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Greene County COVID-19 Preparedness Statement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WAYNESBURG - Although Greene County has yet to have a confirmed case of coronavirus COVID-19, Greene County Commissioners and staff have continued coordination with state and national agencies to impede the spread of this virus. The following updates are provided from relevant state organizations, partners and cooperating agencies, as well as the Greene County government:

Our over-arching approach is to flatten the curve on the rate of exposure. The Department of Health has stressed the following:

- Social distancing.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Cover any coughs or sneezes with your elbow or Kleenex, not your hands.
- Clean surfaces frequently.

Individuals have the responsibility of social distancing. Stay home unless it's essential. Social distancing is best effort to gain control of exposure rates before it overwhelms our healthcare system and benefits our entire county and individual communities. Ideally, the virus will spread at a steady, stable, continuous rate. If social distancing is ignored and the masses continue to unnecessarily contract and spread the virus in groups in public, then we as a community see a very LARGE, rapid spike in sick people. So many sick people in

such a short period of time that the hospitals resources and treatment capabilities are exceeded.

If you feel ill or are exhibiting flu like symptoms, call your primary care physician. If you intend to go to a hospital, call beforehand for guidance from that specific hospital. Washington Healthcare Systems Greene can be reached at (724) 627-3101.

Emergency services remain responsive to calls, however 911 dispatchers will be asking additional questions in order to prepare the EMS responders to the possibility of exposure to COVID-19.

The government of Greene County continues tracking updates on the novel coronavirus COVID-19 from state and national agencies. County agencies are still seeing walk-in visitors; however, we encourage conducting as much county business as possible via telephone or e-mail. Many issues can be resolved over the phone. All public meetings will continue to be live streamed on the county commissioner's Facebook account, reducing the need to come to the government building.

The Southwestern Pennsylvania Area Agency on Aging, Inc. announced that, effective Tuesday, March 17, all senior community centers and senior satellite centers in Fayette, Greene, and Washington Counties will be suspending operations of all social and recreational activities through Friday, March 27. Greene County transportation services will continue to service life sustaining trips including medical and trips for food.

All Human Service Departments continue operations incorporating directions from their state organizations and increasing the use of telephonic communications. Most services can be provided even while reducing face to face activities. The Greene County Jail has suspended all contact visits until further notice, this applies to all inmate visitors, attorneys, county services, and volunteers.

Due to the March 16, 2020 Declaration of Corona COVID-19 Emergency Order, all non-essential Court proceedings, with the exception of emergencies, between March 17, 2020 and March 23, 2020, are cancelled and will be rescheduled, pending further Court Order.

Out of an abundance of caution and continued preparation in response to the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, the Greene County Commissioners signed a Declaration of Disaster Emergency. They emphasized this is for funding purposes as effects of the pandemic increase over time and is a requirement for eventual reimbursement in expenses related to the pandemic. The declaration is NOT related to the severity of the situation nor lack of resources or support available.

The county government's website is continuously being updated and Greene County Emergency Management can provide additional information pertaining to the response to COVID-19 pandemic and can be reached via email at publicinformation@co.greene.pa.us