Board of County Commissioners
Leslie A. Osche, *Chairman*
Kimberly D. Geyer, *Vice Chairman*
Kevin E. Boozel, *Secretary*

Steven R. Bicehouse, *Director*
S*Bicehou@co.butler.pa.us*

Rob McLafferty, 9-1-1 Coordinator
RMcLaffert@co.butler.pa.us

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Butler County

120 McCune Drive, Butler, PA 16001-3549
Emergency 911   Phone (724) 284-5211   Fax (724) 285-6388

For Immediate PRESS RELEASE (#2)

March 16, 2020

BUTLER COUNTY CONTINUED RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

The Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA-DOH) as of 3:00pm today has had zero (0) confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Butler County and our message remains the same: The County has had a comprehensive Pandemic plan in place since 2007. It was developed in conjunction with The Department of Health and local Health officials. This plan addresses potential long term impacts to County residents and businesses as well as surge to Medical facilities. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve daily and so does our plan.

Butler County Emergency Management has and will continue to maintain regular contact with Public Health Officials, Butler Hospital and other health care providers, along with School Superintendents and Nurses, businesses, to discuss official updates and coordinate any needed response.

In response to the evolution of the virus, many inquiries continue to be generated. Butler County Department of Emergency Services in conjunction with the Butler County Commissioners is issuing the following updated statement.

- Butler County does not have the statutory authority to close commercial venues. Butler County is encouraging all unnecessary gathering and venues to close in accordance with the Governor's Office, Pennsylvania Department of Health and/or CDC recommendations.
- Butler County has not issued a Declaration of Disaster or Emergency at this time. Our resources and Critical facilities have not been overwhelmed. The County has been taking preemptive measures including meeting with local Health, State and County officials and following the guidelines of the CDC and Pennsylvania Department of Health. We will continue to monitor the situation and respond accordingly. As a guideline, we are utilizing the CDC Community Mitigation Strategy
- https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community-mitigation-strategy.pdf
- County Government facilities will remain open at this time, but are asking that only essential in person business be conducted. Please monitor the Butler County website at www.butlercountypa.gov for any changes and the most up to date information.
- The Special Election Pennsylvania House of Representatives, District 8 will take place as scheduled tomorrow, March 17, 2020 in the following Butler County Municipalities:

  - Brady Township
  - Center Township
  - Cherry Township
  - Clay Township
  - Franklin Township
  - Harrisville
  - Marion Township
  - Mercer Township
  - Muddy Creek Township
  - Portersville
  - West Liberty
  - West Sunbury
  - Worth Township

Continued:

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- Please monitor reliable sources of information regarding COVID-19 including but not limited to the following links:
  https://www.butlercountypa.gov/611/Coronavirus-Preparedness-COVID19
  https://www.health.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx
  https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html

If you have questions regarding COVID-19, please contact the Pennsylvania Department of Health at 1-877-PA-Health or you can call **2-1-1** for any food or non-emergency needs.

Points to remember

1.   It is an airborne virus that is spread by humans just like a flu or cold virus. Close personal contact, coughing, sneezing, touching, shaking hands or touching infected surfaces are all ways it is spread.
2.   Symptoms include: Fever, Cough and Shortness of Breath and can appear in as few as 2 days to as long as 14 days. ***If you have ANY of these symptoms, contact your healthcare provider immediately.***

Things you can do:

1.   Cover any sneezes or coughs with your elbow. Try not to use your hands.
2.   Clean surfaces frequently.
3.   Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use alcohol based sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
4.   If you are sick, stay home until you are feeling better. There is no treatment for the virus, only treatment for symptoms.
5.   Avoid large gatherings.

The next update will be issued on Wednesday 03/18/2020.

From: Butler County Emergency Services
       Amy Marree, Public Information Officer
       724-284-5211 ext. 4
       On behalf of Steve Bicehouse, Butler County EMA