



NEWS RELEASE

City Closures Due to COVID-19 Prevention

MARCH 20, 2020 | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Starting Monday, March 23, the City of North Augusta will implement City facility closures. These closures are in addition to the current restricted services already in place. Though City facilities will be closed to citizens, essential City services will still be delivered. Essential employees will report as directed to work in person and remotely. City facility closures and other contact restrictions are to achieve social distancing and prevent the spread of COVID-19 in both City employees and North Augusta citizens. City leaders will regularly evaluate service delivery and monitor COVID-19 spread for future service modifications.

The City will implement and/or continue the following measures starting March 23 (new closures in bold):

- Access to City facilities will be restricted with notices posted at each City facility:
 - **Municipal Building will be closed to citizens**
 - Riverview Park Activity Center and Community Center will remain closed
 - **City parks with playground equipment will be closed**; City parks without such equipment, including the Greenway, will remain open for use
- City employees should be contacted via email or phone. Handling of business will be via phone, email, conference call or video conference.
- All City utility payments, permit applications, tax payments and business license payments will be accepted at the drop box located in the City Municipal Building parking lot. No payments or applications will be accepted in person. Citizens may also make timely payments on the City website, bill pay through their financial institution, or USPS mail.
- City-hosted athletic programs will be suspended and City athletic facilities will not be available for organized practice.
- Events and meetings scheduled at City facilities through March 31 have been cancelled or rescheduled.
- New utility service establishment will be conducted by appointment only, call 803.441.4219.

Stay in touch with City employees and access important information through the following websites:

- Contact information for all City departments, www.northaugusta.net
- COVID-19 information and its impact on the City, www.northaugusta.net/covid-19
- City social media accounts
 - City of North Augusta – Public Information: <https://www.facebook.com/CityofNorthAugusta>
 - North Augusta Public Safety: <https://www.facebook.com/NAPublicSafety>
 - North Augusta Parks, Recreation & Tourism: <https://www.facebook.com/northaugusta.recreation>

Essential services will be provided through City departments as follows:

City Administration, City Clerk, and Finance will:

- Provide services over the phone or teleconference, via email, and through City website

Human Resources will:

- Provide services over the phone or teleconference, via email, and through City website
- Accept applications for employment online: www.northaugusta.net/apply

Municipal Court will:

- Provide services over the phone, via email, and through City website
- Cancel all session through March 31
- Encourage payment of fines by mail or through drop box at Public Safety headquarters

Parks, Recreation and Tourism will:

- Provide services over the phone, via email, and through City website
- Continue park maintenance on a modified schedule

Planning & Development will:

- Provide services over the phone or teleconference, via email, and through City website
- Temporarily accept electronic plans for all reviews. Original copies of some documents will be required prior to final approvals. Please visit our “Forms” page for submittal forms. <https://www.northaugusta.net/online-services/documents-publications/-folder-29>
- Schedule preliminary application conference meetings via video chat
- Continue Code Enforcement operations, but person-to-person contact will be avoided

Public Safety will:

- Provide services over the phone, via email, and information through City website
- Take non-emergency reports over the phone to minimize contact
- Maintain a six-foot safe space during interviews
- Wear additional personal protective gear during response calls as necessary
- Close substation firehouses to non-employees
- Close Criminal Investigation Division to pedestrian traffic; contacts to be made by appointment only

Public Services will:

- Provide services over the phone, via email, and through City website
- Continue trash and recycling pick-up as normal
- Provide City water as normal and respond to water and wastewater emergencies
- Perform City property maintenance and landscaping with modified schedules

Public Works will:

- Provide services over the phone or teleconference, via email, and through City website
- Continue inspections, but person-to-person contact will be avoided and/or limited
- Implement maintenance projects with modified schedules

“We encourage all members of our community to follow the personal hygiene suggestions of the CDC,” said Mayor Robert Pettit. Suggested precautions include:

- Stay home if you are sick.
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water, and for at least 20 seconds each time.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are ill.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze; do not reuse tissues.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that are frequently touched.
- Get detailed information from a trusted source: www.cdc.gov or www.scdhec.gov/covid19