



Bulloch County Board of Commissioners
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“First in Safety and Service”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 31, 2020
TO: ALL MEDIA OUTLETS AND INTERESTED PARTIES
FROM: Thomas M. Couch, County Manager
RE: Temporary Ordinance and Second Declaration of a State of Emergency

Today, the Bulloch County Board of Commissioners convened at 12:00 P.M. for a special called meeting and adopted an ordinance that will be applied countywide pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic. On Tuesday, March 17, 2020, the Commissioners adopted a resolution affirming their initial COVID-19 State of Emergency. The ordinance adopted today re-affirmed the State of Emergency and takes additional measures as the March 17 resolution, based on discussions held at a previous special called meeting on Friday, March 27, 2020. Subject to amendment or extension, a summary of the ordinance provisions is below that include the delegation of enforcement authority to the Bulloch County Sheriff, Bulloch County Code Enforcement, the Bulloch County Manager, and the Bulloch County Board of Health as an agent of the Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Public Health.

1. Observance of the Governor’s Statewide Shelter-In Place Order that includes the medically fragile and persons known to have COVID-19, or those suspected or exposed to COVID-19.
2. A curfew shall be in place from 10:00 P.M. to 6:00 A.M. with exemptions for individuals carrying out various essential activities. The curfew is not only intended to discourage gatherings that have become problematic due to lack of social distancing during these hours, but to also ensure that only essential services and activities are performed.
3. Prohibition against overcharging for goods, materials, services, and housing.
4. Restrictions on certain indoor and outdoor public and private gatherings, limiting non-household gatherings to ten (10) or less people, except that outdoor funeral/graveside services may have up to twenty-five (25) people. The exempted essential activities or uses are listed in the ordinance. Social distancing practices shall apply.
5. Businesses licensed for on-premise alcohol consumption may not sell opened containers, but may sell unopened containers for off-premise consumption. Alcoholic beverage licenses for catering will be suspended. Social distancing practices shall apply.
6. Dine-in restaurant services are suspended, but delivery, drive-through, and take-out is permitted. Social distancing practices shall apply.

7. All County public recreation activities, programs, and events are suspended. Open space parks and bike-pedestrian trails shall remain open during non-curfew hours subject to gathering restrictions. Indoor facilities including restrooms shall remain closed. Social distancing practices shall apply.
8. Public access restrictions or prohibitions to County buildings will be extended until the close of business on April 27, 2020 according to local, state, or federal mandate and subject to the order of authorized personnel. Please contact any department directly by telephone that you may need to do business with. Online payments are encouraged, where applicable. Social distancing practices shall apply.
9. All deadlines, actions, and decisions may be tolled or delayed until late-May at the discretion of authorized officials. Typically, this action will suspend intake of zoning and land use applications or similar actions.
10. The County shall seek reimbursement for eligible costs from the state or federal government.
11. Violation of any provision of this ordinance, upon conviction, shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) per violation and/or imprisonment not to exceed ninety (90) days. For purposes of enforcing the provisions of this ordinance, each day a business operates within Bulloch County without complying with this ordinance shall constitute a separate offense.
12. The ordinance will endure until April 27, 2020 unless extended or amended.

Questions related to the ordinance or specific business operations should be emailed to info@bullochcounty.net.

A copy of the entire ordinance to address specific practices or exemptions will be available by 3:30 P.M. from the following sources:

Bulloch County Board of Commissioners website at www.bullochcounty.net
Bulloch County Board of Commissioners Facebook page
Bulloch County Public Safety/EMA Facebook page