



## **COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE SUMMARY**

### **City-wide Emergency Precautions**

- Effective Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, non-essential city employees will telecommute, work from home, or report on staggered schedules to minimize person-to-person contact.
- Access to City Hall and other public buildings will be restricted. Laurens Rotary Club meetings normally held on the third floor will be cancelled until further notice.
- Payments for City fees will be accepted over the phone and by mail.
- Permits and licensing will be handled online, by phone, or fax.
- The Ridge and all youth/senior programming will be closed/cancelled through until further notice to create social distance, thereby protecting those who are most at risk.
- City-sponsored events including all Main Street Laurens events are cancelled through Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. Other events will be rescheduled when possible.
- City permits for private parties and other special events requiring permits are temporarily suspended for events scheduled to take place through Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>.
- City Council and other public meetings will be hosted via internet until further notice. Meetings can be accessed via the City's Facebook page.
- All City Departments will share access to our common supply of masks, sanitation supplies, etc.

### **Essential Services and Personnel to Continue Operations with Caution**

#### **1. Laurens Police Officers will:**

- Respond only to those medical calls of an acute nature (e.g. heart attacks, not breathing)
- Maintain 6 feet of safe space during interviews

- Take non-emergency reports over the phone to minimize contact

## **2. Laurens Firefighters will:**

- Respond only to those medical calls of an acute nature (e.g. heart attacks, not breathing)
- Wear additional personal protective gear during medical response calls
- Limit public access to fire stations
- Coordinate response protocol for COVID-19 patients with EMS and hospitals
- Suspend routine fire inspections except where requested

## **3. Municipal Court will:**

- Reschedule bench trials where possible.
- Encourage payment of fines by mail or online state system.

## **4. The Streets & Sanitation and Special Projects Departments will:**

- Continue trash pick-up.
- Perform maintenance and landscaping.
- Limit employee to employee contact and employee to public contact.

## **Public Guidance & Voluntary Precautions**

Consistent with the U.S. Constitution, Amendment I, and the right of the people to peaceably assemble, the City of Laurens requests that worshipping communities, charitable organizations, civic clubs, and other community organizations, and all citizens take extraordinary measures to limit the spread of infectious disease among the population, especially among seniors and those with compromised immune systems.

To that end, the following guidance and request for voluntary compliance is made:

- Large gatherings that include fifty (50) people or more should be postponed or cancelled, including conferences, sporting events, and concerts. Per the recommendations of the Trump Administration (3/16/20), gatherings of no more than ten (10) are strongly encouraged.

- Smaller gatherings held in venues which do not allow “social distancing” of six feet per person should be postponed or cancelled.
- Gatherings of individuals who are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 (senior citizens, those with compromised immune systems) should be limited to no more than ten (10) people.
  - A “gathering” is any event or convening that brings together people in a single room or single space at the same time, such as an auditorium, stadium, arena, large conference room, meeting hall, cafeteria, or any other indoor or outdoor space.
- Service-based industries (accountants, employment agencies, attorneys, etc.) are urged, where possible and practical, to conduct meetings by telephone or via remote web-based meetings to reduce the opportunity for the transmission of the virus.
- Individuals should be vigilant in observing good hygiene – frequently washing hands with soap and hot water for at least 20 seconds – practicing “social distancing,” and should stay informed by following guidance from OFFICIAL sources, i.e., the Governor’s Office, DHEC, CDC, and updates from the City of Laurens and Laurens County. Spread of misinformation should be avoided as vigilantly as the spread of infectious disease.
- **ALL INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 SHOULD SELF-QUARANTINE, SEEK THE ADVICE OF MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS, AND FOLLOW THEIR INSTRUCTIONS.**
  - Individuals who believe they may be infected may access a free online **Prisma** Virtual Health. The video visit is available 24/7 for ages 3 and older, and the online visit is for ages 18 and older. Online visits can be completed anytime, but responses are provided daily between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Individuals seeking to use this web-based service should visit: <https://www.prismahealth.org/Virtual-Visit/> Promo Code: COVID19
  - Alternatively, individuals experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and wish to receive virtual urgent care via the **Medical University of South Carolina** telehealth platform may do so by visiting: <https://campaigns.muschealth.org/virtual-care/index.html> Promo Code: COVID19
- In order to prevent a major disruption to the local economy, all citizens are urged to carry on shopping and dining locally, **taking care to maintain proper hygiene and “social distancing.”** If you are unwell or are self-quarantined, please support local businesses by ordering their products or services online, using delivery options, or utilizing the drive-thru where available. Many of these businesses operate on a small margin, and to avoid a severe impact to these businesses, citizens should – **to the extent safe and possible** – maintain normal consumer habits.

- Citizens should avoid “panic buying” and hoarding of items. While there are temporary restrictions in place which limit public gathering and interaction, there has been no major disruption to the supply chain for goods and materials such as we might experience during a severe weather event. Please buy goods as you would normally, and ensure that your neighbors are able to buy what they need as well.