

TN braces for the COVID-19 surge

SURGE, from Page 1
itary.

Holmes reported that more than 500 military personnel have been called to active duty. Of those, 250 have some type of medical training and are currently testing for the virus at sites setup across the state.

To date, the state has provided more than 53,000 tests. That number could significantly change when a new test that can provide positive results in as little as five minutes is made available at state labs and America Family Care clinics. State leaders called it a “game changer.”

Lee said last week that he is “encouraged” by the latest University of Washington modeling that projects a significantly fewer COVID-19 infections and deaths than previously estimated. The latest data shows 587 people in Tennessee could die by Aug. 4, which is down significantly from original projects that estimated as many as 3,400 Tennesseans could die by August.

“Social distancing is working,” said Lee. “The spread may be slowing in Tennessee and other places. This gives us hope for return to a normal life. However, we cannot change in our vigilance in doing the things that caused the decreases. We have to be consistent in our efforts to stay home. Every time you do those things, you move us a little bit quicker to the end.”

Tennessee launches new public awareness campaign, provides Safer-At-Home toolkit

“Do Your Part Stay Apart”

As an elected official, Tennessee residents need your help to stay safe and healthy during the COVID-19 crisis. Gov. Bill Lee issued a “Safer at Home” executive order closing non-essential businesses and urging Tennesseans to stay home as much as possible to stop the spread of the Coronavirus.

How Elected Officials Can Help

Spread the Word on Social Media

- Help your constituents by disseminating accurate and timely information on social media.
- Encourage Tennesseans to stay at home using Facebook, Twitter, and any other social media accounts you have.
- Post a 30 second video to social media encouraging individuals to stay at home using the #TNStayApart hashtag.
- Share the governor’s social media content on Facebook and Twitter.
- Share the governor’s daily briefings which can be viewed here, <https://sts.streamingvideo.tn.gov/Mediasite/Catalog/catalogs/mediasiteadmin-covid-19-media-briefing>.
- Highlight local businesses and individuals that are finding creative ways give back during this time.
- Support your local businesses by encouraging folks to order take-out, and buy restaurant gift cards for later use.

For more ideas on how you can encourage safe practices in your community or to download ads, videos, Facebook banners, go to the Safer-At-Home tool kit at <https://www.tn.gov/governor/covid-19/toolkit.html>



As part of Gov Lee’s efforts to keep Tennesseans updated on the latest COVID-19 statistics, his administration is providing a public dashboard on the current situation.

Tennessee COVID-19 Public Dashboard

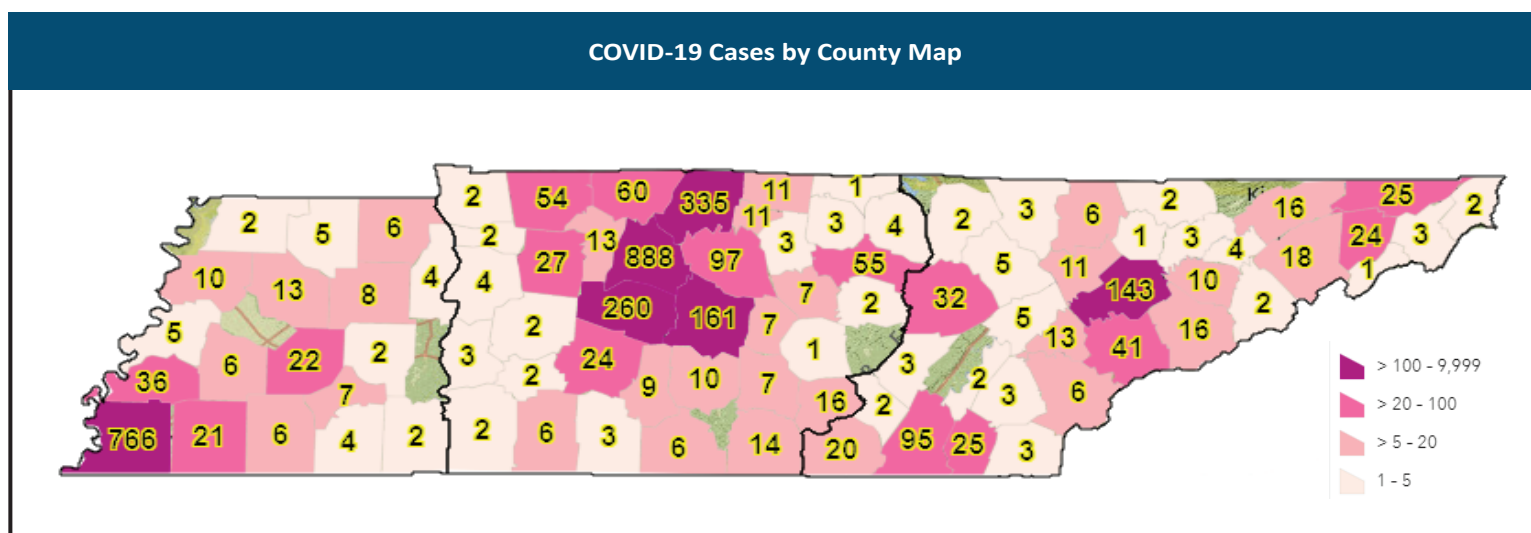
Daily Snapshot— Current as of 3 p.m. CDT, April 7, 2020—Updated Every 24 Hours

