

Heard County EMA Press Release

24MAR2020

The March 13 press release from Heard County EMA stated there were 42 confirmed COVID-19 cases throughout 11 counties and only 1 confirmed death. Georgia now has 1026 confirmed cases throughout 85 counties with another 81 from 'Unknown'. There are 32 confirmed deaths. This information is updated daily at <https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report> Heard County still has 1 confirmed case.

Heard County EMA and the Coroner's office will not release information in the event of a death. HIPPA laws prohibit most information from being released. Family or the hospital will make notifications if any.

Our numbers will most certainly grow as this virus continues to spread. Our population is mostly commuters that encounter people from other communities daily. This pandemic demands action from each of us. Executive orders from the Governor and an Administrative Order from the Georgia Department of Public Health have been issued. The City of Ephesus declared a State of Emergency effective March 23, 2020. These are not knee-jerk reactions but rather moves made to stem the spread of the virus and keep the public safe.

Defiance and ignorance only aid in the spread of COVID-19 and further stress an already burdened public health system. Social distancing must become the new normal. We must stay home and only leave to get food or medicine. We must keep the most vulnerable populations home and ensure that we don't bring the virus to them. If you must work, as so many do, then have a plan to reduce your exposure.

You can still support the businesses that are open Do so only if you can do so safely. Utilize take out for food. You can still leave a tip without dining inside if you want to support the employees. Order groceries online if possible. Try to maintain distance at the counters of stores and be mindful of germs on money and pay machines. Stay 6 feet apart in lines. Please only buy what your family needs. It is important to remember that many families may be unable to buy a supply of food and water for weeks in advance. Consumer demand has recently been exceptionally high – especially for grocery, household cleaning, and some healthcare products. Freight flows are not disrupted, but stores need time to restock.

There is a lot of information on the CDC site. We encourage everyone to visit this site. There are resources with guidance for businesses, churches, as well as individuals and families. We are each personally responsible for doing our part to prevent the spread of this virus.

