



Jefferson County Homeland Security & Emergency Management

<http://www.jeffersoncountywv.org/county-government/departments/homeland-security-and-emergency-management>

July 2020

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Coronavirus Update

As of Monday, June 29th, 2020 the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (WV DHHR) reports 169,556 total laboratory tests with 2,870 positive results bringing the cumulative percent positive test result score to 1.69%. There have been 93 resident deaths due to the Coronavirus. The Jefferson County Health

Department reports a cumulative total of 224 cases in Jefferson county with 18 active and 202 recovered. There are currently 3 Jefferson County residents hospitalized and 4 deaths.

COVID-19 Data	Number	Change	% of Pop.	% of Sick
Confirmed Cases (Cumulative)	219	+ 5	0.39%	97.8%
Probable Cases	5	+ 0	X	2.2%
Total Cases	224	+ 5	0.40%	100%
Active*	18	- 15	0.03%	8.0%
Recovered*	202	+ 20	0.32%	90.2%
Deceased	4	+ 0	X	1.8%
Hospitalized (Current)	3	+ 0	X	1.3%
Hospitalized (Cumulative)	20	+ 0	0.03%	8.9%
Total Tests: County Residents	4,798	+ 158	8.54%	
*Delays in closing cases in WVEDSS may affect these numbers				
Data as of June 29, 2020 Jefferson County, WV population: 56, 179				

West Virginia is currently in week 10 of Governor Jim Justice's recovery plan to reopen entitled "West Virginia Strong - The Comeback." Guidance for each of the businesses and activities that are allowed to resume are listed on the Governor's webpage: <https://governor.wv.gov/Pages/The-Comeback.aspx>. Under this new plan, West Virginians are still encouraged to practice social distancing, wear face coverings while in public, and follow all county Health Department regulations.

Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management (JCHSEM) will continue to proactively monitor the evolving COVID-19 situation closely. The health and safety of the residents of Jefferson county is of our utmost priority. The Jefferson County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) holds a virtual daily briefing update with our local partners to ensure accurate and transparent communication amidst the pandemic.

In this edition of the Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management's (JCHSEM) newsletter, we will be discussing Firework Safety, Extreme Heat, and Summer Safety for your pets. You will also find information on upcoming local, online, and state sponsored trainings.

Firework Safety



For many people, July 4th is synonymous with family, cookouts, and fireworks. However, fireworks can pose very serious threats to your health and safety if they are not used properly! Fireworks have been around since second century China when bamboo stalks thrown into a fire would explode due to their hollow air pockets. The first man made fireworks came about between 600 and 900 AD when an early form of gunpowder was discovered.

Fireworks have come a long way since bamboo stalks and early gunpowder but they remain just as dangerous! According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, there were an estimated 10,000 fireworks related injuries treated in emergency rooms in the United States in 2019. This resulted in at least 12 deaths. The most often injured parts of the body were fingers, legs, and eyes.

If you are planning on purchasing or using consumer fireworks this year, it is important to keep these safety tips in mind:

- Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks.
- Avoid buying fireworks that are packaged in brown paper because this is often a sign that the fireworks were made for professional displays and that they could pose a danger to consumers.
- Always have an adult supervise fireworks activities. Young children can suffer serious burn injuries from sparklers. Sparklers burn at temperatures of about 2,000 degrees - hot enough to melt some metals.
- Never place any part of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse. Back up to a safe distance immediately after lighting fireworks.
- Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully.
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy in case of fire or other mishap.
- Light fireworks one at a time, then move back quickly.
- Never carry fireworks in your pocket or shoot them off in metal or glass containers.
- After fireworks complete their burning, douse the spent device with plenty of water before discarding it to prevent a trash fire.
- Make sure fireworks are legal in your area before buying or using them.
- Never use fireworks while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Follow all local and federal firework guidelines. Some jurisdictions have laws prohibiting the use of fireworks. You can talk to your local law enforcement agencies or the WV State Fire Marshal's Office about laws in your area.



