

# *Long County Board of Commissioners*

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Robert D. Parker  
*Chairman*  
Clifton L. Deloach  
*Vice-Chairman*  
Michael C. Riddle  
David Richardson  
Michael Phillips

P.O. Box 476  
Ludowici, Georgia 31316  
Phone: (912) 545-2143  
Fax: (912) 545-2150

Charles W. Scragg  
*County Administrator*  
Mary Ann Odum  
*Clerk*  
Brandi N. Smiley  
*Deputy County Clerk/HR*  
James B. Smith  
*Attorney*

**Date: March 11, 2020**

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

**RE: Coronavirus/ COVID-19: The Long County Board of Commissioners  
Wellness Planning Program**

**This communication is not to cause alarm or to spread fear, but rather to prepare in case of a situation occurs which calls for additional action.**

Today we just completed listening into a White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, conference call with 5,000 State, Local and Tribal leaders nationwide. In the call many national officials explained what resources will be available to communities at the local level.

There will be millions of testing kits sent to state and local sites over the next few days and weeks. The World Health Organization did label the outbreak a Pandemic situation today.

We want to take this opportunity to stress that as of today, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Public Health Agency of Canada, and the World Health Organization (WHO), continue to state the immediate risk of being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19 in the Americas is thought to be low. However, this is a rapidly evolving situation that we all must continue to monitor. More information can be found at: [www.coronavirus.gov](http://www.coronavirus.gov) and the rest of the CDC website.

As leaders in the City and County, it is important that we increase our awareness of the potential threat, consider/communicate regulatory agencies' guidelines and practice an abundance of caution. It seems as if we are moving from the containment phase to the mitigation phase.

First and foremost, the front line good health habits can help prevent and fight COVID-19:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water aren't available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when sick. This includes staying home from work, school, errands, and not traveling for at least 24 hours after a fever is gone.
- Cover a cough or sneeze with a tissue, throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces like phones, keyboards, and doorknobs.
- Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, drink lots of fluids, and eat nutritious food.

*"South Georgia's Fastest Growing County"*

# *Long County Board of Commissioners*

However, if the COVID-19 virus is introduced locally into the county, we will need to have contingency plans available to respond to the threat. While the most at risk groups continue to be individuals over 65 years old with underlying health problems, it can still affect all age groups differently.

The Long Board of Commissioners would like to be the repository of your contingency plans. We would like for the City of Ludowici, the Long County Health Department, the Long County Board of Education, the Long County Senior Citizen Center, the Library, Head Start program, Excelsior EMS, Magnolia Manor, Liberty Regional Hospital, local churches, banks, businesses, and other community organizations to send us your contingency plans in case of a large scale virus breakout. It will be up to you to determine a definition of "large scale" in your plan.

If you do not have a contingency plan, please prepare one as soon as possible. Please send those plans to [manager.longcounty@yahoo.com](mailto:manager.longcounty@yahoo.com) and to Long County Emergency Management at [lcema@outlook.com](mailto:lcema@outlook.com). We will have these plans in place in case we need to implement them and will post them to appropriate public websites including <http://www.longcountyvoc.com>.

The Long County Government's Plan will contain:

- If and when we have to have personnel work remotely,
- If we have to shut off buildings, cancel meetings or other actions designed to prevent Contagion spread.
- Limiting out of town staff travel.
- If a person feels ill or has a fever, they are not to report to work, or if at work, to go home immediately.
- We will be extending sick leave in extenuating circumstances for our employees.
- Installing hand sanitizers at all entrances to our facilities.
- Testing where appropriate and available.
- Avoiding large group meetings or crowds

Please know again that the well being of our community is our paramount concern.

God Bless the Citizens of Long County,



Robert D. Parker, Chairman

and Clifton Deloach  
Mike Phillips  
David Richardson  
Mike Riddle

*"South Georgia's Fastest Growing County"*