Weeks before state declaration of emergency, Greenville County staff and agencies held internal meeting to ensure “Continuity of Government.” Plans were revised and updated and improved to ensure that we would be able to continue to provide essential services. This plan is available on line at GreenvilleCounty.org.

**COUNTY COUNCIL:** Open public Council and Committee meetings have been suspended in lieu of live-streamed meetings. Meetings will be conducted with remote participation by Council Members. Greenville County Council has successfully held several full council meeting utilizing Zoom, and that does include public participation. Please check our [weekly calendar](#) regarding upcoming meetings and find direct links to meetings.

**ESSENTIAL SERVICES:** Essential services provided by Greenville County include EMS, Detention Center, Animal Care, Landfill, and more. No matter what the situation, these services cannot be shut down or paused. Weeks of planning and adjustments keep these essential services operating at the highest possible level.

**EMS:** The goal is to protect our staff while providing outstanding care.
- Protocols for assessing phone calls coming in to the call center allow communication professionals to determine if call is COVID-related and requires extreme protection protocols for staff and patient.
- Trained “decon” teams decontaminate (clean) EMS vehicles routinely.
- EMS field staff (as well as other first responders) can get tested if necessary.
- County EMS admin staff is prepared to enter the field to provide support if and when needed.
- Additional masks were ordered in early March and are expected to arrive in early April.
- The department has initiated 100% masking for all employees when in presence and not in presence of patients.

**DETENTION CENTER:**
- Existing protocol already mandated screening of incoming inmates for the flu, but now includes additional observation for symptoms potentially related to COVID-19. **Anyone with such symptoms will be isolated.**
- As per state law, low-bond or misdemeanor inmates have been released, creating “empty” dorms that can be used as isolation areas if necessary.
**ANIMAL CARE:** We must continue to provide services to the pets in our custody and for emergency Animal Control calls.

- As of Monday, March 30, all adoptions and fosters are being done by appointment only by calling (864) 467-3950.
- In an effort to save PPE (gloves/masks) public clinic services have been temporarily suspended.
- If you or someone you know is experiencing ruff times, the No Empty Bowls Pet Food Pantry can help. Call ahead (864)-467-3992 to schedule a pick-up time. Staff will bring the food out to your vehicle.
- On-call fosters are being recruited in case of a surge in shelter population in the near future. Email fosterapet@greenvillecounty.org to become an on-call foster.
- Citizens are asked to keep and care for their pets as well as any lost pets they find during the crisis in order to help limit the amount of animals in the shelter.
- If you find a lost pet: We are asking everyone to help our community by keeping any pets you find at your home until they can be reunited with their owner or until the shelter is back to operating normally. Check for identification, ask people in the neighborhood (from a safe 6ft distance) if they know who the pet belongs to, and return pets to owners instead of bringing lost pets to the shelter. Be sure to fill out a found report online and please call us at 864-467-3950 if you have any questions. More tips for finding a lost pet’s owners can be found [here](https://example.com).
- Community Cat spay/neuter surgeries are now open on an appointment-only basis. Limited appointments are available on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. We recommend making an appointment at least 24-48 hours before you intend to humanely trap a cat. Call 864-467-3950 to make an appointment.

**LANDFILL:** The Twin Chimneys Landfill and all convenience centers are limiting the amount of cars allowed in at one time and mandating a 6 ft distance between people at all times.

- Cardboard bailing is temporarily suspended due to the COVID-19 risks.

**GREENVILLE COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:** Greenville County Emergency Management is the central hub of coordination for all vital services and provides more than 20 organizations with daily communications. On March 17, Greenville County declared a Local State of Emergency thus activating a higher level of EOC operations securing additional state and federal resources.

**TAXES:** To limit traffic at County Square, the fee for online payment of all taxes has been waived. The no-contact drop-box outside the Tax Office remains an option. Those that do pay in person see signs indicating mandatory social distancing. Staff is behind glass.

The service fee for Hospitality Taxes will also be waived until June 30th.

