

Elks Lodge Actions in Georgia to Covid-19



Date: March 17, 2020

To: All Elk Lodges

From: Bill Lewis, Chairman, Disaster Relief Committee

Much more information is available from lodges across the state relative to what is being done in reaction to Cov-19. This effort is to keep our Georgia Lodges informed about what is going on with our lodges across the state.

This information will be posted on the GEA website (gaelks.org) as well beginning tomorrow night March 18, 2020.

The following has been reported to date:

Dalton #1267.

We are asking all members to use the upmost precautions during this time of health issue. The Coronavirus level in our area is still very low. This is a constantly evolving situation, but as of today, there are no reports of the virus in our community. We are engaging in numerous other measures to prevent Coronavirus from reaching our lodge. Cleaning routines have been adjusted so that common areas are being sanitized multiple times. We ask that if you are not feeling well, please stay home in consideration of our other members.

We will continue to monitor the Coronavirus situation and evaluate additional measures to support our members.

Lake Oconee #2849.

The House Committee and restaurant staff are performing additional cleaning procedures using the guidelines recommended by the CDC. The dance and dinner for this coming Friday has been canceled but the lodge remains open.

Sent to all members by email:

For as long as the Lodge is to remain open, we want to emphasize the extreme importance of good personal hygiene and careful, cautious, reasoned behaviour to all Elks:

Wash your hands frequently with soap and water.

Use hot water, lather-up and then scrub for twenty seconds.

Scrub your nails in the palm of the opposite hand,

ensure that lathering and scrubbing extends over the wrists.

Reciting your ABCs (INCLUDING "now I've sung my ABCs...") while washing is the minimum amount of time necessary to ensure clean hands.

Avoid touching your face: eyes, ears, nose and mouth.

Maintain a personal space of 6 feet.

This means even the elbow to elbow greeting

places you and your greeted friend

in the zone of transmission.

Refrain from the direct contact of hugging, shaking hands, fist bumping and / or high fiving.

Whatever personal allowance you make for yourself, this is not the opportunity to share it.

It is cold and flu season to begin with. Those members that are not feeling tip-top, **please stay home**. Is your spouse or significant or parent or child not feeling tip-top? **Please stay home**.

The situation is very fluid and we expect that this week, with wider testing available, we will have more information.

Augusta #205.

Last night was the Special Needs Prom at the Lodge which was, in fact, held. They have cancelled their next dance and it is Patricia's expectation that the leadership is going to curtail activity. They are meeting today via SMS text messaging.

Covington #1806

Covington looked at the average age of the Members. They have an average age of participating Elks of 74 years old. Exalted Ruler Myers looked at the county's actions – closing everything, no large gatherings in the community. Chuck felt as though they needed to follow suit and not be ignorant of the community threat. Chuck also was concerned about bad public relations that might result from an "outbreak" within the Lodge. They are also promoting back to the community that they are all in this together. Meetings, bingo, dances, St Paddy's, all social events shut down. The Lodge will be deep-cleaning during the next two weeks.

Eatonton #2549.

Tonight's meeting of the Eatonton Elks has been canceled due to the Coronavirus.

Elberton-Athens #1100.

Local High School ROTC banquet cancelled out last night. But the Lodge is open for business. They will be following suit as actions are taken within the Elberton community.

Gainesville #1126.

No veterans meeting

He had not had the opportunity to discuss it yet with Carolyn Harris but he indicated he was "sure we will close it."

Toccoa #1820.

Stevens County Schools (the local school district) has reluctantly closed school. Decision made today. This is the first closure in the area. Tonight is Lodge Bingo. Today is a Fall Prevention Seminar at the Lodge. Both are going forward. Extra cleaning has been underway at the Lodge. Cautioning Members to use their best judgment and to stay home if they don't feel well.

Savannah Lodge #183..

Has shut down until April 4

Tifton, Valdosta, Savannah (until April 4) have closed during the crisis and will then reevaluate, Albany is closing for 2 weeks, and then will reevaluate.

Douglas #1286.

No Report

Eatonton #2549.

The Lodge will be closed for cleaning this Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, then reopen Friday at 2pm. The kitchen will open from 6pm to 9pm and have a full menu. We are sorry for any inconvenience to anyone but we think you all will understand.

Anyone wishing to help clean the Lodge, please come to the Lodge Tuesday around 10am. Also we will clean up the outside of the Lodge on Saturday the 21st, we will cleanup the parking lot and try to cut up the leaves.

Jesup #2133.

Due to the concerns over covid-19 and thinking of the safety of our members and their families Jesup Elks Lodge will not meet tonight (March 16, 2020) and we will not have Lady's Night this month. Will notify of future plans. Please pass this info to all members.

Calhoun Lodge #1883.

At this time, we have cancelled all events throughout the remainder of March. This includes Bingo, Tournaments, meetings, initiations and installation of officers.

As of today, March 16 our lounge is closed and will remain closed til the end of the month.

We are still calculating our decisions with the golf course. The course was closed for the greens aeration

today (March 16, 2020) and the weather has been keeping traffic down. We are discussing closing the shop for traffic and POS in outside location. Still not exactly sure, but we will continue following all safety practices issued by the industry.

As you all know, Calhoun lodges operates a Golf Course as indicated above. They have given us information that is very helpful in their decision to keep the course open or not. This information is very useful for those lodges that have impending golf tournament fund raisers and/or members who simply like playing on a regular basis . The link to use is: https://www.golfdigest.com/story/can-you-play-golf-amid-coronavirus-concerns-with-proper-precautions-yes?mbid=social_facebook&fbclid=IwAR3RGS4DbN1NM-3ma0wxSN8t0SlxT4jUCTHXbp0gGZBwT4dVE1-aEyawYPk

Can you play golf amid coronavirus concerns? With proper precautions, yes

The Coronavirus Crisis.

CDC Recommends Against Gatherings Of 50 Or More, As States Close Bars And Restaurants.

March 15, 2020 9:03 PM ET

<https://www.npr.org/2020/03/15/816245252/cdc-recommends-suspending-gatherings-of-50-or-more-people-for-the-next-8-weeks>

Yesterday, the President of the United States recommends Against Gatherings Of 10 Or More..

DO The FIVE

Help stop coronavirus

- 1 **HANDS** Wash them often
- 2 **ELBOW** Cough into it
- 3 **FACE** Don't touch it
- 4 **FEET** Stay more than 3ft apart
- 5 **FEEL** sick? Stay home

Be safe, make the best decisions you can to protect your family, volunteers, employees, Elk Families, and your communities.