



## October 2020

**Jefferson County Commissioners:**

Jane Tabb, President

Ralph Lorenzetti, Vice President

Patsy Noland

Joshua Compton

Caleb Hudson

**Jefferson County Office of  
Homeland Security and Emergency  
Management**

John Sherwood, Chair, Chamber of  
Commerce Representative

Ed Smith, Vice Chair, Fire and Rescue Representative

Donald Grubb, Health Representative

Jesse Hott, Mass Care Representative

Paula Marrone-Reese, Non-Governmental Organization Representative

Mason Carter, Jefferson County Department of Engineering Representative

Jeffrey A. Polczynski, ENP, Jefferson  
County Emergency Communications  
Center Representative

Jane Tabb, County Commission Representative

Kelly Parsons, Private Industry Representative

Pete Dougherty, Sheriff, Law Enforcement Representative

Thomas Butcher, Utilities Representative

Lyn Goodwin, Jefferson County  
Development Authority Representative

Holly Frye, Shepherd University Service Learning Program Education Representative

Sanford "Sandy" Green, Region 3 Homeland Security Area Liaison

**JCOHSEM Staff:**

Stephen S. Allen, Director

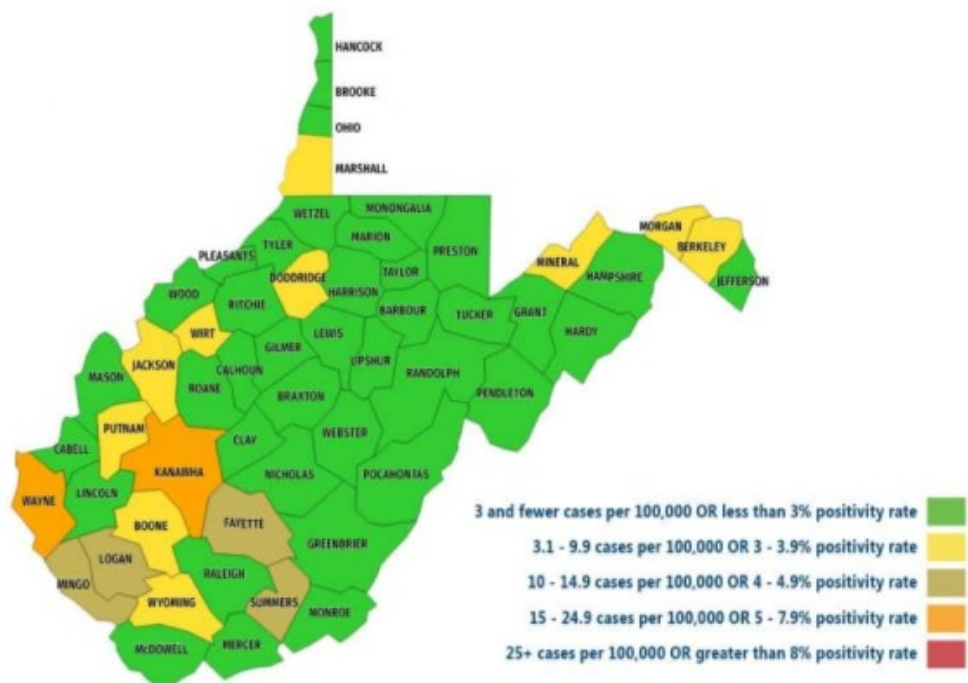
James M. Sager, Deputy Director/ Planner/ Program Manager

**Brianna L. Gustafson, Administrative  
Assistant/Public Information Officer/  
Volunteer Coordinator**

# Coronavirus Update

On Friday, August 14, 2020, Governor Jim Justice unveiled the “School Re-entry Metric and Protocols” map. The School Re-entry Metric and Protocols – developed by Governor Justice, the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (WV DHHR), and the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) – provide a consistent tool that will assess community transmission. The color-coded system, known as the School Alert System, is driven by data and science to monitor the level of COVID-19 in each county. The system is based on each county’s number of new daily cases per 100,000 people on a seven-day rolling average. This figure will be calculated and updated by the WV DHHR. Based on that figure, each county was initially assigned one of four colors – green, yellow, orange, or red – which is meant to represent the severity of the rate of community spread. Since starting, another color, GOLD, was added.

## School Alert System: Saturday Education Map



Source: West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources

The map is updated daily for informational purposes. However, each county's officially designated status will be determined on a weekly basis. Each Saturday, each county receives an official color status that will remain in place through the following Saturday evening.