Safety Precautions For Independence Day Celebrations

Covid-19 has impacted and cancelled various Independence Day celebrations across the state. If you plan on attending a fireworks display, family gathering, or any other festivities, it is important to heed these safety tips from the Center for Disease Control (CDC):

- Stay home if you are sick. If you have any symptoms related to Covid-19 such as a cough, sore throat, or fever, it is important to stay home. In addition if you or someone you have been in contact with has been tested for the Coronavirus, you should stay home to avoid exposing others.
- Wash your hands often. Proper hand washing can help reduce the spread of the virus. It is important to wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. You can always sing a verse or two of Country Roads to help you wash for the proper amount of time.
- Wear a cloth face covering. Cloth face coverings may help prevent people who have COVID-19 from spreading the virus to others. Wearing a cloth face covering will help protect people around you, including those at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19.
- Maintain proper social distancing. Stay at least 6-feet apart from other people.



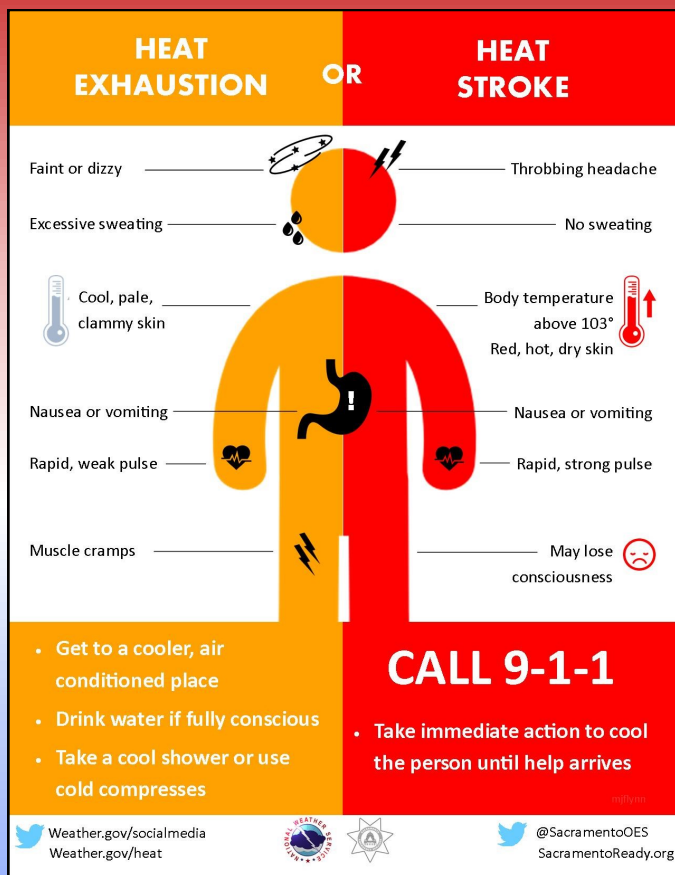
Extreme Heat

Summer is officially here and the days have become hot and humid here in West Virginia. Did you know that heat is one of the leading weather-related killers in the United States? According to the CDC, more than 600 people are killed by extreme heat each year.

It is important to educate yourself on common heat-related illnesses so you know what to do should you or someone around you experiences a heat-related illness.

Heat Rash: a heat rash is a cluster of small red blisters that look almost like pimples on the skin. This rash can appear on the neck, chest, groin, or elbow area. This rash, although not life threatening, can cause minor discomfort. If you have a heat rash stay in a cool dry place, keep the rash dry, and use baby powder to soothe the rash.





Sunburn: There are varying degrees of sunburn that present as painful red and warm skin. Higher levels of sunburn can also result in blisters on the skin. It is important to always wear and reapply sunscreen if you plan on being out in the sun. If you do experience a sunburn, stay out of the sun until the sunburn heals. Put cool cloths on sunburned areas and be sure to keep those areas moisturized. Do not pop or break sunburn blisters.

