



Office of County Commissioners
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NEWS RELEASE
Tuesday March 24, 2020
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Restricted Access to County Facilities and Programs

Habersham County continues to take steps in response to the unprecedented Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic to help stop the spread of the virus while ensuring essential government services continue to operate. As of 12:00 noon on March 24, 2020, there are no reported positive or presumptive positive COVID-19 cases in Habersham County. The Georgia Department of Public Health has a daily status report map updated at 12 noon and 7 p.m. That report can be accessed at <https://dph.georgia.gov/covid-19-daily-status-report/>.

Habersham County is restricting or discontinuing access to most public buildings:

- 1) Courthouse: operations have been scaled back to minimize non-essential visits;
- 2) Administration Building: The Elections and Voter Registration office is open for voter registration; all other departments have limited public access to lobby areas only (unless there is an appointment) with a minimum of two people allowed in any lobby at a time. Handwashing before entering the Administration Building is required;
- 3) Habersham County Detention Center: access to their lobby is allowed at any time, handwashing before entering is required;
- 4) All Other Public Buildings: visitors must call ahead to request access.

County employees are reporting to work as usual and are available by telephone and email. Certain field workers such as building inspectors, code enforcement officers, and animal control officers who perform duties outside of their assigned offices are limiting public contact, and social distancing is being practiced by all County employees. We encourage the public to use online resources, where available, for payments and other business during this time.

Below is a list of restrictions and closings that have been put in place for some of the County's facilities and programs. Our Facilities Management and Emergency Services Departments are using Bioesque Solution to disinfect all public access County buildings and County vehicles including ambulances, patrol cars, transit vehicles, public works vehicles, etc.

If anyone has further questions, they may contact the Habersham County Administrative/Commission Office at 706-839-0200.

Administration Building: The Elections and Voter Registration office is open for voter registration; all other departments have limited public access to lobby areas only (unless there is an appointment) with a maximum of two people allowed in any lobby at a time. Handwashing before entering the Administration Building is required.

Airport Terminal Building: The Airport Terminal building is open with limited public access. Handwashing before conducting business is required.

Animal Shelter/Animal Care & Control: The Animal Shelter is restricted to Animal Care & Control employees only until further notice. Please call 706-839-0195 for assistance. Visit <https://calendly.com/hcacc/30min> to schedule pet adoptions. Call 911 for EMERGENCIES ONLY.

Aquatic Center/Parks & Recreation: Aquatic Center pools and gymnasiums are closed until further notice. Rentals and/or activities scheduled before March 30th have been cancelled. The building is open for walkers, at their own risk, from 8am to 5pm Monday through Friday until further notice. Please call 706-839-0234 for assistance.

All Parks & Recreation programs are suspended beginning March 14th. Habersham Co. Little League and Church Softball League are postponed until March 30th. Track & Field is postponed until April 4th. Spring Basketball, Volleyball, and Gymnastics are postponed until April 6th. Rapids Futbol Club is postponed until April 30th. Please call 706-839-0234 for assistance.

Commission Meetings: All Board of Commissioners meetings will be held via teleconference through the April 20, 2020 Regular Commission Meeting. Please check Public Notices under the "Be In The Know" section on the Habersham County Website, www.habershamga.com, for meeting notices and dial-in information. Please contact 706-839-0200 for assistance.

Courthouse/Superior Court: The Courthouse is open. Courts have been closed for jury trials, jury service, calendar calls, arraignments, and motions calendars until further notice. Superior Court operations have been scaled back for 30 days beginning March 15th. Juries and Grand Jury are cancelled for 30 days beginning March 15th. Please call the Clerk of Court at 706-839-0300 or the Courthouse Security Desk at 706-839-0568 for assistance.

Elections: The March 24, 2020 Presidential Preference Primary has been postponed and will be rescheduled to coincide with the General Election Primary for May 19, 2020. The Secretary of State will be mailing absentee ballot request forms to all Georgia voters. Please contact 706-839-0170 for assistance.

Emergency Services: Stations are restricted from public and non-essential access until further notice. Anyone wishing to enter a fire station must first call 706-778-3911.

Facilities Maintenance: The Facilities Maintenance building is restricted from public and non-essential access until further notice. Please contact 706-839-0166 or 706-839-0167 for assistance.

Fleet Maintenance: The Fleet Maintenance building is restricted from public and non-essential access until further notice. Please contact 706-839-0187 for assistance.

Probate Court: Acceptance of Weapons Carry License and Renewal Weapons Carry License Applications is temporarily suspended. Renewal deadlines that become due during the Emergency Period will not expire and deadlines will be extended 30 days. Please contact 706-839-0320 for assistance.

Public Defender's Office: The Public Defender's office is restricted from public access until further notice. Please contact 706-839-0360 for assistance.

Senior Center/Senior Wellness Center: The Senior Center building is restricted from public access until further notice. In-House Congregate Meals are closed until April 3rd. Meals-on-Wheels will operate as normal and will include congregate clients who normally receive meals in-house. Staff will assist clients with other needs. The Senior Center Wellness building and programs are temporarily closed until further notice. Please contact 706-839-0260 for assistance.

Transit: Public Transit is operating as usual. Priority is given to trips to pharmacies, grocery stores, and medical appointments. Physical separation is required. Transit operates from 7am to 4pm Monday through Friday. Please contact 706-839-0167 for assistance.

Tag Office: The Tag Office/Tax Commissioner is open and operating as usual.