



CASWELL COUNTY LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Caswell County COVID-19 Caswell County Government Operations Press Release # 1

Yanceyville, NC – The President of the United States and the North Carolina Governor's Office have issued a State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 Virus. Due to the restrictions associated with this State of Emergency, Caswell County Government buildings implemented the following proactive measures on March 18, 2020 to limit further transmission of the Coronavirus known as COVID-19:

- Individuals will only be allowed to enter the County Offices if they have an appointment.
- Before visiting a Caswell County Department in person, individuals should call the desired department to determine if alternative service options are available or to schedule an appointment. A department directory can be found on the County website at www.caswellcountync.gov
- Citizens should use any online services that may be available for County Department services.
- If you need to make a payment please contact the department associated with the payment for their individual operational procedures.

Furthermore, Caswell County asks residents experiencing symptoms such as fever, coughing, or difficulty breathing; have been to an affected area in the last 14 days; or have had close contact with either a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19, to refrain from entering County facilities at this time.



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Caswell County Government Service Changes as a Result of COVID-19

Caswell County Health Director, Jennifer Eastwood and Caswell County Manager, Bryan Miller, implemented the following COVID-19 protective measures for Caswell County effective at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 in accordance with Executive Order 117 issued by North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper prohibiting mass gatherings of more than 100 people and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recommendation of no mass gatherings of more than 50 people:

1. Caswell County Parks and Recreation organized activities and events such as sports leagues, facility rentals, planned events, and tournaments will be canceled March 16, 2020 through April 6, 2020. All scheduled April activities are tentative.
2. Caswell County Senior Services has suspended all operations with the exception of the Home Delivered Meals and a modified delivered Congregate Meals program effective March 16, 2020. These operating circumstances will continue until further notice. If you have questions, please contact Caswell County Senior Services at (336) 694-7447.
3. Outside groups that normally use meeting space within Caswell County facilities will not be permitted to meet in Caswell County facilities March 16, 2020 through April 6, 2020. Usage of Caswell County facilities by outside groups will be reassessed for April.
4. Caswell County employees have been directed to cease non-essential work-related travel outside of Caswell County March 16, 2020 through April 6, 2020.
5. The public is encouraged to limit non-essential in-person interaction with Caswell County employees and departments when at all possible to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Citizens are encouraged to use any online services that may be available in addition to communicating with Caswell County employees via email or telephone.
6. All citizens who are experiencing any type of respiratory or flu-like symptoms should not visit any Caswell County facility without first calling ahead to see if alternative service arrangements are available or to make arrangements for service provision in a way that will minimize risk of spreading illness.
7. Before visiting a Caswell County department in person, please explore the Caswell County website at www.Caswellcountync.gov or call the desired department to determine if alternative service delivery options are available.

We know times are challenging and we know the Coronavirus situation is changing rapidly but we encourage citizens to remain calm and follow the prevention techniques that have been described over the last few weeks. We also want to remind everyone that no one group or

ethnicity or population in the US is at a higher risk for getting coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) than others. While some people may be worried or have concerns about COVID-19, it is important to not let fear lead to social stigma towards friends, neighbors, or members of the community. Treat all people with compassion and speak up if you hear others making statements that cause stigma against people in your community.

At this time there are no approved treatments and no vaccine to prevent COVID-19; however, there are known methods to reduce and slow the spread of infection. Individuals can practice everyday prevention measures like frequent hand washing, staying home when sick, and covering coughs and sneezes. Community-based interventions can also help slow the spread of COVID-19. This includes measures collectively known as “social distancing.” Social distancing measures aim to reduce the frequency of contact and increase physical distance between persons, thereby reducing the risks of person-to-person transmission. These measures are most effective when implemented early in an epidemic. North Carolina is at a critical inflection point where we may have the opportunity to slow the spread of this epidemic by taking proactive steps now.

Coronavirus Disease 2019 or COVID-19 is a respiratory disease caused by a new virus. Common symptoms are similar to the flu, including fever, cough, or shortness of breath. Coronaviruses like COVID-19 are most often spread from person to person 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. The best way to reduce your risk of becoming infected with a respiratory virus, such as COVID-19, is to practice good hygiene:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water is not available.
- People who are sick should always cover their coughs and sneezes using a tissue or the crook of their elbow; wash your hands after using a tissue to wipe your nose or mouth.
- People who are sick should stay home from work or school until they are well.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with your unwashed hands.

Caswell County citizens are encouraged to use reputable sources of information to learn more about coronavirus. Reputable sources of information include the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and NC Division of Public Health websites and the NC Division of Public Health’s Coronavirus call line 1-866-462-3821.

Caswell County Government COVID-19 updates will appear on the Caswell County website at www.Caswellcountync.gov, on the Caswell County Facebook page. Residents are also encouraged to register to receive notifications via the Caswell County website and to register to receive emergency notifications via text, email and phone calls through the CodeRed Emergency Notification System.

For more information on COVID-19, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html> and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public Health website at <https://ncdhhs.gov/coronavirus>.