

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 16, 2020

HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION PROVIDES UPDATE ON COVID-19

The Houston County Commission urges citizens to be diligent in their efforts to stay informed and to participate in mitigation activities to help reduce the exposure and spread of COVID-19, commonly referred to as the coronavirus.

Among the most effective measures are consistently keeping your hands and face clean with sanitizer or frequent washing, covering your face when coughing or sneezing, staying home if you experience a fever or difficulty breathing, and checking on family members who are at risk of contracting the virus.

County officials are implementing plans for providing the public access to government resources and continuing those services essential to public health and safety. These meetings are ongoing and will continue.

The following actions have been implemented starting today, Monday, March 16, 2020:

- o Certain persons who have traveled internationally or been exposed to international travel, been exposed to COVID-19, been self-quarantined or experiencing fever or symptoms will not be allowed access to County buildings
- o There will only be one Commission meeting held per month with no Admin Meeting until further notice. The next meeting will be April 13
- o The Dothan-Houston County EMA Office will put out updates as needed to update the public as the situation changes
- o Evaluations are ongoing as to the status of County Office closing based on Federal and State actions
- o Omussee Park and St. Johns Parks are closed until further notice

“We are committed to continuing our service to the public as this situation moves forward,” said Mark Culver, Houston County Commission Chair. “The most important thing is that everyone in the community does their part to stay informed, stay calm and to recognize that everyone in the community has a responsibility to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.”

“Please be aware of your surroundings and your actions. Also, please take steps to frequently wash your hands and, if you have a fever, please stay home.”

Additional announcements will be made as new information becomes available. In the meantime, the Commission recommends that citizens utilize the following websites for the most up-to-date information.

Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) COVID-19:

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/infectiousdiseases/2019-coronavirus.html>

National Association of Counties (NACo) COVID-19:

<https://www.naco.org/resources/coronavirus>

International City-County Management Association (ICMA) COVID-19:

<https://icma.org/coronavirus-resources-plan-and-prepare-now-it-hits-your-community>

National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) COVID-19:

<http://narc.org/coronavirus-2019/>

HHS/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Community Mitigation Strategies Guide:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community-mitigation-strategy.pdf>