

For Immediate Release
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Saratoga Health and Readiness Planning Task Force to Analyze New COVID Guidance

As new guidance is released, SHARP Task Force will analyze data and provide guidance to community

Saratoga County, NY - Saratoga County Board of Supervisors Chairman Todd Kusnierz today announced the formation of the Saratoga Health and Readiness Planning (SHARP) Task Force in anticipation of continued changes to COVID guidelines from the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The SHARP Task Force will be reviewing guidance issued by other governmental entities, reviewing relevant local data, and providing recommendations and guidance to the Saratoga County community.

“The recent increase in infections rates in Saratoga County is concerning, and with the formation of the SHARP Task Force, our county leadership will be able to quickly analyze any new guidance issued by New York State Department of Health and the CDC and make recommendations that make sense for our community,” said Chairman Kusnierz.

Clifton Park County Supervisor Jonathan Schopf, a member of the SHARP Task Force, said, “Saratoga County takes the health and well-being of its residents and employees seriously. At the same time the right of individual thought, decision making, and ultimate choice cannot be overcome by government mandate. As we move through the next several months, we are focused on keeping our schools and businesses open and continuing to offer the vaccine at no cost to residents throughout the county while providing information and statistics to allow our residents and businesses to make the best decisions for their own circumstances.”

Not only will the SHARP Task Force provide guidance to the community, but is committed to listening to concerns of residents, schools, businesses, and non-profits and advocating on their behalf to the state and federal government.

“Our communities are still feeling the effects of the previous shutdown and it isn’t in the best interest of the County to return to that state,” said Supervisor Schopf. “With our high vaccine rate, we must be strategic and thoughtful in our approach when recommending any new public safety guidance to our communities, schools, businesses and non-profits. We believe in individual responsibility, and we want to keep Saratoga County open for business and continue to be a safe and friendly place to live and visit. Saratoga County will continue to provide support

to individuals, schools, businesses and non-profit institutions to help those affected who may need assistance moving forward into the prosperous future that surely awaits our County and nation.”

SHARP Task Force members include: Chairman Todd Kusnierz; Clifton Park Supervisor Jonathan Schopf, Vice Chairman of the Board; Malta Town Supervisor Darren O’Connor, Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee; County Administrator Steve Bulger; Dr. Dan Kuhles, Commissioner of the Saratoga County Department of Public Health Services; Scot Chamberlain, Saratoga County Director of Human Resources; Pete Bardunias, Senior Vice President of Community Advancement with the Capital Region Chamber; and Anita Murphy, Capital Region BOCES District Superintendent.

Additionally, the county will be returning to the practice of providing daily updates on COVID numbers to the public and holding press conferences as necessary if there are substantial changes in guidance, policy, or increased infection rates.

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