

HEALTH NEWS: State Health Officer Thomas Dobbs MD, MPH, (pictured at left) issued a statewide order for the Isolation of Individuals Diagnosed with COVID-19 effective immediately. The order – issued to everyone living in Mississippi – stipulates that anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 must immediately isolate at home. Dobbs explains, “We have a lot of COVID activity throughout the state right now, so it is absolutely critical that anyone infected with COVID-19, and not hospitalized, must remain in the home or other appropriate residential location for 14 days from onset of illness (or from the date of a positive test for those who are asymptomatic).”



**2019
DELINQUENT TAX SALE
SEE PAGE 6**

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2020

ONE SECTION

LEXINGTON, MISSISSIPPI 39095

VOLUME 62 - NUMBER 32

Governor orders face masks for whole state, kids and adults in schools School start delayed in select counties

Staff Report

Governor Tate Reeves issued executive orders on Tuesday, August 4, making wearing face masks mandatory for the entire state of Mississippi and delayed the start of school for select counties.

Delayed school openings are issued for 7th-12th grades in Bolivar, Coahoma, Forrest, George, Hinds, Panola, Sunflower and Washington Counties, until August 17, according to Reeves.

Reeves said his office had received phone calls from teachers and single parents

on the issue.

All public gatherings and retail environments were also highlighted by Reeves for wearing face masks at least through August 18.

“Wearing a mask is critical,” said Reeves, “It will make a difference.”

Mississippi teen languishes in jail for 17 months without an indictment

By Lauren Gill
The Appeal

On July 14, the day that William Haymon turned 16, he spent his 511th day in jail. He has been incarcerated without bail in the Holmes-Humphreys Regional Correctional Facility, an adult jail in rural Lexington, Mississippi, since February 2019. In those 17 months, prosecutors have yet to present charges to a grand jury so it can consider whether the state has enough evidence to pursue a conviction against him.



William Haymon has been held in an adult jail in rural Lexington, Mississippi, since February 2019. (Photo illustration by Kat Wawrykow. Photo courtesy of Lawrence Blackmon.)

This delay, according to the local district attorney, Akillie Malone-Oliver, who prosecutes the state’s 21st judicial district, is primarily because of turnover in the city police department that is investigating the charges. But Haymon’s prolonged incarceration is emblematic of a larger issue facing Mississippians who are arrested. There are no rules governing how long a person can be incarcerated without an indictment. As a result, people can languish in jail for months and years before they are formally charged with a crime.

Haymon’s attorney, Lawrence Blackmon, has attempted to win his client’s release by alleging that the county is illegally detaining him and violating his constitutional right to a speedy trial. While Malone-Oliver has defended Haymon’s imprisonment as a path to self-improvement, Blackmon has argued that Haymon is missing school—he would be starting the 10th grade in the fall—and will experience lasting harm from his incarceration as a child. So far, those arguments have failed to secure Haymon’s freedom.

“It’s taking his childhood away from him,” Haymon’s mother, Sebrenda Tillman, told The Appeal. “As long as he’s been there, what are you holding him for? Somebody ain’t doing their job.”

Haymon’s case dates back to June 2018 when, at the age of 13, he was arrested on an armed robbery charge for allegedly stealing from

an elderly man at gunpoint. He was quickly released on a \$25,000 bond after waiving a preliminary hearing. Then, in February 2019, Haymon was arrested on an aggravated assault charge involving a gun and another teenager. Bail on the earlier charge was revoked because he was already out on bond for armed robbery when he was arrested for the alleged aggravated assault. Under state law, he was not entitled to another chance at bail.

Blackmon practices privately but agreed to represent Haymon pro bono after the public defender originally assigned to his aggravated assault case died in January. During the first year of Haymon’s incarceration, the

(Continued on page 24.)

Young adults, African Americans make up largest number of COVID-19 cases in Holmes County

Staff Report

Case data for Holmes County shows the largest number of people contracting COVID-19 are young, 18-29 year-old, Black or African American residents.

The information is compiled and maintained by the Mississippi State Department of Health on a regular basis and is available at: <https://msdh.ms.gov>

Testing sites have been regularly scheduled in the past months, mainly in Lexington, with more scheduled.

If you do not have insurance, free COVID-19 test-

ing, Monday through Friday, is available from Mississippi’s Community Health Centers. Contact a center near you or call 601-981-1817 for more information.

Mallory Community Health, 662-834-1857, is listed on MSDH’s web site as a community health center.

