



For Immediate Release
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JEFFERSON COUNTY UNIFIED COMMAND CENTER UPDATES FOR APRIL 17, 2020

Birmingham, AL – The Jefferson County Unified Command Center and its partner agencies have worked to centralize the following items. Regular COVID-19 updates will be available each Tuesday and Friday on the EMA Facebook page @EMAJeffCoAL and @JeffersonCountyDepartmentofHealth as well as the respective websites www.jccal.org and www.JCDH.org. These updates will include periodic videos, written statements and other pertinent information from Dr. Mark Wilson, Health Officer, and Jim Coker, Director of the Jefferson County EMA, co-leaders of the Unified Command Center. The Unified Command Joint Information Center (JIC) will schedule more updates if there is a need for dissemination of time sensitive and/or additional information.

Food Needs:

- If anyone in the County is in need of food/meals please call the United Way 2-1-1 line. The United Way needs your contact information and your zip code. Based on your location they will connect you to the appropriate agency to help fill your needs. The United Way also has a line for senior citizens 1-800-AGE-LINE (800-243-5463). Seniors or their family members can call and get them set up for Meals on Wheels where applicable.

Persons Experiencing Homelessness:

- The Jefferson County Unified Command Center is opening up a temporary shelter, adjacent to the Jefferson County Department of Health Annex (401 14th Street South, 35233) to help address COVID-19 in persons experiencing homelessness on April 17. The shelter will provide a quick testing service to persons showing symptoms who are referred through shelters or other relevant agencies. The site will only provide temporary shelter for those who meet the guidance provided by the JCDH.
 - If a person's test is negative, they will be cleared to return to their shelter.
 - If a person's test is positive, they will be placed in quarantine for the 14-day period and provided with care.
- To volunteer to work with the homeless and other populations in need, the Command Center has centralized opportunities. Anyone interested should visit <https://olc.alabamafirecollege.org/> to register, take a brief online training, and select your area of interest. Once completed save your form and a member of the Command team will be in touch. Please do not volunteer if you have health issues such as asthma, diabetes, heart or lung issues.

Tracking:

- The Command Center has launched a new joint tracking center where the public can get the most up to date numbers on the coronavirus in our community. The site has real-time updates on case numbers; individuals tested, deaths, and testing locations. The information for the site is compiled by the Jefferson County Dept. of Health, Alabama Dept. of Health and Centers for Disease Control: COVID-19 Resources.
- <http://data-jeffco-al.opendata.arcgis.com/pages/covid-19-in-jefferson-county-alabama>

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