



# Cedar County COVID-19 Newsletter June 19, 2020 Volume 1: Issue 5

## HEARINGS/MEETINGS AT THE COURTHOUSE

The Cedar County Courthouse has reopened for meetings and public hearings at the courthouse. Social distancing requirements are in place. Please note that at this time, meetings are only able to be scheduled by Cedar County governmental entities; meetings typically held by other entities are not available to be scheduled at this time. This is to ensure that a Cedar County Department is sponsoring the meetings and can ensure that all social distancing and other COVID-19 protective measures are met.

## CEDAR COUNTY SHERIFF

The Cedar County Sheriff is pleased to announce that the lobby of the Law Center has been reopened to the public for certain transactions that have been temporarily suspended due to the COVID-19 emergency. Cedar County residents can transact normal operations via the lobby window. It is recommended that residents visiting the Law Center wear a face mask. Individuals with sentenced mittimus can begin serving their sentences; if these sentences need to be rescheduled, individuals are encouraged to contact their attorney. Please note, inmate visiting is still restricted at this time. For questions, please call 563-886-2121.

## CEDAR COUNTY ENGINEER

While the Cedar County Engineer's Office is open to the public at the Courthouse, all secondary roads buildings and other district buildings remain closed to the public. Should you have questions about this policy, please contact the Engineer's Office at 563-886-6102.

## CEDAR COUNTY CONSERVATION

All campers (both self-contained and not) and tents are now welcome at all Cedar County campgrounds. All restrooms, shower facilities, and playgrounds are now open for use. Communal picnic tables and grills are open for use at your own risk. All visitors to Cedar County Conservation properties are asked to maintain proper social distancing.

Cedar County Conservation is now also taking reservations for park shelter rental. Those renting these facilities are encouraged to consider hosting smaller groups and implementing all social distancing recommendations. For more information, please call Cedar Valley Conservation at 563-886-6930.

## COURTHOUSE OPERATIONS UPDATE

After several weeks of limiting public access due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Cedar County Courthouse will reopen to the public access on June 8, 2020. The Courthouse will return to its regular access hours of 8:00am – 4:00pm, Monday through Friday, on that date. Prior to traveling to the Courthouse to conduct business, members of the public need to be aware of several operational and policy changes for all individuals entering the building.

- If you have experienced coronavirus symptoms of fever, shortness of breath, cough, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat or new loss of taste or smell within the past 10 days, please postpone your visit to the Courthouse.
- If you are mildly ill, or caring for someone who is ill, please postpone your visit to the Courthouse.

- If you have had contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, or travelled outside of the United States within the past 14 days, please postpone your visit to the Courthouse.
- All individuals entering the Courthouse will be subject to a temperature screening with a no contact thermometer. If your temperature reading is 100.0° or higher, access to the Courthouse will be denied.
- Facemasks are not required to enter the Courthouse, but the use of such masks is encouraged for the protection of others.
- Social distancing practices must be maintained while visiting the Courthouse.
- It is requested that only one person per transaction enter the Courthouse. Any additional individuals (including children) are requested to remain outside while Courthouse business is transacted.
- All persons entering the Courthouse will be asked to provide their name and the office with which they will be conducting business.
- If you visit the Courthouse, and subsequently (within 10 days) test positive for COVID-19, you are asked to call Cedar County Public Health at 563-886-2226.
- Some services may not be available due to Federal or State limitations. To verify that a specific service is available, it is advised to call the particular office that you wish to visit prior to traveling to the Courthouse.

Assessor	563-886-6413
Attorney	563-886-6646
Auditor	563-886-3168
Case Management	563-886-1726
Community Services	563-886-1726
Engineer	563-886-6102
Environmental Health	563-886-2248
GIS	563-331-9022
Public Health	563-886-2226
Recorder	563-886-2230
Treasurer	563-886-2557
Veteran's Affairs	563-886-2170
Zoning	563-886-2248

Driver's License services will be open 8:30am – 3:30pm, Monday through Thursday by appointment only. No drive tests will be available at this time. All other services at the Treasurer's Offices are available by appointment only. Appointments can be made by calling the Treasurer's office at 563-886-2557.

Please note that Courthouse capacity may be subject to a limited number of individuals to comply with all proclamation orders from Governor of Iowa. If this limitation is enacted, residents will be notified through postings on the Cedar County website ([www.cedarcounty.org](http://www.cedarcounty.org)), the Cedar County COVID-19 newsletter (available at most post offices, gas stations and grocery stores within the County) and on the Cedar County COVID-19 Response website ([www.cedarcountycovid19.org](http://www.cedarcountycovid19.org)).

This newsletter is published biweekly by the Cedar County Emergency Management Agency to provide information, updates and resources regarding COVID-19 for our citizens. The contacts contained herein are being provided on an informational basis; we are not responsible for the content or services provided. Information is believed to be current as of the printing date of 06/17/2020.

