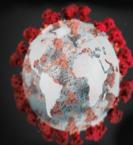


Community Service Carl Murphy Award

The *Jackson Advocate* has been in my family for over 40 years. After my father Charles Tisdale's passing in July of 2007, my mother, Alice Tisdale, took on the role as publisher. On February 29, 2020, she officially retired, and on March 1, 2020, I – DeAnna Tisdale Johnson – took over. Mississippi's first COVID-19 case occurred just a few days after that and I was tasked with making sure the community was aware of the important information they needed during this time. From our March 5, 2020 issue – and even now – the *Jackson Advocate* has ensured that we feature weekly updates about the pandemic so that our readers and our community would receive information and understand steps to protect themselves from a deadly virus that affected African Americans disproportionately.



COVID-19 GLOBAL CRISIS



In January of this year, COVID-19 seems like a far-off threat that probably wouldn't reach us. Now, it is literally hitting home. On Monday, March 16, Mississippi native and longtime New Yorker, Toni Seawright, announced that she had contracted the coronavirus last week. She told the Jackson Advocate Tuesday that she is improving under self quarantine. When asked how she fell victim to the "beast," Seawright said, "I believe it (coronavirus) is airborne. I went in to the city on [last] Tuesday for an interview. No one was coughing around me. Tuesday evening and daytime Wednesday, I was asymptomatic. Wednesday evening, I started coughing and had a fever. One thing about being sick, you lose your appetite. We're staying hydrated and staying in," Toni said, concerning herself and two adult sons, who aren't showing any signs of the virus. The first black Miss Mississippi says the family is making the best of a bad situation. "We have all our music equipment in the house and are working on new material. We might even write a song about this."



Our very own LaVerne and Charles Gentry did not think that their annual vacation would end without knowing how to get back home. They flew to Amsterdam and then to Dubai on February 27, 2020. There, they boarded the Norwegian Spirit Cruise Ship and have been on the ship since March 5. However, since March 13, they have been sailing without anywhere to port. "Some ports have closed and some will not allow us to dock," says Gentry. She also noted that one place allowed them to get fuel and supplies but would not allow them to come to shore. They are to arrive in Cape Town on March 22. Per local authorities, all guests must have a flight departing from Cape Town on March 22. However, the Gentrys were only able to get a scheduled flight on March 25. At press time, the Gentrys are unsure if the ship will even be allowed to dock. Many Americans are aboard the ship and are also trying to find ways to get home. This is even further complicated by the recent announcement

made by South African President Cyril Ramaphosa on March 15, 2020. Ramaphosa announced that the country would be taking measures to combat the spread of the virus. They imposed a travel ban on foreign nationals from high-risk countries, including the United States. Also, travellers who have entered South Africa from high-risk countries since mid-February will be required to present themselves for testing. South Africa has 72 ports of entry in the country which are land, sea and air ports. Of the 53 land ports, 35 were shut down on Monday, March 16. Two of the 8 sea ports are closed for passengers and crew changes. Aboard the ship, they are taking every precaution to check to see if anyone has the virus. Temperatures are checked frequently and menus are copied and discarded after every use, among other strategies. *Pictured (left to right): Earnest and Becky Johnson - Little Rock AR, Drs. Iley and Abdul Mohamed, and LaVerne and Charles Gentry.

SYMPTOMS

Mild COVID-19 cases:

- fever
 - cough
 - shortness of breath
- Severe COVID-19 cases:
- chest pain
 - pneumonia

In addition to the preventive measures mentioned through these pages, the best strategy to help your body fortify itself against illness is to minimize stress. During the NAACP Tele-Town Hall, Jerome Adams, U.S. Surgeon General, offered rallying advice about what actions individuals can take to cope with the anxiety the virus is causing and health measures to take to ensure safety is a number one priority. He also mentioned four different methods of testing established through the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), state and local labs, and hospitals. In closing, he mentioned, "I'm fighting for black and brown communities, people who are disadvantaged, and families that need support."

RESOURCES

The Jackson Hinds Library System continues to offer online options for the library card holders to access e-books, e-audios and digital magazines on computers and mobile devices. These resources are now accessible without a library card.