Heat Cramps: Heat cramps often present themselves as muscle pain or spasms along with heavy sweating during intense exercise. If you experience heat cramps, stop physical activity immediately and move to a cool place. Drink water or a sports drink with electrolytes and wait for cramps to subside before returning to any physical activity. You can massage or apply gentle pressure to the muscle to help relieve the spasm. If the cramps last longer than an hour, you are on a low sodium

diet, or you have heart problems, seek medical attention immediately! Heat cramps may be the first sign of other heat-related illness, and could lead to heat exhaustion or stroke.

Heat Exhaustion: Heat exhaustion symptoms include heavy sweating, cold, pale, or clammy skin, and a fast, weak pulse. A heat exhaustion victim may also experience headache, dizziness, or fainting. Heat exhaustion is a serious heat related illness that needs to be addressed immediately. If you or someone else is suffering from heat exhaustion, move to a cool place immediately. Loosen your clothes, put cool wet cloths on your body, and sip water. Medical attention should be sought immediately if the victim is throwing up or if their symptoms get worse or last longer than an hour.

Heat Stroke: Heat Stroke is a life threatening heat related illness caused by over excursion during extreme temperatures. A person suffering from heat stroke will have a high body temperature of 103 degrees or higher along with hot and red skin. They will also often experience headache, dizziness, nausea, and confusion and may even lose consciousness. If you see someone experiencing the symptoms of a heat stroke, call 911 immediately. Be sure to move the victim to a cool place. To help lower the person's temperature, you can place cool cloths on their body. Do not give the individual anything to drink.

Knowing the signs and symptoms of heat related illness can help save someone's life! For more information on heat related illnesses visit <https://www.weather.gov/safety/heat-illness> or <https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat/warning.html#text>.



During the summer months it is important to know the terms associated with weather related advisories. Knowing this can help you plan activities and outing in order to keep you and your family safe.

- **Excessive Heat Warning—Take Action!** An Excessive Heat Warning is issued within 12 hours of the onset of extremely dangerous heat conditions. The general rule of thumb for this Warning is when the

maximum heat index temperature is expected to be 105° or higher for at least 2 days and night time air temperatures will not drop below 75°; however, these criteria vary across the country, especially for areas not used to extreme heat conditions. If you don't take precautions immediately when conditions are extreme, you may become seriously ill or even die.

- **Excessive Heat Watches—Be Prepared!** Heat watches are issued when conditions are favorable for an excessive heat event in the next 24 to 72 hours. A Watch is used when the risk of a heat wave has increased but its occurrence and timing is still uncertain.
- **Heat Advisory—Take Action!** A Heat Advisory is issued within 12 hours of the onset of extremely dangerous heat conditions. The general rule of thumb for this Advisory is when the maximum heat index temperature is expected to be 100° or higher for at least 2 days, and night time air temperatures will not drop below 75°; however, these criteria vary across the country, especially for areas that are not used to dangerous heat conditions. Take precautions to avoid heat illness. If you don't take precautions, you may become seriously ill or even die.
- **Excessive Heat Outlooks—Be Aware!** The outlooks are issued when the potential exists for an excessive heat event in the next 3-7 days. An Outlook provides information to those who need considerable lead-time to prepare for the event.

Should any of the above watches or warnings be issued by the National Weather Service (NWS) for your area be sure to follow these safety tips from NWS. When faced with high temperature remember this catchy Mnemonic device:

Hydrate - Whether you feel thirsty or not, drink plenty of water to avoid becoming dehydrated, *especially* when you're working or exercising outside

Educate yourself - Keep up with the latest temperature and heat index forecasts and current readings. Know the warning signs of a heat illness, and how you can stay cool.

Act quickly - When a heat illness is suspected, act quickly!

Take it easy - Anyone working or exercising outdoors should avoid overexertion, especially between the hours of 11 am and 6 pm. Take hourly breaks in the shade or in air conditioning.

Summer Pet Safety

It's Hot Out!

Don't Leave Your Pet in the Car!



