

**Governor's Office of Homeland Security
and Emergency Preparedness**
State of Louisiana

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State Emergency Operations Center Partially Activated due to Coronavirus Response

BATON ROUGE (March 13, 2020) – The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) announced today that the state emergency operations center (SEOC) has been partially activated as part of the state's Coronavirus or COVID-19 response efforts. That level of activation involves select state agencies reporting to the EOC and working together as this health emergency continues to impact the state. Those employees will be tasked with evaluating and filling requests for support from our local emergency managers and other state agencies.

"GOHSEP has helped coordinate the information flow with our local, state and federal partners for the past several weeks as the Coronavirus threat has grown," said GOHSEP Director Jim Waskom. "We stand ready to support those responding to this threat as we would for any type of disaster. We always encourage the public to review your emergency game plan and check your emergency supplies. Stay informed with information from reliable sources in order to make the best decisions for you, your family and your business."

Louisiana's statewide 211 network is now answering calls about COVID-19, also known as the coronavirus. This network is best designed and staffed to handle the large volume of calls from Louisiana residents who are concerned and who have questions about the rapidly-spreading virus.

Anyone looking for information about the COVID-19 outbreak can also dial 211 or text the keyword LACOVID to 898-211 for the most current information about the outbreak as it becomes available.

March 13, 2020

GOHSEP has activated its public information website at www.emergency.la.gov in order to consolidate news releases and other updates.

Find more tips on weather and preparedness on GOHSEP's Facebook and Twitter accounts. Listen to conversations on all aspects of emergency management by downloading GOHSEP's The Get A Game Plan Podcast. You can receive emergency alerts on most smartphones and tablets by downloading the new Alert FM App. It is free for basic service. The Get A Game Plan App is another resource available to help you and your family prepare for any type of emergency. You can download the Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Guide and find other information at www.getagameplan.org.

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