

**CHEROKEE COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER**

(4/23/2020) (12:00 P.M.)

DAILY UPDATE

- Cherokee County EMA and Board of Commissioners ask that you be mindful of your needed travels, contact with others, continue to practice social distancing, and practice good hygiene.
- The Georgia Department of Public Health has announced 21,512 confirmed cases of COVID-19 across the state.
- 872 deaths have occurred in the state as a result of COVID-19.
- Cherokee County has 348 confirmed cases of COVID-19.
- Cherokee County has ten (10) confirmed fatalities due to COVID-19.
- Governor Kemp has closed schools within the State for the remainder of the Spring Semester.
- Governor Kemp has signed an Executive Order Providing Flexibility for Healthcare Practices, Moving Certain Businesses to Minimum Operations, & Providing for Emergency Response. The earlier Shelter in Place Executive Order will remain in effect through 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, April, 30, 2020. Governor Kemp had already extended the Public Health State of Emergency through May 13, 2020. Please consult Order 04.20.20.01 at the link below for additional information and guidance.

<https://gov.georgia.gov/executive-action/executive-orders/2020-executive-orders>

- The Cherokee Family Violence 24/7 Hotline number is 770-479-1703 for English and 770-720-7050 for Spanish. The Cherokee Family Violence Center is providing emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence and assisting with emergency protection orders M-F 9am-5pm.
- Cherokee County Administrative building at the Bluffs will open to the general public on May 4, 2020.
- The Cherokee County Senior Center will remain closed until April 30. Meals on Wheels and Homemaker services will continue.
- The recycling center at Hobgood Park is open on a limited schedule for recycling only. Tuesday and Thursday from 9am-5pm and Saturday from 8am-4pm. Goodwill is currently not accepting donations at Hobgood Park. The recycling center at Blaylock remains open on their normal schedule.
- Cherokee Recreation and Parks Agency (CRPA) facilities, courts, Recreation Center, Aquatic Center, Union Hill Community Center, and outdoor rinks will open on Friday, May 1, 2020. Social distancing guidelines will still apply. Playgrounds, pavilions and the Skate Park will remain closed. All CRPA scheduled activities and programs will be canceled through May 1, 2020.
- The Courts of the Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit and Cherokee County will continue to operate under the Judicial Emergency Order governing operations of the Courts of this State. The Courts will remain open to address essential functions as provided under the Judicial Emergency Order.
- The following facilities will remain closed to the general public until further notice:
 - Cherokee County Tax Commissioner's Office (the Canton and Woodstock location)
 - Cherokee County Tax Assessor's Office
 - Cherokee County Conference Center
 - Public Safety Complex
- The Georgia Department of Public Health has established an Emotional Support Line. They will provide 24/7 free and confidential assistance to callers needing emotional support or resource information as a result of COVID-19. The number is 866-399-8938.
- District 1-2 Public Health is conducting drive through specimen sample collections to test for COVID-19 cases at the Woodstock Public Health Office.
 - ALL symptomatic individuals are eligible for testing. You must go through your healthcare provider or local Health Department for a referral number.

- The following people without symptoms will also be tested:
 - Healthcare workers and first responders.
- The Georgia Department of Public Health has established a COVID-19 hotline, if you have any general questions. This hotline will also answer testing specific questions. The hotline number is 844-442-2681.
- The Georgia National Guard has set up four COVID-19 testing sites across metro Atlanta (located at Greenbriar Mall, Kennesaw State University, Georgia State University Stadium Turner Field), and the Decatur Armory.
 - Testing is free but registration is required
 - Citizens may register through the Augusta University Virtual Screening App <https://www.augustahealth.org/expresscare/covid-19-virtual-screening>
 - Citizens who do not have a smart phone may call (706) 721-1852 to register.
- Two Long-term Care Facilities in Cherokee County have received assistance from the Georgia National Guard to disinfect their buildings due to COVID-19. This is a service that the National Guard is now offering to these types of facilities.
- The Cherokee County School District will continue to distribute to-go bags of food to students in need every Monday until further notice. A child, infant to age 18, must be present for a bag to be provided. These bags will contain a week of breakfasts and lunches for a child. Please visit the CCSD website for locations where to-go bags will be distributed.

