

# COVID-19

A message from Ballad Health Corporate  
Emergency Operations Center (CEOC)



## CEOC Daily briefing

Tuesday edition

**TO:** Appalachian Highlands community and civic leaders  
**FROM:** Ballad Health Corporate Emergency Operations Center  
**DATE:** March 31, 2020  
**TITLE:** Daily COVID-19 briefing – March 31, 2020  
**ACTION:** Please share with your communities

### Ballad Health identifies cluster of positive COVID-19 cases in Hawkins County

Ballad Health has identified a cluster of positive coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) tests in Hawkins County, including three Hawkins County Memorial Hospital team members.

In response, Ballad Health is asking anyone who has been inside Hawkins County Memorial from March 20-March 31 to be especially vigilant for symptoms of COVID-19, including cough, sore throat and fever. They should also strictly adhere to physical distancing recommendations of 6 feet or more, and they should remain home unless engaged in essential activities or reporting for work at essential businesses.

Ballad Health team members and physicians who might have been exposed to COVID-19 will follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines for healthcare workers.

### Ballad Health reports first COVID-19 death

Ballad Health reported its first death related to COVID-19 to the state department of health today, March 31. As COVID-19 continues to spread in our communities, we do expect more deaths, which is why physical distancing efforts and work being done to flatten the curve are so crucial.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the patient's family and loved ones, and our sincere thanks goes out to the team who cared for this family.

### Watch today's livestreamed press conference

Every Tuesday and Thursday, Ballad Health will host Facebook LIVE videos to communicate with our communities and local media. The broadcasts begin at 11:30 a.m. – if you missed today's video, [you can catch it here](#).

### Moments of light – sweethearts for 62 years

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After suffering a fractured hip, Mrs. Anna Smith underwent surgery and is now recovering well at Norton Community Hospital's inpatient rehabilitation department.

The hospital and rehab stay is the longest Mrs. Smith has been away from her husband in 62 years of marriage. However, the family understands the importance of physical distancing, and Mr. Smith has not left his home out of concern for his wife's wellbeing once she returns.

Nurses close to the family said Mr. Smith is "missing his soulmate" and was looking forward to being reunited – which, for a few minutes on Sunday, they were. In honor of their 62nd

anniversary, Mr. and Mrs. Smith were able to see each other through a glass door and share a sweet smooch.

**Do you have a story or team member you'd like to recognize? Let us know by sending an email to [MyStory@balladhealth.org](mailto:MyStory@balladhealth.org).**

## **Additional points to note**

- Thank you to all the local businesses and organizations, such as Harbor Freight, American Electric Power (AEP), J. Mark Wall & Ceiling, Lowe's and Best Uniforms, who have donated supplies, PPE and scrubs for our health system and team members.
- The Safer at Home orders from local governments remain the best option we must flatten the curve of COVID-19. Please stay mindful and attentive to these policies and remain home, unless it's for essential travel.
- All COVID-19 updates and information will continue to be shared to [www.balladhealth.org/COVID19](http://www.balladhealth.org/COVID19).

## **Total positive COVID-19 case count:**

- Tennessee – 2,239 total; 50 in Appalachian Highlands (per health department data)
  - Carter – 1
  - Cocke – 1
  - Greene – 12
  - Hamblen – 2
  - Hawkins – 4

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- Johnson – 2
  - Sullivan – 13
  - Unicoi – 1
  - Washington – 14
- Virginia – 1,250; nine in Appalachian Highlands (per health department data)
  - City of Bristol – 1
  - Lee County – 2
  - Smyth County – 1
  - Tazewell County – 2
  - Washington County – 2
  - Wythe County – 1