Options include:

- Tumble Book Library – Grades K-6 (Story Books • Read Alongs • E-books • Graphic Novels • Nonfiction • Videos • Language Learning • Playlists • Puzzles & Games)
- TumbleMath – Grades K-6
- Picture Books on Arithmetic, Measurements, Fractions, Finance, Time and Temperature, etc. • Quizzes
- Teen Book Cloud – Grades 7-12
- Fiction • Nonfiction • Drama and Poetry • Enhanced E-books • Graphic Novels • Videos • AP English • E-audios
- Audio Book Cloud – All Ages
- Classics • Children • Young Adult (YA) • Spanish Audio Books • Romance • Mystery and Suspense • Westerns • Science Fiction • Historical Fiction

To access these services, click on one of the buttons at jhllibrary.org/tumblebooks.

Jackson Public Schools and the Mississippi Food Network will administer two feeding programs in support of our scholars and their families during extended school closures.

Grab-And-Go Breakfast & Lunch
March 18-20 & March 23-27 | 9-11 a.m.

No cost for children 18 and under. No ID required. Adult meal prices: \$2.50 for breakfast and \$3.75 for lunch.

Instructional packets for grades K-12 will be distributed at the grab-and-go locations.

NORTH

- Boyd Elem. (4531 Broadmeadow St.)
- North Jackson Elem. (650 James M. Davis Dr.)
- Spann Elem. (1615 Brecon Dr.)

CENTRAL

- Blackburn Middle (1311 W. Pearl St.)
- Galloway Elem. (186 Idlewild St.)
- Lake Elem. (472 Mt. Vernon Ave.)
- Raines Elem. (156 N. Flag Chapel Rd.)
- Smith Elem. (3900 Parkway Ave.)
- Marshall Elem. (2909 Oak Forest Dr.)
- Peoples Middle (2940 Belvedere Dr.)
- Whitten Middle (210 Daniel Lake Blvd.)
- Wilkins Elem. (1970 Castle Hill Dr.)

Food Box Distribution
Saturday, March 21 10 A.M.-12 P.M.
Peoples Middle 2940 Belvedere Dr. (While supplies last.)

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) Office of Special Education has created a Q & A page on their website as a resource to parents of children with disabilities to help support their learning during school closures. Please visit the MDE's Special Education webpage for more information and for an email list of staff contacts: www.mdek12.org/OSE.

Canton Public School District will not return to

school until March 30, 2020. CPSD will serve Lunch-To-Go. The health and well-being of our students is our top priority. We want to make sure our students have access to well-balanced meals during this time. Therefore, the Canton Public School District will start serving Lunch-To-Go Monday through Friday beginning on March 23, 2020 until further notice at McNeal and Canton Elementary Schools. All school-aged children will eat FREE. Children MUST BE PRESENT to get their meal. Lunch will be served from 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

The Hinds County School District (HCS D) Board of Trustees voted unanimously to extend the district's spring break through Friday, March 27, 2020.

Currently, the earliest date students could return to school is Monday, March 30, 2020. However, HCS D will notify parents and community members if the break is extended for additional days.

Beginning on Monday, March 23, HCS D will implement an "At-Home Blended Personalized Learning" approach for all students. Teachers will share coursework through online learning platforms, email, and print copies mailed directly to students to ensure they are continuing to build the twenty-first century skills that will prepare them for college and careers.

Families can expect to receive "Blended Study at Home Course Work Agendas" in the mail no later than Wednesday, March 25, 2020. If parents do not receive an agenda for their child by Wednesday, March 25, please contact cov019@hinds.k12.ms.us.

The Holmes County Consolidated School District (HCCSD) will be closed until Friday, March 20.

HCCSD is prepared to meet student-nutritional needs, by providing daily GRAB and GO meals. These daily meals will include breakfast and lunch, and will be delivered to

all area school bus-stops. Students are asked to be at bus-stops between 7:30 and 9:00am for breakfast, and return to bus-stops for lunch between 11:30 and 1:00pm.

In response to the coronavirus pandemic, Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL) recommendations are that traditional commencement exercises at all Mississippi universities and colleges be indefinitely postponed.

Jackson State University's Acting President Thomas K. Hudson announced that all university-sponsored events are canceled for the duration of the semester and said this decision will affect spring commencement ceremonies.