A car can overheat **even** when the window has been left cracked an inch or two.



Young, overweight or elderly animals, or those with short muzzles or thick or dark-colored coats are **most** at risk for overheating.



Shady spots offer **little** protection on hot days, and move with the sun.

90°

102°

120°

Even if the temperature outside is only 70°, the inside of your car may be as much as 20 degrees hotter!

On an 85° day, it only takes ten minutes for the inside of your car to reach 102°.

Within just 30 minutes, the car's interior can climb from 85° to a scorching 120°.



Many states and local governments have laws that prohibit leaving an animal unattended in a motor vehicle under dangerous conditions, which includes hot days. Your car could be damaged or you could be charged with a crime.

ASPCA

If you see an animal trapped in a car on a hot day, try to locate the owner or call 911! **Stay by the car until assistance arrives.**



Many people know the dangers heat can pose to humans, but do you know that high temperatures also pose a very serious risk for your furry friends? When temperatures rise, it is important to keep an eye on your pets, they are just as susceptible to heat related illnesses as we are.

The following tips from the American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) can help you keep your pets safe this summer:

- Visit the vet for a spring or early-summer checkup. Make sure your pets get tested for heartworm if they aren't on year-round preventative medication.
- Be sure to give your pets plenty of fresh,

clean water when it's hot or humid outdoors. Pets can get dehydrated quickly.

- Make sure your pets have a shady place to get out of the sun, be careful not to over-exercise them, and keep them indoors when it's extremely hot.
- Know the symptoms of overheating in pets, which include excessive panting or difficulty breathing, increased heart and respiratory rate, drooling, mild weakness, stupor or even collapse. Symptoms can also include seizures, bloody diarrhea and vomit along with an elevated body temperature of over 104 degrees.
- Animals with flat faces, like Pugs and Persian cats, are more susceptible to heat stroke since they cannot pant as effectively. These pets, along with the elderly, the overweight, and those with heart or lung diseases, should be kept cool in air-conditioned rooms as much as possible.
- Never leave your animals alone in a parked vehicle! Temperatures can rise in a car within minutes even when parked in the shade or with the window cracked.
- Do not leave pets unsupervised around a pool—not all dogs are good swimmers. Introduce your pets to water gradually and make sure they wear flotation devices when on boats. Rinse your dog off after swimming to remove chlorine or salt from his fur, and try to keep your dog from drinking pool water.
- Open unscreened windows pose a real danger to pets, who often fall out of them. Keep all unscreened windows or doors in your home closed, and make sure adjustable screens are tightly secured.
- Feel free to trim longer hair on your dog, but never shave your dog: The layers of dogs' coats protect them from overheating and sunburn.



- Watch out for hot asphalt as sensitive paw pads can burn easily. When the temperatures are high, avoid taking your dog for a walk. If the asphalt is too hot to touch, it's probably too hot for your dogs paws!
- Don't let your dog linger on hot asphalt. Being so close to the ground,

your pooch's body can heat up quickly.

- Commonly used rodenticides and lawn and garden insecticides can be harmful to cats and dogs if ingested, so keep them out of reach. Keep citronella candles, tiki torch products and insect coils out of pets' reach as well. Call your veterinarian or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at (888) 426-4435 if you suspect your animal has ingested a poisonous substance.
- Remember that food and drink commonly found at barbeques can be poisonous to pets. Keep alcoholic beverages away from pets, as they can cause intoxication, depression and comas. Similarly, remember that the snacks enjoyed by your human friends should not be a treat for your pet; any change of diet, even for one meal, may give your dog or cat severe digestive ailments. Avoid raisins, grapes, onions, chocolate and products with the sweetener xylitol. Please visit our People Foods to Avoid Feeding Your Pets page for more information.
- Leave pets at home when you head out to Fourth of July celebrations, and never use fireworks around pets. Exposure to lit fireworks can potentially result in severe burns or trauma, and even unused fireworks can contain hazardous materials. Many pets are also fearful of loud noises and can become lost, scared or disoriented, so it's best to keep your pets safe from the noise in a quiet, sheltered and escape-proof area of your home.

