

March 22, 2020 started "New York State on PAUSE", which is a 10-point policy to assure uniform safety for everyone in the state. On April 17th, 2020 the state required masks to be worn when in public. On Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 the Town of Moreau held a free give away of masks and hand sanitizers to the community. In this newspaper clip from 1956 you can see the community was doing public health outreach then too.... from the *Glens Falls Times*, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 1956:

***CLINIC THURSDAY ; An immunization clinic will be held at the Moreau Elementary School on the Bluebird Road on Thursday at 1 pm. Booster doses of the diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough vaccine and vaccination for smallpox will be given pupils who have signed permission from their parents, Pre-school children, who received their first two doses at earlier clinics in January and February, will also be taken care of at this time. Dr. MacDonald McKee will be in charge.***

A little background of vaccines from the last century...The first vaccine was made for smallpox in 1796. However, by the late 1940s, scientific knowledge had developed enough, so that large-scale vaccine production was possible and disease control efforts could begin in earnest. In the 1950s, recommended vaccines included: Smallpox, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis and the Polio vaccine which was licensed in 1955 and was available in 1956 (the year of the attached clipping). Before that, parents were scared of the polio epidemics that occurred each summer; they kept their children away from swimming pools, sent them to stay with relatives in the country, and clamored for an understanding of the spread of polio.....sound familiar? - More vaccines followed - In the 1960s, measles, mumps and rubella were developed and during the 1970s, one vaccine was eliminated. Due to successful eradication efforts, the smallpox vaccine was no longer recommended for use after 1972. Then vaccine development in the 1980s produced hepatitis B and *Haemophilus influenzae* type b.

Currently, there is no vaccine to prevent Coronavirus (Sars-CoV-2 or COVID-19). The best way to prevent this illness is to avoid being exposed to the virus. If history is any indicator of our future, then there is eventually going to be a vaccine for COVID-19 too - hopefully sooner rather than later.

Read more about vaccines here: <https://www.chop.edu/centers-programs/vaccine-education-center/vaccine-history/developments-by-year>