***We know that these are trying times for everyone. The following resources are available for Cedar County residents:***

#### **REPORT ABUSE**

**Child Abuse** – If you suspect a child under the age of 18 is being abused or neglected:

1. If you believe that the child is in imminent danger, CALL 911 immediately
2. Call the Abuse Hotline at 1-800-362-2178, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
  - Be ready to provide identifying information and the whereabouts of the child
  - Unless you are a mandatory reporter, you may remain anonymous.

**Dependent Abuse** – Call the Abuse Hotline at 1-800-362-2178, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

#### **EVICTION AND FORECLOSURE PREVENTION PROGRAM**

- On May 29, Governor Kim Reynolds launched a new program that will provide short-term relief to income-eligible renters and homeowners who are at risk of eviction or foreclosure due to a documented COVID-19 related loss of income. For information, call the Housing Recovery Help Line at 1-855-300-5885 or 515-348-8813.

**HOMELESS OR FACING A HOUSING CRISIS?** Call Houselowa at 1-833-739-0065 for assistance.

#### **CEDAR COUNTY GENERAL ASSISTANCE**

There are three kinds of assistance in Cedar County

- ▶ Emergency assistance for needy persons:
- ▶ Assistance for poor persons,
- ▶ Assistance for an extended nature.

You can also request food boxes from Cedar County General Assistance. For more information, call 563-886-1726

#### **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM**

Domestic Violence Intervention Program

24/hr. Crisis Line: 1-800-373-1043

**DISASTER DISTRESS HELPLINE** – Provides immediate crisis counseling for people who are experiencing emotional distress related to any disaster, natural or man-made. 1-800-985-5990. You can also text TalkWithUS to 66746 for assistance.

**IOWA LEGAL AID** - Individuals with questions of a legal nature can call the COVID-19 Legal Information Hotline at 1-800-332-0419.

**COUNSELING SERVICES AVAILABLE** – Free counseling is available to any Iowan who has been affected, in any way, by the COVID-19 public health emergency. The options available are:

- Call 800-447-1985 to connect with a counselor specializing in rural issues and agriculture 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Call the Iowa Warm Line, 844-775-9276, to connect with a peer counselor or request to get in touch with a COVID Recovery Iowa counselor.

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT** - Iowans who may qualify for unemployment due to COVID-19 or under the CARES Act can find information by calling: 1-866-239-0843

**COMMUNITY ACTION OF EASTERN IOWA:** Do you need help with food, utility bill assistance, crisis assistance, disaster assistance, or other help? Contact Community Action of Eastern Iowa at 563-324-3236

#### **CHILD CARE COMPLAINT HOTLINE**

If you have concerns regarding a specific child care provider or child care business that is not meeting Iowa regulations, call the Iowa Child Care Complaint Hotline at 1-844-786-1296

#### **EASTERN IOWA MENTAL HEALTH AND DISABILITY SERVICES** – It's OK to ask for help!!

- 24-Hour Mobile Crisis Outreach & 24-Hour Crisis Line 1-844-430-0375
- 24 Hour Life Connections Peer Respite Support Line 1-516-688-7484
- MCSA Peer Line and Virtual Groups. Open 8am-5pm M-F 563-200-2742
- Life Connections Peer Line and Virtual Groups. M, T, Th, F: 5pm-10pm, Sat-Sun 12pm-5pm 563-357-6352
- Vera French Peer Drop In- 8am-4pm M-F 563-322-5276
- 24 Hour Crisis Stabilization Residential 563-396-3017

**UNINSURED?** If you are uninsured and need COVID-19 testing, you can call 1-855-889-7985 for assistance.

#### **RESOURCES FOR PORK PRODUCERS -**

The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship announced a Resource Coordination Center to help provide technical resources to livestock producers impacted by processing plant closures. This is a coordinated effort with the Iowa Pork Producers Assoc., the Iowa Pork Industry Center, and ISU Extension and Outreach. Iowa livestock producers can call the RCC at (515) 725-1005, Monday - Friday between 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., or fill out a help form anytime at [iowafarmerhelp.com](http://iowafarmerhelp.com)

#### **NEED HELP WITH YOUR HOME ENERGY BILL?**

For individuals who received a disconnection notice or who have difficulty paying a utility bill, there is help available through Community Action of Eastern Iowa. Families can apply for the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) that can help pay a portion of an eligible household's utility bill. The application deadline is extended to June 30, 2020. For assistance, please call 563-324-3236

#### **REFUGEE ALLIANCE OF CENTRAL IOWA**

COVID-19 ELL Help Line is available Monday – Friday, 8:30am to 5:00pm at 1-877-558-2609.

#### **FOOD BANK SERVICES**

The Department of Human Services (DHS) has made several modifications to its food security programs due to the COVID-19 crisis. For more information, or to apply for SNAP benefits, call 1-855-944-3663.