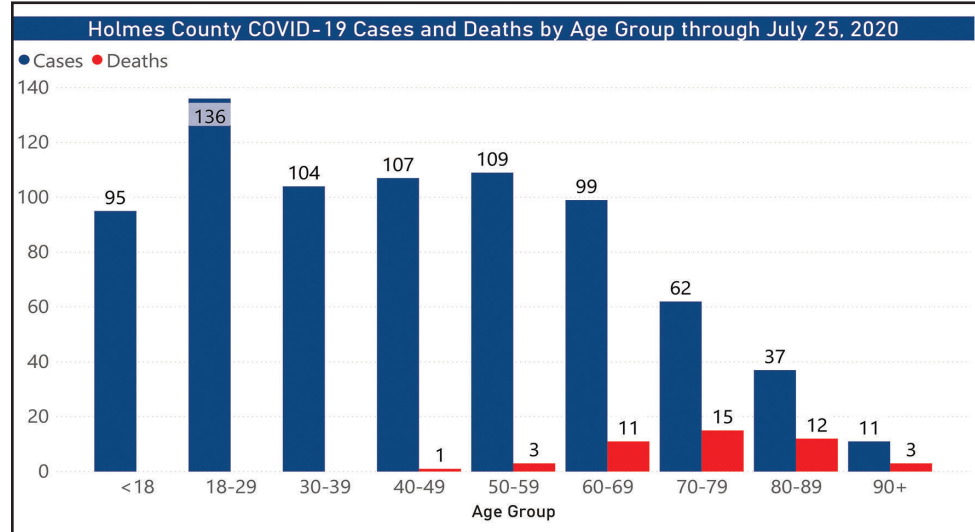
MSDH is also providing free testing for Lexington residents only on Friday, August 7, and Saturday, August 8. The testing will be held at Lexington Public Library, 208 Tchula Street; and the site of the former Fred’s

Pharmacy, 301 Yazoo Street (in the same area as the MSU Extension Services and the WIN Job Center), 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., both days.

Washable masks and bottles of hand sanitizer will be given out during this testing event, while supplies last, on a first come, first serve basis.

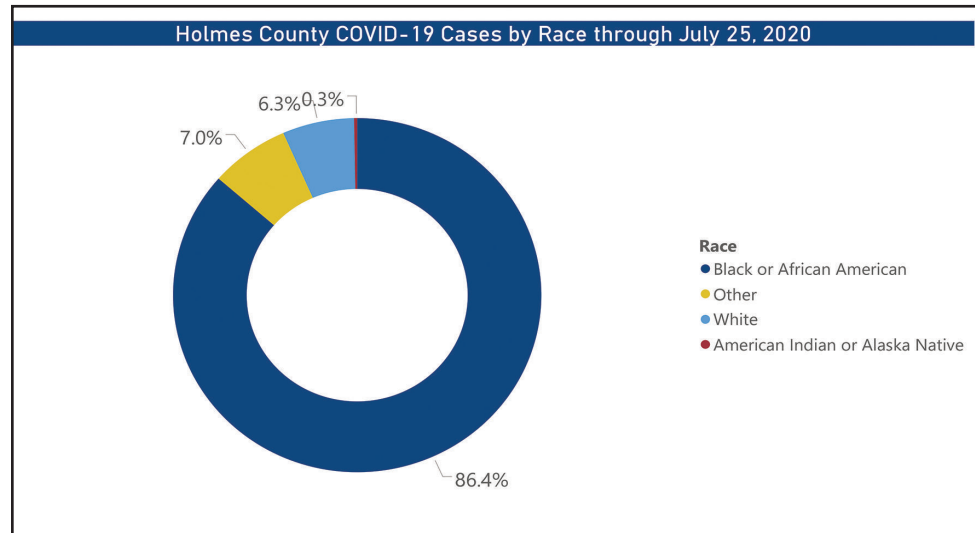
All residents are urged to get tested, according to the information provided by MSDH. No symptoms or contact with a positive case are necessary.

“Test results available within 24-48 hours,” according to the information.



Case information compiled by the Mississippi State Department of Health shows the age groups of COVID-19 cases and deaths in Holmes County with the 18-29 age group have the highest numbers of cases. The data is current up to July 25.

(Graphics by MSDH)



Case information compiled by the Mississippi State Department of Health shows the racial demographics of cases in Holmes County. Black or African American residents make the largest number of reported cases in the county. The data is current up to July 25.

(Graphics by MSDH)

50¢ Single Copy



Thursday
Mostly Sunny
90/69
Precip. Chance
10%



Friday
Sunny
95/72
Precip. Chance
10%



Saturday
Mostly Sunny
96/74
Precip. Chance
10%



Sunday
Isolated T'Storms
95/74
Precip. Chance
30%



Monday
Mostly Sunny
95/74
Precip. Chance
20%



Tuesday
Isolated T'Storms
94/73
Precip. Chance
30%



Wednesday
Scattered T'Storms
92/72
Precip. Chance
50%

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