Once the spread of COVID-19 reaches identified levels, counties must respond with specific mitigation actions to prevent further spread.

All counties identified as green and yellow on the Saturday prior to the scheduled first day of school, may begin in-person instruction and will be permitted to do so as long as levels remain steady.

Counties with orange or red levels will not be permitted to begin in-person instruction until yellow or green levels are reached on a seven-day rolling basis. Schools in orange or red counties will be full remote learning until yellow or green levels are achieved.

After opening, if a county elevates to orange in its official Saturday status, it may continue to operate in-person instruction under the orange school re-entry protocols. Athletics and extracurricular activities would be limited to controlled practices/activities only and no competitions would be permitted. However, if a county were to reach orange levels in the middle of the week, athletics and extracurricular activities would be permitted to continue until the county reaches orange levels in its official Saturday status.

If a county elevates to red at any time, regardless of the day of the week, all in-person instruction, athletics, and extracurricular activities will be halted the next regularly scheduled school day, and will not resume until the county's levels return to green or yellow. In this scenario, schools in red counties will be full remote learning until yellow or green levels are achieved.

All of West Virginia's private and Christian schools will be subject to the same color scale as public schools. In the event of an outbreak within a contained location, such as a correctional facility, nursing home, etc., the outbreak would count as one positive incidence of COVID-19 among inmates/residents, while the number of positive staff members will be counted at 50 percent before being added to the total case number that will be used in determining each county's metric.

The School Re-entry Metric and Protocols will be in effect so long as the state, as a whole, remains below a 5 percent positivity rate based on a rolling, seven-day average.

On Tuesday, September 15, 2020, Governor Justice announced the addition of a new color, GOLD, to the School Alert System. Counties in gold have 10.0–14.9 cases of COVID-19 infection per 100,000 people. Up until that time, counties with these numbers were categorized as orange. However, in an emergency meeting Governor Justice and state health experts determined that the orange category was too broad.

The updated thresholds are as follows:

**GREEN:** 3 and fewer cases per 100,000 OR 3% or less positivity rate

**YELLOW:** 3.1 – 9.9 cases per 100,000 OR 4% or less positivity rate

**GOLD:** 10 – 14.9 cases per 100,000 OR 5% or less positivity rate

**ORANGE:** 15 – 24.9 cases per 100,000

**RED:** 25+ cases per 100,000

In the gold category, counties will be able to move to an in-person instructional model with restrictions including face coverings at all times for grades 3-12. Extracurricular activities are permitted and competitions may occur against schools within the same county as well as schools in other gold counties. Additionally, modifications to spectator requirements at extracurricular activities have been made.

Updated protocols for education, athletic, and extracurricular activities on the new color scale are outlined on the Department of Education's website. <https://wvde.us/school-reentry-metrics-protocols/>

Jefferson County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (JCOHSEM) 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 (JCEOC) holds a virtual daily briefing update with our local partners to ensure accurate and transparent communications amidst the pandemic.

## What to expect in this edition

In this edition of the JCOHSEM's newsletter, we will be highlighting Cyber Security Awareness Month, National Community Planning Month, Fire Prevention/National Fire Prevention Week, and Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills. You will also find information on upcoming local, online and state sponsored training.

# National Cybersecurity Awareness Month (NCSAM)



Now in its 17th year, National Cybersecurity Awareness Month (NCSAM) continues to raise awareness about the importance of cybersecurity across our Nation, ensuring that all Americans have the resources they need to be safer and more secure online. This theme encourages individuals and

organizations to own their role in protecting their part of cyberspace, stressing personal accountability and the importance of taking proactive steps to enhance cybersecurity.

NCSAM emphasizes **“If You Connect It, Protect It.”** Throughout October, Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA) will focus on the following areas in our promotions and outreach:

- **October 1 and 2:** Official NCSAM Kick-off
- **Week of October 5 (Week 1):** If You Connect It, Protect It
- **Week of October 12 (Week 2):** Securing Devices at Home and Work
- **Week of October 19 (Week 3):** Securing Internet-Connected Devices in Healthcare
- **Week of October 26 (Week 4):** The Future of Connected Devices

For more information go to this link: <https://www.cisa.gov/national-cyber-security-awareness-month>

## National Community Planning Month



Planning provides a vision for the community today — and in the future. The goal of planning is to maximize the health, safety, and economic well-being of all people living in our communities. This involves thinking about how we can move around our community, how we can attract and retain thriving businesses, where we want to live, and opportunities for recreation. Planning helps create communities of lasting value.

