

**COVID-19**  
**Highlands Task Force, Conference call**  
**March 16, 2020**  
**3:30 p.m.**

Krystal Onaitis, Covington City Manager, opened the meeting.

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

- The Health Care System began preliminary work a number of weeks ago.
- There are now 2 access points for entering LewisGale Hospital Alleghany, front entrance and ER. There is screening in place. They have also moved to Tier II which is a patient can have one visitor per day. Visitors that have flu like symptoms are encouraged to defer visiting.
- There are several isolation and negative pressure rooms and ventilators available. Also, there are resources available for backups. There are plenty of supplies available such as: masks, eye protection, gowns and gloves. There are a number of testing kits if needed and resources for backups.
- The Health Dept. will be doing inventory of supplies. They have a COOP plan for staffing ability for 30, 60 and 90 days. If a drive through clinic is needed, they are looking into using Alleghany High School parking lot with flow of vehicles. There was discussion on fit testing trainers.
- The Health Dept can answer questions and a Regional call number will be set up this week. The Hotline will have Health care professionals to answer any questions.
- The situation reports will be shared with local Administrators along with Emergency Managers.
- Any training sessions VDEM through June 30 have been postponed or cancelled. Some have changed to webinars.
- The Governor has issued a State of Emergency (not more than 50 in gatherings).
- Several local areas have issued a Declaration of Emergency. When this occurs there is an application process for reimbursement from the state which could include funds to pay: invoices for items needed (masks, cleaning supplies, OT, etc...)

- The City has their COOP plan information for possible work from home if it becomes necessary. The refuse collection process may change for City residents.
- The Allegheny Regional Jail is not allowing any visitors to inmates. Pastors and Attorneys can use the phone and glass to communicate with pre-screening. There are approximately 100 inmates, with possible relocation available. There is discussion that any out-of-town traffic violators may be heavily fined and not jailed.
- The County is planning for offices to remain open at this time, with no walk-ins, employees only.
- The Town of Clifton Forge will follow with the County process. They are reminding citizens to keep social distancing.
- The school boards will have a Facebook live event to discuss: the process for meal deliveries to students, etc...
- The General District Court will be closed until April 6. The Judges are holding a meeting today.
- Work on a Regional statement will be out asap.
- Covington City will decide closer to April 7 & April 14 if Council worksession & the regular meeting will be held on these days.
- Task force to continue meeting each Monday.
- VDH sit-reps will be Monday, Wednesday, Friday and VDEM calls Tuesday and Thursday all until further notice.