



Chamber Partners & Friends,

We at the Chamber are committed to serving as the convener, voice, and advocate for all our members as we continue to work through this unprecedented situation in the face of COVID-19. On behalf of our staff, I want to express our deepest gratitude to those on the front line of battling this pandemic as well as our entire membership community.

Let us hear from you so that we can learn how we can best serve you during this time. Please feel free to email me with questions, input, your ideas as to how we can address the impact of COVID-19 in our community – bstedman@visitgeorge.com.

Best regards,

Beth S. Stedman
President & CEO
Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce

Send us your questions.

What do you hope to learn more about regarding COVID-19? What creative strategies are you implementing?

[WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! CLICK HERE.](#)

[CLICK HERE: Local Business News as of 4:30 pm, 3.17.20](#)

We will continue to update business closings, adjusted hours, etc. Please let us hear from you. Email info@visitgeorge.com. All of this information can be found on our website at www.VisitGeorge.com.

CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 TRENDS

AS OF MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2020 @ 7 pm

STATEMENT FROM TIDELANDS HEALTH ABOUT COVID-19 TESTING

Click [HERE](#)

From www.TidelandsHealth.org: We understand people in our community have questions about the testing process for the COVID-19 coronavirus. Tidelands Health is testing patients when a physician determines it is clinically appropriate to do so.

- First and foremost, anyone experiencing a true medical emergency should call 911, as always.
- Please do not come to the emergency department unless you need emergency care.
- People who do not have symptoms but have questions can find comprehensive coronavirus resources on the Tidelands Health website at tidelandshealth.org. You may also call the DHEC Care Line at 855-472-3432.
- If you have flu-like symptoms such as fever, cough or shortness of breath, you can:
 - Utilize the no-cost MUSC Health virtual screening at muschealth.org. If the screening indicates you need follow-up care, you will be contacted by a local health care provider to schedule an appointment. Tidelands Health, as our region's MUSC Health affiliate, is working closely with MUSC Health on this process.

OR

- Call your family physician and schedule an appointment. If you do not have a physician, call 1-866-TIDELANDS. We will help you schedule an appointment with a physician near you.
- Residents may notice tents in the parking lots of Tidelands Health Family Medicine practices in Georgetown, Pawleys Island and Myrtle Beach. **These tents are not public testing sites.** They have been erected as outside triage areas for patients with a scheduled appointment. You should only drive up to the tent if you have a scheduled appointment and have been directed by your physician's office to do so. Anyone who comes to the tent without a scheduled appointment will be asked to leave and call for a scheduled appointment. Tidelands Health Family Medicine practices are not accepting walk-in patients at this time.
- Tidelands Health is not offering walk-in or drive-through COVID-19 testing. Again, we are testing patients when a physician determines it is clinically appropriate to do so. Tests conducted at our physician offices and hospitals are sent to an outside laboratory. Results are normally received within 72 to 96 hours. Patients who are tested are given instructions on self-quarantining while awaiting test results.
- For more information on Tidelands Health coronavirus resources, visit tidelandshealth.org.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The President has issued a series of proclamations related to COVID-19. On March 13, he declared a national [State of Emergency](#) that, in combination with Secretary Alex Azar's previously declared National Public Health Emergency, can loosen regulatory requirements to provide resources to impacted individuals through federal and state programs including Medicare and Medicaid, and make federal aid available to states.

The U.S. House of Representatives on Saturday passed legislation ([H.R. 6201](#)) that would expand access to paid sick leave for impacted individuals, free COVID-19 testing, food assistance programs, and unemployment insurance and protections for health care workers. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce [summarized the details of the legislation here](#). The bill is now under consideration by the Senate, which is expected to make at least some material changes to the legislation. The US Chamber continues to monitor the process and send information to the local Chambers.

U.S. Small Business Administration – The Small Business Administration office is working closely with the Governor's Administration to activate the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program to provide financial assistance to eligible small businesses. SC is still waiting approval to be included in loan program. The SBA does not plan to open any physical locations for EIDL applications and processing. For information, click [HERE](#).

STATE GOVERNMENT

Announcements from Governor Henry D. McMaster

By Executive Order, Gov. McMaster today:

- **Restaurants and bars** are to stop dine-in service effective March 18. He is encouraging restaurants to increase use of curbside, delivery, take out.
- **State tax deadlines** have been extended to June 1.
- All **events, programs, and gatherings** for over 50 people to be held on publicly owned facilities have been prohibited.
- State agencies will **waive regulations** necessary to assist with the response to COVID-19.

SC **Department of Employment and Workforce** has created a FAQ for businesses with questions about which workers qualify for unemployment benefits and whether employers will be charged. Click [HERE](#) for information.

SC Department of Health and Environmental Control is only notifying individuals who have been in close contact with a person affected with the virus and showing symptoms; close contact means in close proximity for a period time.

Routine temperature checks for employees are not recommended at this time. DHEC has a webpage containing resource for business – click [HERE](#).

SC General Assembly – SC Senate convened today and passed legislation to appropriate **\$45 million** of state surplus dollars to the Department of Health and Environmental Control as part of the state's response to the virus. The SC House will meet Thursday to consider the bill. If it passes, then it will move to the Governor for his signature. Afterwards, the General Assembly will be on leave indefinitely.

