



Kathleen Toomey MD, MPH, Commissioner | Brian Kemp, Governor

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News Release
March 25, 2020

Contact: Hayla Folden
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COVID-19 CASE COUNT IN DISTRICT 4

LaGrange, Ga. – Yesterday, March 25, numbers were pulled for positive COVID-19 case counts incorrectly. There are 76 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in District 4. There will continue to be more positive cases with additional testing taking place. Confirmation of cases does not change public health recommendations for all residents. Please follow local shelter in place ordinances to slow the spread of COVID-19.

County	Number of Positive Cases
Butts	2
Carroll	26
Coweta	10
Fayette	12
Heard	1
Henry	13
Lamar	3
Meriwether	1
Pike	0
Spalding	5
Troup	6
Upson	0

All Georgians play a critical role in helping to slow the spread of COVID-19 by adhering to the following guidance:

- Practice social distancing by putting at least 6 feet between yourself and other people.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and water.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.

Health officials are taking measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and protect the general public by identifying and contacting the individuals who may have had contact with the Troup

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County residents who tested positive. The household members of the positive cases are self-quarantined and in contact with Health officials for further instructions.

According to federal and state health officials, people who do not have symptoms of COVID-19 do not need to be tested. Additionally, most people who are mildly or moderately ill with “cold-like” symptoms do not need to be tested. The majority of people with COVID-19 can safely recover at home with self-isolation and symptomatic treatment. Diagnosis through laboratory testing does not change the care that they would receive. Older adults and people who have severe underlying medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19 and should always consult their healthcare provider if they are sick.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued revised guidance on COVID-19 recovery. The most important step in containing COVID-19 is that people who are sick with mild respiratory symptoms – fever and cough – should stay home and isolate themselves from others for at least seven days after their symptoms began or 72 hours after their fever has resolved and symptoms have improved. If you have been exposed to an individual with COVID-19, you must self-quarantine for 14 days and monitor for symptoms. Correctly washing your hands and maintaining social distance by avoiding large gatherings and close contact with people who are sick are two of the easiest ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

For accurate and reliable information about COVID-19 log on to <https://dph.georgia.gov/novelcoronavirus> or <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

A daily status report page for confirmed COVID-19 cases in Georgia is now available. The report updates each day at noon to ensure accurate and regular information is provided to the public. The new tool can be found on the Georgia Department of Public Health website.

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District 4 Public Health is dedicated to preventing disease, promoting health and protecting our communities against health threats through education, service, advocacy and collaboration. District 4 Public Health serves people of all classes and economic status within Butts, Carroll, Coweta, Fayette, Heard, Henry, Lamar, Meriwether, Pike, Spalding, Troup and Upson counties. Fees are based on income for those without insurance. For more information about District 4 Public Health, visit www.district4health.org.



**STATE OF GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
AMENDED¹ ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
FOR PUBLIC HEALTH CONTROL MEASURES**

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2020, Governor Brian P. Kemp issued Executive Order 03.14.20.01, declaring a Public Health State of Emergency in Georgia due to the impact of Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Georgia General Assembly concurred with Executive Order 03.14.20.01 by joint resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that all states and territories implement aggressive measures to slow and contain transmission of COVID-19 in the United States; and

WHEREAS, as of this date, laboratory testing has confirmed more than 500 cases of COVID-19 in the state of Georgia, a number that continues to rise; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 presents a severe threat to public health in Georgia; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a severe respiratory disease that is transmitted by respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes; and

WHEREAS, although the vast majority of Georgians are complying with public health recommendations and guidance for the isolation of persons with symptoms of COVID-19, I have received reliable reports that a small number of persons may be behaving in a way that contributes to the spread of this disease in the community; and

WHEREAS, I have determined that it is necessary and appropriate to require persons who:

- have received a positive lab-confirmed test for COVID-19, or
- are suspected to have COVID-19 based on symptoms and a known exposure to a person with COVID-19, or
- have been in close contact with a person with known or suspected COVID-19

¹ This Amended Administrative Order amends and supersedes the prior Order issued on March 22, 2020.

to isolate or quarantine themselves at home, in order to slow the spread of COVID-19, reduce the number of people who will become infected, and avoid unnecessary strain on Georgia's healthcare system.

NOW, THEREFORE, in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 31-2A-4(4) and 31-12-4, Chapter 511-9-1 of the Rules of the Georgia Department of Public Health ("Department"), and Governor Kemp's Executive Order 03.14.20.01,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

Isolation

1. *Persons With Known COVID-19.* Upon notification by a healthcare provider, public health official, or clinical laboratory of a positive laboratory-confirmed test for COVID-19, the person testing positive for COVID-19 shall immediately isolate himself or herself at home or another location approved by the Department.
2. *Persons With Suspected COVID-19.* Upon notification by a healthcare provider or public health official of suspected COVID-19 infection based on symptoms and a known exposure to a person with COVID-19, the person with suspected COVID-19 infection shall immediately isolate himself or herself at home or another location approved by the Department.
3. Each isolated person shall avoid unnecessary physical contact with any and all persons and shall comply fully with the Isolation Protocol attached to this Order, which may be updated from time to time based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
4. Each isolated person shall remain in isolation until such time as he or she no longer presents a risk of infection to the public, as determined by the Isolation Protocol then in effect. As of the date of this Administrative Order, the Isolation Protocol requires an isolated person to remain in isolation until either:
 - the person's fever has been gone for at least seventy-two (72) hours, without taking fever-reducing medication, and
 - the person's other symptoms have improved, and
 - at least seven (7) days have elapsed from the date symptoms began,

or

- for a person who was placed under home isolation due to a laboratory-confirmed positive test result, but who has experienced no symptoms of COVID-19, until at least seven (7) days have elapsed since the date of the person's first positive diagnostic test.
5. Isolated persons should monitor their symptoms and seek prompt medical attention if they experience difficulty breathing, as instructed in the Isolation Protocol. An exception to the requirement for isolation applies in the event of an emergency, such as a fire or natural disaster, or if the person's health condition worsens and he or she requires treatment in a healthcare facility.
 6. Each isolated person shall, to the extent practicable, provide notification of the isolated person's COVID-19 status to those persons with whom the isolated person has been in close contact (within six (6) feet for a prolonged period of time) since symptoms began. The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are cough, fever, and shortness of breath. At the request of state or local public health personnel, the isolated person shall provide a list of the locations visited by the isolated person during the time frame that he or she may have been able to transmit the disease.

Quarantine

7. *Persons With COVID-19 Exposure Likely to Result in Infection.* Upon notification by a healthcare provider, public health official, or isolated person of exposure to COVID-19 based on close contact (within six (6) feet for a prolonged period of time) with a person who must be isolated as provided herein, the person so exposed shall immediately quarantine himself or herself at home or another location approved by the Department.
8. Each quarantined person shall remain at home or in the approved quarantine location for a period of fourteen (14) days from the person's last known exposure to COVID-19. An exception to the requirement for quarantine applies in the event of an emergency, such as a fire or natural disaster, or if the person requires treatment in a healthcare facility. Health care providers, emergency medical services workers, and other first responders may continue to work, in consultation with their workplace occupational health program and if necessary to ensure adequate staffing, so long as they are asymptomatic, don masks while on duty, and comply with all other quarantine requirements for the duration of the fourteen (14) day period.

9. During the period of quarantine, the quarantined person shall take his or her temperature twice per day and monitor any symptoms of respiratory illness. If at any time the quarantined person's temperature is above 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit, or if the quarantined person experiences cough or shortness of breath, the quarantined person shall be considered a person with suspected COVID-19 and shall follow the requirements for isolation set forth above.

Staff members of the Department remain available at 866-PUB-HLTH (866-782-4584) to provide assistance and counseling to persons subject to this Administrative Order concerning their illness or exposure and their compliance with this Order. During the period of isolation or quarantine, the ability of persons subject to this Order to communicate with others outside the isolation or quarantine site, including their ability to exchange confidential communications with legal and medical advisors of their own choosing, will be preserved and facilitated to the extent possible without jeopardizing the integrity of the isolation or quarantine.

Failure to comply with this Order is a misdemeanor offense pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 31-5-8. If the Department has reasonable grounds to believe that a person subject to quarantine or isolation refuses to comply with the requirements of this Order, the Department may provide information to law enforcement as necessary to ensure compliance and facilitate criminal prosecution.

Further, any person who refuses to isolate or quarantine himself or herself as required by this Order may be subject to further action by the Department, including a court order for involuntary detention in an appropriate facility other than the one specified above, or such other action as the Department may deem necessary to protect the public's health.

SO ORDERED, this 23rd day of March, 2020.



Kathleen E. Toomey, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner
State Health Officer



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3/24/2020

In accordance with Governor Kemp's Executive Order (03.23.20.01) on 3/23/2020, we are issuing the following recommendation for all grocery stores in District 4:

If possible, convert to online order pick up only. This will limit the amount of exposure to customers as well as employees.

If online order pick up only is not an option, District 4 recommends that when a line is formed to enter the store, a grocery cart should be placed between each customer, lengthwise, to create social distancing. We also recommend a grocery cart length at least between customers and staff at all times while in the store.

We are also recommending infrared temperature collection of each staff member before their shift starts as well as each customer before they enter the store.

Grocery stores are to also continue to wipe down areas of the store that are frequently touched in accordance with CDC recommendations

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/cleaning-disinfection.html>

Grocery stores are one of the last places that large gatherings can take place, so it is especially important that we keep customers and employees as safe as possible. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

Dr. Olugbenga Obasanjo MD, PhD, MPH, MBA



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News Release
March 24, 2020

Contact: Hayla Folden
706-302-6707

Additional COVID-19 Cases in Henry County

LaGrange, Ga. - There are now 184 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in District 4, which includes 45 confirmed cases in Henry County. There will continue to be more positive cases with additional testing taking place. Confirmation of cases in Henry County does not change public health recommendations for all residents.

All Georgians play a critical role in helping to slow the spread of COVID-19 by adhering to the following guidance:

- Practice social distancing by putting at least 6 feet between yourself and other people.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and water.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.

Health officials are taking measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and protect the general public by identifying and contacting the individuals who may have had contact with the Henry County residents who tested positive. The household members of the positive cases are self-quarantined and in contact with Health officials for further instructions.

According to federal and state health officials, people who do not have symptoms of COVID-19 do not need to be tested. Additionally, most people who are mildly or moderately ill with “cold-like” symptoms do not need to be tested. The majority of people with COVID-19 can safely recover at home with self-isolation and symptomatic treatment. Diagnosis through laboratory testing does not change the care that they would receive. Older adults and people who have severe underlying medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complications from COVID-19 and should always consult their healthcare provider if they are sick.

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fever has resolved and symptoms have improved. If you have been exposed to an individual with COVID-19, you must self-quarantine for 14 days and monitor for symptoms. Correctly washing your hands and maintaining social distance by avoiding large gatherings and close contact with people who are sick are two of the easiest ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

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