



Cedar County COVID-19 Newsletter

July 24, 2020

Volume 1: Issue 7

NOTICE: THIS NEWSLETTER WILL NOW BE PUBLISHED ON A MONTHLY BASIS ON THE LAST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH.



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.



COURTHOUSE OPERATIONS NOTICE

After several weeks of limiting public access due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Cedar County Courthouse reopened to public access on June 8, 2020, with regular access hours of 8:00am – 4:00pm, Monday through Friday.

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.

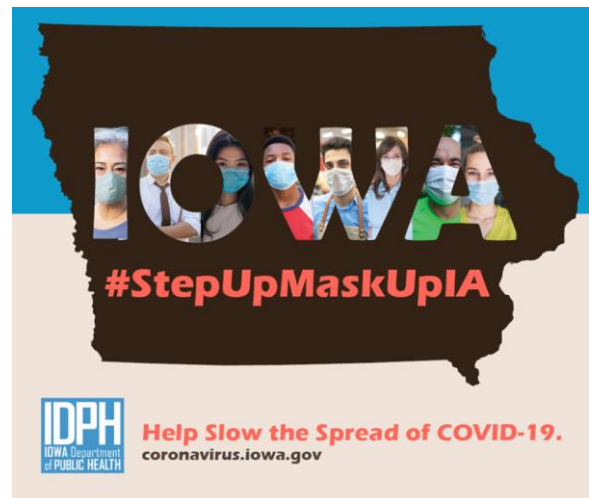
- If you have experienced coronavirus symptoms of fever, shortness of breath, cough, chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat or new loss of taste or smell within the past 10 days, please postpone your visit to the Courthouse.
- If you are mildly ill, or caring for someone who is ill, please postpone 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 Veteran's Affairs is operating on an appointment only basis at this time.



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

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.

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY DATES:

August 7th – Tipton UMC – 607 Lynn Street, 3:30pm – 4:30pm
 August 11th – Bennett Ambulance Building, 3:30pm – 4:30pm
 August 18th – West Branch Fire Department, 3:30pm – 4:30pm

ARE YOU FACING AN IMMEDIATE MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS? PLEASE CALL FOR HELP:

- Call 911 for emergencies
- The Eldercare Locator: 1-800-677-1116 (interpretation services for 150 languages)
- National Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-4AChild (1-800-422-4453) or text 1-800-422-4453
- National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233 or text LOVEIS to 22522
- National Sexual Assault Hotline: 1-800-656-HOPE (4673) or Online Chat
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255) for English, 1-888-628-9454 for Spanish, or Lifeline Crisis Chat.
- Veteran's Crisis Line: 1-800-273-TALK (8255) or Crisis Chat or text: 8388255

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.

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

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 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

UNINSURED?

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

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

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

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.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES ASSISTANCE

Due to COVID-19, Community Action is not distributing supplies this year, but the agency is awarding gift cards for families to buy their own supplies. If you qualify, they will mail a \$25 Walmart gift card to each child in your home. This is limited to residents of Muscatine, Clinton and Cedar Counties. For more information, call 563-324-3236.

This newsletter is published monthly 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 07/22/2020.