

State, county agree on cancer cases

Star-Gazette

The Chemung County and state departments of health agree that the number of reported cancer cases among students and alumni at Southside High School is 53.

A story and headline in Tuesday's Star-Gazette incorrectly stated that the county had received more reports than the state.

Both have the same number of reported cases. The state knew of 46 reported cancer cases when it made a presentation Aug. 23 at Southside High

School. Seven cases have been reported to the county Health Department since the August meeting.

The state Health Department has confirmed 25 of the 46 cases. Three of the 25 confirmed cases were for people diagnosed with cancer before they entered Southside. The state Health Department has yet to confirm a cancer diagnosis in any of the seven additional reported cases.

During a public meeting Monday night, state health officials explained that they could only confirm cases of people who were residents of



New York at the time of diagnosis, unless an out-of-state patient signs a medical records release form. That is because of medical records confidentiality laws.

The Elmira City School District plans to include a medical release form in the survey it will send to the 7,500 students who have attended Southside High School since it opened in 1979 at 777 S. Main St.

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