

PRESS RELEASE



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Folly Beach COVID-19 Update 4

Beginning **2:00 pm today (March 20th)** Folly Beach will begin restricted access to the island. Pending further emergency changes, each day, access will be restricted between the hours of 6am and 8pm. The restricted access will run through March 31st, 2020.

The checkpoint will be set up immediately prior to (on the James Island side of) Little Oak Island Drive. Please refer to the following list to determine access the island:

- Residents and property owners: Please bring two forms of identification showing residency or ownership (driver's license, utility bill, deed, tax bill, lease, etc).
- Caretakers: Resident may pick up a pass to give to caretakers (child care, family members, medical care takers) from in front of City Hall, 21 Center Street
 - Pick up hours: **2pm-5pm Friday 3/20; 12pm-5pm Saturday 3/21; and 9am-5pm Monday.**
 - Outside of those hours, residents and property owners may call 843-588-7006 for caretaker access. You may be required to leave a message, so please be patient as our staff handles a very high call volume.
- Guests of Residents: Residents may bring guests onto the island in the *same vehicle* through the check point. *We cannot issue passes or maintain a list of guests.*
- Short-term renters: Holders of a short-term rental contract or hotel booking must show a booking confirmation or rental contract at the checkpoint.
- Employees of local businesses must have previously-issued red or yellow reentry pass issued by the City and employee credentials.
- Contractors or businesses with Folly Beach Business License vehicle sticker
- Property managers, realtors, and brokers must have proof of state license and City of Folly Beach business license and related industry
- Delivery persons who can demonstrate business on the island at the checkpoint (including pharmacy, FedEx, UPS, Amazon and food delivery) by showing delivery address and goods at the checkpoint

City Parks, Playgrounds, and Facilities are closed consistent with Charleston County Parks and Recreation.

[Charleston County School District](#) has extended school closures through April 13; they continue to provide free "grab and go" lunches to all students (whether or not they previously qualified for free or reduced lunch); the nearest drive-through location is Harbor View Elementary on Harbor View Road.

Charleston County has opened their Citizen Information Line: (843)746-3900. Folly Beach City Hall phone lines remain open during business hours: call (843) 588-2447 for a menu of departments. As always, please call 911 in an emergency and (843) 588-2433 for Public Safety nonemergency calls. The City of Folly Beach continues to operate under a state of emergency declaration.

Operations

1. Effective Wednesday morning, March 18, Governor McMaster has ordered **restaurants and bars to**

close other than take-out food service. Food providers may provide take-out food service only, but *no on-premise consumption of food or alcohol is permitted.*

2. The CDC recommends limiting gatherings to 10 or fewer people.
3. Further, the State of South Carolina requires all state employers and requests all private employers allow nonessential employees to work remotely.
4. Governor McMaster has extended the state filing deadline is extended to June 1st for all *state* taxes.
5. Trash operations will continue on normal schedule; as of today, Charleston County is planning to pick up recycling next Monday.
6. Public Safety will respond to calls, but please expect extra questions from Dispatch to screen for COVID symptoms for the safety of the public and our officers. Please use the Dispatch phone number (843-588-2433) rather than walk-in for non-emergency questions. The station will be closed to the public for tours and drop-ins.
7. City Hall is operating via virtual, phone, and dropbox operations until further notice.
 - a. We encourage all citizens to delay all nonessential business and walk-in customer service. We will not issue golf cart permits, dog tags, parking permits during this time.
 - b. Building permits and business licenses may be applied for online, but please expect delays as staff focuses on emergency operations.
 - c. Parking and Court tickets can only be paid online or by mail to PO Box 48/Folly Beach, SC 29439
 - d. All payments can be made online via credit card or through the drop box in the lobby of City Hall, or by mail to PO Box 48/Folly Beach, SC 29439. Temporarily, we will accept credit card payments over the phone during the declared state of emergency.
8. Charleston County Parks are closed: Visit their [Alert Center](#) for updates.
9. The Governor has ordered that all municipal elections in April be postponed until after May 1st. Therefore, the City Council election and Utility Referendum will be canceled at this time. The Municipal Election Commission will meet in coming weeks to set a new date.
10. All City meetings scheduled for March are postponed: this includes Design Review Board (3/16), Candidate Forum (3/17), Tourism Visitor Promotion Committee (3/18), Parks & Recreation (3/24), and the OCRM Public Hearing (3/26).
11. All Charleston County Libraries (including Folly Beach) are closed to patrons until March 31st.
12. Municipal Court will be canceled March 20th and 27th.

Medical Testing

If you are experiencing life-threatening symptoms including respiratory distress, please call 911.

For all other symptoms of COVID-19, such as fever, cough or shortness of breath, MUSC Health Virtual Care telehealth service is offering COVID-19 screenings free of charge to South Carolina residents experiencing COVID-19-like symptoms located in South Carolina. Non-residents may use the service but may be charged for the visit and the panel. All MUSC screenings must be initiated online through their telehealth service: <https://campaigns.muschealth.org/virtual-care/index.html>. No walk-up traffic is accepted at the drive-through testing location.

You may also be able to obtain testing through your regular doctor's office and lab, dependent on each medical provider's capabilities. Please check with your doctor's office as capabilities continue to be expanded daily. The Governor has *requested* that doctors offices and insurance companies to provide tests at no charge; however, this is not a mandate and may not be followed by every provider.

Prevention

There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. However, as a reminder, CDC always recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, including:

- ✓ Stay home and practice social distancing, whether or not you are experiencing symptoms
- ✓ Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- ✓ Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- ✓ Stay home when you are sick.
- ✓ Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- ✓ Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- ✓ Follow CDC's recommendations for using a facemask.
 - CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect

themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.

- Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of facemasks is also crucial for health workers and people who are taking care of someone in close settings (at home or in a health care facility).
- ✓ Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
 - If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

About Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

All citizens are encouraged to review the information below and make plans for you and your family in the event of disruptions to your daily routine.

- [About Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [How it spreads](#)
- [Symptoms](#)
- [Prevention & treatment](#)
- [Testing](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control Latest Updates](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control Latest Updates](#)

Information for Travel

- [Coronavirus Disease 2019 Information for Travel](#)
- [FAQ for travelers](#)