If you notice signs of overheating in your pet, such as excessive panting or difficulty breathing, increased heart and respiratory rate, drooling, mild weakness, or even collapse act quickly! Move your pet into the shade or an air-conditioned area. Apply ice packs or cold towels to your pet's head, neck, and chest. Let your pet drink small amounts of cool water or lick ice cubes. Take your pet directly to the veterinarian as heat related illnesses can be life threatening.



Keep your pets happy, healthy, and safe this summer!

Need Training?

Emergency management is a constantly-changing field. Whether it is keeping up with the latest technology, to working with stakeholders to develop plans, conducting successful floodplain management, performing damage assessments, managing debris after a disaster, helping our communities to recover, or just learning the fundamentals, there are plenty of options available to you. Here are some great opportunities for training that you may or may not know about.

Here is a listing of upcoming state sponsored training opportunities. These courses are free to attend, however, registration is required.

****Due to the current Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation, many of the previously scheduled courses have been cancelled. Please check <http://www.onlinelearning.wv.gov/dmapscm6> or contact Shawn.D.Dunbrack@WV.gov with any questions in regards to cancelled or rescheduled courses.****

Upcoming Local Training

There is currently no local in-person training scheduled for July.

Disaster Exercise Series 2020



Due to the current Covid-19 situation, the West Virginia Region 3 Exercise planning committee has recommended that we postpone the exercise series until the situation is more stable. The health and safety of the entire emergency management community is of utmost importance during this time and JCHSEM agrees with this postponement. Planning and preparation for this exercise is still underway to ensure that, when the time comes, the series can commence as planned.

Typically, over the course of the year, a Table top, Functional, and Full Scale exercise will be held. An effective exercise program is an essential component of our preparedness as it validates plans, tests operational capabilities, maintains leadership effectiveness, and examines ways to utilize the whole community. Exercise program management involves a collaborative approach that integrates resources, organizations, and individuals in order to identify and achieve program priorities.

If you or your organization is interested in participating in the 2020 exercise series when it is scheduled, please contact Stephen Allen at: sallen@jeffersoncountywv.org.

Online FEMA Training

FEMA also offers a number of online courses at <https://training.fema.gov/emi.aspx>. From this training portal, anyone can take their online independent study courses for free. There are over 100 courses to choose from. You can also browse the schedules and information about their on-campus resident courses for those who are involved in emergency management at the federal, state, local or tribal governments.

Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management recommends the following FEMA Independent Study Courses. These courses are free and available online. After the course is completed an online test can be taken. Once the test is passed you will receive a completion certificate.

IS 10 - Animals in Disasters: Awareness and Preparedness

Course Description: The objectives of this course are to increase awareness and preparedness among animal owners and care providers, and to describe how typical hazards affect animals and what can be done by responsible owners to reduce the impact of disasters.

Primary Audience: Animal owners and care providers

Course Length: Approximately 4 hours

Course Link: <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-10.a>

IS 522 - Exercising Continuity Plans for Pandemics

Course Description: This course is based on the pandemic continuity tabletop exercise Determined Accord. The course covers fundamental continuity principles and processes but is focused on the special continuity requirements for pandemics. Strategies such as telework and other social distancing strategies are described as well as special protection strategies for first responders, healthcare personnel, and others who have daily contact with the public.

Primary Audience: At the conclusion of this course, the students should be able to:

Relate the anticipated conditions and effects of a pandemic influenza to responders and communities, describe best practices for planning for and responding to a pandemic influenza, apply knowledge of the anticipated conditions and suggested practices to an activity, and develop next steps for pandemic planning within their agencies or communities.

Course Length: Approximately 8 hours

Course Link: <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-522>

IS 909 - Community Preparedness: Implementing Simple Activities for Everyone

Course Description: Community members are the key to our Nation's preparedness and resilience.

