

**COVID-19**  
**Weekly Highlands COVID-19 Task Force Touchpoint**  
**March 23, 2020**  
**10 a.m.**

Krystal Onaitis, Covington City Manager, opened the meeting.

Organizations in attendance or via phone conferencing, included: DSS, HCA, Carillion, Local & Regional VDH, VDEM, Allegheny County Administrator, Covington City Manager, Local Emergency Managers, Sheriff's office & Regional Jail, Covington Police Dept & EMS, Covington and Allegheny County School Superintendents

- Ms. Onaitis began conference call by asking about resources available and how we can help with social awareness.
- VDEM staff are working with VDH about what PPE are needed and asked that hospitals/localities let them know what they need.
- LewisGale Hospital Allegheny, have ample supplies and staffing are doing ok. They have taken several measures to protect the supplies, they are issuing kits to each shift. They have resources for additional supplies.
- The City and County first responders are short on gowns and have a request into VDEM. Sherwin Williams have offered gowns if first responders are in need and Harbor Freight have masks.
- The main message is: to keep social distancing, hand washing/sanitizing and only go to the hospital in an emergency.
- LewisGale Hospital Allegheny have changed to Level 3 with no visitors for patients. There are only a few exceptions such as: end of life care, physical impairment, OB, etc...
- VDH are meeting daily and updating their dashboard around noon. The Botetourt case is in quarantine. There is PPE being available to Urgent Care facilities and doctor offices. Access for testing is becoming better.
- The County continue to monitor emergency operations. The Governor will give more information today at 2:00 p.m. The County and City are considering a joint EOC, they would need to consider what roles need to be filled and are staying in communication with first responders.
- Covington is continuing to provide core Government functions: water, wastewater, refuse collection, support small businesses and homebound.

- There are several civic organizations and churches meeting to access needs. The Salvation Army will coordinate the groups. There is a lot of work already being done to aid in needs for paper products, can food, etc... There will be a meeting today.
- There is a need to document cost for purchases, overtime, etc.. and this information can go back to January 20, 2020.
- With no cases in the area, the planning that is being done now is great. Everyone needs to continue good communications.
- There is a webinar today that will be sent to the Finance Directors for Alleghany County, Clifton Forge, Iron Gate and Covington.
- The Sherriff's office and Covington Police Dept are supporting staff that can work from home, limiting officers to public contact when possible, not making arrest unless necessary. If staff come in contact with an affected person, the staff will be quarantined. The County and City have a mutual agreement and have been assisting with meal deliveries, etc... There are plans to have appropriate number of dispatch staff for both locations.
- Area schools are using messaging, calls, websites, twitter, etc.. to communicate with students/parents for school work and meals.
- The City continues planning efforts with COOP plan, etc..
- There is information through the Chamber of what businesses are open, where wi-fi is available and info for possible funds available for businesses while they are closed.
- Clifton Forge have issued a no cut-off of water services and have restored any suspended service, as have Covington City.
- There is continuous guidelines on the CDC website.