

Transylvania County United *Community Response*

COVID-19 TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY UPDATE TO CITIZENS #5 - March 19, 2020

Please refer to prior updates for additional information

There are currently no confirmed cases in Transylvania County. Emergency Management and Public Health Continue to work with state and federal systems to keep information current and to confirm plans to respond should a local outbreak occur. Please consider the guidance on social distancing and limit time in public to the extent possible to help slow down the rate of potential exposure.

Governor Cooper has revised recommendations to limit gatherings to no more than 50 people. All restaurants and bars must be take out or delivery only. Additional information, including changes to unemployment benefits can be found at: <https://www.ncdhs.gov/divisions/public-health/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-response-north-carolina>

Locally, organizations are continuing to work collaboratively even while social distancing is requiring changes to public spaces. Here are updates:

*Transylvania County Commissioners will hold their regular meeting scheduled for March 23, 2020. The meeting will be set up according to social distancing guidelines and no more than 50 will be allowed in the meeting room. Citizens are encouraged to watch the meeting online on facebook live (like Transylvania County Government's Facebook Page) or on the website at www.transylvaniacounty.org.

*Unemployment benefit rules have changed to help serve workers who are impacted by COVID-19 restrictions. Check out the changes and how to apply online at: <https://des.nc.gov/need-help/covid-19-information>

*Transylvania Farmer's Market will be open with some new COVID-19 precautions. They also have a list of vendors (particularly with local food products) that customers can purchase from directly, or request delivery as some of our vendors are offering that. Information on both is at: <http://www.transylvaniafarmersmarket.com/>

*SAFE is open and will continue to be available to assist victims of domestic and sexual violence. Our crisis line number is 828-885-7233 and is answered 24/7/365.

*NC MedAssist's Mobile Free Pharmacy event scheduled for April 9th at Brevard College in Transylvania County has been cancelled

*Transylvania Schools just announced new bus routes for children's meals starting March 19, 2020, with two new stops in Brevard. Elementary students may still get lunch and breakfast for tomorrow at school when picking up Virtual Day work. All children in the community ages 18 and under may visit these bus stops (times are approximate, arrive early) or request home delivery starting the next day.

Call to request a new stop at 885-7393 (8am to 3:30pm) or online at tcsnc.org/covid19. Requests received by 3:30 will be scheduled for the next day using our buses or vans.

* Pisgah Legal Services remains OPEN and accepting cases. We are working to adapt our programs to the community needs as it relates to the impacts of COVID-19. See www.pisgahlegal.org or call at 1-800-489-6144.

*The AdventHealth Triage Nurse Hotline is available at 828-681-2300. This is a 24-hour hotline the public can call to speak with a Registered Nurse and, if needed, receive a referral to be tested.

*Interested in signing up to volunteer to help the community during COVID-19? TRAIN has a sign up at www.VolunteerTransylvania.org that will support needs across lots of local nonprofits.

* NC 2-1-1 was activated by the governor yesterday as a central information and referral source for emergency response. They are working today on finalizing accessible online information in a print-friendly Google spreadsheet (a separate site from their hard-to-use website!). They have an email set up to accept any local resources, which they will format and add into that spreadsheet: 211info@unitedwayabc.org. MANNA is coordinating food pantry access with 211 as well, so this will create a solid regional source of up-to-date information.

*Haywood Electric encourages customers to call if you are facing hardships due to COVID-19 and are in danger of being disconnected to call for consideration of relief. More info at www.haywoodemc.com

*Duke Energy Progress is suspending disconnections for nonpayment as of March 13, 2020. For more information see www.dukenergyupdates.com

*Transylvania True along with other community groups are working together to help share what citizens can do to support businesses and the community. See <https://brevardncchamber.org/transylvaniatrue/>

