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**State and County issue new public directives to help further curb spread of Coronavirus**

*Combined efforts target seniors and medically fragile, groups of 10 or more and dining in*

**DAHLONEGA, Ga.,** –– Late Monday afternoon, Governor Brian Kemp and state health officials outlined all the state steps taken to date to help combat the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and announced new executive directives that they hope will further curb the spread of Coronavirus. Effective immediately, individuals with COVID-19 exposure or symptoms and those at an increased risk for complications—the elderly and those with pre-existing conditions—will be required to “isolate, quarantine, or shelter in place.” The Georgia Department of Public Health has been charged with developing the regulations necessary to implement the Governor’s order.

The order also closes all bars and nightclubs, and bans public gatherings of 10 or more, unless you can maintain a minimum of six feet between people at all times, beginning at noon on Tuesday, March 24 and ending on Monday, April 6. The state also recently extended the state tax filing deadline through July 15. Additional details regarding state actions to date can be found in the full text of Governor Kemp’s press conference [here](https://gov.georgia.gov/press-releases/2020-03-23/gov-kemp-issues-new-executive-orders-provides-covid-19-update).

In addition to state actions taken yesterday, the Lumpkin County Board of Commissioners adopted an emergency resolution, outlining specific state of emergency actions being taken on behalf of the county. The [resolution](https://www.lumpkincounty.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1216/2020-2018-Resolution-Declaring-Emergency?bidId=) included but was not limited to the following:

* All recreation, gym, fitness, and entertainment facilities must close immediately and remain closed until the public emergency has been lifted.
* Restaurants and other eating establishments must cease dining-in operations, but may continue to offer delivery, drive-thru, and curb-side pickup.
* Houses of worship must “strive for density reduction in all services” and are encouraged to utilize online, social media and other video broadcasting options in lieu of on-site services.
* Like houses of worship, funeral homes were required to do the same in reducing density, properly clean vehicles per CDC guidelines following a transport, and encouraged graveside services of 10 or less.

Like Governor Kemp’s executive order, the County emergency declaration also prohibited public and private gatherings of 10 or more outside the household, but did not prohibit the gathering of individuals for the purpose of carrying on business activity and for the delivery of medical and other health services. The full text of the Lumpkin County emergency resolution is available [here](https://www.lumpkincounty.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1216/2020-2018-Resolution-Declaring-Emergency?bidId=).

On Wednesday, March 25 at 4:00 p.m., the Dahlonega City Council will conduct a second discussion of the city’s draft emergency declaration originally introduced on Monday, March 23. If approved, additional protection measures, if any, are expected to take effect Thursday, March 24.

Residents may find specific Coronavirus Information available on the following websites:

FEMA, Coronavirus Rumor Control - <https://www.fema.gov/coronavirus-rumor-control>

CDC - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention.html>

Georgia Department of Public Health - <https://dph.georgia.gov/novelcoronavirus>

District 2 Public Health Department - <http://phdistrict2.org/>

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