



COMMISSIONERS OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY

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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cumberland County Temporarily Furloughs 156 Staff Members Due to COVID-19

Carlisle, PA – The Cumberland County Commissioners today voted to temporarily furlough 156 county employees, effective, April 26, 2020. Due to the effects of COVID-19, and reduced operations, staffing will be limited to personnel necessary to support required and mandated county functions, as determined by the Commissioners, President Judge, Elected Officials and Department Heads.

County officials have been carefully monitoring operations for more than a month with a core staff of personnel. County Commissioners worked with each department to gather information on how many employees were needed to sustain county government. Employees working in the Cumberland County Prison, Claremont Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Coroner's Office and the Department of Public Safety are not affected by the reduction in staff because of their 24/7 essential operations.

Due to reduced revenues and increased COVID-19 expenditures, specifically personal protective equipment (PPE), the county needed to make these temporary changes in staffing, which will save the county \$335,000 per month.

“Given the impact that COVID-19 has had on our county, we made the necessary decision to temporarily furlough 156 staff members,” said Cumberland County Commissioner Gary Eichelberger. “Our employees are the backbone of county government; we had to make important decisions to temporarily reduce operations to only the essential functions necessary for public safety, and maintaining county government.”

Prior to the staffing reduction, the County Commissioners issued a Disaster Declaration in order to expedite activities related to emergency response due to COVID-19, and to allow for federal funding to reimburse county costs related to the virus. At that time, the county implemented the CDC's and Department of Health's directives to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Employees have been, and will continue to practice social distancing, work on alternate schedules, and telecommuting.

“The effects of this pandemic are unprecedented; the results of which are unknown,” Eichelberger added. “We care for our employees, their livelihood and their families; and we are committed to recalling employees as soon as possible.”

Employees are eligible to apply for unemployment compensation benefits at the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, [Office of Unemployment Compensation](#), beginning Monday, April 27. The county will continue healthcare benefits for furloughed employees until at least July 31, 2020. At that time, the county will evaluate and communicate next steps.

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Cumberland County is the fastest growing county in the Commonwealth and offers the perfect mix of small town, suburban and rural living. Established in 1750, Cumberland County consistently maintains one of the lowest tax and unemployment rates in the state, while providing exceptional services for its more than 250,000 residents. More information on Cumberland County can be found at www.ccpa.net.