Hudson said, "It is also with great consideration that we have decided to indefinitely postpone graduate and undergraduate commencement initially scheduled for Friday, May 1, and Saturday, May 2. Information regarding the conferring of degrees will be communicated at a later date."

He reiterated the safety of the entire campus.

"It is our sole intent to insulate our students, faculty, staff and extended JSU family from this pandemic. The best way to ensure everyone's safety is through the elimination of events where large groups are likely to congregate. We will do our best to reschedule a full participation commencement for the Golden Class of 1970 and the Spring Class of 2020. We will continue to follow the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Mississippi State Department of Health and the State Institutions of Higher Learning," Hudson said. Beginning March 23, all classes will be offered online through the end of the semester. All students who can return home or make other living accommodations are asked to do so and prepare to begin online instruction on Monday, March 23.

While the University remains open with housing and food services available, JSU strongly encourages students to return home.

JSU has listed some internal and external resources available to assist students who may face financial challenges associated with a move.

Also, Hudson said, "We are especially fortunate to have the JSU GAP Funding available for students in need of financial assistance. A big thank-you to the JSU Development Foundation for making these funds available to our students."

For additional updates and information, follow <https://www.jsu.edu/covid19>.

As the COVID-19 pandemic seems to heighten, Tougaloo College is taking every precaution to ensure the safety of our students, faculty, staff, and others. The Tougaloo Coronavirus Response Team is monitoring new developments and making tough decisions as they arise. Every attempt is being made to ensure that the academic progress of Tougaloo College students is uninhibited. With this in mind, the following decisions have been made:

- In response to recent information provided by the CDC, remote instruction will extend throughout the remainder of this spring semester.
- Instructions will be provided to students regarding when and how belongings in the residence halls may be retrieved.
- The College is working on a plan to provide prorated refunds to students who lived in the residence halls.
- Tougaloo College will postpone all baccalaureate and commencement activities indefinitely until clearance is provided from the CDC. The College looks forward to honoring our graduates once it is deemed safe to do so.

Alcorn State University has postponed their Spring 2020 Commencement and Alumni Reunion Weekend until further notice.

CLOSURES

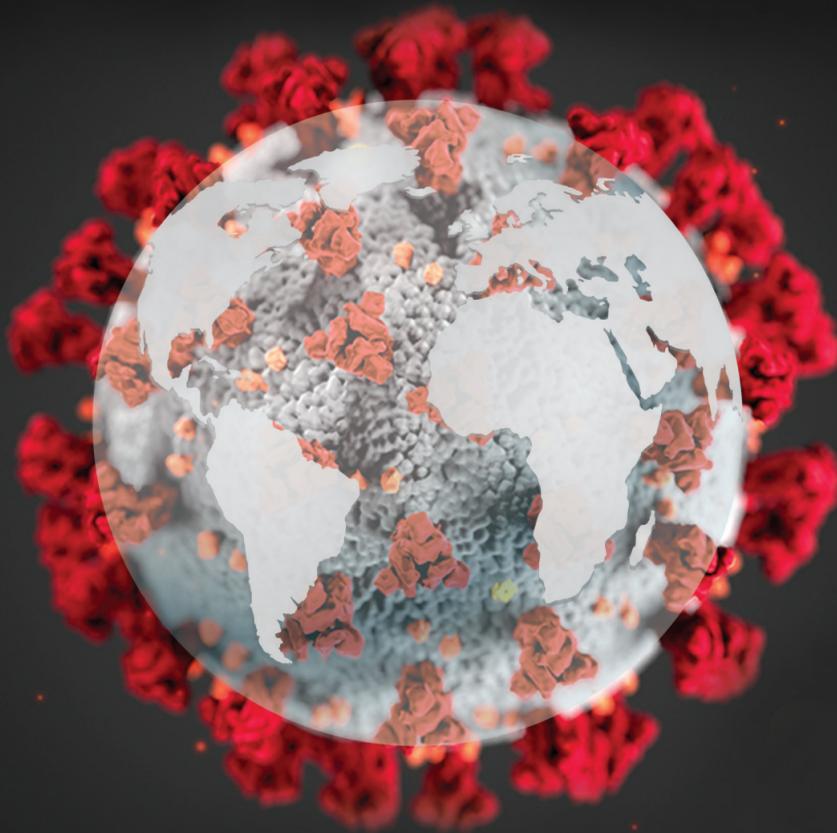
- Greater Jackson Chamber
- Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) Tribal government officials and Pearl River Resort Executive leaders have made the decision to temporarily close all Pearl River Resort properties, including Silver Star Hotel & Casino, Golden Moon Hotel & Casino, Dancing Rabbit Golf Club, and Geyser Falls Water Theme Park located in Choctaw, Mississippi and Bok Homa Casino located in Sandersville, MS
- International Museum of Muslim Culture – for more information email: museumtimbuktu@bellsouth.net