While architects often focus on a single building, a planner's job is to work with residents and elected officials to guide the layout of an entire community or region. Planners take a broad view and look at how the pieces of a community — buildings, roads, and parks — fit together like pieces of a puzzle. Planners then make recommendations on how the community should proceed. One of the greatest challenges for planners is to imagine what can and should happen to a community, how it should grow and change, and what it should offer residents 10, 15, or even 20 years into the future.

## How You Can Participate

Planning is successful when it is inclusive and reflects the comprehensive values of the entire community. How can you get involved? [Becoming a planner is one option.](#)

Another option is to provide your input to help guide your community forward. Often planners will hold open houses or community sessions to gather resident input, ask questions and help prioritize community initiatives. Keep an eye on your planning department's website or even Facebook page for updates and notices. If you'd like to take an even more active role, you can consider volunteering to serve on your community's planning commission. For more information, go to: <https://www.planning.org/aboutplanning/>

## Fire Prevention Week 2020

This year's Fire Prevention Week (FPW) campaign, "Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen!" works to educate everyone about the simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves, and those around them, safe in the kitchen.



### Did you know?

Cooking is the #1 cause of home fires and home fire injuries. Unattended cooking is the leading cause of fires in the kitchen.

### Recipe for safety

Before you serve a meal, it's essential to serve up fire safety in the kitchen. There's nothing like spending time in the kitchen cooking a delicious meal for family and friends or an appetizing treat for yourself. But do you know the important steps to take long before anyone takes the first bite?

### Importance of fire prevention

In a fire, mere seconds can mean the difference between a safe escape and a tragedy. Fire safety education isn't just for school children. Teenagers, adults, and the elderly are also at risk in fires, making it important for every member of the community to take some time every October during Fire Prevention Week™ to make sure they understand how to stay safe in case of a fire. For more information, go to: <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Staying-safe/Preparedness/Fire-Prevention-Week/About>

## Great Shakeout/Earthquake Drills

International ShakeOut Day is always the third Thursday of October (this year: October 15). While COVID-19 has brought many uncertainties and challenges, one thing's for sure: ShakeOut is still happening this year!

You are invited to join millions of people who will “Drop, Cover, and Hold On” on October 15th at 10:15 a.m. in the 2020 Great Southeast ShakeOut! More than 67 million people were registered in ShakeOut drills worldwide in 2019. Participating is a great way for your family or organization to become better prepared to survive and recover quickly from big earthquakes. Why is “Drop, Cover, and Hold On” important to practice? You may only have seconds to protect yourself in an earthquake before strong shaking knocks you down, or something falls on you.

Practicing helps you be ready to react. Visit: [https://www.shakeout.org/southeast/downloads/ShakeOut\\_SouthEast\\_2020\\_individualsfamilies.pdf](https://www.shakeout.org/southeast/downloads/ShakeOut_SouthEast_2020_individualsfamilies.pdf) to learn more.



### How to participate

Here are simple things you can do to participate in the ShakeOut. Instructions and resources can be found at [www.ShakeOut.org/southeast](http://www.ShakeOut.org/southeast).

#### Plan Your Drill:

- Register at: [www.ShakeOut.org/southeast](http://www.ShakeOut.org/southeast) to be counted as participating, get email updates, and more.
- Have a “Drop, Cover, and Hold On” drill at 10:15 a.m. on October 15. You can also practice other aspects of your emergency plan.
- Discuss what you learned and make improvements.

It is also recommended that you, your school or organization, and your community review and update plans and supplies, and secure your space in order to prevent damage and injuries. Everyone can participate! Individuals, families schools, government agencies, businesses and other organizations are all invited to register.

