

## **Adams County Board of Commissioners Updates – April 10, 2020**

- Yesterday Adams County reported 38 COVID-19 cases, and sadly our 1st death. According to Adams County Coroner Pat Felix and local reports, the individual was a 93-year-old male, in a local nursing facility with pre-existing conditions. In an effort to find some good news in this pandemic, Adams County has the lowest numbers of any county in our region, including our Maryland neighbors to the south. Hopefully combining our demographics and following recommended exposure practices will continue this trend! Hats off to all Adams County residents that are working to keep themselves and others safe.
- This week the Adams County Board of Commissioners announced that if the county closure continues beyond May 3, that we would be instituting furloughs to a portion of county staff April 27. The Board has both a statutory and moral obligation to provide a quality work environment for staff, to provide effective service to residents, and to be fiscally responsible to taxpayers. We take all three responsibilities very seriously.
- County Manager Steve Nevada, HR Director Michelle Miller, along with Court Administration, are working with Department Directors and Elected officials to implement a furlough plan that blends all three of these obligations. Part of that formula is based health, safety and welfare of county residents and the fact that both the state and federal government have created programs that will assist and minimize the impact of furlough. Our neighboring Pennsylvania counties are also following this path. Let's hope the closure is over by May 3 – but we need to prepare for any eventuality.
- There are 3 Coronavirus Testing sites in Adams County: WellSpan Health in Fairfield at 4910 Fairfield Road beside Dollar General, WellSpan Health at Gettysburg Hospital, 147 Gettys St. and WellSpan Medical Center 40 V-Twin Drive behind Battlefield Harley. Please note that these are NOT walk-up facilities. You must have a doctor's order to be tested!
- The Adams County Board of Commissioners conducted our first telephonic meeting this past Wednesday. During this pandemic we are holding the next bi-weekly "public commissioners meeting" on Wednesday, April 22 at 9AM. The April 22 meeting will also be telephonic, and meetings are recorded. To listen or participate, until further notice, please call 1-415-655-0003, enter meeting number 476-936-077#.
- Adams County DES Director Warren Bladen reports that The Adams County Department of Emergency Services (ACDES) continues with the mission of responding to the COVID-19 crisis. Currently, the 911 Center continues to function at normal conditions. The County is fortunate to have such a professional and dedicate team of dispatchers who continue to perform at the highest level. The Emergency Management (EM) staff is still operating the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at Level III. This means that situational awareness is maintained, the needs of our first responders are constantly

reassessed, and communication is ongoing with our healthcare community, and our state and federal partners (PEMA, PaDOH, Pa Department of Human Services, FEMA, etc). A primary goal is to continue to acquire, from PEMA, the necessary Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to ensure that our first responders can continue to safely fulfill their duties. If a dramatic increase in daily positive tests is seen, or if the needs of the first responders rises to a critical status, the EOC will then step up to Level II (Response). Emergency Support Function (ESF) positions will be filled in the EOC by EM staff and volunteers. ESF personnel support the Incident Commander (County Emergency Manager) by addressing specific needs of the Community. The typical ESF positions are as follows:

- ESF #1 - Transportation and Infrastructure
  - ESF #2 - Communications
  - ESF #3 - Public Works and Engineering
  - ESF #4 - Fire Service
  - ESF #5 - Emergency Management
  - ESF #6 - Mass Care, Housing and Human Services
  - ESF #7 - Resource Support
  - ESF #8 - Health and Medical Services
  - ESF #9 - Urban Search and Rescue
  - ESF #10 - Oil and Hazardous Material Response
  - ESF #11 - Agriculture and Natural Resources
  - ESF #12 - Energy
  - ESF #13 - Public Safety and Security
  - ESF #14 - Recovery and Mitigation
  - ESF #15 - External Affairs
- Only those ESF positions deemed necessary by the Incident Commander would be filled. Recently, the Director of DES assigned Kim Frank to fill the role of ESF#8 (health and medical services). Given the nature of the crisis, it was decided to fill this role prior to activating at Level II to give us a “head start” if the need occurs. In summary, the staff of DES is working diligently to ensure that the needs of the County are met during this challenging time.
  - It would be remiss to conclude without recognizing all the Adams County staff and residents that are providing the necessary services we require, and have rolled up their sleeves both physically and mentality, to make sure those services are provided to us during this difficult time. When you are buying groceries, getting gas, going to the doctor’s office or see a first responder, police officer, 911 dispatcher, corrections officer or are picking up take-out, take a moment to express your appreciation! Use common sense, follow exposure recommendations, stay home and check on your neighbor and especially the elderly. Be safe, well and count the many blessings that we do have on this unusual Easter weekend!

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