



DELAWARE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**Senator Charles D. Cook County Office Building
111 Main Street, Suite 1
Delhi, New York 13753**

**Telephone: 607-832-5110
Fax: 607-832-6011**

**Tina B. Molé, Chairman
Christa M. Schafer, Clerk**

PRESS RELEASE Delaware County March 26, 2020

The Delaware County Public Health Department has been responding to multiple requests from residents to release the locations by town of positive COVID-19 cases. It is understood that some of our neighboring counties have begun to publish public lists by town; however, Delaware County is opting not to share this information at this time. This decision was not made lightly and only after consultation with the New York State Department of Health and the New York State Association of Counties. The State discourages this type of information release, especially in small communities like Delaware County, because it can inadvertently identify a person that is sick. As a result, other communities that have released this information are now facing legal action from those people that were identified in this way. Based on these opinions and the advice of counsel Delaware County is opting to keep this information confidential.

Delaware County respects the privacy of our residents and we do not want to identify any resident that may be ill as a result of this type of information release. We do understand that many people feel knowing where the cases are located can protect the public from possible exposure. That is simply not true. The cases that are now being spread in New York State, including our small upstate communities, is through community transmission. More and more patients are unable to identify where they were exposed to the virus as part of the contact investigation. In some cases, throughout upstate New York there have been no known contacts with others that tested positive for COVID-19 nor were there exposures from large gatherings or community events. That means the virus is wide spread and any person can be exposed. To protect yourself we are advising you to assume everyone is a possible carrier and all precautions regarding social distancing should be taken.

For all of these reasons, knowing the town location will not protect anyone from contracting the virus. Social distancing, hand washing and being aware of who you are in contact with are the only measures that can reduce any individual from becoming sick. We ask that you respect the privacy of our residents and protect yourself with these important measures to reduce the spread and your own exposure.