



Offices, businesses restricting services

Local governmental offices are still offering services, with some restrictions, for now. The Probate Office in the Choctaw County Courthouse is restricting visitors to one at a time and no one is allowed in areas behind the counter. Many local businesses are altering their services as well. Restrictions may change based on new orders from the state.

Alabama Power warning about scam

Alabama Power is warning customers about a scam that is taking place during the current COVID-19 crisis. Individuals are targeting customers by calling them to request immediate payment for their accounts. The scams occur periodically and have increased during the last few weeks as more people are remaining at home and may be vulnerable to misinformation. Alabama Power officials are urging customers who receive the calls to hang up immediately and call their service line at 1-800-245-2244. The

company is also issuing the following information:

- The company will never come to your door to demand immediate payment.
- The company will never call you and ask you over the phone for bank information or a credit card number.
- Any Alabama Power employee who comes to your door for any reason will have company identification to show to you. If you have questions about whether a person is actually an Alabama Power employee, call the company at 1-800-245-2244 and do

not allow them to enter your home.

- Scammers sometimes claim they represent a public agency or government office offering grants to help pay your power or other utility bills. NEVER provide anyone making this claim with your credit card information, your power bill information or account number, or any personal banking information. Call Alabama Power or local law enforcement to report it.
- For questions about the status of your Alabama Power account, call the company.

COVID-19 testing sites in Alabama

By Dee Ann Campbell
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A list of COVID-19 testing sites have been set up throughout the state. The Alabama Department of Public Health urges people to CALL their healthcare providers if they have symptoms and feel like they need to be tested. DO NOT JUST GO TO YOUR DOCTOR. CALL FIRST. The following is a list of testing sites in Alabama:

- Drive-through testing site at Whitfield Regional Hospital, Demopolis; 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.; Doctor's order required.
- Testing sites are being set up in Mobile at Ladd-Peebles Stadium and The Grounds. Sites currently waiting for testing kits.
- DCH Regional Hospital, Tuscaloosa; testing from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. every day, at center set up in parking lot off Dr. Edward Hilliard Drive.
- University of Alabama at Birmingham, Environmental Science Lab parking lot, located at the corner of 22nd Street and University Blvd. Open 7 a.m. through 11 p.m. The site is sponsored by UAB Medicine and the Jefferson County Department of Health. Call 205-975-1881 to make an appointment. (This is an appointment-only testing site).
- Baptist Health, Montgomery; located on East Boulevard/Marti Lane; Drive-through testing site. (This is an appointment-only testing site).
- Curbside testing for patients up to age 21 – Urgent Care for Children, locations in Birmingham, Trussville, Tuscaloosa, and other sites. Call 205-848-2273 before arrival.
- ADPH has sites in Hale, Elmore, Tuscaloosa, Montgomery, and Marengo counties. Call 1-888-264-2256 for information.

Testing at ADPH sites is free for those who have referrals from their physicians. Other sites that are not ADPH-affiliated may not be offered at no cost, but some insurance policies may cover it. Individuals would need to call their insurance providers to find out. The ADPH has also set up a hotline for those who want information about when and where they can be tested. 1-888-264-2256. (NOTE: This information is rapidly changing and other sites may be added.)

Hearing from page 1

Huckeba alleged that the murder was the result of a robbery scheme. Testimony was presented to show the planning of the crime. The defense objected to much of the witness testimony, claiming the evidence as hearsay. Following the completion of testimony, Thompson rendered his order in the case.

