The Tennessee Department of Health has received positive test results for a case of the COVID-19 Coronavirus in the state. Governor Lee says the patient is a 44-year-old male from Williamson County with a recent history of out-of-state domestic travel. He is currently isolated at home with mild symptoms. The Department of Health is contacting everyone who may have been exposed.

The Department of Health recommends several precautions to take to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses. These include:

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Don’t touch your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Stay away from people who are sick.

The Health Department says most patients with confirmed COVID-19 infection have mild respiratory illness with fever, cough, and shortness of breath. A smaller number of patients have severe symptoms requiring hospitalization.

Governor Lee asked President Trump to expedite declaring a major disaster in Tennessee so federal recovery assistance can be made available to counties cleaning up following the deadly tornadoes earlier this week. The governor’s request specifically asked for assistance in Davidson, Putnam, Wilson, Benton, Carroll, and Gibson counties. Davidson, Putnam & Wilson Counties were granted the disaster designation late Thursday.

MEDIC Regional Blood Center is in critical need for O Positive and O Negative blood types in the aftermath of the tornado injuries. Here in Athens, you can donate blood at the MEDIC Regional Blood Center office, 213 E. Washington Ave.

Food City stores in Tennessee, Georgia, and Virginia are hosting a fundraising campaign to benefit relief efforts. Food City has pledged a $10,000 contribution to kick off the drive. The campaign will run through next March 10th in all Food City locations. Customers wishing to participate can make a monetary donation at the checkouts. One-hundred percent of the funds raised will be allocated to the Cookeville-Putnam County Tornado Relief Fund.

Athens Mayor Chuck Burris says a truck load of supplies will be sent to the tornado-stricken area. Burris says they need blankets, toiletry items, cleaning products, and non-perishable food items. You can take them to the McMinn Rescue Squad next to Athens Fire Station #2 any time between now and Saturday. Call 745-6666 for more information.
Shelly Denise Lane Miller, age 48, of Riceville, died Wednesday at UT Medical Center. She was a pharmacy technician at Sweetwater Hospital. Funeral services will be 7 p.m. Friday at Faith Baptist Tabernacle at 3115 Highway 39 West, Athens, with visitation from 4 to 7 p.m. at the church. Ziegler Funeral Home is in charge.

- Voice of Deliverance Church of God in Christ will have a one-night revival tomorrow (Saturday) at 5 p.m. The church is located at 520 Old Riceville Road.
- The Agree Family will be singing this Sunday, March 8th, at 6 p.m. at Clear Springs Baptist Church, 653 County Road 100, Athens.
- The Schofields will appear at Community Baptist Church in Niota this Sunday at 10 a.m.
- The Myles Howard Family will be singing at Solid Rock Baptist Church, 4975 US 11, Calhoun, this Sunday at 6 p.m.
- Transformation Project, a recovery and discipleship program, is held each Monday and Wednesday from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Athens. The mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ by transforming the lives of addiction-related offenders, their families, and future generations through the power of God. Those going through the program receive financial advice, help in finding jobs, and much more. For information, call Sarah Kite at 745-5441.
- Celebrate Recovery meets each Sunday at the Englewood Church of God at 6 p.m. Everyone is welcome. For more information, call Star Pickett at 506-4851.
- Nathan “The Crazy Tie Guy” Dorrell will appear at East Athens Baptist Church on Saturday, March 7th, at 3 p.m.
- Great Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church Dance Team “Greater Light” will be appearing Sunday, March 8th, at Mt. Cumberland Piney at 3:00 p.m.

COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:

- Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development Commissioner Bob Rolfe will be at the McMinn County Courthouse today to present checks for grants totaling nearly $4 million. Grant recipients include TDS Telecom, Volunteer Electric, Town of Englewood, Town of Tellico Plains, and Monroe County. The presentation is planned for 11:30 a.m.
- The Hiwassee Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution invites you to join them on Monday, March 9th, at Mexi-Wing in Downtown Athens. Dr. Gary Drinkard will discuss the beginning of the Rhea County government and the founding of Old Washington as the county’s first town and county seat.

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THURSDAY’S MARKET REPORT: The Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 970 points to 26,121. The Standard & Poor’s 500 Index was down 106 points to 3,024, and the NASDAQ Composite Index was down 279 points to 8,739.

Professional Position Available

Needed immediately licensed professional for work in financial planning office. Applicants must be Series 7 & life/health insurance licensed with minimum of 2 years experience. Sixty series securities license(s) a plus. Excellent people skills, good work ethic & reputation required. Direct path to partnership for the right person. Send resume to Finadv52@gmail.com