**BUSINESS:** Greenville County Codes, Permits and Zoning remain open to serve. We encourage online submission of materials, but the office at County Square is open with mandatory social distancing established. You may be asked to sit outside in a designated area until your turn.

**PROBATE COURT:** In view of the COVID-19 threat, the Probate Court office is closed to the public.

- Only emergency hearings are being scheduled. Requests for emergency proceedings will be carefully screened for strict compliance with 62-5-108 or Rule 65 of SCRCP. Except for good cause shown, emergency hearings will be held via SKYPE or via telephone given the current prevailing public health threat of COVID-19.
• Please [click here](#) for details on how to access emergency services.

• No new applications for marriage licenses will be accepted until May 1.

• Please [click here](#) for more details on marriage licenses issuances.

**PARKS & RECREATION:**

• Early in March, Greenville County Rec suspended all programming, sports, and events. This includes all sports, after school programs, field rentals, and events.

• Please note that the Pavilion was already closed for renovations.

• The Prisma Swamp Rabbit Trail remains open. For some it is truly a form of transportation. Social gathering and social distancing rules apply.

• All playgrounds are now open. Walking trails and greenspaces remain open but social distancing rules apply.

• Athletics fields open for teams on May 31st. Social distancing signs are posted. Bleachers are closed.

• Summer Camps at Community Centers will begin June 15.

  • [Greenville County Aquatic Complex](#) is open for lap swim and self-motivated exercise with normal operating hours. Fitness classes are suspended. Limited-capacity swim lessons will be offered. Social distancing is required and aquatic exercise equipment is unavailable. The fitness room is open with every other piece of equipment being made available to members. Showers are not available. [CDC guidelines](#) are being followed.

  • [Greenville County Rec waterparks](#) are open and adhering to CDC guidelines, and taking additional measures.

  • Swim lessons will be offered at limited capacity this summer at Greenville County Aquatic Complex. There will be no swim lessons offered at the waterparks.

  • Greenville County Rec is proud to partner with Greenville County School District to facilitate their free school lunch program. Between 10am-Noon, the following Greenville County Rec locations are distributing a free lunch plus breakfast for the next day to everyone 18 years of age and younger (and special needs adults up to age 21).

    o Freetown Community Center
    o Mt. Pleasant Community Center
    o Sterling Community Center
    o Lakeside Park
    o Westside Park

    Per USDA regulations, children must be present to receive the meals. Click below for a complete list of service sites.

These services cease on June 5, 2020.

**LITTER ENDS HERE:** Citizens’ safety and well-being is always our top priority here at Greenville County. To ensure the safety of our volunteer participants and staff, Greenville County is discouraging all Litter Ends Here and Adopt-a-Road volunteering at this time. We also ask that volunteers cease picking up supplies from County Square. We will continue to evaluate the situation and will provide updates as they become available.

• Litter Ends Here staff crews are still cleaning up litter along Greenville County Roadways. In the month of April, crews cleaned up a record-setting 44,120 lbs of litter. As of May 21, 2020, crews have eliminated 24,720 lbs of litter.

• In May, volunteering resumed and volunteers cleaned up 1,580 lbs of litter!

**COMMUNICATIONS:**
- Updates and resources will continue to be provided at GreenvilleCounty.org.
- Updates are also provided on County social media accounts.
  - Facebook
  - Instagram
  - Twitter
- Greenville County Emergency Management also provides social media updates via Facebook.

**FINANCIAL ADVISING:**

- Greenville County Human Relation welcomes citizens to utilize their financial advising services during this time. More Information / Spanish
- Greenville County’s Financial Empowerment Centers continue to offer free financial advising for Greenville County citizens virtually. Call (864) 467-7503 or visit www.GreenvilleFEC.com today to schedule your virtual appointment.

**REOPENING:**

- Greenville County is partnering with the GADC, Greenville Chamber, and the municipalities of the County to help local businesses reopen safely and responsibly, and thus create confidence in consumers. The Greater Greenville Pledge is the marketing campaign of the Business Recovery Task Force. To date more than 550 County business have taken the pledge.