



Johnson County Emergency Operations Center
Immediate Press Release
3/20/20 5:00pm

March 19, 2020, Governor Mark Gordon endorsed a decision by the Wyoming State Health Officer to close public places for a two-week period to help slow the community spread of the COVID-19 virus.

The closure order extends through April 3, 2020, and includes schools, theaters, bars, nightclubs, coffee shops, employee cafeterias, self-serve buffets, salad bars, unpackaged self-serve food services, gyms, conference rooms and museums.

Restaurants will be closed to dine-in food service, but may remain open for curbside take-out or drive-through food service. Under the order, childcare centers will be closed except for those serving essential personnel.

This order does not apply to places of public accommodation that offer food and beverage not for on premises consumption, including grocery stores, markets, retail stores that offer food, convenience stores, pharmacies, drug stores, and food pantries.

SENIOR CENTER UPDATES:

The Kaycee Senior Meal Site is closed as of Friday, March 20, 2020. We are delivering meals to all people over the age of 60. If you would like a meal please call the County Inn Cafe at (307) 738-2291.

The BATS Bus is still operating: Sunday 8:30 am to 2:00 pm and Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. We are screening all riders, if you have any symptoms you will not be able to ride, unless it is a doctors appointment. If you have symptoms of COVID-19 and need to go to the doctor you will be required to wear a mask before you can get into the vehicle.

In-Home Services are still operating, we have limited the services to higher risk patients and are seeing them as little as possible, while still maintaining their health.

JOHNSON COUNTY HEALTHCARE CENTER UPDATES

Patient Testing:

- 3 more people in Johnson County were tested on 3/19. None on 3/20. Five total have been tested in Johnson County. We have no confirmed cases in Johnson County at this time.
- **Changes at JCHC:**
 - Our entrances are closed except in a few areas, in order to better monitor the people coming into the facility. We are screening everyone entering JCHC and AHCC in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

- AHCC's current census is 41, which leaves three open beds. We will not admit new residents for the foreseeable future in order to limit foot traffic at AHCC and further prevent the spread of infection.
- **Off Site Evaluation Center: (RVEC)**
 - We continue to assess options for an external **Respiratory Virus Evaluation Center**.
 - A **Respiratory Virus Evaluation Center** is an area where people with fever or respiratory symptoms can seek evaluation and possible care.
 - This site will be located at the Catholic Rec. Hall. We are so thankful for the generous offer of this site for our use during this community issue.
 - At this time, we are coordinating to supply and organize a center for those who are less ill, but still need hospital care during the COVID outbreak. We are only going to be using this site if JCHC becomes very full with hospitalized people.
 - We hope that we never have to use all the logistics, planning and organizing needed to open this site.
 - **If we do need it, we will be ready.**
 - **If we don't need it, we will be thankful!** That will be because and not that many people become very ill.
 - We have plans in place to open this site late next week if needed. More information will be shared with the public as plans go forward.
- **Employee Screening at JCHC:**
 - We are screening all employees, and tracking health throughout our campus. Any ill employee is sent home with a self monitoring packet. We are following the CDC protocols for employee screenings.
- **Telehealth Options**
 - We are evaluating our capability to offer telehealth medical and outpatient visits
- **Community Partnering:**
 - JCHC is collaborating with the EOC and Public Health to obtain supplies from the National and State Stockpiles in an effort to be prepared.
 - In the event that all staff are needed to care for sick patients, JCHC is exploring childcare options with our community partners. The county is taking the lead on this. We are thankful for this option for our staff members who are parents of young children.
- **CDC Guidelines:**
 - JCHC **strongly** encourages community members to follow all guidelines, especially in relation to social distancing.
- **Translations**
 - We will make efforts to have our press briefings put out in Spanish as well as English
- **Stress**

Stress is a very real piece of this unprecedented situation. We are exploring ways to help the staff at JCHC reduce the stress associated with COVID-19.

EOC releases will be published daily as needed.

For the most current information, please visit www.johnsoncountywyoming.org/covid-19.

There has been a COVID-19 response email set up for Johnson County;
jcwycovid19eoc@gmail.com.

For further questions, please contact the Johnson County Emergency Operations Center at **307-425-6560**.