

## LEHIGH COUNTY

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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 15, 2020 CONTACT: Laura Grammes 610-782-3002

## Lehigh County Government Center closed to all visitors

All visitation to building is suspended until further notice.

**Allentown, PA**- Effective immediately, Lehigh County Government Center located at 17 S. 7th Street in Allentown, will be closed to all visitors and walk-ins. This includes anyone without a Government Center issued identification badge. The decision was made by Lehigh County Executive Phil Armstrong, along with his administration as the county continues to monitor the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

As of March 15, 2020, a presumptive positive COVID-19 case was confirmed in Lehigh County. In order to maintain the spread of the virus, the Government Center will be taking a proactive stance in order to keep residents and the community safe. The building will still remain in operation at this time.

Assistance will continue to be available for those seeking aid from the Department of Human Services. Please contact Information and Referral at 610-782-3200. Those with questions specifically for Children and Youth will be directed to call 610-782-3064. All volunteers are asked to stay home during this period. For the safety of residents and Government Center staff, this procedure will be in place until further notice.

As of March 13<sup>th</sup>, the World Health Organization has declared COVID-19 a global pandemic. The United States followed by declaring a National Emergency on March 15, 2020. In response, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf ordered statewide closings to all Pennsylvania schools, followed by mass closings of community centers, gyms, malls, and other facilities. All critical infrastructure will remain open.

Lehigh County is urging residents to stay home if they are ill and to consult a primary care physician if they suspect they are feeling COVID-19 symptoms. Precautionary measures that can be taken remain; washing hands for 20 seconds, refraining from touching your face and to practice social distancing from large gatherings.

This is an active and evolving situation with more updates to follow.