Jefferson County Homeland Security & Emergency Management
http://www.jeffersoncountywv.org/county-government/departments/homeland-security-and-emergency-management

August 2020

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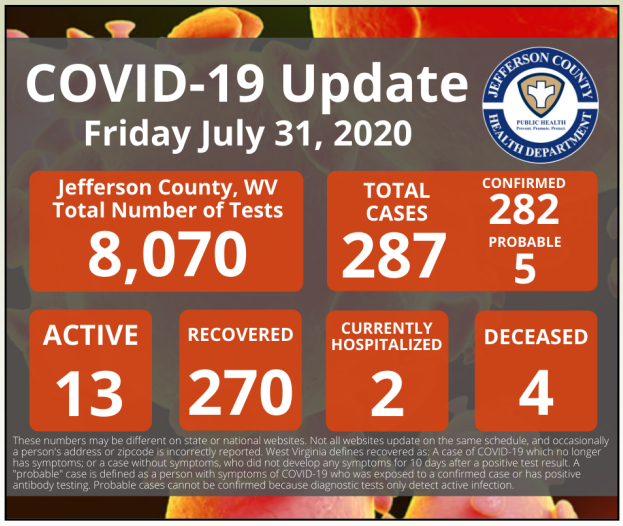
Coronavirus Update



As of Friday, July 31st, 2020 the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (WV DHHR) reports 281,451 total laboratory tests with 6,578 positive results bringing the cumulative percent positive test result score to 2.34%. There have been 116 resident deaths due to the Coronavirus.

The Jefferson County Health Department reports a cumulative total of 287 cases in Jefferson county with 13 active cases and 270 recovered. There are currently 2 Jefferson County residents hospitalized and 4 deaths.

Governor Jim Justice unveiled a recovery plan to reopen West Virginia 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. Governor Justice also issued an executive order requiring face coverings in all public indoor spaces where social distancing can not be maintained. You can view the executive order by visiting https://governor.wv.gov/Documents/2020%20Executive%20Orders/EO%2050-20.pdf.

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 Back to School - Children and Youth Preparedness and Summer Safety Driving Tips You will also find information on upcoming local, online, and state sponsored trainings.

Back to School - Children and Youth Preparedness

The Coronavirus pandemic has made education at all levels particularly difficult with all the new restrictions and safety precautions put in place. Governor Jim Justice has pushed back the start of school for all of West Virginia to September 8th, 2020.

School systems across the nation continue to work together to plan and prepare for the return of students this fall. The health and safety of our children is of the utmost priority to all members of these re-entry planning committees and school boards.

The evolving coronavirus situation continues to create complex issues that take time and consideration in preparing back to school plans. In addition, these plans may vary by county and by school so be sure to check with your child's school to ensure you know exactly what to expect when sending your child to school this fall.

The Jefferson County School (JCS) System continues to work diligently on creating a re-entry plan for students to return to school this fall. Details on this plan can be found via this pdf: http://jeff.ss18.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_481531/File/Board%20Of%20Ed/Response%20Planning/Reopen/Reopen%20Drafts/JCS%20Future%20Ready%20Re-Entry%20Plan%20July%2021%202020.pdf .

JCS has two options for children to return to school this fall. To learn more about JCS virtual learning option, visit: http://jeff.ss18.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_481531/File/Board%20Of%20Ed/Response%20Planning/Reopen/Reopen%20Drafts/7-21-2020%20JCS%20Virtual%20Instruction%20Overview.pdf.

It is also crucial to ensure your child is prepared should they be faced with a disaster or emergency either while at home or at school. Be sure to include your children in all of your emergency preparedness discussions. Some parents think these topics may be too scary to discuss with children. However, the more prepared the child is the better they may respond when in the midst of an emergency. Perhaps start the discussion by asking your child if they know what a disaster or emergency is and then continue the discussion from there.

One important aspect of disaster preparedness is knowing what potential disasters can effect your area. For instance, is your town or community susceptible to winter storms, flooding, or earthquakes? To learn more about each of these natural disaster visit https://www.ready.gov/kids/disaster-facts.

Once you have discussed emergencies with your child and researched potential natural hazards in your area the next step would be to make a plan. What will your family do should a disaster strike? Making a plan is one of the best ways to mitigate the effects of a disaster. Make a plan on where to meet, and who to call in the event of an emergency. Help your child memorize emergency contact information in case they need to get help in an emergency situation. Include babysitters, family members, and any individuals who spend large amounts of time with your children in your preparedness planning. This will ensure everyone is prepared to help your child during an emergency.

