



NEWS RELEASE

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DPH, CDC Deploying Epidemiologists To Assist Albany Health District

ATLANTA – The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) together with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will send a team of epidemiologists to investigate the growing number of cases of COVID-19 in Albany, Georgia. As of noon, Dougherty County has 38 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and six confirmed deaths.

This team of experts will work with the district staff in Albany to respond to and contain the ongoing threat of COVID-19 in Southwest Georgia. The initial focus will be on infections at Phoebe Putney Hospital as well as long-term care facilities.

“This is a historic public health threat and we must work together with our federal, state and local partners to contain this pandemic,” said Kathleen E. Toomey, M.D., M.P.H., DPH commissioner. “Individuals, too, must take responsibility for themselves and their families to ensure they are taking all the recommended COVID-19 prevention measures, including avoiding large groups and gatherings.”

All Georgians play a critical role in helping to slow the spread of COVID-19 by adhering to the following guidance:

- Practice social distancing by putting at least 6 feet between yourself and other people.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and water.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.

For updates on the COVID-19 situation as it develops, follow @GaDPH, @GeorgiaEMA, and @GovKemp on Twitter and @GaDPH, @GEMA.OHS, and @GovKemp on Facebook.

For information about COVID-19, visit <https://dph.georgia.gov/novelcoronavirus> or <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

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