



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Updated: City of Fountain Inn COVID-19 Response**

On Sunday, August 2, Governor Henry McMaster issued Executive Order 2020-50, announcing guidelines related to the reopening of restaurants and public gatherings in South Carolina are now mandatory, not just recommended. He has directed state and local law enforcement to enforce these measures.

Certain businesses, defined by the Order and including restaurants, must now follow guidelines for customers and employees. You can view those requirements at the links below. For customers, the biggest change is the requirement to wear a mask to enter a restaurant, but not while you are actively eating. You may also not congregate in bar areas and capacity is limited to 50%. Many of our businesses have already had these measures in place, however now they are required by the Governor. Further details on the change in operations can be found in the text of the Order, [available at governor.sc.gov](#).

Additionally, the Governor is requiring that all events, festivals, and entertainment venues to adhere to reduced capacity (50% or 250 people, whichever is less), masks required for admission, and other measures. This includes outdoor events, with few exceptions.

The Governor has also asked for all cities and counties in South Carolina to pass mask ordinances, requiring masks throughout the state, but stopped short of requiring local governments to do so. As for this request by the Governor: In July, Council approved a resolution to encourage the use of masks throughout the City, but not require them. There is no face mask requirement in Fountain Inn outside of the new requirements ordered by the Governor.

### **OUR PLAN**

These directives by the Governor are challenging for all local governments to wrestle with and enforce. Our goal in Fountain Inn continues to be to respect the law and strive for safety in all of our activities.

Fountain Inn will take the following steps to ensure responsible and effective adherence to the orders issued by the Governor.

### **Business Requirements**

Businesses, particularly restaurants, should review the Governor's Executive Order for details on what measures are now mandated. The Fountain Inn Chamber of Commerce will also be available as a resource. While the City will not be actively looking for violations of the Governor's order, the City will enforce the Executive Order when violations are brought to our attention. If the Executive Order is violated businesses can expect the following:

- First Offense: Verbal Warning
- Second Offense: Written Warning
- Third Offense: Applicable Citation(s)
- If the violation is by a customer, the business and our law enforcement will address it on a case-by-case basis.

Businesses who need help with clarifying requirements are encouraged to talk with our Police Department to help determine proper and reasonable solutions. We want to work with you.

### **City Sponsored Events**

Due to the [Governor's Executive Order](#) mandates, the City has made the difficult decision to cancel the Sounds of Summer Concert Series until further notice. The Farmers Market, however, will continue for the duration of the season. In order to meet the requirements set forth by the Governor, the following will apply beginning August 8<sup>th</sup> for the Farmers Market:

- **Capacity will be restricted.**  
Attendance will be monitored by staff at various points throughout the four-hour event and if attendance is noted as being at 250 (the maximum allowed by the Governor), staff will close off the entrances to the Farmers Market Pavilion and/or our outdoor amphitheater. For reference, however, average attendance at any given time during the Farmers Market is approximately 50-100.
- **Masks are required.**  
The Governor is now requiring masks to be worn at all public gatherings and events/festivals. Attendees over the age of 2 will be required to wear a mask in order to attend any city-sponsored event on public property, with exceptions made for underlying health conditions that restrict the wearing of a mask – as stated in the Governor's Order. Masks will be available for attendees should you need one.

Those found in violation can expect:

- First Offense: Verbal Warning
- Second Offense: Verbal Warning
- Third Offense: Citation Issued + Asked to Leave Event

### ***Other City Events***

Our **Wing Fest set for September 11 is canceled** because the City expects attendance to be more than the 250-person limit set by the Governor. While we wish we could wait to issue this decision closer to September, our vendors, participants, and others need to know well in advance so they can adjust their plans.

The **Police Department's Autism Awareness 5K set for October 31** has been postponed until March 2021. Additionally, the 2020 **Police Department Golf Tournament** and **National Night Out** has been canceled.

**Non-City events held on public property** with a permit or rental agreement will be asked to submit a detailed plan of how they intend to meet the requirements of the Governor's Executive Order.

## **Parks & Recreation**

The Governor's Executive Order also lists parks as public gathering venues, and therefore they fall under the same mandates.

**Attendance at gymnasiums and parks is restricted** to fifty percent (50%) of the location's occupancy limit or two hundred fifty (250) people, whichever is less.

The same **mask requirements** for restaurants, events, festivals, and entertainments venues are also in place for the City's Parks & Recreation facilities. This means that all individuals (staff and visitors) are required to wear a face mask and social distance at our park's facilities and Activities Center **unless** the individual is engaged in exercise or physical activity (playing is included).

For **fall tackle and flag football**, we have limited the number of teams practicing at one time to two. All **coaches and spectators are required to wear a face mask**. The City is not providing any seating for spectators. Everyone is strongly encouraged to bring a chair and socially distance. Individuals are encouraged to bring water as the City will not provide a water station. The City will also not provide blocking dummies or blocking sleds.

## **Municipal Court**

The Supreme Court of South Carolina has issued an [order requiring the use of masks in municipal courthouses](#). During courtroom proceedings, the judge may require the removal of masks for a brief period for the fair presentation of cases, but social distancing will still need to be observed. Individuals may be required by judges, courthouse staff, or law enforcement to briefly remove their mask when necessary for identification purposes. **Non-litigants are not allowed inside the courthouse**. In addition, all individuals entering municipal court will be **required to be screened for fever** by courthouse staff using an infrared or temporal thermometer. Anyone who registers a temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or above will not be permitted to enter. Additional guidance has been provided to judicial staff for internal operations, as ordered by the SC Supreme Court.

## **City Hall**

The main lobby entrance is closed and there are now designated employee entrance/exits. Wearing of masks is strongly encouraged and we ask you not to enter if experiencing any symptoms. There are instructions posted at City Hall for access to various City services, such as:

- Public Works/Business Licenses – side door is open to the public; only two visitors at a time in the lobby; visitors are to stand only on the appropriate floor markers; benches will be available outside in case of a wait
- Payments – Please utilize the drop box on the outside of the building or pay online
- Any other needs – Please call Allison at (864) 862-4421

## **Natural Gas**

The main lobby is currently closed, but customers can utilize the drive-through window, building drop box, or make payments online.

## **City Council Meetings**

All meetings of City Council are being conducted via Zoom and are live streamed for the public to view and hear on the [City's Facebook Page](#). You can also view the recordings of these meetings at [fountaininn.org/news.html](https://www.fountaininn.org/news.html)

## **Public Precautions**

- Individuals should wash their hands and sanitize surfaces often.
- Masks are encouraged to be worn out in public by the CDC and SC DHEC.
- 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](https://www.scdhec.gov/covid19) | CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html> | City Website: [fountaininn.org](https://www.fountaininn.org) | AccelerateSC: <https://www.accelerate.sc.gov>