



COVID-19 TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY UPDATE TO CITIZENS - March 16, 2020, 5 PM

*****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.

Today a collaborative of local government, non-profit and faith community came together to start coordination and communication to meet needs arising from the COVID-19 restrictions.

The team is working to meet local needs for critical response workers for child care due to school closures. This includes our emergency personnel and health care providers that need to be able to respond to COVID-19 in our community.

Our community team is also aware of the needs for food distribution and that many of our families may have new financial challenges due to the inability to work during COVID-19. Here are some resources for families to be aware of as they navigate our new normal in the coming weeks:

*Sharing House is distributing food boxes and can be reached at 828-884-2866. They are asking those in need of services to call and they are not open to the public except for pre-arranged appointment or pick up

*Transylvania County Department of Social Services (828-884-3174) recommends that you call before you come in should you have needs. Programs are available including:

- Energy Assistance (DSS will also have referral services to other agencies you do not qualify)

- Food and Nutrition services for those who qualify

- Access to social workers should you have concerns about the care of children or elders in our community

*Nine Community Centers in our county have free wi-fi access paid for by the county to support students should Transylvania County Schools move into Virtual Days

*Transylvania County Schools is working to leverage summer feeding programs to distribute meals for children. They will also be partnering with the Transylvania Sheriff's Office to distribute backpack buddies.

*Brevard/Transylvania County Chamber is collecting information on what businesses are doing to support community for us to share. They will also be working to identify the economic concerns for those in small businesses that may need aid as this crisis continues

*The Children's Center (885-8276) and Women's Center (885-7885) are there to support families with children.

*Comporium is announcing that they will provide free 60 day internet access to new customers who have children in the home. More information on how to qualify can be found at www.comporium.com

*The Haven continues to serve our homeless community, but the public should know the office is closed to the public, to call if crisis assistance (877-2040) is needed and that volunteers are not scheduled.

*Vaya is reminding the public of the availability of the 24/7 toll free behavioral health crisis line (1-800-849-6127) and to information on their website regarding COVID-19 at www.vayahealth.com

Thank you to the partners that were able to come together today and that are listed below. We know that more organizations are stepping up to join us as we coordinate to serve our community through the coming weeks. Keep checking back in for more updates on the services available and to see the growing number of organizations making it happen!

Transylvania County Maintenance and Housekeeping

Transylvania County Emergency Management

Transylvania County Administration

Transylvania County Human Resources

Transylvania County Library

Boys & Girls Club

Brevard Academy

Transylvania County Sheriff's Office

Transylvania County Schools

Brevard Wesleyan Church

Safe Transylvania County

Sharing House

The Haven

The Family Place

Transylvania County EMS

Transylvania County Public Health

Transylvania County Parks and Recreation

Transylvania County Transportation

Transylvania County Social Services

Mountain Sun Community School

Smart Start of Transylvania County

Brevard Community Church

Pisgah Health Foundation