Next, create your emergency supply kit. Perhaps even turn this into a fun event for the whole family! Many people have all the necessary items for an emergency supply kit already in their home. You could make this into a fun scavenger hunt for everyone. Then, you can gauge what items are still needed for your kit and either order them online or visit one of your local stores. A few supplies most commonly included in a disaster supply kit are, flashlight, batteries, first aid kit, non-perishable food, and any needed medication for your family. Don't forget about your furry friends too! Be sure to include your pets in all emergency plans and create a supply kit for them as well. For more information on how to create your kit visit https://www.ready.gov/kit.

It is also important to consider that your family may not be together when a disaster strikes. Be sure to prepare every member of your family for what do to, where to meet, and who to call in the event of an emergency.

Before the school year begins here are some tips to help you prepare:

- Review with your child your family communication plan. For more information on how to create this plan as well as a printable communication card visit: https://www.ready.gov/kids/make-a-plan.
- Provide your child's school with information on any unique needs your child may have, including any health issues.
- Ensure your child's school has any medication or other items your child may need if they have to remain at school for an extended period of time.
- Ensure the school and your child's teacher have up-to-date contact information for you and for family and friends in the event you are unavailable.
- Learn about the schools emergency response plans.

Educators and school administrators can also help prepare themselves and the children under their care for an emergency. Children can often be scared and nervous when faced with an emergency situation. The CDC has created resources for teachers and other childcare professionals to help children should a disaster strike while at school. Visit https://www.cdc.gov/childrenindisasters/schools.html to learn more!

Summer Safety Travel Tips

Covid-19 has impacted many peoples vacation and travel summer plans. If you and your family have decided to take a road trip for vacation this summer it is important to consider the following driving safety tips from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA):

- Before you go, ensure your car is up to date on all scheduled maintenance such as oil changes and tire rotations. This will help ensure your vehicle is ready to go the distance!
- Plan your route ahead of time. Be sure to check road conditions, road work, and potential weather hazards before you head out.
- Never leave your children or pets alone in the car. Heatstroke can cause death quickly in young children and pets. Vehicles heat up quickly and can reach deadly levels within minutes!
- Stay alert. Be sure to take plan extra time for travel hiccups such as traffic, keep your gas tank close to full whenever possible, and be sure to take time to stretch, eat, and rest if you feel drowsy.
- Avoid all risky travel behaviors such as texting or driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Each of these risky activities can impair the critical skills needed for safe and responsible driving.

It is also important to be prepared should the unexpected happen. Travel issues can occur, weather hazards can cause travel delays, and car issues can spring up without warning. Prepare your vehicle and your family keeping the following items in your car for emergency situations:

- Cell phone and charger
- First aid kit
- Flashlight
- Basic repair tools and some duct tape (for temporarily repairing a hose leak)
- Jumper cables, flares, a white flag
- Tire pressure gauge
- Jack (and ground mat) for changing a tire
- Work gloves and a change of clothes
- Water, paper towels for cleaning up, nonperishable food, drinking water, and medicines
- Extra windshield washer fluid
- Maps
- Emergency blankets, towels and coats

For more information on car safety visit https://www.ready.gov/car or https://www.nhtsa.gov/summer-driving-tips.

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 August.

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-366.A: Planning for the Needs of Children in Disasters

Course Description: The purpose of this course is to provide guidance for Emergency Managers and implementers of children's programs about meeting the unique needs that arise among children as a result of a disaster or emergency. Much of the information in this course is based upon a document titled "The Unique Needs of Children in Emergencies: A Guide for the Inclusion of Children in Emergency Operations Plans," published by Save the Children.
Primary Audience: Animal The target audience for this course is local and state emergency managers and planners. Other individuals or groups that may benefit from taking this course include those directly involved with meeting the needs of children, such as the following: Judges and other members of the State, county, and local governmental legal system, Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOADs), faith-based organizations, and other non-profits, Child service agencies, Child care providers, and Schools.
Course Length: Approximately 6 hours
Course Link: https://training.fema.gov/is/courseoverview.aspx?code=IS-366.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 is 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 examine 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.

August Meetings & Events

- Sterling National Weather Service calls every Monday at 9 a.m.
- Conference call Monday-Friday for the Jefferson County EOC
- Wednesday August 19th - Virtual LEPC Meeting
- All other committee meetings including the Public Awareness and Counter Terrorism meetings have been cancelled for the month of August.