

Transylvania County United *Community Response*

COVID-19 TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY UPDATE TO CITIZENS #4 - March 18, 2020

Please refer to prior COVID updates at www.transylvaniacounty.org 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. As of today, all restaurants and bars must be take out or delivery only. Additional information, including changes to unemployment benefits can be found at: <https://www.ncdhhs.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:

*Schools will begin providing meals for children under the age of 18. For information on distribution sites see: <https://www.tcsnc.org/>

*Transylvania County library will be closing at 5:30 today and will remain closed until further notice. Curbside pickup will be provided Monday-Saturday from 10 am-5 pm. For information on how to request books and use curbside, see Transylvania County Library Facebook Page or go to <https://library.transylvaniacounty.org/covid19/>

*WCCA has suspended Lunch Plus for Seniors at Silvermont and Quebec; however, they will be providing meals to go and will be offering delivery in partnership with Transylvania County DSS and Transylvania County transit starting today for Lunch Plus clients.

*WCCA Tigertown thrift shop is closed at this time.

*Pardee has opened a free testing site to the public at the Blue Ridge Community College Flat Rock Campus open daily from 9 am to 7 pm. You must meet criteria to be tested. Please call their hotline at 828-694-8048 before you go.

*Dominion Energy has suspended disconnections for non-payment during the present emergency. They are reviewing other measures we can take to make a difference. Residential customers recently disconnected due to non-payment, should contact us and we will work with them to reconnect service.

For more on what they are doing to help see <https://news.dominionenergy.com/2020-03-16-Dominion-Energy-Commits-1-Million-to-Coronavirus-Relief-Efforts>

*GetSet Transylvania will be posting activities to do as a family while you are spending more time at home. Like the GetSet Transylvania Facebook Page for more! March's Learning Through Play Toolkit is delayed, but you can check out www.getset-tc.org on the blog to see the resource guide for this month with lots of ideas to use for your children to learn through play!

*Transylvania County Parks and Recreation and Library staff are working together to provide child care for critical care workers necessary to manage the COVID crisis including health care providers in our community while school is not in session.

*For county services, you are encouraged to call the department you need first to see if your needs can be met over the phone.

*Backpack buddy programming will continue with SROs making delivery

*God's Way Food Pantry in Balsam Grove will operate this Saturday, March 21, 10-12noon with a drive up system for clients. If you are ill please call 884-7793 on Saturday Morning beginning at 9 am to arrange or someone to pick up for you.

*Restaurants in our community are offering different food opportunities for children in need. See a list at [Restaurants for Feeding Children In Need, COVID-19](#)

*Staying home can be isolating! The North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry is available for those who need to talk. Call 866-758-4673

*Transylvania County Department of Social Services is working on a partnership with local nonprofits to host a pop-up food distribution location out in the more rural areas of community with the ability to help people access benefits that they may now need. More information to come!

*Transylvania County Transportation is currently operating as normal. Riders may call 884-3203 by 10:00 am the day before to request transportation.

*Sharing House remains open for these essential services, emergency food (one week supply for size of household) and crisis financial assistance. Please call Sharing House at 884-2866 for appointments only, and neighbors in need will be served either over the phone for financial or at the side-door in the alleyway with pre-packed food orders

*The Transylvania Economic Alliance is coordinating with the Brevard/Transylvania County Chamber of Commerce, Tourism Development Authority, Heart of Brevard, and Small Business Center with Blue Ridge Community College on a coordinated outreach to the business community with information specific to workplace safety standards and recommended actions to help reduce the long term impact to each businesses workforce. We have developed a webpage on our site which contains best practices and useful links. We are also developing a business survey in an effort to gather information and triage the most pressing issues with employers and their individual team members. The business survey will be

made available on our website, social media and e-newsletter platforms within the next 24 hours. Staff is also reaching out individually to businesses to assess needs.

*Alliance Crisis Services is still open and seeing clients. Staff have created three separate waiting areas to promote social distancing. An outdoor office has been set up if you prefer to talk with a therapist outdoors. Alliance: (828) 885-8255

*United Way is offering Economic Relief opportunities for help with rent, utilities and food. Call 1-866-211-9966