Bishop Joseph Kopacz announced that Public Masses in every parish, school and institution in the Diocese of Jackson are suspended effective immediately until further notice.

- All gatherings in parishes also are suspended effective immediately until further notice, including faith formation, CCD, RCIA, Stations, Adoration, etc.
- All Penance Services, School Masses and Healing Masses are suspended as stated in the March 13 directives.
- For the foreseeable future, funerals should be simple graveside services with a small gathering and a memorial Mass may be celebrated at a later date.
- All public St. Joseph Altars are suspended.
- Weddings should consist of gatherings of 10 or less and must use Rite of Marriage Outside of Mass.
- The Diocesan Chrism Mass will be celebrated privately by Bishop Kopacz and oils will be distributed at a later date.

Many national and local stores, restaurants, organizations, churches and other businesses have closed their doors or changed their store hours for the foreseeable future. Visit company websites for more information.

COVID-19 GLOBAL CRISIS



8,700⁺

Total Cases

114

Deaths

STATE	CASES	DEATHS	STATE	CASES	DEATHS
NEW YORK	2,495	13	KENTUCKY	26	1
WASHINGTON	1,706	55	NEW HAMPSHIRE	26	0
CALIFORNIA	751	12	IOWA	23	0
NEW JERSEY	267	3	NEW MEXICO	23	0
MASSACHUSETTS	218	0	RHODE ISLAND	23	0
FLORIDA	314	6	ARKANSAS	22	0
LOUISIANA	196	4	DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	22	0
ILLINOIS	161	1	NEBRASKA	21	0
COLORADO	160	2	ARIZONA	20	0
GEORGIA	146	1	OKLAHOMA	19	0
PENNSYLVANIA	112	0	KANSAS	18	1
TEXAS	110	1	DELAWARE	16	0
TENNESSEE	74	0	VERMONT	12	0
WISCONSIN	72	0	MISSOURI	11	0
CONNECTICUT	68	0	SOUTH DAKOTA	11	1
OHIO	67	0	WYOMING	11	0
VIRGINIA	67	2	HAWAII	10	0
OREGON	66	1	MONTANA	9	0
MICHIGAN	65	0	IDAHO	8	0
NORTH CAROLINA	64	0	PUERTO RICO	5	0
MARYLAND	60	0	ALASKA	3	0
MINNESOTA	60	0	GUAM	3	0
NEVADA	56	1	NORTH DAKOTA	3	0
UTAH	51	0	VIRGIN ISLANDS	2	0
SOUTH CAROLINA	47	1	WEST VIRGINIA	1	0
ALABAMA	39	0			
MISSISSIPPI	34	0			
MAINE	32	0			
INDIANA	30	2			

*Numbers as accurate as possible at press time

INSIDE

TRIBUTE TO MRS. ESTHER RIGSBY.....2A
 COVID-19 COVERAGE.....4A/5A
 RESPECT OUR BLACK DOLLARS PROTEST.....12A

CONNECT WITH US

FACEBOOK.COM/JACKSONADVOCATE
 TWITTER.COM/JACKSONADVOCATE
 INSTAGRAM.COM/JACKSONADVOCATE

CONTACT US

CALL OR TEXT: (601) 948-4122
 EMAIL: JANNEWS@THEJACKSONADVOCATE.COM
 VISIT: WWW.JACKSONADVOCATEONLINE.COM





COVID-19 GLOBAL CRISIS



Grocery stores and doctor's office waiting rooms empty all over the Jackson metro area in the wake of COVID-19 infiltration in the state of Mississippi.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

