

Transylvania County United *Community Response*

COVID-19 TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY UPDATE TO CITIZENS #7 – March 22, 2020

Please refer to prior 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. 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>. State NCDHHS has also provided a text alert system for citizens to sign up for: State COVID-19 text information and updates are available. To sign up, text COVIDNC to 898211.

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

*The National Forests in North Carolina will close all campgrounds as of Monday, March 23, for the health and safety of visitors and staff. This includes all concessionaire operated campgrounds and all day-use areas associated with those campgrounds. Campgrounds will be closed until at least May 15, at which point they will be reevaluated. For more information, including a list of impacted camp sites, check out U.S. Forest Service - National Forests in North Carolina on Facebook.

*Tune in to the Board of Commissioner meeting on Monday, March 23 at 6 PM on Facebook Live or on the county website at www.transylvaniacounty.org. An update on COVID-19 response will be on the agenda. The Board will be implementing social distance practices for the meeting and encourage all who are able to view online.

*Elmo Virtual Hug! Your friends on Sesame Street are here to support you and your family during the COVID-19 health crisis. We understand that these are very stressful times; our daily lives have been disrupted, and we are all coping with uncertainty. Check out videos, games and more at www.sesamestreet.org/caring.

*Land of Sky Regional Council is participating in a Virtual Town Hall on Monday, March 23, 2020 to provide information to both employees and businesses on resources available. See www.ashevillechamber.org/coronavirus

*Beginning on Monday, March 23, Ingles Markets will be changing store hours to 7 am- 9 pm. Starting on Tuesday, March 24, Ingles will dedicate the first shopping hour from 7 – 8 am on Tuesdays and

Wednesdays to senior shoppers, first responders and those with compromised immune systems. Ingles is also temporarily suspending product returns.

*Until further notice, Mission Health will no longer allow visitors at Transylvania Regional Hospital. These new restrictions apply to all patients at all Mission Health Facilities except our pediatric and labor and delivery patients, who will be allowed to have one adult visitor with them. CMS (Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services) released new guidelines for surgeries and procedures on March 18. These guidelines include several “tiers” of surgeries and procedures, with different guidance for each. As a result of these new guidelines, Mission Health will be canceling all non-essential surgery procedures as defined by CMS starting Monday, March 23. For more information, see <https://newsroom.mission-health.org/>.

