



**PUTNAM COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

1 Geneva Road, Brewster, NY 10509 ■ 845-808-1390  
www.putnamcourtyny.gov/health

A PHAB-ACCREDITED HEALTH DEPARTMENT

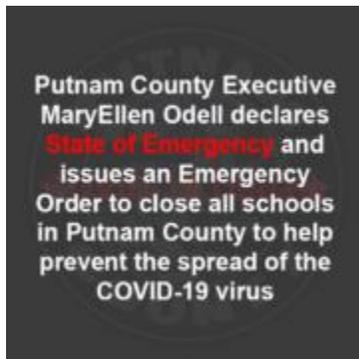
**MaryEllen Odell**  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**Michael J. Nesheiwat, MD**  
COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: March 13, 2020

Contact: Erin Pascaretti, Public Information Officer, 845-808-1390, x43262



**[Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell declares State of Emergency and issues an Emergency Order to close all schools in the County to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus.](#)**

**BREWSTER, NY— In an abundance of caution, Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell has declared a State of Emergency for Putnam County effective 5 p.m. today, March 13 through March 27 at 11:59 p.m.**

The State of Emergency will allow the county to share resources more efficiently and better respond to the rapidly evolving epidemic of Coronavirus, or COVID-19.

With the State of Emergency declared, Odell issued an Emergency Order to suspend all classroom and extracurricular functions and close all public and private schools throughout the county as of Monday, March 16 for an initial five day period, with an option to extend it for another five days. No classroom or extracurricular activities may take place at the schools.

“Schools throughout the county are facing their toughest test yet,” Odell said. “While they need to educate students, they also need to keep them safe and prevent the spread of the virus to family members and the community at large. This order will help them do that.”

Anthony DiCarlo, Superintendent of Mahopac schools praised the move.

“I want to thank County Executive Odell and County Attorney Jennifer Bumgarner for working hard to keep our children and staff safe,” DiCarlo said.

In addition, Putnam County Sheriff Robert Langley suspended all visitation to the Putnam County Correctional Facility effective Monday, March 16th.

“The emergency declaration will give the county the most flexibility possible to deal with a potential crisis,” Putnam County Legislature Chairwoman Toni Addonizio said. “These are unusual times.”

Adjacent Westchester County continues to have the highest concentration of Coronavirus cases in the state. Dutchess, Orange and Ulster counties have also each issued emergency orders.

The State of Emergency and Emergency Order are pursuant to New York State Executive Law and enforceable by local, county and state law enforcement agencies.

Putnam County has established a website to provide residents with the latest information about Coronavirus, COVID-19. <https://www.putnamcountyny.com/health/coronavirus/>

- [Declaration of Emergency](#)
- [Emergency Order](#)

The mission of the Putnam County Department of Health, nationally accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), is to improve and protect the health of the Putnam County community, composed of nearly 100,000 residents. Core services include community health assessment, disease surveillance and control, emergency preparedness, environmental health protection, family health promotion and health education. For more information, please visit our County website at [www.putnamcountyny.com/coronavirus](http://www.putnamcountyny.com/coronavirus); or visit our social media sites on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/putnamhealthny](http://www.facebook.com/putnamhealthny) and Twitter @PutnamHealthNY.

###