

## Press Release

From: Heard County EMA

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### COVID-19 Update

Statewide we are at 99 confirmed cases with 1 death associated with COVID-19. We experienced 38 new confirmations overnight. This number will seemingly continue to grow. We have 2 confirmed cases to our east in Coweta County.

What does this mean for our county? Currently we do not know of anyone that is a person under investigation or being tested for the virus. There are numerous rumors of person(s) with some of the symptoms, many of which are flu -like and many are seasonal as usual for this time of the year. The county has experienced closure to the schools, the recreation department and the senior center to mention a few. There will likely be more closures and cancellations in the upcoming days.

Now is not the time debate the merits of whether this is being over-hyped or just the flu or whatever all the social media experts want to debate. Now is the time for the county to come together, get educated, and do what is necessary to take care of each other. There will be plenty of time to resume hostilities towards each other once we get a handle on the spread of this virus. What should and needs to be taking place is making sure we are all educated as much as possible.

Social distancing, increased personal hygiene, etc. are all things that we each can do. We need to ensure we all know what the signs and symptoms are, who is most susceptible and how we all have an important part in reducing the spread of the virus. The CDC website has information at the following website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> There is guidance for individuals, organizations, travel, etc.

Below are some things that we can all do now that will have an impact:

- Keeping the home safe Encourage your family members to... All households
- Clean hands at the door and at regular intervals
- Create habits and reminders to avoid touching their face and cover coughs and sneezes
- Disinfect surfaces like doorknobs, tables, and handrails regularly
- Increase ventilation by opening windows or adjusting air conditioning Households with sick family members
- Give sick members their own room if possible, and keep the door closed
- Have only one family member care for them

Households with vulnerable seniors or those with significant underlying conditions should consider additional protections for household members over 65 years old or with underlying conditions. Significant underlying conditions include heart, lung, kidney disease; diabetes; and conditions that suppress the immune system

- Have the healthy people in the household conduct themselves as if they were a significant risk to the person with underlying conditions. For example, wash hands frequently before interacting with the person, such as by feeding or caring for the person
- If possible, provide a protected space for vulnerable household members
- Ensure all utensils and surfaces are cleaned regularly

Some simple workplace practices can help keep the workplace safe:

- Practice good hygiene
- Stop handshaking – use other noncontact methods of greeting
- Clean hands at the door and schedule regular hand washing reminders by email
- Create habits and reminders to avoid touching their faces and cover coughs and sneezes
- Disinfect surfaces like doorknobs, tables, desks, and handrails regularly
- Increase ventilation by opening windows or adjusting air conditioning

So to sum it up, limit your social interactions, stay home (if possible) and play with your kids, check on your neighbors, especially the elderly. Keep calm and wash your hands.