The purpose of this course is to present a model program for community preparedness. In addition, resources materials are available to help organizations conduct simple preparedness activities for everyone. By the end of this course, participants will be able to identify the definition of preparedness, describe the role of individual and household preparedness, and describe the purpose of community based preparedness activities.

Primary Audience: The primary audience for this course is the whole community including emergency management personnel and representatives of faith-based and nonprofit organizations.

Course Length: Approximately 1 hour

Course Link: <https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-909>

Jefferson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management-Committees

Steering Committee, John Sherwood, Chair

The Steering Committee works with the JCHSEM Director to guide the activities of JCHSEM. A fourteen-member Steering Committee is made up of public and private representation. JCHSEM is a Department within the Jefferson County Commission, who has overall responsibility for the department and its employees. The Jefferson County Commission appoints all members to the steering committee. This committee meets following the Local Emergency Planning Committee Meetings held on the third Wednesday of February, April, June, August, October, and December. Please call the office for exact dates, locations, and times.

Public Awareness, Education and Training Committee, Paula Marrone-Reese, Chair

Any interested person can serve on this committee. The Public Awareness, Education and Training Committee is responsible to communicate the organization's activities to the public and to build support for JCHSEM's programs. They work with the Director and other staff to keep the entire community focused on the objectives of JCHSEM, the opportunities for additional involvement and support by updating citizens and businesses about what the partners are doing and how the community will and is benefiting from these efforts. Additionally, they are responsible to assist the program manager in setting up speaking engagements and public awareness events. This committee meets monthly on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 0830 in the EOC at 28 Industrial Blvd., Kearneysville, unless otherwise announced.

All Hazards Mitigation Planning Committee, Mason Carter, Chair

Any interested person may serve on this committee. The All Hazards Mitigation Planning Committee examines the community's risks and vulnerability to all hazards and assess the community's vulnerability to those risks. An All Hazards Mitigation Plan was completed and adopted by the Jefferson County Commission, all Jefferson County municipalities, WVHSEM, and Federal Emergency Management Agency in July, 2003. The plan was updated in 2008 and 2013. The 2013 Plan was approved by WVDHSEM and FEMA in June 2013 and the 2018 plan was approved in November 2018.

Counter Terrorism Committee, Stephen Allen, Chair

Membership to this sub-committee of the Risk Assessment and Mitigation Planning Committee is limited to members of law enforcement, emergency management, homeland security, emergency communications, Red Cross, schools, health care, fire companies, ambulance authority/EMS, and government, due to sensitive homeland security issues. The committee works on issues of planning and training for counter terrorism or human-caused disasters. Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the EOC at 28 Industrial Blvd., Kearneysville, unless otherwise announced.

If you are interested in joining any of our committees, contact Stephen Allen at
sallen@jeffersoncountywv.org

Times, dates, places may need to be changed due to inclement weather, scheduling conflicts, or EOC activation. If you have questions, call the JCHSEM office at (304) 728-3290.

**Jefferson County
Homeland Security and
Emergency Management**

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**PUBLIC SAFETY;
PUBLIC TRUST**



The Jefferson County Commission's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (JCHSEM) is responsible for the coordination of preparedness, planning, response, recovery and mitigation of disasters and large emergencies in Jefferson

County, West Virginia. Volunteer and community participation is encouraged and welcome. We currently have committees on All Hazards Mitigation Planning; Public Awareness, Education and Training; Counter Terrorism; and a Steering Committee that acts as an advisory group.

We are responsible for the Citizen Corps/CERT, StormReady, Community Rating System, Resilient Neighbor Network and Project Impact programs. JCHSEM is also responsible for the Jefferson County R.A.C.E.S. group.

July Meetings & Events

- Sterling National Weather Service calls every Monday at 9 a.m.
- Conference call Monday-Friday for the Jefferson County EOC
- Wednesday July 15th - Virtual LEPC Meeting
- All other committee meetings including the Public Awareness and Counter Terrorism meetings have been cancelled for the month of July