



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Updated: City of Fountain Inn COVID-19 Response

The City of Fountain is hard at work monitoring COVID-19 and its impact on our local community. On March 15, the City issued its first COVID-19 Response. Since then, the Governor has issued numerous Executive Orders and most recently, on April 6, issued a “stay at home order”, requiring citizens of South Carolina to stay in their homes (except for visits to family and essential businesses), and put in place enforceable guidelines to ensure social distancing in essential business establishments.

The City encourages all residents to take the threat of COVID-19 seriously. There are confirmed cases in and around our community. Residents should stay in their homes unless to visit family or purchase necessary items from those businesses still able to provide service. If you must leave your home, individuals should practice “social distancing” and maintain a minimum of six (6) feet of separation from others.

Our Police Department has been granted authority by the Governor to enforce the orders issued and will be responding to instances where precautions are not being taken or orders are being ignored.

Additionally, the City of Fountain has updated their COVID-19 Response regarding city operations to include the following items:

CITY OPERATIONS – UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

- **Public access to all City facilities is being limited and restricted to appointment-only. Please make an appointment with staff first if you must visit City Hall, Police/Fire Stations, Natural Gas, Municipal Court, Recreation, and Public Works.** Please note that if you have a standing appointment, it may be postponed.
- **City Council:** All meetings of City Council will be live-streamed for the public to view and hear – no member of the public may attend these meetings in-person. Members of City Council may also attend these meetings remotely through video conferencing technology.
- **Municipal Court:** Following orders by the SC Supreme Court, all court hearings are postponed.
- **Public Safety** operations will continue as normal - however firefighters and police officers may take additional precautions to ensure safety, especially when responding to medical calls.
- **Public Works:** Collection of trash, recycling, and yard debris have already experienced some delays. Expect these delays to continue. The City is no longer using labor from the Department of Corrections, and we have implemented safety measures for our crews, all of which are impacting our route schedules. Additionally:
 - Please ensure all trash is bagged and inside your container.

- Do not place large items at the curb. As of right now, we are still planning on conducting our annual “May Spring Cleaning” service - updates will be available as May 1 approaches.
- **All City Parks are CLOSED to the public.**
- **All Recreation sports leagues are postponed currently.** Check with your coach or Recreation staff for further updates.
- **Fountain Inn Natural Gas** is abiding by the request of the Governor to suspend cut-offs for natural gas service under non-payment situations. FING may limit the amount of new construction it undertakes but will continue to respond to emergency needs. Contractors should contact FING staff for more information. Customers should pay their bills online or use the drop box at the FING office. No payments will be taken through the driv
- **Permitting:** Contractors needing to acquire permits should call our office to have those payments processed over the phone or online. Contractors should also be made aware that on-site inspections may be delayed or suspended.
- All **Senior Activities** are suspended until further notice, and the **Activities Center** is also closed until further notice.
- Our **Police Department** will continue to monitor seniors enrolled in our Senior Watch program and coordinate with other City staff on helping assist those in need.
- **No permits for events** will be issued by the City for events on public property until further notice. This includes facility rentals, park rentals, and the like.
- **Events** that have been postponed or canceled: 44 Serve Day (postponed), Easter Brunch (canceled), Emmanuel Sullivan Sports Complex Ribbon Cutting and Opening Day (postponed), Mac Arnold Cornbread & Collard Greens Festival (postponed), Chamber of Commerce Oyster Roast (postponed), Younts Center for Performing Arts events (postponed or canceled – check their website for details).
 - For questions about upcoming community events not listed above, please reach out to appropriate city staff.

PUBLIC PRECAUTIONS

- Individuals should wash their hands and sanitize surfaces often.
- Masks are now recommended to be worn out in public by the CDC and SC DHEC.
- No one should leave their home unless to visit family, visit medical facilities, participate in individual recreational activities (running / biking), go to work (if an essential employee only), or to go to a business that is allowed to operate (“essential businesses”).
- Practice appropriate “social distancing” of at least six (6) feet of separation if you are out in public.
- If you are sick, please stay home and contact your doctor.
- Check on your elderly neighbors and those in need near you.

Additional Resources: SC DHEC: scdhec.gov/covid19 | CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> | City Website: fountaininn.org