| COVID-19 Case Totals |
|---|
| Total Confirmed Cases: 4,138 (+336) |
| Total Confirmed Fatalities: 72 (+7) |
| Total Hospitalizations: 408 (+56) |
| Recovered: 466 (+110) |
| https://www.tn.gov/health/cedep/ncov.html |

| Testing Inventory |
|--|
| Number Tested: 52,874 |
| Number Positive: 4,138 |
| Number Negative: 48,726 |
| Counties <u>WITHOUT</u> confirmed cases: Crockett, Decatur, Hancock, Henderson, Lake, Moore, Pickett, Rhea, Stewart, Van Buren |
| https://www.tn.gov/health/cedep/ncov.html |

| Available Medical Inventory | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Hospital Beds | ICU Beds | Ventilators |
| 36% | 35% | 75% |
| 4,378/12,241 | 665/1,906 | 1,455/1,946 |

| PPE Resource Overview | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Items Received | No. of Shipments |
| 17,519,412 | 1,087 |



Data is updated every 24 hours at 3 p.m., CDT.

PPE Items Received includes to date cumulative total of ordered and purchased masks/goggles, face shields, gowns, gloves.

PPE Shipments includes to date total shipments to requestors statewide.



COVID-19 Resources

COVID-19 Public Information Numbers
833-556-2476 and 877-857-2945
Available 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. CDT Daily

DONATIONS

For Vendors:
COVID.PPEVENDORS@tn.gov

For Public Donations:
COVID.PPEDONATIONS@tn.gov

[Private Sector PPE Donations](#)

[Sign up for the Tennessee Medical Reserve Corps \(TNMRC\) COVID-19 Response](#)

[Regional Assessment Sites by County](#)

[COVID-19 Information and Resources on TN.gov](#)

How much can cities expect from 3rd Coronavirus package?

BY CAROLYN BERNDT and CHRISTIANA MCFARLAND
NLC STAFF

On March 27, Congress passed and the president signed the CARES Act, which, among many things, provides local governments funding to meet the immediate needs of residents, households, and small businesses on the economic margins.

The Coronavirus Relief Fund, established under the CARES Act, provides \$150 billion for state, local and tribal governments to use to cover any costs related to COVID-19 that had not been previously budgeted for and were incurred between March 1 and Dec. 30, 2020.

While the majority of the money will go to states, the bill allocates direct financial assistance to cities above 500,000 in population. When a unit of local government receives funds, it will reduce the amount available to its own state by the amount a unit of local government receives. Units of local government will receive 45% of the funding allocated to their state. There is no provision that requires a state government to distribute money to local governments.

Despite only large cities receiving direct funding, 86% of Americans support the federal government providing funds directly to cities and towns to support coronavirus challenges in local communities.

NLC analyzed the funding and population data for large cities to uncover how much the 36 cities that pass the population threshold will receive in direct financial assistance.

By the Numbers

Under the Coronavirus Relief Fund, up to approximately \$8.2 billion may go directly to cities to support communities and their fiscal capacity to respond to COVID-19.

Each state is allocated at least \$1.25 billion, 45% of which will be directed to cities with more than 500,000 in their state, based on a population formula. For example, New Mexico, with a relatively low state population of 2.1 million, is expected to receive the minimum amount of \$1.25 billion from the federal government, according to Federal Funds Information for States.