As of Wednesday, March 18, 2020, the Mississippi State Department of Health has reported 34 cases of COVID-19 in Mississippi in fourteen counties, with 513 individuals tested in total. Thirteen of the 34 were new cases from eight counties. So far the cases reported are: Bolivar - 2, Coahoma - 2, Copiah - 2, DeSoto - 1, Forrest - 3, Hancock - 2, Harrison - 4, Hinds - 6, Jackson - 1, Leflore - 4, Madi-

son - 1, Monroe - 1, Pearl River - 4, and Perry - 1. MSDH urges citizens to avoid large gatherings, keep your distance in public, keep hands clean, and stay home if you are sick. Respiratory droplets that contain the virus can stay in the air for up to 3 hours and on surface for up to 3 days. Find complete information about COVID-19 and preventive steps to take at <http://HealthyMS.com/covid-19>

NATIONAL

During the NAACP's Emergency Tele-Town Hall, held on March 15, 2020, Senator Kamala Harris spoke on the effect the COVID-19 pandemic has had on American life. "This pandemic is stretching our healthcare system, economy and causing grief among our communities," she said.

Congresswoman Robin Kelly talked in-depth about the two bills that were passed for coronavirus preparedness. She stated, "100 million of 8.3 billion dollars would be directed to community health centers for underserved groups and 950 million for state and local public health response that will be disbursed via the Center for Disease Control (CDC)."

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act, also known as HR.6201, will:

- Provide free COVID-19 testing to the uninsured;
- Target health provisions to COVID-19, without including unrelated treatments;
- Increase flexibility for health care providers to provide care, including additional access to telehealth;
- Expand unemployment, food assistance, and paid leave benefits; and
- Provide Medicaid funding to help states alleviate budget shortfalls.

STATE LEGISLATURE/OFFICES

On March 16, Governor Tate Reeves signed two executive orders to further the state's response to COVID-19 and aid Mississippians being impacted.

"While you may be healthy, this is about protecting your loved ones, your neighbors, and people across Mississippi. We must look after one another during this trying time. We will come through this together—stronger," said Governor Tate Reeves.

Executive Order No. 1459 activates the Mississippi National Guard to support mobile testing units and support Mississippi State Department of Health and Mississippi Emergency Management Agency at the testing locations. The Governor plans to implement the additional mobile testing sites throughout Mississippi in the coming days.

Governor Reeves also signed Executive Order No. 1458 which allows state agencies to determine which state employees are essential and send everyone else home. The Governor encouraged other businesses in Mississippi to do the same with their employees.

Working to take care of our children during this difficult time, the Governor also asks schools in Executive Order No. 1458 to begin working with the Mississippi Department of

Education to develop distance learning protocols as the state determines how long schools should remain closed. The second executive order asks schools to continue providing free and reduced lunches to students as well.

Executive Order No. 1458 also ensures paid leave for any state or local employees missing work due to COVID-19.

On Tuesday, March 17, the Mississippi House of Representatives suspended the legislative session until April 1 at 2 p.m., or a date mutually agreed upon by Speaker of the House Philip Gunn and Lt. Governor Delbert Hosemann if necessary.

Before the House could adjourn, several items needed to be taken up in relation to the suspension. Because the general bill deadline has already passed, a resolution was needed to suspend the rules and allow for a general bill to be introduced. Senate Concurrent Resolution 561 called for a suspension of the rules and for the introduction of a bill to authorize leave with pay for local government and local school district employees. There is a statute that allows for state employees to receive benefits during certain circumstances, but

the statute did not permit the same for local government employees. House Bill 1647 was then introduced authorizing local governmental entities and school districts to grant administrative leave with pay during certain emergencies. The bill passed with a bipartisan vote of 118-2. The second resolution taken up was House Concurrent Resolution 65. The resolution extends the session by 30 days, allows for reconvening on April 1 or upon determination by the House and Senate and adjusts the session deadlines to conform with the extended schedule. HCR 65 passed by a vote of 82-38. The Senate voted and passed H1647 and HCR 65 on the morning of Wednesday, March 18.

The Secretary of State's office buildings temporarily closed to the public. Citizens can call 601-359-1350 during business hours or visit our website, sos.ms.gov, for more information.

The MS Department of Transportation's construction and maintenance crews will remain on duty to perform core job requirements such as construction inspections, roadway repairs and severe weather response. Employees who get sick or come into con-

tact with confirmed cases, know to notify supervisors immediately.

Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP) announced that its state and regional offices will be closed to the public.

State Lakes will remain open for those that wish to go fishing; however, State Fishing Lake offices and bath houses will be closed.

- State Parks' bath houses and primitive camping areas will be closed; however, RV camping will remain open.
- The Museum of Natural Science and the North Mississippi Visitor Education Center will be closed to the public.
- MDWFP Shooting Facilities, Turcotte, McHenry, and McIvor will remain open; however, tournaments and events are canceled.
- MDWFP Wildlife Management Areas will remain open

The Supreme Court and the Chief Justice, in his capacity as chief administrative officer of all courts in the state, find that consistent with the Constitution of this State, all local and state courts shall remain open.

COUNTY/CITY

The Hinds County Board of Supervisors held a press conference on Monday, March 16. They declared a state of emergency for Hinds County. All County offices will remain open on a limited access basis, including the tax collector and tax assessor offices, chancery clerk, circuit clerk and chancery and circuit courts. All non-essential employees have been sent home until March 30. All county recreational facilities are closed.

Mayor Chokwe Lumumba has declared a civil emergency for the City of Jackson. Gatherings of 10 or more people are prohibited. Bars have been ordered to close and restaurants may operate as take-out, drive-through, or delivery service only.

All City of Jackson's remaining scheduled Public Hearings and Application Workshop regarding the development of its 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and its 2020 One-Year Action Plan have been postponed until further notice.

All city events have been postponed.

Mayor George Flaggs Office with Warren County Board of Supervisors President Jeff Holland declared a state of emergency for Vicksburg and Warren County.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORONAVIRUS GUIDELINES FOR AMERICA

15 DAYS TO SLOW THE SPREAD

Listen to and follow the directions of your **STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES**.

IF YOU FEEL SICK, stay home. Do not go to work. Contact your medical provider.

IF YOUR CHILDREN ARE SICK, keep them at home. Do not send them to school. Contact your medical provider.

IF SOMEONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAS TESTED POSITIVE for the coronavirus, keep the entire household at home. Do not go to work. Do not go to school. Contact your medical provider.

IF YOU ARE AN OLDER PERSON, stay home and away from other people.

IF YOU ARE A PERSON WITH A SERIOUS UNDERLYING HEALTH CONDITION that can put you at increased risk (for example, a condition that impairs your lung or heart function or weakens your immune system), stay home and away from other people.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORONAVIRUS GUIDELINES FOR AMERICA

DO YOUR PART TO SLOW THE SPREAD OF THE CORONAVIRUS

Even if you are young, or otherwise healthy, you are at risk and your activities can increase the risk for others. It is critical that you do your part to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

Work or engage in schooling **FROM HOME** whenever possible.

IF YOU WORK IN A CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE INDUSTRY, as defined by the Department of Homeland Security, such as healthcare services and pharmaceutical and food supply, you have a special responsibility to maintain your normal work schedule. You and your employers should follow CDC guidance to protect your health at work.

AVOID SOCIAL GATHERINGS in groups of more than 10 people.

Avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts — **USE DRIVE-THRU, PICKUP, OR DELIVERY OPTIONS.**

AVOID DISCRETIONARY TRAVEL, shopping trips, and social visits.

DO NOT VISIT nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.

PRACTICE GOOD HYGIENE:

- Wash your hands, especially after touching any frequently used item or surface.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Sneeze or cough into a tissue, or the inside of your elbow.
- Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.

CORONAVIRUS.GOV

School operations can accelerate the spread of the coronavirus. Governors of states with evidence of community transmission should close schools in affected and surrounding areas. Governors should close schools in communities that are near areas of community transmission, even if those areas are in neighboring states. In addition, state and local officials should close schools where coronavirus has been identified in the population associated with the school. States and localities that close schools need to address childcare needs of critical responders, as well as the nutritional needs of children.

Older people are particularly at risk from the coronavirus. All states should follow Federal guidance and halt social visits to nursing homes and retirement and long-term care facilities.

In states with evidence of community transmission, bars, restaurants, food courts, gyms, and other indoor and outdoor venues where groups of people congregate should be closed.



For more information, please visit **CORONAVIRUS.GOV**