

## PRESS RELEASE FROM THE OKTIBBEHA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

March 21, 2020

### COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

During this trying time many have heard and will continue to hear many rumors based on fact and fiction. Know that the Oktibbeha County Board of Supervisors are keeping informed and adjusting to this the new norm we find ourselves in.

First and foremost our county is taking every precaution to make certain that all of our citizens are safe and continue to be so. Kristen Campanella or director for EMA and her staff continues to stay informed of any new developments and will continue to do so. Please keep in mind that many of the reports of infections around the state are being reported in the county from which the patients is being served or was tested. The reality is that most of our State has been infected. Do not be panicked when Oktibbeha county is added to that list; this is to be expected and will not be a surprise to any of your officials. The following counties that surround Oktibbeha county are currently affected according to the states of Mississippi: one infected in Clay County, four infected in Lowndes County, one infected Webster County. People that are infected around the state could come from any county so please do not get a false sense of security assuming that this virus has not come to our county.

Secondly each of our citizen have a responsibility and we expect you to use some commons sense during this time of uncertainty. The following are recommendation of the CDC that will insure that we are doing every thing we can to shorten the time it takes for this to pass:

1. Wash your hands with antibacterial soap in warm water.
2. Cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze.
3. Do not congregate with more than 10 people. This includes restaurants, social gatherings and religious assembly.
4. Practice social distancing of at least 6 feet.
5. Clean your home and work space with antibacterial cleaners. Bleach diluted in water is an inexpensive option; however be careful with this as it can damage certain items including your skin.
6. If you are in a high risk category (sick due to other ailments or elderly) let others go to the store and do not get out in public unless it is absolutely necessary. If you do cover your face with a mask or similar protection. The best thing to do is stay home and protect yourself and those that love you.

Lastly Oktibbeha County will consider passing a resolution as soon as practical giving authority to our sheriff to restrict more than 10 people from congregating for the health safety and welfare of the community. The sheriff will be instructed to follow the CDC guide lines and to discourage the assemblies of 10 or more. Working together we can limit the damage COVID-19 virus has in our community. Thank-you in advance to all of our citizens and know that your county official are taking every measure to insure your safety.