How much of that \$1.25 billion will go to the city of Albuquerque depends on its population. With a population of about 560,000, Albuquerque makes up about 26% of the state’s population. So Albuquerque’s share of that \$1.25 billion would be about \$325 million. However, Albuquerque won’t receive that entire amount because of the guidelines established by the CARES Act. It will receive only 45% of that amount, or \$149 million.

The amount of direct funding for cities ranges from about \$90 million for Fresno, Calif., to \$1.5 billion for New York City.

Additional Funding for Cities, Towns and Villages

Aside from the Coronavirus Relief Fund, cities, towns and villages can expect to receive federal funding from a variety of programs to assist in the local government response to this public health crisis. For example, funding for Transit Infrastructure Grants (\$25 billion) will help transit providers, which are primarily led by local governments, cover operating and

capital expenses. The Federal Transit Administration will distribute funding proportionally using existing formulas within seven days of enactment of the CARES Act.

Other programs, such as the Byrne-Justice Assistance Grant program and Assistance to Firefighter Grants, will be rolled into current funding levels for FY20 and awarded to local governments through the typical grant application process.

Programs going entirely to local governments

- Transit Infrastructure Grants: \$25 billion
 - Byrne-Justice Assistance Grant Program: \$850 million
 - Assistance to Firefighter Grants: \$100 million
- TOTAL: \$25.95 billion**

Additionally, a number of programs funded through the CARES Act will provide a portion of the supplemental funding to cities, towns and villages, typically based on current formulas and available for expenditure through FY20 or FY21. For example, under the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the bill provides an additional \$25 million for the existing Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program, plus \$100 million to extend the ReConnect competitive rural broadband grant/loan program through the end of FY2021.

For Homeless Assistance Grants, \$2 billion will be allocated by formula to current FY20 grantees within 30 days of enactment and \$2 billion will be allocated directly to states or local governments by a formula to be developed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) with

allocations made within 90 days of enactment.

For the Community Development Block Grant, \$2 billion will be awarded to FY20 grantees that received formula allocations within 30 days of enactment; \$1 billion will be awarded to states and insular areas, including entitlement and non-entitlement communities, within 45 days of enactment; and \$2 billion will be distributed to states and local governments at the discretion of HUD on a rolling basis based on need. The CARES Act also suspends the 15% services cap so that grantees may spend additional funds on assistance to low-income households.

Programs going partially to local governments

- Airport Improvement Program: \$10 billion
 - Essential Air Service: \$56 million
 - Rural Development Programs: \$20.5 million
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: \$1.5 billion
 - Education Stabilization Fund: \$30.75 billion
 - Economic Adjustment Assistance Program: \$1.5 billion
 - Community Development Block Grants: \$5 billion
 - Homeless Assistance Grants: \$4 billion
 - Family Violence Prevention Services: \$45 million
 - Legal Services Corporation: \$50 million
 - Institute of Museum and Library Services: \$50 million
 - Disaster Relief Fund: \$45 billion
 - Emergency Food and Shelter Program: \$200 million
- TOTAL: \$96.673 billion**

Tennessee to receive \$2.7 billion

- \$1.45 billion to state
- \$1.19 billion to be split among Metro Nashville, Memphis, and Shelby County

For NLC’s full summary of key programs for local governments visit: https://www.nlc.org/sites/default/files/users/user52651/Summary_CARES_Act_FINAL.pdf

Conclusion

The CARES Act provides for many of the immediate needs of municipal governments to prevent economic decline. Unfortunately, for the governments themselves and their residents, it will prove insufficient for intermediate and long-term economic stabilization, particularly for those communities that have not yet fully recovered from the Great Recession. Funding distribution should rely not only on population, but also economic need, COVID-19 impact and fiscal capacity of local governments to meet the needs of their communities.

Now that Congress has finished this “Phase 3” coronavirus lifeline package, NLC continues to urge congressional leaders to move forward with a “Phase 4” stimulus package that provides the necessary economic jump-start for communities of all sizes through additional direct investments in cities and towns and important programs.

Let Congress know what your community needs through the NLC Take Action page, <https://nlc.quotum.us/campaign/25482/>. For more local government resources related to the coronavirus, visit www.nlc.org/coronavirus.