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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Martin County, NC Coronavirus COVID-19 Response – Advisory #3 Senior Centers & Libraries in Martin County Closed to the Public, Effective Immediately

WILLIAMSTON, NC – Martin County's top priority is and always will be the safety and security of the community. County officials are taking the current spread of COVID-19 very seriously and are working closely with regional and state partners in monitoring this situation. While there have been some changes to county programming, all necessary arrangements are being made to ensure that all county essential services are provided during this evolving situation.

Citizens are strongly encouraged to conduct county business online, by phone, by mail and through payment drop boxes as much as possible. As per the CDC advice, citizens are advised to stay at home if they are sick, or if they have a sick family member in their home. If they must come to the governmental center to conduct business, citizens are asked to wash their hands before entering the buildings. Temporary hand washing stations have been installed outside county-owned buildings.

In the interest of public health, the following strategies have been put into place since the last Advisory:

- **THE MARTIN COUNTY SENIOR CENTERS ARE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.** The senior centers are operated by the Martin County Adult & Aging Services Department. The main center is at 201 Lee Street in Williamston. Satellite Centers are also operated in Robersonville, Jamesville and Oak City.

Congregate meal services have been suspended at all senior centers in the county until April 6, 2020. Congregate clients are being provided 15 days of food during this time. Meals on Wheels food delivery will continue on its regular schedule.

During this closure, citizens are encouraged to check on their elderly and disabled neighbors and family.

- THE BEAUFORT-HYDE-MARTIN (BHM) LIBRARY SYSTEM HAS ANNOUNCED IT WILL BE CLOSED, STARTING MARCH 17, 2020. BHM Libraries in Martin County include Martin Memorial Library in Williamston and the Robersonville Public Library. This announced closure will last through March 31, 2020.

Most other Martin County offices are expected to remain open to the public at this time.

Additionally, the following are reminders from previous advisories:

- 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.
- CANCELLATION OF NON-ESSENTIAL MEETINGS – Non-essential meetings are being cancelled, including the March 18th Board of Commissioners budget meeting, the March 25th budget meeting, and the March 30th Water Districts Advisory Board Meeting.
- FINGERPRINTING SERVICES LIMITED – The Martin County Sheriff's Office is restricting fingerprinting services to individuals who need it for employment purposes.
- 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.
- MORATOC PARK RENTALS – Renters of the Moratoc Park Building are advised to limit their attendance of events to less than 100, as per the March 14, 2020 Executive Order of Gov. Roy Cooper (<https://governor.nc.gov/news/governor-cooper-issues-executive-order-closing-k-12-public-schools-and-banning-gatherings-more>).
- EMPLOYEE TRAVEL – Non-essential out-of-county travel for professional conferences and training is restricted until further notice.

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