



March 13, 2020
6:40 p.m.

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:
David Bone
County Manager / Public Information Officer
252-789-4300
dbone@martincountyncgov.com

Martin County, NC Coronavirus COVID-19 Response – Advisory #1

WILLIAMSTON, NC – Martin County continues to prepare for / respond to the Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic. In the interest of public health, the following strategies have been put into place:

- **ADJUSTMENT TO DISTRICT AND SUPERIOR COURT SCHEDULES** – Most NC District and Superior Court cases are to be postponed at least 30 days in COVID-19 response. For specific questions about individual cases, visit www.nccourts.gov or call the Martin County Clerk of Superior Court at 252-809-5100.
- **ADJUSTMENT TO BERTIE-MARTIN REGIONAL JAIL VISITATION POLICY** – Family / ministerial visitation of inmates has been suspended until further notice. Inmate visitation is limited to non-contact visits for attorneys, law enforcement officers, etc. All professional visits will be conducted in the visitation room.
- **EMPLOYEE TRAVEL** – Non-essential out-of-county travel for professional conferences and training is restricted, effective Monday, March 16, 2020, until further notice.
- **SENIOR CENTER MEALS** – Congregate meal services have been suspended at all senior centers in the county until April 6, 2020. Congregate clients will be provided 15 days of food during this time. Meals on Wheels food delivery will continue on its regular schedule.
- **SENIOR CENTER TRAVEL** – Senior Center trips have been cancelled until further notice.
- **REGIONAL COORDINATION** – Martin County staff is regularly communicating with MTW District Health staff and various other regional partners.
- **911 COMMUNICATIONS** – 911 Communications staff is utilizing a NC Department of Health and Human Services provided protocol for filtering calls to identify potential active cases.

- ADDITIONAL HAND SANITIZER STATIONS DEPLOYED – Additional hand sanitizer dispensers have been deployed throughout county facilities.
- PROMOTION OF HAND-WASHING – Signs have been put up around county buildings to promote hand-washing.
- CLEANING MATERIALS / PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT – Staff acquired additional cleaning products, sanitizer for general staff and facilities and PPE (personal protection equipment) for first responders.
- ADJUSTMENT OF EVENTS – Large meetings and events are being evaluated and altered.

Citizens are encouraged to conduct county business online / by phone / through drop boxes as much as possible. Examples include:

- Taxes may be paid online at www.martincountyncgov.com – or – Make check payable and remit to: Martin County Tax Collector PO Box 664 Williamston, NC 27892.
- Water payments can be paid via mail – Make check payable and remit to: Martin County Water Department PO Box 706 Williamston, NC 27892.
- For customer convenience, a water bill payment drop box is located in the parking lot of the Martin County Governmental Center near the flagpoles.
- Many common NCDMV services, such as driver license renewal and vehicle registration renewal can be performed any time and any place on a computer or mobile device. Please go to <https://www.ncdot.gov/dmv>.
- The Department of Social Services will accept and process Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) applications by telephone. Call 252-789-4433 for more information.

Coronaviruses like COVID-19 are most often spread through the air by coughing or sneezing, through close personal contact (including touching or shaking hands), or through touching your nose, mouth, or eyes before washing your hands. In order to prevent the spread of all infectious diseases, including COVID-19, take the following common-sense precautions:

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds at a time.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are ill.
- Stop handshaking – use other noncontact methods of greeting
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Do not reuse tissue after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that are frequently touched.

This is a rapidly evolving event. Please maintain awareness and monitor for further updates from Martin County. Also, as per the CDC advice, stay at home if you are sick, or if you have a sick family member in your home.

###