<https://www.cherokeek12.net/Content/bulletin-board>

- There are more than 20 vaccines currently in development. One of these vaccines has recently went into human trials. Realistically, a vaccine will require approximately a year of trials and testing before it could be available to the public.
- Until a vaccine is ready, several experimental treatments are underway. Anecdotal evidence suggest that these treatments could be effective against COVID-19. The FDA is in the process of approving other drugs to use in the treatment of COVID-19.
- FEMA has developed a rumor control website.

<https://www.fema.gov/Coronavirus-Rumor-Control>

- Must Ministries in Canton is a drop off location for canned food items 7 days a week/8:00 AM-4:00 PM.
- Local parks and trails remain open to the general public. Please utilize the following guidelines for park use.
 - Follow CDC's guidance on personal hygiene prior to heading to parks and trails — wash hands, carry hand sanitizer, do not use parks or trails if you have symptoms, cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, etc.
 - Observe at all times CDC's minimum recommended social distancing of six feet from other people. Practice it and know what it looks like. Keep it as you walk, bike or hike.
 - Warn other trail users of your presence and as you pass to allow proper distance and step off trails to allow others to pass, keeping minimum recommended distances at all times. Signal your presence with your voice, bell or horn.
 - Note that trail and park users may find public restrooms closed — be prepared before you leave and time outings so that you are not dependent on public restrooms.
 - Bring water or drinks — public drinking fountains may be disabled and should not be used, even if operable
 - Bring a suitable trash bag. Leave no trash, take everything out to protect park workers

The citizens of Cherokee County are resilient and have always stepped up to meet any challenge. We are all in this together!

Cherokee EMA will continue to provide the latest information as it is provided by the Georgia

Department of Public Health, CDC, and other partnering agencies.

CURRENT PROCLAMATIONS

- Governor Kemp has declared a Public Health State of Emergency for all of Georgia.
<https://gov.georgia.gov/press-releases/2020-03-16/kemp-public-health-emergency-georgia-effective-march-14-2020>
- Judge McElyea has issued a Judicial Emergency Order for Cherokee County.
https://www.cherokeega.com/_focus/corona-virus/Press-Releases/03-13-2020-Blue-Ridge-Judicial-Circuit-Order-Declaring-Judicial-Emergency.pdf
- Statewide Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Declaration
https://www.cherokeega.com/_focus/corona-virus/Press-Releases/3-18-2020-Governors-Office-SBA-Disaster-Relief.pdf
- Local State of Emergency to suspend county ordinances prohibiting the sale of unopened/uncorked bottles of beer and wine by consumption on the premises license holders through April 30, 2020; and for other purposes.
- Canton and Woodstock Joint Executive Order
https://myemail.constantcontact.com/The-City-of-Canton-Suspends-Dine-In-Service-for-All-Restaurants.html?soid=1125581299743&aid=a_vlzx00hJc
- Cherokee County Local State of Emergency_
https://www.cherokeega.com/_focus/corona-virus/Press-Releases/03-25-2020-CCBOC.pdf

LATEST CANCELLATIONS

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick
- If you are sick, please contact your primary care physician.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Practice social distancing
- Receive a flu vaccination
- All residents of Georgia are encouraged to have a plan in place to care for and protect family members who are elderly or have compromised immune systems. Check on neighbors who may be elderly or have a heightened risk of contracting the virus.
- We encourage citizens of the county to use take out or delivery options at restaurants.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

The following table is from the business news website Business Insider. Sources of information are included on the table.

COVID-19 compared to other common conditions

SYMPTOM	COVID-19	COMMON COLD	FLU	ALLERGIES
Fever	Common	Rare	Common	Sometimes
Dry cough	Common	Mild	Common	Sometimes
Shortness of breath	Common	No	No	Common
Headaches	Sometimes	Rare	Common	Sometimes
Aches and pains	Sometimes	Common	Common	No
Sore throat	Sometimes	Common	Common	No
Fatigue	Sometimes	Sometimes	Common	Sometimes
Diarrhea	Rare	No	Sometimes*	No
Runny nose	Rare	Common	Sometimes	Common
Sneezing	No	Common	No	Common

*Sometimes for children

Sources: CDC, WHO, American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology

BUSINESS INSIDER

LINKS

Please visit the Cherokee County Coronavirus Disease 2019 information page at the link below
<https://www.cherokee.ga.com/focus/corona-virus-plan.php>

Cherokee County School District
<https://www.cherokeek12.net/>