

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



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SITUATION REPORT NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COVID-19 DATE: 03/24/2020

Northumberland County Department of Public Safety and Office of Emergency Management continues actively monitoring the developments of the Coronavirus outbreak through several sources coordinated by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and the PA Dept of Health.

We continue to take a proactive approach to carefully monitor and prepare for this situation as information is provided and will continue in that direction.

The County Commissioners as well as the county task force remain very engaged. The Commissioners are also engaged with the surrounding counties of Columbia, Montour Snyder and Union in collaborating efforts and support to bring awareness to the COVID-19.

Northumberland County Department of Public Safety continues to monitor the situation in an enhanced watch with staff monitoring day to day events. The Emergency Management Coordinator continues monitoring updates and situations reports after hours.

Note this is not a state of emergency- it is a disaster declaration to ensure state federal agencies involved in the response have expedited resources they need to focus on the virus and its possible spread.

Governor Tom Wolf is **strongly encouraging** the suspension of large gatherings, events and conferences of 10 individuals or more as well as adjustments to in restrictions throughout the commonwealth which is intended to protect the citizens to where its intended to FLATTEN THE SPREAD of the COVID-19 virus. Today March 23 the state will starting enforcement all non-sustainable businesses, which is expected to be enforced through the state and locally municipalities.

The commonwealth and the county continue discouraging travel to activities and encouraging all to exercise discretion in order to prevent the spread of illness.

With the addition of testing facilities throughout the commonwealth additional positive cases are increasing as expected.

Northumberland County Government continues to assess times of services related to administration and the courts and human services. Note: There is still no expectation to shut down or close offices.

Municipal leaders have indicated they plan or have initiated a state of emergency for their municipalities to regards to planning and response to the epidemic.

The following Municipalities have declared and submitted declarations

Cities of Shamokin and Sunbury

Borough of Mt Carmel. Kulpmont, Marion Heights, Northumberland, Milton, Riverside

Townships of Zerbe, East Chillisquaque and Ralpho.

Statewide, to date a total of 851 confirmed cases of COVID-19 reported from commercial, hospital and state labs. There are 8,643 patients who have tested negative, 7 deaths have been reported. With commercial labs being the primary testing option for most Pennsylvanians, data is not available on the total number of tests pending.

There are 0 cases in Northumberland County.

There are 7 cases in surrounding counties

The Department of Public Safety continues to work closely with many partners including those in our county, PEMA and the PA DOH and Geisinger.

Local level briefings and meetings are also being conducted. Northumberland County OEM continues in performing information sharing and planning coordination activities.

Northumberland County Commissioners, Northumberland County Judge & court officials, Northumberland County Sheriff, and Northumberland County Department of Public Safety/ 911/EM and the Coroner's office have organized a County Government Task Force to share current situation information, review the Northumberland County Government Continuity Of Operations Plan, discuss and recommend any changes to county government and courts operations, and provide a consistent, unified message to the public of any relevant information.

- ❖ **Central Susquehanna Opportunities (CSO) of Northumberland County is available to assist those in need with food and housing. 570-644-6575 Community Active Agency Ext 171.**
- ❖ **Additional information also can be found by dialing 211 for the United Way.**
- **Geisinger Shamokin has set up triage area outside the emergency room and the main entrance to scan patients coming into the hospital. They will also be using the Restler Center across the street for those who pose symptoms. Starting today they will be open 24 hours.**
- **Geisinger BLOOMSBURG is set as a testing sit for walk-in's, the location is set up near the main entrance. People looking to get tested WILL need a prescription from a doctor to get tested. This is the only site in the area for walk-in testing.**

OEM Continues Actively Monitoring of the situation; responding to inquiries; information sharing tasks Daily.

Request have been submitted to the state regarding unmet needs in relation to providing additional protective equipment to our first responders and for those who treat, transport and provide patient care. We continue to update those request as they are submitted.

Note:

- This response has the potential to significantly strain our equipment, supplies and personnel resources across the state both from a healthcare perspective and an emergency management perspective. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be in extremely short supply and many agencies and organizations may run out of much needed PPE. In a resource constrained situation, the strategic prioritization and allocation of critical supplies takes precedence to make sure that those in the most need and are most at risk receive the equipment they need to stay safe. I know that many of you have placed orders for various PPE and other supplies. These orders are reviewed and reprioritized daily by PEMA and the DOH. Additionally, we have PEMA has placed orders with vendors for additional supplies and continue to seek other vendors and investigate alternatives to provide agencies with the much-needed supplies to protect their personnel, including the donation of supplies and PPE from private sector partners.
- Since this incident will have impacts across the nation, any requests for federal support such as Federal Medical Stations, DMAT's, ventilators, etc. are being adjudicated at the federal level and not at the regional level. As informed states requesting these assets will need to demonstrate need based on the current case counts and increasing impact to the healthcare system before these assets will be allocated.
- What that means for us (PA) is that we need to constantly monitor critical hospital data regarding hospital census numbers, admission status, ICU bed availability and ventilators available. DOH will be obtaining this data and trigger points will be established for requesting resources to provide for adequate reaction times to have the needed resources in place.
- Much of the response thus far has been predicated on strategies and tactics that have been employed by other countries and states that have outbreaks; however, there is a lot that we do not know about this virus since it is new. From the state perspective, Governor Wolf has taken a very measured approach to the use of mitigation strategies and has balanced that approach with the need to slow the virus spread across the state to ensure that more Pennsylvanians are not put at risk and our healthcare delivery system is not adversely impacted in the coming weeks and months.

National and state guidance continues to be evolving.

It's asked that the public continue to refrain from making panic purchases which only complicates our healthcare system's ability to provide care to those in need from the public. The local stores as well as the larger chain stores are having difficulty keeping up with stock and essential needs.

Our day-to-day life's do not need to stop, be proactive in trying to stop the spread of this virus by practicing "social distancing".

Critical services within the county will remain as normal operations, but adjustments are expected or have occurred.

Any Northumberland County residents with questions, concerns or conditions reports related to COVID-19 are urged to contact the EMA Office at **570-495-4690**

After hours emergency contact/ dispatch is always available at 570-988-4539, for emergencies 911.

We are able to coordinate communications with regional and state-level agencies, partners and resources to address any questions or concerns. Or you may email the EMA Office at ema@norrycopa.net.

Coronavirus informational webpage on PA DOH website: www.health.pa.gov

KEY MESSAGE POINTS:

PA Department of Health toll free phone number for public use: 1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-724-3258).

WHAT ARE SYMPTOMS OF THE CORONAVIRUS?

- Symptoms of the COVID-19 can include
- Fever
- Cough Shortness of Breath

HOW CAN IT SPREAD?

Covid-19 is spread through the air by coughing or sneezing, close personal contact such as touching or hand shaking, and touching an object or surface with the virus on it.

HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF?

- Avoid Close contact with people who are sick
- Avoid Touching your eyes, nose mouth.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with your elbow or a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. Do not use your hands
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using REGULAR HOUSE HOUD CLEANER SPRAY OR WIPE.
- Stay informed- visit CDC,'s website for current information at cdc.gov/COVID 19

If you are sick stay home until you are feeling better.

Northumberland County will maintain a PROACTIVE APPROACH on the CORONAVIRUS and will continue to monitor and maintain situational awareness for the safety and wellbeing of our residents.

In this time of stress and uncertainties we would like to take the time and thank those who continue to protect care for us each and every day. A SPEACIAL thanks to our first responders, our health care professionals and those who have reached out to their communities providing lunches for those out of school during these trying times.

Stephen J Jeffery, CEM, Director
Northumberland County OEM