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### **ARMSTRONG COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SIGN EMERGENCY DISASTER DECLARATION**

Kittanning, PA - Armstrong County Board of Commissioners signs declaration of disaster emergency, Wednesday, March 19, 2020 at a public meeting.

This Emergency Disaster declaration authorizes the County in coordination with state and federal agencies to take whatever action necessary to reduce the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

For over 4 weeks, 9-1-1 dispatch operators have been screening calls of persons with flu-like symptoms in order to advise first responders of anyone presenting possible symptoms.

County officials have reviewed and revised the Pandemic response annex of the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) for the County during this time. This annex has been in place since 2008 and was developed in conjunction with the PA Department of Health (PA-DOH) and local health authorities. We will continue to review and revise this annex as the situation evolves.

The Department of Public Safety is currently making guidance available on a regular basis to our municipal authorities, hospital, private healthcare providers and the public. We have met with school officials discussing appropriate response protocols. Staff members also attend daily press conferences with PEMA and PA-DOH.

County officials have updated their Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) to ensure essential County functions continue in the event of an outbreak of COVID-19 in Armstrong County.

These efforts are being conducted to ensure our community is as prepared as possible to limit the spread of infection and to help assure those who need care to recover are able to receive it.

As of today, Thursday, March 19, 2020, there have been no confirmed cases of the COVID-19 virus reported in Armstrong County.

**Points to Remember:**

- COVID-19 is an airborne virus spread by humans just like a flu or cold virus. Close personal contact, coughing, sneezing, shaking hands, or touching infected surfaces are ALL ways it is spread.
- Symptoms include: Fever, Cough and Shortness of Breath and can appear in as few as 2 days to as long as 14 days.

**Things YOU can do to help STOP the spread of germs:**

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze
  - Put your used tissue in a waste basket
  - If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve, not your hands.
- Wash your hands after coughing or sneezing
  - Wash with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or
  - If soap and clean water are unavailable, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol to clean hands.
- If you are sick, STAY HOME until you feel better. There is currently no treatment for COVID-19.
- If there are any confirmed cases in the area, AVOID large gatherings.

Additional COVID-19 or Coronavirus information can be obtained through the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) web site at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> or the PA DOH by calling 1-877-PA-Health or on their web site at [www.health.pa.gov](http://www.health.pa.gov).

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