



Media Release

Person County Buildings Closed to the Public but County Operations Continue

Person County, NC – During their regular meeting on March 23, 2020, the Person County Board of Commissioners received an update on the novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) from County Manager, Heidi York. Acting upon the recommendation of the Emergency Operations Center, the Board of Commissioners authorized the closure of all county buildings to the public immediately, upon the adjournment of the meeting. This will be in effect through April 6th. After this date, the county will reassess the current COVID-19 situation and make decisions accordingly. This is a precautionary measure to protect the health and well-being of the public and Person County employees.

County operations will continue with normal operating hours. The majority of county business will be conducted by telephone and online. County services can be accessed on an individual appointment basis by calling the department directly and scheduling an appointment. This will allow departments to regulate the number of visitors at any given time in county buildings. Walk-ins are discouraged but county departments may tailor their programs and services as they see fit to minimize the number of people (with a goal of not exceeding ten at a time) in a county facility. PATS will be limited to appointment-scheduled rides for medical appointments and employment transportation. The uptown, fixed-route shuttle will remain in place with an additional shuttle to be added beginning March 30th. The Recycling Center will not be accepting materials after Monday at noon.

While serving our community is priority, Person County Government also values its employees. Provisions for employees will be made to ensure their well-being and that of their families.

Person County's Emergency Operations Center, Person County Health Department and its many partners will continue to actively monitor COVID-19 nationally, statewide, and locally. The level of local response will be modified, as the situation evolves, in order to keep our county safe, healthy and informed. Currently, there are no confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 in Person County.

While there are still a lot of unknowns about COVID-19, there are steps that everyone can take to prevent its spread. These include washing your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) if soap and water are not available; covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue and discarding the tissue; avoiding close contact with persons who are ill; staying at home when ill and keeping children at home when ill; and avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Personians are encouraged to use reputable sources of information to learn more about the coronavirus. Reputable sources of information include the Centers for Disease Control <http://www.cdc.gov/>, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/> and Person County Health Department <http://health.personcountync.gov>. The Health Department has established a Coronavirus line to take your questions. The number is (336) 597-2204 x2278.

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