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Today's News... This Morning

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Tuesday, March 17, 2020

Athens, Tennessee

Virus Tips from Starr Regional

It probably feels as if coronavirus (or as it is officially known, COVID-19) is all anyone is talking about these days. As COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses like the seasonal flu continue to spread across the U.S., you also may feel a certain level of concern over how this disease could affect you or your loved ones, or if your local healthcare provider is prepared to respond to any local cases that may arise. Here is what Starr Regional Medical Centers of Athens and Etowah are doing.

- ◆ Starr Regional continues to work closely with the Tennessee Department of Health and the Hamilton County Health Department and to follow guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- ◆ Starr Regional has a robust emergency operations plan in place.
- ◆ Hand hygiene products are easily accessible throughout their facilities.
- ◆ They are screening patients in their emergency department, inpatient clinics, and outpatient clinics based on CDC guidance.
- ◆ Staff treating a potential COVID-19 case are provided with all appropriate personal protective equipment to help prevent exposure.
- ◆ Patients with respiratory or have COVID-19 related symptoms are immediately provided with face masks.
- ◆ In the event that a potential COVID-19 case is identified, that individual will be placed in isolation.

More on the Virus from Starr

- ◆ People with fever, cough, sore throat, or other flu-like symptoms are not permitted to visit Starr Regional Medical Centers unless seeking medical care.
- ◆ People who have traveled to a high-risk area for COVID-19 or had contact with a person known to be infected with COVID-19 will not be permitted to visit patients.
- ◆ Starr Regional Health & Rehabilitation, the skilled nursing and long-term care facility in Etowah, has elected to restrict all visitation at this time. Exceptions, only after screening has taken place, will include family of residents at end of life, hospice caregivers, home health care agencies, and other necessary caregivers. Family members are encouraged to connect with their loved ones through phone calls, text messages, or through video message options.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- ◆ Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- ◆ Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- ◆ Stay home when you are sick.
- ◆ Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue.
- ◆ Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose.
- ◆ Clean and disinfect phones, computers, remote controls, and door-knobs.
- ◆ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- ◆ Work from home if possible and maintain a distance of six feet from others when possible.

MONEYWISE

With



Rob West & Steve Moore
WYXI - 94.5 FM & 1390 AM
11:30 a.m. Daily • Mon-Fri
& 6:30am Sat.

WEATHER FORECAST

Tuesday: Possible periods of rain. High 63.
Tue Night: Partly cloudy and mild. Low 51.
Wednesday: Mostly cloudy. Possible rain. High 72.
Wed Night: Mostly cloudy. Low. Possible showers. Low 60.
Thursday: Warm. Possible t'storms. High 78.
More Weather at: wxyi.com

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Tuesday, March 17, 2020 Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2 Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

- ♦ **Marquis D. Dotson, Sr.**, age 94, of Athens, died last Thursday. He was the founder of M.D. Dotson and Sons Funeral Home of Athens and Cleveland. Funeral services will be 2 p.m. Saturday at Greater Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, with visitation from 1 to 7 p.m. Friday at M.D. Dotson & Sons Funeral Home of Athens and on Saturday from noon to 1 p.m. at the Greater Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church.
- ♦ **Dan "Crow" Allen Rayburn**, age 81, of Etowah, died Sunday. He retired after 40 years as a clerk for L&N/CSX Railroad. Funeral services will be 7 p.m. Wednesday at Bordwine Funeral Home, with visitation from 5 to 7 p.m.
- ♦ **Anna Mae Duckett Ross**, age 69, of McDonald, died Sunday. A graveside service will be Thursday at 11 a.m. in McMinn Memory Gardens. Companion Funeral Home of Athens is in charge.
- ♦ **Geraldine Newman Cunningham Patterson**, age 89, of Decatur died Saturday at NHC of Athens. Funeral services will be at 7 p.m. on Wednesday at Laycock-Hobbs Funeral Home with visitation from 5 to 7 p.m. prior to the service.

♦ VIRUS NEWS YOU CAN USE:

- ✓ Governor Lee has instructed all school districts in Tennessee to close as soon as possible, with all schools expected to close by Friday, March 20th.
- ✓ Athens Utilities Board has suspended its policy of requiring customers to physically come into the office for a new or transferred service or a pay agreement. For at least the next two weeks, AUB's customer service representatives will be available to complete those transactions over the phone. AUB is asking customers to transact all normal business by phone or use the drive-through window.

Virus-related Advisory

- ✓ The Meigs County Senior Center will be closed until March 30th.
- ✓ The Athens City Council will have its monthly meeting at 6 p.m. today as scheduled.
- ✓ The McMinn Living Heritage Museum will be closed through March 28th.
- ✓ The McMinn County Clerk's Office will remain open, even though several other county offices may be closed. The kiosk will remain open if you need to renew your tags. Melinda King, the McMinn County Clerk, says they are keeping counters, supplies, and door handles wiped down as much as possible. She says if it's not urgent, consider waiting a couple of weeks to do your transaction. Take advantage of online and mail-in services. She also suggests you call the office before coming in to see if they can help you over the phone. The number is 423-745-4440.
- ✓ Athens City Schools will provide free drive thru breakfast and lunch at Ingleside and Westside schools through March 20th. Breakfast will be 9 a.m. to 10:55 a.m. and lunch is 11 to 1. Etowah City School also has drive thru breakfast and lunch each day.
- ✓ The City of Etowah announces that the Carnegie Library, the Etowah Community Center, the L&N Depot, all City Board and Commission meetings, and all Dixie Youth Little League practices and games will be closed or cancelled from March 17th-30th. City Hall will be open, except for the pre-scheduled moving dates of March 18th at noon. City Hall will re-open at its new location, 701 Tennessee Avenue, on March 23rd at 8 a.m.



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TODAY IN HISTORY - March 17th

This is St. Patrick's Day. According to legend, St. Patrick charmed the snakes out of Ireland and into the sea. He was chiefly responsible for converting the Irish people to Christianity and founded more than 300 churches.

461 A.D. - St. Patrick died on this date. His death has been observed by Irish Americans in the U.S. since colonial times with parades and the "wearing of the green."

1762 - New York held its first St. Patrick's Day parade.

1919 - Singer Nat King Cole was born.

1945 - The bloody battle for the island of Iwo Jima ended in victory for the U.S.

1967 - Snoopy and Charlie Brown, of the comic strip "Peanuts," made the cover of "LIFE" magazine.

1959 - The Dalai Lama fled Tibet for India in the wake of a failed uprising by Tibetans against Chinese rule.

Born on this day: **1902** - Golf champion Bobby Jones... **1935** - singer Adam Wade...**1944** - singer John Sebastian...**1955** - singer Paul Overstreet.