



Randall Hutto
County Mayor
Wilson County Government

Contact:
Randall Hutto, Wilson County Mayor
Room 104, Courthouse
228 East Main Street
Lebanon, TN 37087
hutto@wilsoncountyttn.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wilson County stays on top of Coronavirus Information

(Lebanon, TN 2/28/2020)- It's flu season in Tennessee, and this year we have a great awareness of a new virus that is in the news but has not spread to Tennessee. In fact, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) states that Coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, has not spread in the U.S. community at this time even though approximately 50 cases have been identified in the U.S. other than Tennessee. There is no spread of COVID-19 disease in Wilson County, however, an informed community is a prepared community that can go about its daily activities with peace and calm.

Wilson County assures that its healthcare systems, healthcare providers, and first responders are fully informed by the Tennessee Department of Health and the CDC. Wilson County is fortunate to be part of the Vanderbilt healthcare system and is working closely with the Vanderbilt Wilson County Hospital team who has exceptional capabilities for providing any level of care that is needed.

County Health Director, Tim Diffenderfer says "the county health department is following the protocols of the TN Department of Health and the CDC." These are two reliable and consistent state and national organizations with comprehensive, current information available to the public at <https://www.tn.gov/health/cedep/ncov.html> and <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>.

"It would be very rare for the Coronavirus to spread to Middle Tennessee," said Wilson County EMA Director Joey Cooper. "Wilson County has a comprehensive plan in place for Pandemics that mirrors the State of Tennessee Plan. We stay in frequent communication with the Tennessee Department of Health throughout the year to stay abreast of all health-related threats to our county."

WEMA Captain Daniel Cowan stated that the county's emergency management agency is in frequent communication with the Tennessee Department of Health. "One of my roles is to liaison with outside agencies to keep our Agency up to date with the latest and most accurate information. Concerning the Coronavirus, we are monitoring information released from the Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control." Captain Cowan is the Emergency Management Planning Officer and liaison to outside agencies such as the Tennessee Department of Health. "We are prepared to handle any threat or disaster we are presented with. Managing the

Coronavirus locally would be a unified effort with our local, state, and federal partners, in which we have great coordination with,” Cowan stated.

The Coronavirus causes symptoms like the flu such as fever, cough, and shortness of breath. It spreads between people via droplets from a cough or a sneeze. Like the flu, the virus can spread quickly.

What can we do to prevent illness? It’s a good time to remind ourselves of good hygiene actions, to prepare your pantry with chicken soup and plenty of clear fluids for drinking, and to update your cleaning supplies just like you would prepare for the winter cold and flu season.

- The best practice? Wash your hands often with soap and water for a good 20 seconds— after visiting the bathroom, before eating, after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue and then trash the tissue!
- Stay home if you are sick to help prevent spreading a virus to others.
- Go to the doctor if you have flu or virus symptoms. The doctor can test for the type of virus and eliminate your worst fears, treating a flu virus caught early.
- Disinfect doorknobs and surfaces with a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Use an antibacterial wipe and swipe the tip of your nose for more disinfecting!

Since the Coronavirus originated in China, the CDC recommends avoiding travel to China and South Korea and limiting travel to Italy, Iran and Japan since they have some cases of the virus. For more information on travel advisories <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html> .

Wilson County works diligently with competent healthcare and law enforcement partners for a healthy community. Stay informed with us on this and other important issues by visiting <https://www.wilsoncountyttn.gov/> and other resources mentioned.

#