



WEATHER

TODAY	TONIGHT	THU
Sunshine, breezy and cold	Mainly clear and cold	Clouds and sunshine
HIGH	LOW	49
47	29	38

Complete weather, A2

TEASER HEAD



Adams should be highest paid player

New York Jets strong safety Jamal Adams (33) warms up prior game against Bills

PAGE B1

LOCAL



Options for city waterfront

The Hudson Tourism Board is assessing uses for the waterfront in the short-term and long-term

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REGION

More control over budget

A cadre of downstate lawmakers wants more say in the drafting of the state budget

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CMH furloughs 125 staff

By Abby Hoover
Columbia-Greene Media

HUDSON — Columbia Memorial Health temporarily furloughed approximately 125 staff members Tuesday.

A message from CMH President and CEO Jay Cahalan said while it was an action that no one wanted to take, it was the result of extremely limited options.

The temporary furloughs mean employees will still have health insurance coverage and can receive enhanced unemployment fund levels while not receiving their regular salaries. Employees who were

furloughed could be called back to work with 48 hours' notice.

With an increase in COVID-19 preparation, there has been a decrease in physician office visits, elective procedures and diagnostic testing in recent weeks, which was predicted, Cahalan said.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo authorized state Health Commissioner Dr. Howard Zucker to order hospitals to cancel elective surgeries and procedures in his March 23 executive order. He had previously

See CMH A8



File photo
Columbia Memorial Health in Hudson temporarily furloughed 125 employees Tuesday.

NY to reopen by region, elective surgery resumes



The state will explore a regional approach to reopening New York's economy and elective treatment will resume in certain hospitals and counties, Gov. Andrew Cuomo said Tuesday, as Western New York emerges as the newest COVID-19 hotspot.

By Kate Lisa

Johnson Newspaper Corp.

BUFFALO — The state will reopen by region and elective surgeries and procedures will resume in counties without significant risk of a COVID-19 surge as the number of cases

rise in western New York, officials said Tuesday.

Cuomo met with President Donald Trump and White House officials at 3 p.m. Tuesday to discuss testing and how states can work together with manufacturers and the federal

government. Discussion details were not released as of press time.

Different regions of the state may reopen based on COVID-19 data specific to that area, Cuomo said.

Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul will

coordinate Western New York's public health and reopening strategy, and former Lt. Gov. Robert Duffy will volunteer as a special advisor to coordinate the Finger Lakes' and Rochester region public health and reopening strategy.

"There's one state, yes, but there are regional economies within the state," Cuomo said Tuesday during his daily coronavirus briefing at Roswell Park Cancer Institute in

See REOPEN A8

COVID wave buffets nursing homes

By Nora Mishanec
Columbia-Greene Media

Nursing homes in the Twin Counties are bracing for more COVID-19 cases as elderly populations around the state continue to be the hardest hit by the virus.

Pine Haven Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Philmont has the largest outbreak in the region, with 24 residents testing positive for COVID-19. Nine Pine Haven residents died of the virus as of Monday, including one death at Columbia Memorial Hospital on Sunday, said Pine Haven spokesman Geoff Thompson.

The first Pine Haven resident to test positive for COVID-19 was readmitted to the nursing home from CMH

on March 20, Thompson confirmed. The person was asymptomatic at the time of his readmission to Pine Haven and began showing symptoms, including fever, two days later, March 22.

By state law, nursing homes are required to readmit residents who have tested positive for COVID-19, a policy that New York State Health Commissioner Dr. Howard Zucker defended during a press conference at the Capitol on Monday.

"The policy is if you are positive you should be admitted back to a nursing home," Zucker said. "The necessary precautions will be taken to protect the other residents

See WAVE A8



Bill Williams/Columbia-Greene Media

Pine Haven Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Philmont, which has reported an outbreak of COVID-19 among residents.



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