SITUATION REPORT
NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COVID-19
DATE: 03/16/2020

BACKGROUND:
For over a week Northumberland County Department of Public Safety has been actively monitoring development of the Coronavirus outbreak through several sources, primarily coordinated by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and the PA Dept of Health.

We have taken a proactive approach to carefully monitor and prepare for this situation as information is provided.

CURRENT SITUATION:
The Northumberland County Department of Public Safety Office continues to Actively Monitor Coronavirus Outbreak developments on a daily basis.

The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency Commonwealth Response Coordination Center is currently partially activated and is expected to activate fully.

PA Department of Health has activated its Emergency Operations Center for enhanced monitoring, response, and messaging.

The Department Operations Center is located in the PEMA Building. PADOH is coordinating with other state agencies as needed. Communications personnel from various agencies have established a virtual Joint Information Center to address inquires related to COVID-19.

Governor Tom Wolf as many are aware has signed a State Disaster Declaration as well as a Presidential Disaster Declaration signed by President Trump.

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 Wolf has ordered statewide school closings.

Governor Tom Wolf is strongly encouraging the suspension of large gatherings, events and conferences of 50 individuals or more.

The governor is also discouraging travel to recreation activities and encouraging religious leaders to exercise discretion in order to prevent the spread of illness.
The Pennsylvania Department of Health today confirmed 13 additional positive cases of COVID-19 — two in Allegheny County; one in Bucks County; six in Montgomery County; two in Monroe County; and two in Philadelphia County. All are either in isolation at home or being treated at the hospital. This brings the statewide total to 76 cases. Confirmed cases also include those from commercial and hospital laboratories.

As of this morning, there are 670 patients who have tested negative either at the state public health lab, a commercial lab or a hospital laboratory.

“While we anticipate that there will be more Pennsylvanians with COVID-19 in the coming days and weeks, it is important for residents to know the commonwealth is prepared and to be prepared themselves,” Dr. Levine said. “Right now, you have a higher chance of testing positive for COVID-19 if you have traveled to a country or state with known community outbreaks or have come in contact with someone who has the virus. We are working with the health care community across Pennsylvania to keep them informed, consult on patient testing and ensuring they have the resources they need to care for patients.”

There are 0 cases in Northumberland County.
There are 0 cases in any surrounding county.

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

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Northumberland County continues to actively monitor this developing situation, primarily focused on state agency coordinated briefings and reports from county partners.

Local level briefings and meetings are also being conducted. NCDPS is 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 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.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES (24-72 hours):

Continue Active Monitoring of situation; responding to inquiries; information sharing tasks
Daily (Monday-Saturday) Situation Briefings will be provided starting Friday, March 17th; Sunday briefings will be produced as needed.

Northumberland County Public Safety will elevate operations to "Enhanced Watch Status" on Tuesday March 17th at 0800.

We are and will continue to forward guidance or updates to specific partners and stakeholders as appropriate.

At Enhanced Watch Level focused monitoring, information sharing, reporting and planning for this situation becomes the top priority of the agency.
This will include reassignment of some staff duties and functions. Some routine, non-urgent agency business and operations may be delayed and/or cancelled.

- Receive and take any appropriate action on resource or support requests.
- Participate in/ Conduct briefings, in person and teleconferences
- Briefings to our stakeholders including this group ongoing
- Promote flu spread prevention information.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Colleges in Northumberland County have closed, they will then hold classes online for the remained of the semester. The situation and future action is being reevaluated on a regular basis.

All schools in Northumberland County are closed and are expected to be closed for a period of two weeks. This situation is being monitored and most like reevaluated in days to come.

Northumberland County Courts are taking precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 by restricting access to the Courthouse, depending on each days court docket. Signage will be placed at courthouse entrances when the restriction is in effect.

All senior actions center in the county have been closed.

Visitation out the county prison remains restricted.

We are aware of many activities, events and meetings across the county being cancelled.

Critical services within the county will remain as normal operations.

No significant business interruptions have been reported.

Any Northumberland County interests with questions, concerns or conditions reports related to COVID-19 are urged to contact the EMA Office at

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](http://www.health.pa.gov)

**KEY MESSAGE POINTS:**


**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.

We need to be prepared for community spread of COVID-19. Although community spread has not yet been reported in any Pennsylvania cases it does remain a challenge if it is identified.

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

Stephen J Jeffery, CEM, Director
Northumberland County OEM