

FAQ's for Commissioner's Meeting

Q: Why isn't the public being made aware of where positive cases are located within the county?

A: The county is not made aware of the exact location of any cases, just a total count as identified on the PA Department of Health website. The Department of Health will contact anyone who may have come in contact with any individual(s) who have tested positive. Everyone should be practicing social distancing during this event.

The PA Department of Health is adhering to the Disease Prevention and Control Law of 1955, Section 15. Confidentiality of Reports and Records.--State and local health authorities may not disclose reports of diseases, any records maintained as a result of any action taken in consequence of such reports, or any other records maintained pursuant to this act or any regulations, to any person who is not a member of the department or of a local board or department of health, except where necessary to carry out the purposes of this act. State and local health authorities may permit the use of data contained in disease reports and other records, maintained pursuant to this act, or any regulation, for research purposes, subject to strict supervision by the health authorities to insure that the use of the reports and records is limited to the specific research purposes.

Q: What does presumptive positive mean, and why does it differ from a positive result?

A: According to the CDC:

Presumptive Positive: This is a person who tested positive for COVID-19 at a state or local laboratory. At least one respiratory sample must be positive for a case to be labeled presumptive positive. Once a positive test has been identified, it is then sent onto the CDC.

Confirmed Positive: This is a person who tested positive for COVID-19 at a CDC laboratory. At least one respiratory sample must be positive by the CDC for it to be labeled confirmed positive. The CDC is maintaining a page of when specimens are obtained by the agency.

Q: Is there a county listing of businesses that are approved for waivers?

A: Non-essential business waivers are determined and business closings are enforced at the state level. The governor's office has information on the mandated business closings on his website: governor.pa.gov

Q: What can I do to protect myself?

A: Maintain a distance of at least 6 feet (social distancing) when in settings where other people are present. Frequent handwashing and use of hand sanitizer can help. Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your elbow.

Q: What if I experience symptoms?

A: If you are experiencing symptoms attributed to COVID-19, such as fever, dry cough, respiratory difficulty, you should self quarantine and contact your healthcare provider. Anyone experiencing severe shortness of breath or a life threatening emergency should call 911 or go to the emergency room.

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Q: Where can I go to get additional information?

A: The Bradford County website has set up a special page dedicated to COVID-19 resources at the local and state level. In addition, information can be found on the Bradford County Department of Public Safety and Bradford County Facebook pages.

Q: What resources are available for small businesses who are experiencing hardships due to the pandemic?

A: Small Business Disaster Assistance can be found at the following link:

<https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance>