



## **TEMA RUMOR MONITORING – COVID-19**

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March 25, 2020 – 8 a.m. CST

SEOC Activation: **Level 3 – State of Emergency**

### **NEW INFORMATION**

- RUMOR: Reports of an April 12, 2020 deadline for hospitals to register with FEMA for PA assistance.
  - TRUTH: FEMA has provided a [fact sheet](#) of the FEMA Public Assistance application process for recipients and applicants requesting reimbursement related to federal emergency and major disaster declarations for Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19).
- RUMOR: We have heard reports of GoFundMe pages claiming to donate to TEMA or for PPE.
  - TRUTH: TEMA does not collect donations from GoFundMe or any other crowdsourcing site. Businesses wanting to donate PPE can find information [here](#).
- RUMOR: We have heard reports of individuals stating that COVID-19 is airborne instead of droplet transmitted. They were under the impression that n95 masks were not suitable.
  - TRUTH: Tennessee Department of Health is following the guidance from CDC regarding COVID-19 transmission. Based on what is currently known about COVID-19 and what is known about other coronaviruses, spread is thought to occur mostly from person-to-person via [respiratory droplets among close contacts](#).
- RUMOR: We continue to hear reports of private industry issuing credentialing cards to their employees to allow them to continue to work during a shutdown.
  - TRUTH: Although businesses may issue these cards, they do not hold any special privileges. Tennessee does not have a statewide credentialing system. Guidance for essential businesses/industries from CISA can be found [here](#).

### **REOCCURRING THEMES**

- Overall, there has been an increase in conspiracy-theory like activity.
- Individuals continue to share a negative sentiment surrounding access to testing.
- Continue to see reports of price gouging.
- Increased number of individuals calling for stricter statewide shutdowns.
- Continue to hear reports of private sector credentialing employees.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- Governor Bill Lee and other state agencies are encouraging individuals to seek COVID-19 information from official sources only.
  - [Governor's COVID-19 Website](#)
  - [Tennessee Department of Health Website](#)
- FEMA has created a [COVID-19 rumor control website](#) that we are continuing to share.
- The WHO has created a [COVID-19 mythbusting website](#).
- At this time, there are no plans for TEMA to establish a rumor control hotline. Calls regarding COVID-19 can be directed to the TDH hotline at (833) 556-2476 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. CDT.

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