Coronavirus Update: for Community Providers

- At this time, COVID-19 (Coronavirus 2019) has not been diagnosed in Clinton County.

- It is important to know how to triage patients who may present to your office or call thinking they have the virus. We suggest the following:

  **If the patient is at home:**
  - Interview the patient by phone to determine risk factors.
  - Instruct them to remain at home unless it is clear that immediate care is needed.
  - Do not have the patient come to your office or the emergency room without careful interview screening first. If you identify on interview that the patient meets risk factors for COVID-19, call the Clinton County Health Department at (518) 565-4848 immediately for guidance.
  - Instruct the patient to remain at home and they will be contacted by the health department.

  **If the patient presents to your office and thinks they may be infected:**
  - Immediately give the patient a mask and escort them to a private exam room and close the door. The door must remain closed.
  - If possible conduct an interview by phone with the patient for clinical signs (fever, cough, difficulty breathing) and risk factors. NYS DOH Website
  - If, after the interview, you feel the patient may be infected, contact the health department immediately and await further instruction.
  - Do not attempt to collect specimens for testing unless directed by the health department.
  - After the patient is discharged from the exam room, close the door. The room should not be used for at least 2 hours (the door must remain closed during this time).

- NYS DOH Website

- NYS DOH Hotline: 1-888-364-3065

- CDC Website

- Dr. Collins will be available next week to visit your office. Page him at 518-574-5609 to set up a time or get questions answered. On Wednesday, March 11, from 12-1 pm, Dr. Collins will also be presenting a Q&A session on COVID-19.
  - More details to follow