

PRESS RELEASE



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Contact: Spencer Wetmore,
swetmore@cityoffollybeach.com

Folly Beach COVID-19 Update 13

We anticipate the Governor to announce an opening of public beach access effective Tuesday, April 21st. However, all Charleston-area beach communities will continue checkpoint operations at this time. In addition to protecting our law enforcement and residents, the restricted access is intended to reduce large crowds gathering in small spaces and lessen the chance of the virus spreading and spiking throughout the greater Charleston community.

For those on the island (residents, property owners, etc per the guidelines below), the beach will be open for exercise only. **Permitted exercise:** Running, walking, dog-walking, biking, surfing, and other recreational activities consistent with social distancing. "Keep it moving!" **Prohibited:** Sunbathing (towels and chairs), coolers, loitering without moving, congregated in groups larger than 3 people.

City Council will meet again on Monday, April 27 at 6:00 p.m. to determine a gradual reopening strategy including the checkpoint and rentals.

The City enforces all of the Governor's Emergency declarations, and the full orders can be found [HERE](#).

Checkpoint & Business Restrictions

- **Residents and property owners:** Please bring two forms of identification showing residency or ownership (driver's license, utility bill, deed, tax bill, long-term lease, etc). Existing family passes should have the name of the family member on the pass. New family passes may be issued for children, spouse, parents, or grandchildren by calling (843) 588-7006 and making arrangements for delivery to the checkpoint. No guest passes are permitted, although residents and owners may bring up to two guests through the checkpoint (no shuttling back and forth).
- **Short and Long-Term Rentals, Hotels, and Other Overnight Accommodations** no changes at this time: No new check-ins are permitted between April 7, 2020 and May 31st, 2020 regardless of length of stay. Visitors currently checked in may remain until the end of their existing reservations, and the stay may be extended only for the same guests, on the same rental terms, and at the same address.
- **Caretakers:** passes caretakers can be issued by calling the Citizen Information Line: 843.588.7006 and arrangements will be made to deliver the passes to the checkpoint for pickup. Please expect a 24-hour turnaround time for new passes. Previously issued caretaker passes will still be honored, but access is limited to the listed address for the purpose of providing care.
- **Physical businesses** may not allow patrons indoors and must follow State Executive Orders and CDC guidelines. However, essential business employees may come to work with a checkpoint pass, and businesses may continue to serve clients virtually, by delivery, or at a service window. Grocery stores, gas stations, healthcare providers, financial services, are deemed essential by the CDC, and may continue to allow customers.
 - Essential Business passes are limited to those services deemed essential by Governor McMaster. When using a pass at the checkpoint, please be prepared to show employee credentials (paystub, etc). To request a new business pass, the 2020 Folly Beach Business License holder should call the Citizen Information Line and be prepared to share a copy of your 2020 Folly Beach Business License, the specific state provision designating the business as essential, and the employee names.

- **Construction and service businesses** are permitted through the checkpoint with a copy of the building permit (if applicable) and the 2020 Folly Beach business license vehicle sticker or copy of current Folly Beach business license (or state license for real estate agents and appraisers). Please expect delays in processing new building permit and business license applications. To apply for a new permit or license, please visit our Virtual City Hall at: <https://www.cityoffollybeach.com/virtual-city-hall/>
- **Media personnel** with media credentials presented.
- **Delivery persons** who can demonstrate business on the island at the checkpoint (including pharmacy, FedEx, UPS, Amazon, building supply, and food delivery) by showing delivery order, address, and goods at the checkpoint.
- **Non-Resident holders of Folly Beach Post Office boxes:** must show their key at the check point.
- **Any other emergency requests** must go through the Citizen information Line: 843-588-7006.

Persons found attempting to circumvent local or state laws or employing deceptive practices will be charged to the full extent of the law.

Operations and Other Information

1. [Charleston County School District](#) has extended school closures through at least April 30; 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.
2. City Parks, Playgrounds, and Facilities are closed.
3. City Trash operations will continue on normal schedule. Contact Charleston County for recycling operations, their number is: (843)720-7111.
4. Municipal Court will be canceled through April 30, 2020, except for emergency matters.
5. 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.
6. City Hall is operating via virtual, phone, and dropbox operations until further notice.
 - a. All nonessential business walk-in customer service is terminated at 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.
7. All Charleston County Libraries (including Folly Beach) are closed to patrons until further notice.
8. Charleston County Parks are closed: Visit their [Alert Center](#) for updates.
9. 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.
10. Governor McMaster has extended the state filing deadline is extended to June 1st for all *state* taxes.
11. 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.
12. All City meetings scheduled for March and April are postponed.

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.
- ✓ 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](#)