

**CHEROKEE COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER
(7/7/2020) (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 97,064 confirmed cases of COVID-19 across the state.
- 2,878 deaths have occurred in the state as a result of COVID-19.
- Cherokee County has 1,491 confirmed cases of COVID-19.
- Cherokee County has forty-four (44) confirmed fatalities due to COVID-19.
- The Georgia Power suspension of non-pay disconnections has been extended until July 15th to assist customers. Furthermore, they are offering special payment options to help customers with past-due balances accumulated during the pandemic. Customers who enroll in a special payment plan will be able to pay past-due balances over a 6-month timeframe between October 2020 and March 2021 with no late fees, or customers can take advantage of the special provisions for paying outstanding balances in the PrePay rate plan. Please contact Georgia Power for additional details.
- Governor Kemp has announced that all Georgians can be tested for COVID-19. Residents are required to use one of the following options to receive an appointment time and location for testing.
 - Contact the Cherokee County Health Department to schedule your COVID-19 testing.
 - Canton Office (770-345-7371)
 - Woodstock Office (770-928-0133)
 - Contact the North Georgia Public Health District 1-2 hotline.
 - Direct Patient Line (1-888-881-1474)
 - The Direct Patient Line Is available Monday through Friday (8:30am-7:00pm) and Saturday (8:30am-12:00pm).
 - Download the Augusta Health App on your smartphone.
 - <https://www.augustahealth.org/expresscare/covid-19-virtual-screening>
 - If you do not have a smartphone, you can call the Augusta University hotline at 706-721-1852.
- Governor Kemp signed an Executive Order to extend the Public Health State of Emergency until 11:59 p.m. on August 11th, 2020. Please consult Order 06.29.20.01 for additional details.
- Governor Kemp signed an Executive Order providing additional guidance for empowering a healthy Georgia in response to COVID-19. Please consult Order 06.29.20.02 for additional details.

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

- 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.
- The Cherokee County Aquatic Center has begun a phased reopening of its pools for the general public. Please contact the Aquatic Center for additional details at 678-880-4760.
- Cherokee Recreation and Parks Agency (CRPA) has announced that all playgrounds, pavilions, athletic fields, and the Skate Park are open, with restrictions. All park users must continue to abide by all CDC guidelines on social distancing, as well as gathering sizes as defined by Gov. Brian Kemp's Executive Order.
- 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 Cherokee County School District will continue to distribute to-go bags of food to students in need every Monday from June 1-July 20. 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>
- 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.
- The Cherokee County Senior Center is scheduled to reopen July 20. Meals on Wheels and Homemaker services will continue.
- The William G. Long Senior Center will remain closed until further notice.
- CATS is resuming on-demand services on Tuesdays and Thursday for grocery store and pharmaceutical trips. Clients should call CATS to schedule those trips. Social distancing requirements and sanitation protocols on all buses will continue. Service to the Senior Center, Empower Cherokee and other high risk facilities will remain closed until further notice.
- 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.
- There are no drugs or other therapeutics presently approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to prevent or treat COVID-19. However, many trials are underway. Please visit the website below for more information.

<https://www.phe.gov/emergency/events/COVID19/investigation-MCM/Pages/default.aspx>

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/executive-action/executive-orders/2020-executive-orders>
- 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>

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.

LINKS

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

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