

# Press Release

Hamilton County Health Department



Web: [health.hamiltontn.org](http://health.hamiltontn.org)

**\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\***

July 3, 2020

## **Health Department Reports Three Additional COVID-19 Deaths, Announces Potential COVID-19 Exposure at Hamilton County Courthouse**

HAMILTON COUNTY, TN - The Hamilton County Health Department regrettably reports three additional COVID-19 deaths on Friday, bringing the total number of Hamilton County resident deaths to 33.

The 31<sup>st</sup> death was a black female in the 81+ age-band with underlying health conditions. The 32<sup>nd</sup> death was a male in the 71-80 age-band with underlying health conditions. Race and ethnicity demographics for this individual are pending and will be reported soon. The 33<sup>rd</sup> death was a black male in the 51-60 age-band with underlying health conditions.

“Our thoughts and prayers go out to these families,” said Health Department Administrator Becky Barnes, “We want to encourage our community to practice social distancing and wear masks in public. Community spread is occurring and the disease is very active in our community.”

The Health Department is notifying the community about a potential COVID-19 exposure that occurred at the Hamilton County Courthouse, 625 Georgia Avenue, Chattanooga, TN from June 25<sup>th</sup> – July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Case investigations have revealed that positive cases were in the Courthouse during their infectious period during the June 25<sup>th</sup>-July 2<sup>nd</sup> timeframe. It is recommended that anyone who was at the Courthouse during any of these days be tested for COVID-19 and monitor their symptoms. For a link to COVID-19 symptoms, visit [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov).

“We can’t stress enough how vital it is to stay at home if you are sick,” said Health Department Administrator Becky Barnes, “If you are having any symptoms or you have tested positive, stay home, do not go out into public.”

[Free Health Department testing opportunities](#) are available Monday-Sunday, July 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> from 7AM to 11AM at East Lake Academy. The Hamilton County Health Department, in partnership with the Tennessee National Guard, will offer free COVID-19 testing at East Lake Courts on Monday, July 6<sup>th</sup> from 11AM-3PM. This is a walk-up testing event only. However the public may drive to the event, park, and walk to the testing tent. No appointment is needed.

Health Department testing sites are closed Saturday and Sunday for the holiday weekend.

Testing continues to be robust in Hamilton County. During the week of Monday, June 29<sup>th</sup> – Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Hamilton County Health Department tested 3,299 people at their Brainerd High School testing site.

Visit these additional Health Department COVID-19 resources:

- COVID-19 hotline: (423) 209-8383
- English Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/HamiltonTNHealthDept/>
- Spanish Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SaludHamiltonTN/>
- YouTube English: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCKf8VUBQFLiJoxh8Sk10mA>
- YouTube Spanish: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwHuLpBFuLOf6hDTCFbfyQ>
- Website: <http://health.hamiltontn.org/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/HamiltonHealth>