

COVID-19 Pandemic: DeKalb's Response

March 31, 2020

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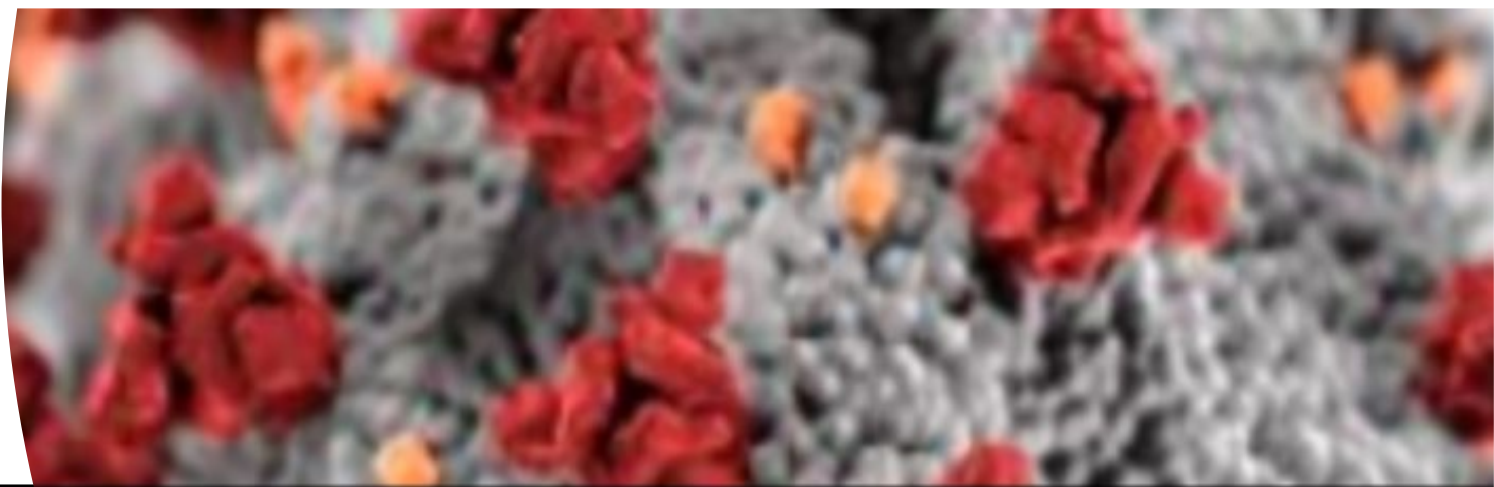
Chief Executive Officer



DeKalb County
GEORGIA

Overview

- COVID-19 DeKalb's Response: Timeline
- Emergency Response Protocol
- Designation of Essential Governmental Services
- Budgetary Implications
- Community Communications



COVID-19 UPDATES

DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA



COVID-19 DeKalb's Response: Timeline



Overarching Goal: Saving Lives

For our Citizens, For our Employees

DeKalb BOC adopted the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP).

February 2017

Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency for the U. S. to aid the nation's healthcare community in responding.

Jan. 31, 2020

Facilities Department initiated COVID-19 Cleaning Protocols.

March 2, 2020

CEO's Office of Communications publishes COVID-19 webpage.

March 3, 2020

Jan. 30, 2020

The World Health Organization declared the outbreak a "[public health emergency of international concern external icon.](#)"

February 2020

The DeKalb Emergency Management Agency initiated a request for masks, gloves and other essentials in anticipation of an event.

March 3, 2020

COO initiated the Emergency Management Response Team and requested that each department update their COOPs.



Overarching Goal: Saving Lives

For our Citizens, For our Employees

Began distribution of COVID-19 educational materials to DeKalb seniors.

March 6, 2020

Presented the COVID-19 Preparedness in OPS Committee.

March 10, 2020

Issued Employee Health and Safety Memo.

March 12, 2020

President Trump declared a national emergency.

March 13, 2020

March 9, 2020

Installed hand sanitizer stations in all county-owned buildings.

March 11, 2020

Conducted first virtual COVID-19 Townhall.

March 13, 2020

Executive Leadership prioritized delivery of services and all county departments activates their emergency operations plans.

March 14, 2020

Governor Kemp declared a public health emergency in Georgia.



Overarching Goal: Saving Lives

For our Citizens, For our Employees

Implemented the Socially Distant Service Delivery Strategy (ensuring continuation of essential services while restricting public access to county facilities).

March 15, 2020

Georgia received an official statewide disaster declaration from the U.S. Small Business Administration.

March 18, 2020

Issued the Public Health Emergency Protocol (delineating the workforce) and held the 2nd COVID-19 virtual townhall.

March 19, 2020

CEO declared a State of Emergency in DeKalb County and issued Executive Order 20-001.

March 23, 2020

March 16, 2020

Completed initial deep cleaning of county buildings, using hospital-grade disinfectant and instituted continued deep cleanings.

March 19, 2020

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) issued a memo regarding the identification of essential critical infrastructure workers.

March 20-23, 2020

Tested the Public Health Emergency Protocol.

March 27, 2020

CEO issued Executive Order 20-002, implementing a stay-at-home order for DeKalb County.



