



City of Calhoun, Georgia

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City of Calhoun Update Regarding COVID-19 March 18, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE....

The City of Calhoun continues to monitor and assess the COVID-19 situation relying on information being passed down from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH). Based on this information the following items have been put into action in our community:

Calhoun Gordon County COVID-19 Task Force

- Local Government, Public Safety, Public Health, Faith Based Organizations, VAC and Public School officials formed a task force to address the concerns and to form a plan in the response to the COVID-19 situation.
- The Task Force has been meeting weekly.
- The Task Force has developed a protocol to protect first responders who may be responding to emergency calls pertaining to COVID-19 risks.

Gordon County Senior Citizens Center

- Senior Center is closed to public access.
 - Nutrition will be delivered.
 - Welfare calls will be made.

Calhoun Recreation Department and Gordon County Parks and Recreation

- Recreation Departments are closed to public access.
 - Gyms are closed to organized activities, games, practices, and all gatherings.
 - Parks to remain open for walking and passive activities, but the intention is to limit social interactions.

General Government and Utility Departments

- Key staff with laptops and necessary software to work remotely if needed.
- Calhoun Utilities at 700 West Line Street has been closed to public access. Drive-thru services are available for utility customers.
- City Hall is open and staff is on duty, but we strongly encourage all non-emergency business to be delayed or call 706-629-0151 for assistance. Please visit www.cityofcalhoun-ga.com for additional contact information for all city services.

- The Calhoun Depot has been closed to public access and no rentals are being booked at the Calhoun Depot or McConnell Center. Call 706-602-5570 for assistance. Most Downtown Calhoun shops and restaurants are offering curbside services.
- Highlighted online services on social media and websites.
- Monitoring CDC and Department of Public Health websites for updated information.
- Continue to monitor the situation via briefings from the Governor's office, the White House, and the Department of Homeland Security.
- Supporting first responders.
- Working closely with Calhoun Police Department and Calhoun Fire Department.
- Pushing notifications to departments and the public.
- Administration has been personally checking in with departments and officials to determine needs.
- Coordinating with other cities by telephone and email.
- Tracking meetings and time for federal/state reimbursement opportunities.
- Calhoun and Gordon County leadership remain in contact and cooperation on many levels that include administration, fire, law enforcement, EMA, EMS, E9-1-1, recreation, and senior center.

Local Schools

- Both city and county schools are closed pursuant to the Governor's Order.
- Staff is calling students and families to ensure that they have the resources needed.
- Food programs have been put in place for all students.

Elections

- Early/Advance Voting was ceased at 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 14, 2020.
- The Presidential Preference Primary has been postponed until May 19, 2020.
 - If someone has already voted for their presidential preference, then only the general primary election will be on the ballot.
 - If someone has not already voted for their presidential preference, they will have the general primary election and the presidential preference on the ballot.

Municipal Court

- Calhoun Municipal Court has postponed all court proceedings through March 23rd, with additional court date delays expected.

Police Department

- Calhoun Police Department will conduct services as usual for all emergency situations.
- All non-essential fingerprinting has been discontinued until further notice.
- Availability to file non-emergency incident reports over the phone by calling E911's non-emergency numbers at (706) 629-0911 or (706) 602-0911. Callers will be connected to an officer who will determine if the event in question qualifies for an over the phone incident report.

Fire Department

- City of Calhoun firefighters remain at a constant state of readiness and training.
- City of Calhoun firefighters are following CDC and Department of Public Health guidelines.
- Protocols have been put in place to protect our firefighters from possible exposure to COVID 19.
- Public entry to the firehouses has been restricted to impede unnecessary contact and increase social distancing.

Other Departments

- Building Inspection, Public Works, and Animal Control are open at this time, and are adhering to best practices of proper sanitation and social distancing.

Other Organizations

- Advent Health Entrance points have been limited and screening stations are open at all available entrances; visitation has been limited.
- Chamber of Commerce has canceled all events and meetings.
- George Chamber Resource Center will be closed until March 30, 2020.
- Boys and Girls Club is closed.
- Calhoun Gordon County Library is closed.
- All meetings at the at the Ag Center conference room have been canceled.
- Santek Environmental confirms that Redbone Ridges Landfill and convenience centers remain fully operational and fully staffed. They will continue to operate on normal hours.

According to the DPH website update at noon on March 17th, confirmed cases in the state of Georgia increased in the last twenty four hours by twenty five cases bringing the total number in the state of Georgia to one hundred and forty six. However, Gordon County confirmed cases remains at two. City of Calhoun will continue to work diligently to evaluate measures that will assist in protecting our citizens and visitors during this difficult time. We will update as changes are made to our government operations and public buildings. Please continue to monitor CDC and DPH websites for the latest information on how to protect yourself and your family.