GEORGETOWN COUNTY GOVERNMENT

- **Georgetown County Government 3.17.20 PM Update** – For complete details and to read the news release in its entirety, click [HERE](#).
 - Georgetown County government will **temporarily close the majority of its facilities** to the public beginning on Wednesday, March 18. County staff will still report to work to continue serving the public via phone and online.
 - The **landfill and community recycling centers** will continue to be open to the public for normal hours of operation. Individuals are asked not to socialize at these facilities. Staff may elect to limit the number of users on site at any time. No loitering will be allowed. All swap shops will be closed until further notice.
 - The **Georgetown Airport** and terminal building will remain open. Staff will take steps to limit the number of people in the facility at any time to less than 10.
 - The **Register of Deeds office** in the historic courthouse will continue to allow very limited admittance, which will be by appointment only. See further details in the full release that are accessible via the above link.
 - The Georgetown County Office of Elections and Voter Registration will remain open for regular hours to accommodate **filing for partisan elected offices**, which opened yesterday. Staff will take actions to limit the number of people inside the facility at once. Call (843) 545-3339 for an appointment.
 - **The Treasurer's Office and Auditor's Office** will extend the due date for taxes on all vehicles and watercraft due on March 31 to April 30. The S.C. Department of Motor Vehicles has agreed to waive penalties for the same period. Taxes may be paid online at <https://georgetowncountysctax.com> or by phone at 1-833-594-5241. For more information regarding tax payments, call (843) 545-3102 or email taxinfo@gtcounty.org.
 - Those seeking permits from the **Building office** may print permit application forms online at <http://www.georgetowncountysc.org/building/>.

- Those seeking permits from the **Planning and Zoning Department** may print permit application forms online at <http://www.georgetowncountysc.org/Planning/> or <http://www.georgetowncountysc.org/Zoning/>.
- **Bureau of Aging Services** has cancelled its congregate dining programs, but clients will receive regular wellness telephone calls from staff. Clients may also elect to transfer to the county's home delivered meal program until the congregate dining program is restored. To sign up, call (843) 325-6716. This service is open to all senior citizens, not just those who previously participated in the congregate dining program.
- **Georgetown County Courts – For complete news release, click [HERE](#)**
 - **Georgetown County Circuit Courts** have postponed all jury trials. Click [HERE](#) .
 - **Family Court** emergency hearings will be scheduled on an as needed basis. For any other Family Court concerns, call (843) 545-3215. Click [HERE](#) .
 - Any **Probate Court** hearings for non-emergency matters shall be continued to a future date and time. Click [HERE](#) .
 - **Summary Courts Cancelled** – Click [HERE](#) for information.
- **Georgetown County Declares State of Emergency** – Click [HERE](#).
- **Georgetown County Government 3.16.20 Update** – Click [HERE](#) for the entire message.
 - All county parks and recreation facilities are closed to the public.
 - All county-run adult and youth sports programs are suspended until further notice.
 - Rentals at county parks and recreation facilities will be cancelled for at least the next two weeks and fees refunded.
 - Libraries will remain open, but all meetings and events scheduled in library meeting rooms will be cancelled. Library staff plans to increase online programs for patrons.
 - For the time being, all other county operations and facilities are maintaining regular operating hours. The county continues to ask residents who are sick not to enter county buildings. Anyone who is visibly sick will be asked to leave.
 - Those seeking permits from the **Building office** may print permit application forms online at <http://www.georgetowncountysc.org/building/>.
- **Sheriff's Department Message** – Click [HERE](#) for information.

CITY OF GEORGETOWN

City of Georgetown Update 3.16.20. For complete details and to read the news release in its entirety, click [HERE](#).

- Public traffic to City Hall and other public city owned/rented facilities will cease. **Access to public buildings is restricted** to working employees only.
- **Payments** will be accepted by:
 - Telephone (843) 545-4007 or (843) 545-4048.

- Online with debit/credit card at www.georgetownsc.gov. The convenience service fee will be suspended.
- Drive through window or drop off box at City Hall
- By mail: PO BOX 939, Georgetown, SC 29442
- **City will not suspend or disconnect utilities** for non-payment during the state of emergency. Penalties will continue accumulating.
- **Permits, licensing, plan review, payment assistance** will be handled online or by phone only. Drop off boxes will be installed in City Hall. Call the planning and Community Development Department for information (843.545.4010).
- **City Council meetings** will be held via teleconference or over the Internet.
- City will not issue **public events permits** for more than 50 people, subject to updates according to recommendations from SCDHEC and the CDC.
- **Georgetown Municipal Court has cancelled criminal and traffic court** for March 19 and March 26, 2020 All affected parties will receive notification by mail of the new court date at the last address provided to the court. Bond hearings will still be held daily at 11 am as necessary. Call 843.545.4020 for questions or concerns.
- **City of Georgetown declares State of Emergency.** Click [HERE](#).

ACCURATE & VALUABLE RESOURCES

During this time of heightened stress and anxiety, we ask that you please refer to **official sources** for information.

- **Tidelands Health:** <https://www.tidelandshealth.org/>
- **SC Department of Environmental Control:** <https://scdhec.gov/health/infectious-diseases/viruses/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>
- **SCDHEC Care Line** at 1-855-472-3432.
- **Centers for Disease Control:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/>
 - [Guidance for businesses and employers](#). This page includes strategies for employers to use now, and information about planning for a potential U.S. outbreak.
- **SC Department of Employment and Workforce:** <https://dew.sc.gov/individuals/apply-for-benefits>
- **South Carolina Department of Insurance:** <https://www.doi.sc.gov/948/COVID-19>
- **Small Business Administration:** <https://www.sba.gov/page/guidance-businesses-employers-plan-respond-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>
- **U.S. Chamber of Commerce:** <https://www.uschamber.com/>

INTERESTING ARTICLE

Harvard Business Review: [How the Coronavirus is Already Rewriting the Future of Business](#)