



## LEWIS COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY

7785 North State Street, Suite 2

Lowville, New York 13367-1229

Telephone: (315) 376-5453

Fax: (315) 376-7013

[www.lewiscountypublichealth.com](http://www.lewiscountypublichealth.com)

Ashley R. Waite, RN, BSN, MPH

Director



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
Lewis County

## Clarifying New York State's Laws for Gatherings

*May 23, 2020*

As the North Country Region works to begin a phased reopening, Lewis County officials agree that large gatherings with people making sustained close contact are a place where coronavirus can easily infect many people quickly and continue its spread. While people should be able to have fun, facilities or events that attract hundreds of people from outside the region pose a significant public health danger as we try to carefully reopen. These places should be **closed** and events should **continue to be postponed or cancelled** until the threat of COVID-19 has subsided ([NY Forward Reopening Guide](#)).

On May 22, 2020, the following [directive](#) was issued by the Governor's Office:

- **Executive Order 202.10**, as later extended by Executive Order 202.18, Executive Order 202.29 and as extended and amended by Executive Order 202.32, which prohibited all non-essential gatherings of any size for any reason, except for any religious service or ceremony, or for the purposes of any Memorial Day service or commemoration, which allowed ten or fewer individuals to gather, provided that social distancing protocols and cleaning and disinfection protocols required by the Department of Health are adhered to is hereby modified to **permit any non-essential gathering of ten or fewer individuals, for any lawful purpose or reason, provided that social distancing protocols and cleaning and disinfection protocols required by the Department of Health are adhered to.**

While this document is intended to provide guidance for large gatherings, with any gathering comes individual responsibility. This means continuing to social distance (maintain 6 feet of separation in public), continuing to wear a mask or face covering, continuing to practice good hand hygiene, and continuing to stay home as much as possible. Remember: **I wear my mask to protect YOU.**

Please know that New York State guidelines are subject to change as we learn more about this virus. Guidance will be updated and shared as new information is received. Lewis County Public Health would like to commend Lewis County residents for their continued dedication to protecting the health and safety of their fellow community members. Your cooperation has been instrumental in slowing the spread of COVID-19.