

# News from Plaquemines Parish Government

Parish President Kirk Lepine  
Contact: Jade Duplessis Public  
Information Officer (504) 934-6041;  
(504) 514-3422 (cell)  
[jduplessis@ppgov.net](mailto:jduplessis@ppgov.net)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 15, 2020

## COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Update

### HOLDING STATEMENT

The Plaquemines Parish Government is monitoring COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Residents are asked to monitor local media for more information as it becomes available. The public is advised to take regular CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) precautions & protective measures at this time.

### Monitor and Prepare

You should continue to take measures to prevent the spread of illness, including washing your hands regularly and staying home when you're sick. If you are elderly or have chronic medical conditions, reconsider travel and large public gatherings.

- Stay calm.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water; if that is not possible, use hand sanitizer.
- Cover your mouth and nose with your sleeve or a tissue when you sneeze or cough.
- Avoid close contact (touching or shaking hands) with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your mouth, nose, and eyes.
- Stay home when you are sick.

### Key Messages

[Press release today, March 15, 2020](#)

### Postponements & Cancellations

- Schools will be closed beginning Monday, March 16, 2020, until April 9, 2020, by proclamation of Governor Edwards. Schools will continue to be closed through April 17, 2020, for Spring Break. Students will return to school on Monday, April 20, 2020.
- [Plaquemines Parish Sheriff's Office](#) Seniors and Law-enforcement Together (SALT) seminar scheduled on Wednesday, March 18, has been postponed
- Plaquemines Parish District Attorney: Senior Citizen's Day, April 1st has been postponed

- Council on Aging Centers will be closed Monday, March 16th thru Wednesday, April 1, 2020. Homebound meals will still be delivered.
- [Plaquemines Social Aid & Pleasure Club](#) 1-Sack Challenge has been postponed.
- [Croatian American Culture & Food Experience](#) has been postponed
- Ducks Unlimited Banquet has been postponed
- All Plaquemines Parish Recreation Events & Activities has been postponed

### **PPSB (Plaquemines Parish School Board) & Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic School**

- Schools will be closed beginning Monday, March 16, 2020, until April 9, 2020, by proclamation of Governor Edwards. Schools will continue to be closed through April 17, 2020, for Spring Break. Students will return to school on Monday, April 20, 2020.
- PPSB Food Service Department will provide a grab-and-go breakfast and lunch at no cost. The scheduled times at all schools (excluding Plaquemines Learning Center) will be 8:30 -10:00 a.m. for breakfast and 11:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m. for lunch.
- Parish Special Olympics scheduled for March 20<sup>th</sup> has been postponed
- Belle Chasse prom is cancelled

### **PMC (Plaquemines Medical Center)**

- Monitoring and preparing.
- Should have at least 15 testing kits by this afternoon or tomorrow, with an additional 5 on their way (20 total).
- Screened several employees prior to going offshore today and will have more again tomorrow.
- Staff meeting this afternoon with our employees to update them on our current plan.

### **PPSO (Plaquemines Parish Sheriff's Office)**

- PPSO Administrative Offices located in Belle Chasse will be closed to the general public until further notice
- Working closely with US Marshal Service monitoring prisoners.
- Seniors and Law-enforcement Together (SALT) seminar scheduled on Wednesday, March 18, has been postponed as a precaution due to the Coronavirus.

### **Plaquemines Parish Fire/EMS**

- Working closely with Plaquemines Parish Government and Department of Homeland Security in following guidelines from Federal and State Agencies as recommended
- Having all personal disinfecting and sanitizing all stations and vehicle as well as safe hygiene practices.
- In the process of procuring additional cleaning supplies and personal protective equipment.

### **Parish Health Department**

- Drafted guidance to all PPG employees on cleaning and sanitizing work stations.

- Communicated with Padua House to determine status and made available to them any resources needed.
- Communicated with local pastor to disseminate guidance on COVID-19 for faith based communities.
- Communicated with LASPCA of plans in case they had a reduced workforce.
- Continue to monitor for any new guidance from LDH/CDC/WHO.

### **Plaquemines Port Harbor & Terminal District**

- PPHTD has put signage for proper hand washing and good hygiene.
- In addition, added hand sanitizer stations at the Port office and all vessels.
- The Port is conducting business as usual. All personnel are expected in to work on Monday unless need to work from home due to school closures.
- We are following the lead of Coast Guard regarding vessel monitoring and security.
- Due to the current situation, we are suspending use of PPHTD vessels to bring USCG Boarding teams to ships effective immediately. In addition we will only make Contact with other Mariners and Vessels in the PPHTD'S DISTRICT on a case by case basis after all the proper agencies have been notified.

### **Plaquemines Parish Economic Development and Tourism**

- Economic development has cleaned and sanitized its offices and vehicle. Also notified our business partners to follow the advice of the Louisiana Dept of Health and CDC

### **Chevron Oronite – Oak Point Plant**

- Local Crisis Management Team activated and meeting routinely.
- Workforce communication sent out regarding prevention and unchanged work schedules.
- Cancelled all employee international business travel.
- Procuring additional sanitizer, cleaning materials, and personal protective equipment.

### **Alliance Refinery-Phillips 66**

- No changes in the operational plans for refinery employees
- Increase cleaning and healthy practices throughout facility
- Sanitizing done numerous times a day

### **Riverbend Nursing & Rehab**

- Facility is closed to all visitors, vendors, providers, etc. (only staff and residents)
- All non-critical appointments for our residents have been rescheduled
- All staff are screened prior to entering the facility
- Daily in services are being provided on infection control, proper hand washing technique, proper technique for application and removal of PPE
- In addition to regular cleaning, common areas and flat services are being disinfected 3x per day using Super Sani-cloth germicidal disposable wipes
- Emergency stock supply has been obtained for most items (exception is masks) and is secure in the event of a facility outbreak
- All departments have stocked up all emergency supplies to prepare for a shelter-in-place event.

**(OTHER EMERGENCIES)**

Any questions may be directed to the Plaquemines Parish Emergency Operations Center at (504) 297-5660 24 hours a day. Parish social media sites will be updated as necessary at

<https://www.facebook.com/plaqueminesgovernment/>

& <https://www.facebook.com/PPOHSEP/> and <https://twitter.com/PlaqGov>

Please stay tuned to local media, for further announcements. To sign up for emergency text messages and e-mails, visit <https://bit.ly/2Q7p2OM>.

The mission of Plaquemines Parish government is to provide high quality, efficient services to sustain and enhance the quality of life for all residents of Plaquemines Parish