

Frequently Asked Questions relating to Covid-19 and Bartow County as of March 27, 2020

- **Why is Bartow County fifth in number of cases?**

Bartow County had a large cluster of cases (30 to 40) arise from a large gathering that occurred on March 1, before social distancing measures were implemented and citizens were taking greater precautions. Since that time, the growth of cases in Bartow has slowed significantly.

- **Why was an emergency declaration implemented?**

At the request of public health officials and emergency management officials, the County and the Cities in the County have implemented two emergency declarations, which can be found on the website. The purpose was to close places of assembly, enforce social distancing and limit gatherings to ten or less, following Presidential and CDC recommendations.

- **Why aren't all businesses being shut down?**

Shutting all businesses down would cause great economic harm to businesses and workers and would cause numerous layoffs. Businesses are ordered to comply with social distancing and prohibit community gatherings, as defined in the emergency orders. The community is taking Covid-19 risks seriously and businesses are taking measures to protect their employees. The measures being taken have slowed the spread of new cases daily to a rate the Cartersville Medical Center is equipped to handle. This is subject to change if conditions worsen and public health and hospital officials make that request.

- **How long will the school closures last?**

Governor Kemp has issued an executive order for public schools to remain closed through April 24th.

- **How long will the emergency declaration last?**

The initial term of the emergency declaration was 15 days, through April 4th. However, based upon the most recent information received from the Georgia Department of Public Health and others experts in the field, we have extended the declaration through April 7th and will evaluate conditions again next week to determine if further action is necessary.

- **Must all businesses, large and small, limit themselves to ten customers at a time?**

No. The 10-person limit in a single location (such as a grocery or hardware store) is required **only** if the business cannot physically allow people to have at least six (6) feet between where they are standing or sitting. Depending on the size of the business, it should be able to accommodate more than ten people while still adhering to the six-foot social distancing requirement. If there are concerns about cashier or check-out areas, businesses can station cones or other physical markers six feet apart or mark off distances of six feet on the floor with readily visible tape to maintain physical distancing requirements.

- **Cemeteries/Funerals**

Community gathering restrictions apply to enclosed or contained indoor or outdoor gatherings. Services inside should be limited to ten persons, who should socially distance. Services outside, provided they are not contained in tents, can exceed that number, as long as chairs are spaced six feet apart. Limited attendance should be encouraged especially by those most vulnerable.

- **Are working farms, kennels, and feed stores exempt?**

Yes

- **Is there a curfew?**

No, the declaration does not invoke a curfew for all persons to be off the streets at a certain time.

- **Walking Trails and Park Facilities**

Cartersville Parks and Receptions facilities are closed. Practice social distancing on the trails and limit any gathering to ten or less.

- **What businesses are required to close?**

- 1) Body care services such as barber shops, hair salons, nail salons, cosmetology, massage therapy, tattoo artists, body waxing, tanning salons, esthetics, etc. However, it does not restrict services performed under the direct supervision of a licensed medical doctor, nurse, dentist, physical therapist, chiropractor or other healthcare professional.
- 2) Restaurant dining areas are closed to the public except for take-out, delivery, drive-thru or curbside service. Restaurants licensed to sell malt beverages and/or wine by the drink for consumption on the premises may sell malt beverages and/or wine in sealed containers by the package without obtaining any additional license. Such alcohol sales must be take-out only, not for delivery.
- 3) Bars, taverns and similar establishments licensed for consumption on premises or for brown-bagging for consumption on premises is closed for the duration of the declaration.
- 4) Indoor recreation facilities, gyms, health studios, yoga, spin or other fitness classes, spas, saunas, indoor amusement facilities, arcades, bowling alleys, pool halls, movie theaters, playhouses, concert venues

- **Construction companies, their employees and other essential services/businesses (do they need a certificate to work?)**

Bartow County ordinances do not apply the characterization "essential" or "non-essential." Other than the businesses specifically required to close or modify their behavior, businesses can remain open if they can comply with the limitation of community gathering and social distancing requirements. Some businesses that are identified as essential in nature have chosen to provide their employees with written documentation identifying their company and its employees as essential.

- **Will I be pulled over and fined?**

No one will be pulled over and questioned for simply being out on the road.

- **How do I get designated an essential business or worker?**

There is no such designation implemented in the emergency designation. In other words, businesses have not been designated essential and non-essential. The emergency declaration applies to places of assembly and gatherings and was intended to prevent large groups gathering in restaurants, bars, gyms, theaters, churches and other places where spread can rapidly occur, as well as certain face-to-face businesses.