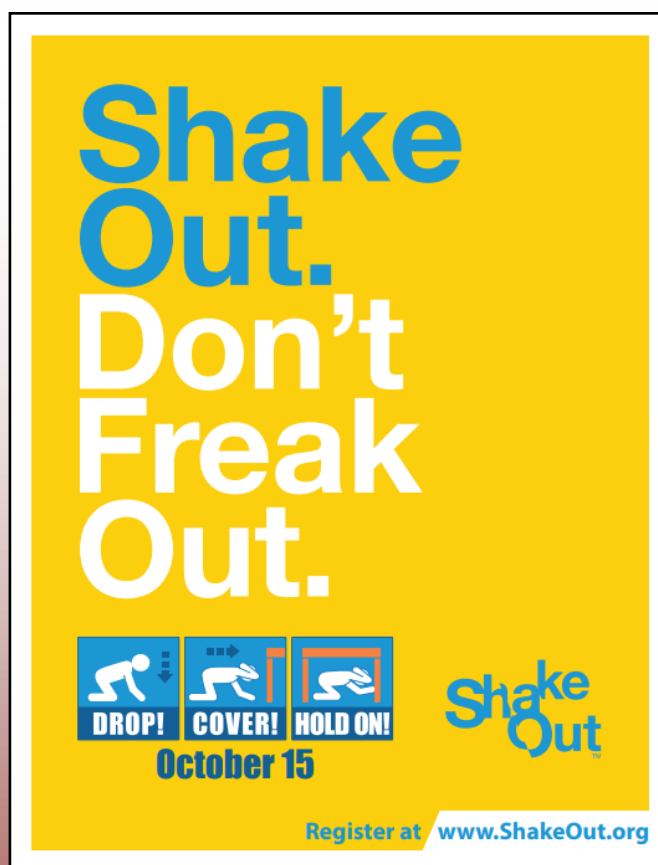


## Get Prepared for Earthquakes:

- Do a “hazard hunt” for items that might fall during earthquakes and secure them.
- Create a personal disaster plan.
- Organize or refresh your emergency supply kits.
- Identify and correct any issues in your building’s structure.
- Other actions are at [www.earthquakecountry.org](http://www.earthquakecountry.org).

## Share the ShakeOut:

- Invite friends and family members to register.
- Encourage your community, employer, or other groups you are involved with to participate.
- Posters, flyers, and other promotional materials at [www.ShakeOut.org/southeast/resources](http://www.ShakeOut.org/southeast/resources).
- Share photos and stories of your drill at: [www.Shakeout.org/southeast/share](http://www.Shakeout.org/southeast/share)



## 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 Louis Gaunch at [Louis.g.gaunch@wv.gov](mailto:Louis.g.gaunch@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 October.\***

---

### 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 JCOHSEM 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](mailto:sallen@jeffersoncountywv.org).



# Online FEMA Training

FEMA 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 in the federal, state, local or tribal governments.

JCOHSEM 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 childrens' 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:** 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, resource 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 Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management-Committees**

## **Steering Committee, John Sherwood, Chair**

The Steering Committee works with the JCOHSEM director to guide the activities of JCOHSEM. A fourteen-member Steering Committee is made up of public and private representation. JCOHSEM 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 (LEPC) 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 JCOHSEM's programs. They work with the director and other staff to keep the entire community focused on the objectives of JCOHSEM, 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. This committee is responsible in assisting the director in setting up speaking engagements and public awareness events. This committee meets monthly on the second 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, West Virginia Emergency Management Division of the West Virginia Department of Homeland Security (WVEMD) and FEMA in July 2003. The plan was updated in 2008 and 2013. The 2013 plan was approved by WVEMD 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 counterterrorism or human-caused disasters. Meetings are held on the second 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](mailto:sallen@jeffersoncountywv.org)

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

**Jefferson County Office of  
Homeland Security and  
Emergency Management**

28 Industrial Blvd., Suite 101  
Kearneysville, WV 25430

**STAFF**

Stephen Allen — Director  
Office: 304-728-3290  
Email: [sallen@jeffersoncountywv.org](mailto:sallen@jeffersoncountywv.org)

James Sager — Deputy Director, Planner,  
Program Manager  
Office: 304-728-3329  
Email: [jsager@jeffersoncountywv.org](mailto:jsager@jeffersoncountywv.org)

Brianna Gustafson — Administrative  
Assistant, Public Information Officer,  
Volunteer Coordinator  
Office: 304-724-8914  
Email: [bgustafson@jeffersoncountywv.org](mailto:bgustafson@jeffersoncountywv.org)

**PUBLIC SAFETY;  
PUBLIC TRUST**



The Jefferson County Commission's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (JCOHSEM) 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. JCOHSEM is also responsible for the Jefferson County R.A.C.E.S. group.

## October Meetings & Events

- Sterling National Weather Service calls every Monday at 9 a.m.
- WV State weather calls on Mondays and Fridays at 10 a.m.
- WV Emergency Management Council calls each Thursday in October at 9 a.m.
- Conference calls Monday-Friday for the Jefferson County EOC Briefing
- Jefferson County LEPC meeting (Virtual) Wednesday, October 21, 2020
- All other committee meetings including the Public Awareness and Counter Terrorism meetings have been cancelled for the month of October.