

#### EVENT UPDATE:

While continuing to monitor the COVID-19 situation, the CDC has recommended that gatherings of more than 50 people be cancelled. It is with regret that the members of the Executive Board of the GBPA have made the decision to postpone the Spring Skirmish (Five Forks) and the Cowboy Event (Gold in Them Thar Hills). A new date has not been determined for either event since the situation is still fluid. As the CDC begins to see the spread decrease and lifts its crowd restrictions, new dates will be determined and a plan of action decided.

As of this time, all remaining events including the 157<sup>th</sup> Battle of Gettysburg to be held on July 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, remain as scheduled. Please address any questions to [info@gbpa.org](mailto:info@gbpa.org). They will be answered as quickly as possible. Phone calls will be difficult to respond to in a timely manner.

We thank each and every one of you for your dedication to American History and appreciate your understanding in this matter. Stay healthy!

The GBPA

#### COVID RESPONSE:

Greetings:

The GBPA is monitoring the developing Covid-19 (novel Coronavirus) situation closely and putting in place strategies to protect our members and staff, while ensuring current continuity of operations. The best sources of up-to-date information and recommendations are The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

There are no plans at this time to delay or cancel our events or discontinue normal operations including Boy Scout Camping. We do not open to the public until April 18<sup>th</sup> with the beginning of our Spring Skirmish (Five Forks). Being an open air event and with the onset of warmer weather, we fully believe the risk of exposure will be minimal.

Those who have symptoms of acute respiratory illness are recommended to stay home and not come to any event until they are free of fever (100.4° F or greater using an oral thermometer), signs of a fever, and any other symptoms for at least 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing or other symptom-altering medicines (e.g. cough suppressants).

It is important to remain calm but informed. The health and wellness of you and your family is our top priority. In the coming days, we will provide additional guidance should there be an outbreak of the Coronavirus in the local Gettysburg area.

What is the Coronavirus?

Coronavirus is a new respiratory virus that originated in Wuhan, China. The virus is contagious and could potentially be fatal. At the present time, there is no vaccine, cure or specific treatment. Currently, the Corona Virus has a fatality rate of less than 3% and the majority of those affected so far have recovered.

How is the Coronavirus spread?

Health authorities have not confirmed how Coronavirus is transmitted, but suspect it is spread person-to-person through close contact with asymptomatic carriers. It is thought to be spread through coughing and/or sneezing, similar to how influenza and other respiratory pathogens are spread. There is also evidence that the virus has been spread by animal sources, including individuals with links to seafood or animal markets. Health authorities do not believe you can get it from just breathing the air, water or food. Good hygiene and avoidance of symptomatic individuals is the best defense.

How can I protect myself and my family?

While the immediate risk of the Coronavirus to the local Gettysburg area is believed to be low at this time, everyone can do their part to respond to this emerging public health threat. Because there is currently no vaccine to prevent infection, the best way to protect yourself is to avoid exposure to the virus.

The CDC recommends the following steps:

- \* Wash your hands often with soap and hot water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, containing at least 60 percent alcohol, if soap and water are not available.
- \* Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- \* Always cover coughs and sneezes and dispose of tissues.
- \* Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- \* Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- \* Stay healthy by getting enough sleep, eating nutritious foods, drinking fluids to stay hydrated and being physically active.
- \* Monitor developments on the spread of Coronavirus and follow public health recommendations as new information is obtained.

What are the signs and symptoms of Coronavirus?

- \* Fever above 100.4° F
- \* Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing
- \* Chest pain
- \* Cough
- \* Unusual fatigue

It is important to note that these symptoms are non-specific and may have another cause, such as a cold or the seasonal influenza virus. Most people who experience these symptoms are likely to have a common viral upper respiratory infection, not Coronavirus.

#### Travel

It is recommended that you consider canceling or delaying planned personal travel to the following CDC designated high-risk countries: China, Iran, South Korea, Italy, Japan, and Hong Kong (please monitor the CDC website for new countries added). The CDC suggests that individuals with exposure risk (recent travel to these countries or close contact with others who may have traveled to these countries) but without symptoms, should consider avoiding public places, as a precautionary measure, for at least 14 days after returning to the U.S.

Those with exposure risk, who have a fever accompanied by respiratory symptoms such as cough and congestion, should immediately seek medical care and should not come to work until they are feeling better and for 24 hours after fever has resolved, or until they have been cleared by their doctor to attend public events. Individuals who have not recently traveled, or are not otherwise aware of an exposure risk, should exercise caution when ill and seek medical treatment as appropriate. As always, please consult with your physician regarding any symptoms or medical concerns.

Also, please be aware that if you travel internationally to any country, you may be screened for COVID-19 symptoms upon returning to the U.S. You can view up-to-date travel advice provided by the World Health Organization (WHO) at:  
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/travel-advice>

Please don't hesitate to contact our organization with any questions or concerns.

Thank you,  
GBPA