NOTICE to READERS:
We have temporarily provided access to all content on our website at no cost. Visit us online at www.choctawsun.org

Cases from page 1

Chambers 5
Cullman 3
Elmore 8
Franklin 1
Houston 1
Jackson 1
Jefferson 91
Lamar 1
Lauderdale 3
Lee 26
Limestone 4
Madison 21
Marion 1
Mobile 6
Montgomery 9
Morgan 2
Shelby 27
St. Clair 4
Talladega 2
Tallapoosa 2
Tuscaloosa 10
Walker 5
Washington 1

The increase in numbers of cases goes hand-in-hand with the numbers of individuals who are getting tested for the virus. As of Tuesday, the state has so far conducted 2,321 tests statewide. As of Tuesday, the national total COVID-19 cases was 42,663, with cases confirmed in all 50 states. Altogether, there have been 540 deaths from the virus, primarily in New York, Washington, and Louisiana. New York has confirmed 157 deaths in that state alone. In the meantime, the State of Alabama, along with other states, has issued orders affecting public gatherings and other events. An updated order was given

by Gov. Kay Ivey last Friday, March 20, revising the initial order that had been put in place. Those who violate the orders could be charged with misdemeanors and pay fines up to \$500. Attorney General Steve Marshall issued guidance last week to law enforcement stating that those who willingly violate the orders set down by the Alabama Department of Public Health can be charged and issued fines. Marshall cited Alabama Code 22-2-14 as the state statute that allows for the charges to be filed when there is a threat to the health and safety of the public. The law allows the assessment of fines from \$25 to \$500 for those who are convicted of knowingly violating the orders. The following are the updated orders from the State of Alabama:

NON-WORK-RELATED GATHERINGS
All non-work-related gatherings of 25 or more persons, or non-work-related gatherings of any size that cannot maintain a consistent six-foot distance between persons, are prohibited. Employers are to take all reasonable steps to meet these standards for employees and customers.

HOSPITALS/NURSING HOMES
All hospitals and nursing home/long term care facilities (including assisted living and specialty care assisted living facilities) shall prohibit visitation of all visitors and non-essential health care personnel, except for certain compassionate care situations such as maternity and end-of-life.

DENTAL/MEDICAL PROCEDURES
All elective dental and medical proce-

dures will be delayed.

RESTAURANTS/BARS
Restaurants, bars, or similar establishments cannot permit on-premise consumption of food or drink. Governor Ivey continued to encourage patrons to visit their local restaurants for take-out or delivery as long as the social distancing protocols for maintaining a consistent six-foot distance between individuals are followed.

BEACHES
All beaches were ordered closed, including privately or publicly owned beaches, and beach access points.

SENIOR CENTERS/PROGRAMS
Regular programs at senior citizen centers are to be ended, except that the Centers and their partners are urged to assure that their clients continue to receive needed meals through curbside pickup or delivery.

CHILDCARE FACILITIES
Facilities providing child day care may remain open so long as 12 or more children are not allowed in a room or other enclosed or separated space at the same time. Facilities are encouraged to use enhanced sanitation and social-distancing practices consistent with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH).

SCHOOLS
In-person instruction and classes at all schools and colleges are prohibited. Local boards of education may provide daytime special activities programs for some children ages 6 through 12. These programs may be held for children of essential employees of these employers: State and local governments, first respon-

ders (including EMS and fire services), law enforcement, hospitals, nursing home/long term care facilities (including assisted living and specialty care assisted living facilities), end-stage renal disease treatment centers, pharmacies and grocery stores.

FUNERALS/WEDDINGS, etc
The health order includes all gatherings. A request may be submitted in writing to the state health officer for a specific exception. These exceptions will be closely evaluated based on the ability to maintain social distancing and to limit the possibility of disease spread. The state suggested that families have private family services and hold larger services later.

CAREGIVERS
Sitters for the elderly and disabled who assist with feeding, bathing and other essential life activities will be considered medically necessary. Frequent handwashing and disinfecting surfaces are strongly recommended.

OTHERS
Hair, Nail, Massage and Tattoo Businesses:
The department recommends businesses follow the CDC's guidance for employers that can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/businesses-employers.html>. The state recommends limiting the number of patrons and staff to less than 25, social distancing, no walk-ins, services by appointment only, spacing patrons in waiting areas, and posting signs not to enter and reschedule if ill. The revised order is in place through April 6 but may be extended, according to the ADPH.