



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SARATOGA COUNTY EMERGENCY ORDER EXTENDED

BALLSTON SPA, NY – Saratoga County officials renewed the County’s Local Emergency Order in response to the City of New York relocating people to areas across upstate and in accordance with NYS Executive Law §24. The current Order takes effect Friday, August 18, 2023. The original Order was issued on May 19, 2023 and has continuously been in effect since.

The Emergency Order creates a prohibition on illegal shelters and temporary housing within the County of Saratoga. Specifically, it prohibits municipalities outside of Saratoga County from establishing a shelter or temporary housing in Saratoga County without adhering to the requirements of all applicable federal, state, and local statutes, laws, regulations, and rules and prohibits the operation of such a facility without the written permission of the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Saratoga County. In addition, the Order states the municipality establishing such facility must engage in a plan acceptable to the County for the long-term welfare and security of persons residing in and coming to Saratoga County.

The Order also prohibits owners and operators of any location within the County of Saratoga from entering into an agreement with a municipality or entity that would violate the provisions of the Emergency Order or cause any other person to violate the Order.

The purpose of the Emergency Order is to ensure the life, liberty, and property of the people of Saratoga County, including those intended to reside in any facility described in the Order, are preserved.

The penalty for violating the Order is a Class B misdemeanor as described by NYS Executive Law §24(5).

Saratoga County Administrator Steve Bulger said, “We have been closely watching the grossly mismanaged response to New York City’s homeless migrant crisis by the City of New York and their contractor. While no one faults the individuals seeking a better life here in the United States, the lack of communication and coordination from New York City with counties across the State, including surrounding municipalities here in the Capital Region, has created utter chaos for local governments and the people they claim to be helping. It is not the responsibility of Saratoga County to inherit the failures of another municipality or the federal government. The purpose of this Emergency Order is to prevent other municipalities from imposing their own policies, costs, and responsibilities onto Saratoga County and to protect the health and safety of those within Saratoga County.”

(more)

Following media reports of other communities being impacted by health threats stemming from New York City's relocation program, Saratoga County is assuring concerned residents that there is no increased threat in the County and that the epidemiologists, nurses and sanitarians in its Department of Health actively conduct surveillance for communicable diseases and other health risks each day.

Saratoga County Commissioner of Health, Daniel Kuhles, MD, MPH said, "The Department of Health's most fundamental responsibility is to protect the health and safety of its residents. Since any plan produced by New York City or other municipality would include the advance sharing of any and all information pertinent to protecting the public health, the County's Emergency Order offers an important layer of protection for the health and safety of our communities and the capacity of our local healthcare system."

The County's Emergency Order is available at www.saratogacountyny.gov.

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