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Governor Wolf Expands Stay at Home Order to Include Pike County

PIKE COUNTY, PA – Today, to mitigate the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19), Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf and Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine revised the recently issued “Stay at Home” order to include Pike County. The amended order takes effect at 8:00 PM Friday, March 27, 2020, and will continue until April 6, 2020.

The Pike County Commissioners are urging municipal officials and homeowner associations to help get this information to their residents, along with a reminder to them to be ever more vigilant about social distancing.

“The Stay at Home Order is a more urgent request for people to remain at home during this public health crisis,” says Pike County Commissioner Chairman Matthew Osterberg. “For example, try to get groceries once per week instead of daily, and refrain from all non-essential travel. With the warm weather and beautiful days we have been experiencing, take the opportunity to be outside in your yard or enjoy a walk along one of Pike County’s many trails while practicing social distancing.”

Essential Pike County Government services continue to operate. Visit www.PikePA.org or call the Commissioners Office at 570-296-7613 for more information.

According to the Governor’s order, individuals may leave their residence only to perform any of the following allowable individual activities and allowable essential travel:

- Tasks essential to maintain health and safety, or the health and safety of their family or household members (including pets), such as obtaining medicine or medical supplies, visiting a health care professional, or obtaining supplies they need to work from home
- Getting necessary services or supplies for themselves, for their family or household members, or as part of volunteer efforts, or to deliver those services or supplies to others to maintain the safety, sanitation, and essential operation of residences
- Engaging in outdoor activity, such as walking, hiking or running if they maintain social distancing
- To perform work providing essential products and services at a life-sustaining business

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- To care for a family member or pet in another household
- Any travel related to the provision of or access to the above-mentioned individual activities or life-sustaining business activities
- Travel to care for elderly, minors, dependents, persons with disabilities, or other vulnerable persons
- Travel to or from educational institutions for purposes of receiving materials for distance learning, for receiving meals, and any other related services
- Travel to return to a place of residence from an outside jurisdiction
- Travel required by law enforcement or court order
- Travel required for non-residents to return to their place of residence outside the commonwealth
- Anyone performing life-sustaining travel does not need paperwork to prove the reason for travel.

The following operations are exempt:

- Life-sustaining business activities
- Health care or medical services providers
- Access to life-sustaining services for low-income residents, including food banks
- Access to child care services for employees of life-sustaining businesses that remain open as follows: child care facilities operating under the Department of Human Services, Office of Child Development and Early Learning waiver process; group and family child care operating in a residence; and part-day school age programs operating under an exemption from the March 19, 2020 business closure Orders
- News media
- Law enforcement
- The federal government
- Religious institutions

Individuals experiencing homelessness are not subject to this order but are strongly urged to find shelter. In Pike County, people in need of food, clothing, shelter, drug and alcohol rehab or detox, or crisis intervention can contact PA 211 NE by dialing 211 or texting your zip code to 898211.

Senior Citizens can contact the Pike County Area Agency on Aging at 570-775-5550 regarding nutrition services.

Resources

- An updated list of Pike County Government public services and resources, which are available remotely, can be found at www.PikePA.org.
- Many local restaurants are providing take-out or curbside service, and some supermarkets are offering home delivery. Contact establishments directly for more information.

Follow Proper Protocols

The Pike County Commissioners and the County's Department of Public Safety are continuing to be in regular contact with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management

Agency (PEMA), the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and other involved agencies regarding guidance and protocols related to COVID-19.

The public should continue to follow the proper protocols for COVID-19 prevention.

- Stay Calm. Stay Home. And Stay Safe.
- Cover coughs or sneezes with your elbow. Do not use your hands!
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Clean surfaces frequently, including countertops, light switches, cell phones, remotes, and other frequently touched items.
- Contain: if you are sick, stay home until you are feeling better.

This is an evolving situation. For the latest local information and updates regarding COVID-19, please visit the Pike County Government website at www.PikePA.org and click on the “Coronavirus COVID-19 Updates” icon.

The public can access the latest state and federal information on COVID-19 at:

Health.Pa.gov - the PA Department of Health website.

CDC.gov – the Center for Disease Control website.

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