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**PRESS RELEASE Beverley Townsend, MD, MBA, FAAFP, District Health Director**

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[www.westcentralhealthdistrict.com](http://www.westcentralhealthdistrict.com)

July 30, 2020

**COVID-19 Update**

The number of reported cases in the West Central Health District is 7,778.  The number of deaths from the virus currently stands at 236.

*County                   Cases    Deaths         County               Cases   Deaths*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Chattahoochee | 578 | 1 | Quitman | 29 | 1 |
| Clay | 70 | 2 | Randolph | 246 | 26 |
| Crisp | 356 | 14 | Schley | 47 | 1 |
| Dooly | 238 | 14 | Stewart | 245 | 5 |
| Harris | 599 | 15 | Sumter | 708 | 56 |
| Macon | 170 | 10 | Talbot | 123 | 3 |
| Marion | 131 | 4 | Taylor | 65 | 2 |
| Muscogee | 4137 | 80 | Webster | 36 | 2 |

For more information, visit <https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report>.

The West Central Health District has established a COVID-19 Call Center, 706-321-6300, Option 1. The District also has a toll-free number for COVID-19 information, 1-855-962-0955. After the recording, callers may leave a message which will be returned within 24 hours.

**Anyone wishing to be tested must register by visiting** [**www.westcentralhealthdistrict.com**](http://www.westcentralhealthdistrict.com) **or calling 706-321-6300, Option 1.** All persons to be tested must be Georgia residents, but they do not have to be symptomatic. Symptoms of COVID-19 include:

Fever                                       Chills                                                  Headache

Cough                                      Nausea Diarrhea Muscle Pain                                    Sore Throat Congestion or runny nose

Shortness of Breath                Repeated Shaking with Chills           New Loss of Taste or Smell

***Elderly individuals and those with chronic medical conditions have increased risk for COVID-19.***

*When to get tested*:

If a person has been exposed (*in close contact for more than 15 minutes*) to someone who tested positive for Covid-19, but does not have symptoms, that person should remain in quarantine for 14 days, and wait at least 10 days to be tested. If a person is symptomatic, or symptoms begin before day 10, then that person should be tested. A negative test does not mean your quarantine period is over. You must remain quarantined for the full 14 days.

**Specimen collection is held** **Monday through Friday, from 7:00 am to 11:00 am, in the parking lot behind the former Columbus Health Department, on 11th Avenue and Center Street. Saturday, August 1st, testing will be from 8:00 am to 11:00 am. There is no charge for testing at any location.  Due to the number of individuals to be tested, wait times may vary at all locations.**

**Other County Health Departments offer drive-thru collection*, \*weather permitting\*:***

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Chattahoochee *Cusseta* | Tuesday and Thursday  *Every other Monday* | 10:00 am to 12:00 pm | 706-989-3663 |
| Clay  *Fort Gaines* | Wednesday | 10:00 am to 12:00 pm | 229-768-2355 |
| Crisp- off site-  J.R Dowdy Building, 1129 N 5th Street, *Cordele* | Monday, Wednesday, Friday | 8:30 am to 11:00 am | 229-276-2680 |
| Dooly  *Vienna* | Monday - Friday | 8:30 am to 12:30 pm | 229-268-4725 |
| Harris  *Hamilton* | Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday | 9:00 am to 11:30 am | 706-628-5037 |
| Macon  *Oglethorpe* | Tuesday and Thursday | 8:30 am to 10:30 am | 478-472-8121 |
| Marion  *Buena Vista* | Monday and Wednesday | 8:00 am to 12:00 pm | 229-649-5664 |
| Quitman  *Georgetown* | Tuesday | 10:00 am to 12:00 pm | 229-334-3697 |
| Randolph  *Cuthbert* | Monday, Thursday, Friday | 10:00 am to 12:00 pm | 229-732-2414 |
| Schley  *Ellaville* | Monday and Tuesday | 9:00 am to 11:00 am | 229-937-2208 |
| Stewart  *Lumpkin* | Wednesday and Friday  *Every other Monday* | 10:00 am to 12:00 pm | 229-838-4859 |
| Sumter  *Americus* | Monday and Wednesday | 9:00 am to 12:00 pm | 229-924-3637 |
| Talbot  *Talbotton* | Monday and Wednesday | 8:30 am to 11:00 am | 706-786-6410 |
| Taylor  *Butler* | Tuesday, Thursday, Friday | 9:00 am to 11:00 am | 478-862-5628 |
| Webster  *Preston* | Monday | 9:00 am to 12:00 pm 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm | 229-828-3225 |

**Be sure to call before going to a doctor’s office, emergency room, or urgent care center if you have been exposed to someone with the virus, and if you have symptoms.**

*We urge all individuals to practice these prevention measures:*

* **Wear a mask or cloth face covering when you go to a store, office, or public place.**
* **Remember social distancing:** six feet between you and the person closest to you.
* **Wash your hands** often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
* **Avoid touching** your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
* **Avoid close contact** with people who are sick.
* **Stay home** when you are sick.
* **Cover your cough** **or sneeze** with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
* **Clean and disinfect** frequently touched objects and surfaces.

 For more information, people may call our COVID-19 call center at 706-321-6300, or visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html> or [www.westcentralhealthdistrict.com](http://www.westcentralhealthdistrict.com).

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***Serving these West Central Georgia Counties: Chattahoochee, Clay, Crisp, Dooly, Harris, Macon,***

***Marion, Muscogee, Quitman, Randolph, Schley, Stewart, Sumter, Talbot, Taylor, and Webster***