



March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**County of Hertford**  
**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update**

Coronavirus (COVID-19) is classified as a respiratory illness that spreads from person to person. COVID-19 is a novel type of Coronavirus that was initially identified in Wuhan, China. Hertford County's elected officials, management and staff have been in continuous contact with local, state and federal partners regarding preparedness and response to COVID-19. Hertford County is prepared and stands ready to support and coordinate with Public Health, healthcare professionals, other local partners as well as state and federal agencies should a case of COVID-19 occur in our community.

Based on guidance and direction received from the Hertford County Board of Commissioners, the following conservative and prudent measures have been enacted effective immediately:

- County Offices, Services and Buildings will maintain normal hours of operation (exceptions are noted below)
- All Senior Centers will be closed from Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 through Tuesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020.
  - Following the initial closure, the County will evaluate the risks and the necessity of remaining closed beyond March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020.
  - Aging Department staff are making arrangements for Senior Center patrons and clients to receive a prepackaged meal each day during the closure.
  - Senior Center patrons/clients will have the option to pick-up a prepackaged meal at the regular location.
  - Aging Department staff will be providing the specific details for your convenience and information.
- The Sheriff's Office will be suspending fingerprinting services and vehicle assistance (unlocking) until further notice (Exception – the Sheriff's Office will respond and unlock a vehicle with a child and/or pet inside).
- The Detention Center will reduce the visitation schedule from four days per week to two days per week until further notice. Visitation is now limited to Wednesdays and Thursdays.
- As frequent and thorough handwashing is crucial to reducing the risk of contracting COVID-19, the Utility Department will suspend disconnection services for non-payment through April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Additionally, all late fees (incurred between March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 through April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020) associated with non-payment of your utility bill will be waived. This waiver excludes existing and future late fees.
- Citizens are encouraged to utilize online services and payment options (examples: water, wastewater and/or tax bills).
- Community members are reminded to please enroll in Code Red, which is an emergency notification system.
- Citizens are also encouraged to conduct business via telephone and/or email.
- All trainings, meetings and workshops hosted at County offices have been cancelled through March, 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

Please follow all recommendations from local, state and federal health officials regarding the spread of COVID-19. We encourage all citizens to stay informed by monitoring local, regional and national media outlets as well as Hertford County's website ([www.hertfordcountync.gov](http://www.hertfordcountync.gov)).