

Today, April 7, 2020, I am issuing an Executive Order in accordance with a declaration of a County State of Emergency issued on March 14, 2020. **Effective April 8, 2020, all playgrounds, athletic courts, and sporting fields in Cayuga County are closed. In addition, interactions at public parks in Cayuga County are limited. Visitors to public parks shall maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from unrelated persons.**

Due to the number of confirmed gatherings at local athletic courts and parks, I am compelled to make this decision to ensure the safety and health of all citizens of Cayuga County. When people do not comply with social distancing, they present a serious health risk to others as this virus can impact any age group, regardless of health conditions.

Most of us have never lived through a public health crisis before. We all experience this pandemic in different ways, whether you are an essential worker on the front line, working or learning from home, taking care of children and the vulnerable, you had to close your business or were temporarily laid off. But we have one thing in common: All of us have a role to play in helping to slow the spread of this vicious and invisible virus that has taken over our community and the world.

We all need each other more than ever to get through this, we just can't do it in close proximity. This is not the time to think of ourselves only, especially if you are healthy and not at high risk; this is a time where we need to think of and protect others. And I know this community is great when it comes to helping a neighbor out. But this situation is different. As hard and counter-intuitive as it may seem, the best way we can help others now is by not meeting with them in person, and that includes not engaging in recreational activities with people who don't live with us.

Children and adults alike miss their friends and extended families. I do too. The nice weather makes us want to go outside and engage in physical activities. It's spring after all. We have great public parks where we usually meet up, hang out, and have fun together. But as we know, coronavirus can be transmitted by people who have no symptoms and seem healthy, which makes our playgrounds, athletic courts and fields a breeding ground for the virus to spread and be brought home. Coronavirus is not less dangerous outside and can remain on playground and sports equipment surfaces for an extended period of time. The social distancing rules of staying at least 6 feet away from people who don't live in your home is also harder to maintain on a playground or when you engage in sports. We can still use our public parks and trails for walks, runs, and bike rides, but we have to be mindful of not gathering in crowds and maintaining a safe distance from others – for all our sakes.

The more we comply now, the sooner we can assume normal life activities. Thank you for your cooperation.

Aileen McNabb-Coleman
Chair of the Cayuga County Legislature



County of Cayuga

Office of the Chairman
Aileen McNabb-Coleman

EMERGENCY ORDER

CLOSING ALL PLAYGROUNDS, ATHLETIC COURTS, AND SPORTING FIELDS, AND LIMITING INTERACTIONS AT ALL PUBLIC PARKS WITHIN THE TERRITORIAL LIMITS OF CAYUGA COUNTY

I, Aileen McNabb-Coleman, Chair of the Cayuga County Legislature, the Chief Executive of Cayuga County, in accordance with a declaration of a County State of Emergency issued at March 14, 2020, and pursuant to Article 2-B, Section 24 of the New York State Executive Law, do hereby order that:

Effective April 8, 2020, all playgrounds, athletic courts, and sporting fields within the territorial limits of Cayuga County shall be closed to the public. Visitors to public parks shall maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from unrelated persons.

This order shall remain in effect until removed by order of the Chief Executive.

This order may be renewed in (5) five day increments. Failure to obey this order is a criminal offense, punishable by law under New York State Executive Law Section 24(5).

Signed this 7th day of April, 2020, in the City of Auburn, Cayuga County, State of New York.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Aileen McNabb-Coleman", is written over a horizontal line.

April 7, 2020

Aileen McNabb-Coleman
Chair, Cayuga County Legislature

FILED
04/07/2020 01:39 PM
Susan M. Dwyer
Cayuga County Clerk