



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 15, 2020

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City of Fountain Inn COVID-19 Response

The City of Fountain is hard at work monitoring COVID-19 and it's impact on our local community. First and foremost, the safety of residents, businesses, and city staff is paramount.

Today, March 15, upon notification that COVID-19 had spread further in the upstate and that schools would be closed, City officials met to lay out the City's response. Below are the actions the City is taking at this time to maintain a safe environment for our community:

CITY OPERATIONS - THROUGH MARCH 31

- All City facilities and playgrounds are scheduled to be professionally sanitized over the next week. We also will be treating them on a regular basis over the next three months.
- **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.
- **Municipal Court** scheduled for Tuesday, March 17 is canceled.
- **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.
- **Fountain Inn Natural Gas** is abiding by the request of the Governor to suspend cut-offs for natural gas service under non-payment situations through March 31. 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 are encouraged to pay their bills online as the FING office will be closed to the public. Payment in person will only be taken through the office's drive-thru window.
- **The Public Works** department will continue to pick up trash as normal, however, delays may occur. **TRASH MUST BE BAGGED** to ensure safety of our crews. Please be patient if this service is altered. Sewer and street work may be limited.
- 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 **Recreation Programs** have been canceled until March 31. This includes all sports practices / scrimmages / games.
- Playgrounds and open fields will remain open at this time. Our Recreation Staff will be taking extra sanitation measures as well.
- All Senior Activities are suspended through the end of the month; the Activities Center will remain closed through March 31 as well.

- 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 through March 31. This includes facility rentals, park rentals, and the like.
- The Police Department's **Autism Awareness 5K** scheduled for March 21 is rescheduled to April 25.

City Council has a Work Session scheduled for Thursday, March 19 at 6pm and will receive an update at that time. That Council meeting will be live-streamed and while the public can attend, they are encouraged to tune in online. Additional measures may be announced at that time, and at any time. Please follow the City of Fountain Inn on Facebook and check the website often.

PUBLIC PRECAUTIONS

- Individuals should wash their hands and sanitize surfaces often.
- The Governor has requested that public gatherings of 100 people or more be postponed or canceled. Please take that request into consideration if you are hosting a large gathering.
- 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)