

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pendleton County, KY — March 14, 2020 - Judge/Executive David Fields has filed a local disaster emergency declaration with the State of Kentucky in response to the growing health impacts of COVID-19 in Kentucky. The declaration will be in effect until rescinded and is in concert with declarations made by Carroll, Gallatin and Owen Counties, which comprise the Three Rivers District Health Department.

The declaration is an administrative tool that can help facilitate access to funding and other resources, as well as centralize coordination of the county's response efforts. State of Emergency Declarations are a typical response to a widespread emergency such as the COVID-19 outbreak, and municipalities across the country are using this tool to ensure appropriate resources are available for response and recovery.

What does this mean? This declaration allows emergency services to activate internal processes for local and inter-jurisdictional disaster emergency planning and purchasing.

What does it NOT mean? This does not mean that schools, business, churches and other like organizations have to close. It is at the discretion of each entity to make the decision whether or not to remain in operation.

The declaration does not mean Pendleton County is less safe than anywhere else that's impacted by the virus, it is just an additional tool to aid in the response and recovery.

Residents are encouraged to check the County's website and Facebook Page regularly for local and state updates from the Health Department and the office of the Governor. Please keep your family and neighbors in mind going forward, and we will emerge stronger as a community on the other side of this event.

Community members are encouraged to follow guidelines to protect against COVID-19 including:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Stay home when you feel sick.
- Get the flu vaccine.
- Avoid touching your eyes, mouth and nose with unwashed hands.
- Properly cover your sneeze and cough with a tissue, then throw away the used tissue.
- Frequently disinfect objects and surfaces with a cleaner that you typically use.
- Avoid close contact with those who are sick.

If you are feeling ill, please contact your physician first before going to the emergency room.

Citizens are encouraged to visit the Three Rivers District Health Department website for more information at trdhd.com. Additional resources are available by calling the Kentucky COVID-19 Hotline at 1 (800) 722-5725 and visiting the following websites: kycovid19.ky.gov ; cdc.gov/coronavirus and the Pendleton County website at pendletoncounty.ky.gov