public health officials** regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. Our main goal is to keep each of you and your families safe, healthy, and alive. We must avoid overcrowding hospitals and health care facilities to keep nurses, doctors, and healthcare workers safe so they can continue meeting the demanding health care needs of our community.

Currently, these public health recommendations are very important to follow:

- **If you are ill and waiting for test results, stay home while you wait and contact your physician if your symptoms worsen. You might be contagious.**
- **Gatherings of any size with people who live outside your household can cause outbreaks.** Remember, you can have very mild symptoms or NO signs of illness at all and still spread COVID to your friends and loved ones. It is better to skip one gathering and make sure everyone has more to look forward to.
- **Stay six feet away from other people in public and wear a mask.**
- **Clean your hands frequently and avoid touching your face.**

We understand how hard this may be on you and your family. We know that everyone wants to do the right thing. Working together, our combined and focused efforts will help keep you, your families, and our vital health care workers safe.

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The ILI/COVID Working Group of Western New York was formed in response to local variation in approach to the diagnosis and treatment of Influenza-Like-Illness and COVID-19 in the region. It is a collaborative effort of hospital systems, academic departments, independent practice associations, and insurers. The logos and signatures on this document represent the organizations' support of this statement.

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