According to the latest update on the New York State Department of Health (https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home), Governor Cuom0 has been proactive. He recently signed a bill that guarantees job protection for those that have been quarantined as a result of COVID-19. Governor Cuomo is also issuing an executive order that directs non-essential businesses to implement work-from-home policies effective Friday, March 20th, 2020. These exemptions include those of shipping, media, warehousing, grocery and food production, pharmacies, healthcare providers, utilities, banks, and related financial institutions. Businesses that rely on in-office personnel must also decrease their in-office workforce by 50 percent. As you all have probably heard, shopping malls, amusement parks, bowling alleys, schools, casinos, gyms, theatres, bars, and restaurants have been closed (bars and restaurants can provide take-out items). The UNSN Comfort is a ship that is being deployed to the New York harbor to help with hospital surge capacity, and this ship has 1,000 hospital beds onboard!

According to the Johns Hopkins COVID-19 interactive map there are 9,415 cases in the United States (https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/). Of those 9,415 confirmed cases, 150 have died, and 106 have recovered. Here in New York State, we have the highest amount of confirmed cases of COVID-19. There have been 3,074 cases that are confirmed of COVID-19. Of those cases, 1,339 cases belong to those in New York City. In Cayuga County, there no confirmed cases of COVID-19. According to the press release that can be found on the Cayuga County Health Department website (https://www.cayugacounty.us/DocumentCenter/View/12345/Negative-COVID-19-Result), there was a suspected case as an individual traveled to a country with ongoing transmission of novel Coronavirus. This person was put on precautionary quarantine. The test for this individual came back and was found to be negative for COVID-19 on March 13th, 2020.

Contrary to the previous information that has been going around that states younger people are not at as high of a risk for becoming seriously ill with COVID-19, there have been recent findings from the CDC that states nearly 40 percent of patients in the United States that are sick enough to be hospitalized were aged 20-54 years old. The CDC report goes on to further say that people aged 20-44 accounted for 20 percent of hospitalizations and 12 percent of intensive care patients. The risk of dying from COVID-19 is still significantly higher in those who fall in the age range of approximately 70-90 years old (https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/18/health/coronavirus-young-people.html). This finding was also reported by other countries, including Italy and France. It is essential to consider this information when practicing social distancing. It is not just the elderly who are at risk of becoming seriously ill and hospitalized with COVID-19. All age groups of people within the world are susceptible and at risk for contracting COVID-19. Make sure you are protecting yourself against this disease and do your due diligence not to spread COVID-19 to others!