



**HENDERSON COUNTY  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

**DREW COOK**  
*DIRECTOR*

**LYNN MURPHY**  
*DEPUTY DIRECTOR*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, March 16, 2020

This morning, all of our community leaders from the City of Parkers Crossroads, the City of Lexington, the Town of Sardis, the City of Scotts Hill, and Henderson County, along with the leadership of our local hospital and representatives from all of our first responder agencies and stakeholders, met with representatives from the Tennessee Department of Health to further coordinate our plans for handling a potential COVID-19 outbreak, and to discuss mitigations steps we can implement to lessen its spread. Let us be clear, there are no confirmed cases of the virus in Henderson County. Lab testing is the only means to confirm the presence of the virus. Testing is available and is being conducted by medical professionals on a daily basis for those that meet medical guidance criteria. If you feel you have the symptoms of the virus, the Department of Health encourages you to contact your primary care physician.

Our primary focus now is educating the public and giving all the information necessary to mitigate against the spread. This includes planning for our most vulnerable population, our elderly. We are encouraging everyone to limit the exposure to this population. Our nursing homes and assisted living facilities have already implemented measures to limit the number of visitors that enter their facilities and everyone that does has to be screened and escorted while on their premises. Our hospital is also implementing procedures to limit patient visitation.

All of our government facilities have implemented additional cleaning measures and increased sanitizing stations for our customers. Our schools are also involved in this planning process and are following the guidance provided to them by their local, state and federal partners.

We encourage everyone to be proactive in putting mitigation strategies into place. These include washing your hands regularly with soap and water, staying home if you are sick, and avoiding crowded locations. The CDC has encouraged the suspension of gatherings of fifty people or more. This guidance is not the same for businesses and schools, for now this is only intended for social gatherings. Locally, we also encourage Henderson Countians to refrain from attending public gatherings for the next two weeks to slow the spread. Those who are sick should stay home and avoid contact with the public and especially the elderly and those with underlying conditions. Use tissue to cover your coughs and sneezes and discard them in a lined trash can. Most importantly, use a common-sense approach to this situation.

Again, we are constantly meeting with our local and state partners to refine our plans and response to every scenario that may arise. When, and if, Henderson County receives a confirmed case we will work with our media partners to inform all of our stakeholders and the public, and we will scale our response efforts as those numbers change.



**HENDERSON COUNTY  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

**DREW COOK**  
*DIRECTOR*

**LYNN MURPHY**  
*DEPUTY DIRECTOR*

In closing, there is absolutely no need to panic. Your local officials are being proactive in determining our response to this event, and we stand ready to serve you in all aspects during this trying time. Henderson County has endured many things, some much worse than this, and we are prepared to respond to this event with swift and measured action to protect our citizens and visitors.

If you would like additional resources, please visit [www.tn.gov/health](http://www.tn.gov/health), [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov), [www.coronavirus.gov](http://www.coronavirus.gov). The Dept of Health is also updating their page daily at 2:00PM CST with confirmed cases in Tennessee. Finally, there is also a hotline number you can call 877-857-2945 from 10AM – 10PM CST.