COVID-19 DeKalb's Response: Emergency Response Protocol



FRONT LINE WORKFORCE

(Approx. 3500 employees)

- Essential government services will be delivered in a seamless manner by the County's front line workforce whose job function does not allow them to work remotely and who will report to work in the following departments:
 - Watershed
 - Sanitation
 - 911, Police, Fire, Sheriff & Marshals
 - Medical examiner
 - Roads and drainage
 - Senior center food services
 - Parks
 - DeKalb-Peachtree Airport
 - WorkSource DeKalb
 - IT/Communications
- **COMPENSATION:** Regular salary plus 50% admin pay and 50% comp time



REMOTE ACCESS WORKFORCE

(Approx. 844 employees)

Employees who can and will perform their job responsibilities remotely

- COMPENSATION: Regular salary with regular accrual of annual and sick leave

RESERVE AUXILIARY WORKFORCE

(Approx. 556 employees)

Employees who perform non-essential services and cannot work remotely

- COMPENSATION: Regular salary with regular accrual of annual and sick leave
- Auxiliary employees must agree to remain available for all assignments for which they are deemed qualified by their supervisors if needed, regardless of department



RETIREE AUXILIARY WORKFORCE

(Approx. 42 employees)

Comprised of retired County employees who have volunteered to return to active duty, if necessary

- COMPENSATION: Case-by-Case Basis



Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)

- The EOP establishes a framework through which the County may prepare for; respond to; recover from; and mitigate to prevent the impacts of a wide variety of disasters that could adversely affect the health, safety, and/or general welfare of the residents and emergency workers of DeKalb County.
- The EOP describes strategies through which the County:
 - Mobilizes resources
 - Facilitates Inter-governmental Operations
 - Defines Essential Support Functions and the responsible agency



COVID-19 DeKalb's Response: Designation of Essential Governmental Services



COVID-19 DeKalb's Response: Designation of Essential Government Services

We have determined that the following essential government services will be delivered in a seamless manner:

1. Department of Watershed Management (to ensure the availability of potable water and the treatment of wastewater)
2. Sanitation (to prevent the spread of disease that would otherwise compound the current health crisis)
3. E-911 (to assure emergency response to citizens during ongoing and increasing demands for service)
4. Police (to maintain security and provide law enforcement response)
5. Fire Rescue (to continue front line emergency, fire and medical response activities)



COVID-19 DeKalb's Response: Designation of Essential Government Services

6. Information Technology (to bolster the technological capacity to ensure the ongoing remote service provision)
7. Medical Examiner (to assure the proper handling of remains potentially impacted by COVID-19 and data collection)
8. Roads and Drainage (to reduce the spread of insect related diseases and flood prevention by ensuring proper runoff controls)
9. Senior Center Food Services (to continue basic food supplies for seniors - a vulnerable group due to the health crisis)
10. Parks (to continue providing nutritional snacks to school-age children while providing for sanitized community open spaces)



COVID-19 DeKalb's Response: Designation of Essential Government Services

11. DeKalb Peachtree Airport (to meet critical transportation needs)
12. WorkSource DeKalb (to respond to the immediate increased unemployment by providing job options and career skill training)
13. Community Development (to engage homeless citizens, provide sheltering options and determine their health status to reduce the risk of catching and spreading COVID-19)
14. Other support staff as needed from various departments.



COVID-19 DeKalb's Response: Budgetary Implications



Budgetary Implications

- FY 2020 budget was developed based on an expected economic downturn during the current fiscal year
- Personnel Services & Benefits Appropriation for FY 2020:
 - Under Public Health Emergency Protocol, compensation for the Front Line Workforce could be funded for 7 months without need for additional appropriation
- Reduced Spend in Other Budget Line-Items
 - Line-items such as travel, training, etc. will go unused because of depth and length of COVID-19 pandemic
- Federal Stimulus Bill
 - DeKalb County will seek money to recoup costs spent for disaster mitigation
- POETA Tracking of Expenses
 - Finance department has a project-linked budget tracking tool that will segregate expenses related to each department's response to the pandemic



Credit for graphic: <http://www.ekathimerini.com/241935/opinion/ekathimerini/comment/the-ant-and-the-grasshopper-a-new-version>



COVID-19 DeKalb's Response: Community Communications



Community Communications

- Communications with the DeKalb County Board of Health
- Initiation of the Virtual Town Hall Meetings
 - Citizens could call in, email, or post questions during these meetings
- Creation of the DeKalb County COVID-19 website outlining
 - Continuation of essential services
 - Citizen Assistance Information
 - COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions and Printable Resources
 - Activities for Social Distancing
 - Video library of Virtual Town Halls and State of Emergency Executive Order
- Coordination with the DeKalb County Public School System



Community Communications

- Consultation with the Chief Judge of the DeKalb County Superior Court and other members of the judiciary and prosecutorial branch
- Communications with the DeKalb County House and Senate Delegations
- Conference calls with the DeKalb Municipal Association
- Discussions with neighboring counties
- Communications with faith-based organizations
- Initiation of the DeKalb County COVID-19 Strategic Task Force (to include the presiding officer of the BOC and two commissioners, representative from the DeKalb County Public Schools, the DeKalb County House and Senate Delegations, DeKalb County Public Safety leaders, and may include business and civic leaders, faith organizations, educational institutions, and non-profit leaders)
- Use of the Relay publication to update citizens

