



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATEWIDE STAY AT HOME ORDER IN EFFECT FOR PENNSYLVANIA

Uniontown, PA – In an attempt to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in our communities, Gov. Tom Wolf issued a statewide Stay at Home Order Wednesday afternoon, adding Fayette to the list of counties already under restriction.

The order takes effect at 8 p.m. tonight and is slated to last through at least April 30. In Wolf's address, he said that although 30 days seems like "a long time to not see our friends and family," not implementing these extreme measures could mean there will be people we "never see again," as the death toll continues to mount nationwide.

Under the Stay at Home Order, Fayette County citizens may only leave their homes for specific, essential activities, as outlined on Wolf's website, www.governor.pa.gov.

As of Wednesday, the state Department of Health confirmed 14 positive COVID-19 cases in Fayette County, as well as our first virus-related death.

To the north, Fayette borders counties with more diagnosed cases of the Coronavirus than we currently have, and those counties were previously put under the order. To the south, our county borders Maryland and West Virginia, two states that have already instituted statewide shelter-in-place efforts.

"In the past two days, federal and state officials have been clear that these efforts are critical in the next two weeks to slow the spread of the virus," Commissioner Scott Dunn said. "If any actions can be taken to further protect our families, workers and citizens - especially those in health care and emergency services industries - we plan to take those actions."

On March 13, Dunn and fellow commissioners Vince Vicites and Dave Lohr issued a countywide state of emergency as a proactive measure in notifying citizens of the hazards and challenges of this worldwide pandemic.

"The safety and wellbeing of those who live and work in Fayette County is of the utmost importance," Lohr said. "We've already taken measures to help keep our citizens and employees safe, and we'll continue to follow the guidelines set forth by the federal and state governments and the CDC."

Lohr said commissioners are also working to help small businesses receive "the resources they need in this challenging time."

Vicites urges all citizens to comply with Wolf's latest order "to protect their health and safety."

"We must work together with the federal, state and local governments to protect the welfare of Fayette County citizens," Vicites said. "This is a very serious crisis and we have to continue to stress the

importance of staying at home in order to stop the spread of COVID-19 and remove the burden from our health care system.”

Commissioners urge citizens to continue practicing social distancing and proper hand-washing techniques, as well as adhere to all COVID-19 guidelines set forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“Social distancing is working, slowing the spread across Pennsylvania and right here in Fayette County,” Lohr said. “There are so many in our communities in the most vulnerable groups, such as older citizens and those with medical conditions, putting them at higher risk for complications from the Coronavirus. This is a challenging time for everyone, but it’s important that we keep this under control.”

On Monday, U.S. President Donald Trump approved Wolf’s major disaster declaration, extending statewide school and nonessential business closures indefinitely. The disaster order allows for federal assistance to supplement state, tribal and local recovery efforts in areas affected by COVID-19.

Lohr said citizens should remember that, “although you may not be at high-risk yourself,” your parents, grandparents, friends or neighbors could be.

“Carrying the virus into their world can have devastating effects,” Lohr said. “Fayette County has always been a caring community, and the current situation is no different. We’re all in this together; we’ll come through this together; and together, we’ll be stronger for it.”

For more information on COVID-19, including symptoms, treatments and outbreak updates, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov. For regular updates, visit www.facebook.com/fcema911 or www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx.

To learn more about Fayette County, visit www.FayetteCountyPA.org.

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