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PRESS RELEASE

April 19, 2020

This afternoon after consultation with the Chemung County Public Health Director Pete Buzzetti I authorized the temporary closure of Lowe's located at 913 County Rt. 64 in the Town of Big Flats for continual violations of Executive Order(s) issued by the New York State Governor pertaining to social distancing. After multiple warnings (verbal & written) involving various violations of Executive Orders, the Chemung County Health Department is requesting that Lowe's submit a plan detailing how future compliance will these orders will be achieved. The store will be allowed to re-open upon submission and approval of said plan. Essential businesses have a responsibility to make sure their customers and employees are kept as safe as possible from contracting and or spreading the Coronavirus.

Empire State Development has issued clear and concise direction to essential businesses and entities pertaining to their respective responsibilities as indicated below.

"Essential Businesses must continue to comply with the guidance and directives for maintaining a clean and safe work environment issued by the Department of Health (DOH) and every business, even if essential, is strongly urged to maintain social distancing measures to the extent possible"

I want to make it clear that it is not the intent of the County to pursue closures, fines and possible arrests, but businesses who have been allowed to remain open, as they are designated as "essential" must follow the guidelines set forth by the state.

Public health is currently our main priority and everyone must do their part.

Christopher J. Moss
Chemung County Executive