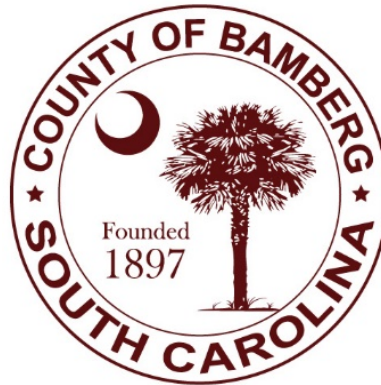


County of Bamberg

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Trent Kinard – *District #1*
Sharon Hammond, *Chairwoman* – *District #2*
Larry Haynes, *Vice Chairman* – *District #3*
Joe Guess, Jr. – *District #4*
Isaiah Odom – *District #5*
Evert Comer, Jr. – *District #6*
Clint Carter, *Chairman* – *District #7*



Joey R. Preston
Administrator
Rose R. Shepherd
Clerk to Council

Press Release

To: News Media
CC: Bamberg County Administration
From: Bamberg County Public Information Office
Date: April 6, 2020
Re: Bamberg County COVID-19 Updates and Responses

Bamberg, South Carolina (April 2020) – Bamberg County Administration and Emergency Services Department has been closely monitoring the COVID-19/Coronavirus situation across the nation and state of South Carolina. As of April 5, 2020, Bamberg County has five confirmed positive COVID-19 cases. Citizens are urged to use online, phone, or email services to conduct business with all county offices whenever practical and possible.

Local updates and closures include:

Bamberg County Sheriff's Office modifying public access until further notice. The office will remain open but staff requests that citizens call 803-245-3018 rather than visit when possible. There will be no changes to calls for service response protocols. Non-criminal fingerprints will not be done at this time.

Bamberg County Clemson Extension Office closed to the public until further notice. Agents and staff will continue to be available by telephone and email. The Bamberg County Extension Office can be reached at 803-245-2661.

Bamberg County Probate Court office will be closed to all foot traffic until further notice. If citizens require a marriage license, please call the probate office at 803-245-3008 and request that one be mailed or emailed. Attorneys are requested to mail documents for opening or administering estates, guardianships, and conservatorships. There will be no hearings conducted until further notice unless there is a clear need for an emergency hearing; mental health emergency commitment orders will be done by appointment only. Title abstractors are asked to make an appointment and are required to wear protective gloves and a mask while in the probate office. Please call the probate office if there are any questions (803) 245-3008.

Bamberg County DSS/DHSS is closed until further notice. Please call 803-245-4363 for more information.

1234 NORTH STREET P.O. BOX 149 BAMBERG, SOUTH CAROLINA 29003
Phone: (803) 245-5191 Fax: (803) 245-3027

Bamberg County Detention Center suspended all visitation to inmates until April 30, with continuing evaluation. Any questions should be directed to the Bamberg County Detention Center at 803-245-3020.

Bamberg County Magistrate court suspended jury trials until further notice. There are no changes with bond hearings. Bond hearings will continue twice per day. No evictions will be processed until further notice per order of the SC Supreme Court. All eviction hearings are postponed until May 1. Any questions should be directed to the Magistrate's office at 803-245-3016.

Bamberg General Sessions Court is canceled until further notice. Jurors are not needed. Family Court is canceled until the next judicial order is received. Questions should be directed to 803-245-3025.

Governor Henry McMaster announced the postponement of all elections scheduled for March and April, including the City of Bamberg's special election on April 7, 2020. Please call the Bamberg County Voter Registration and Elections Office at 803-245-3028 with questions.

The ABBE Regional Library System closed all library buildings until April 19, with continuing evaluation. Due dates on library materials will be extended and book drops will remain open. Any fines incurred during this period will be waived. To learn more, please visit the Digital Branch Library at <https://www.abbe-lib.org/digital/>

The Bamberg County Office on Aging is no longer providing meals at their location on Log Branch Road in Bamberg. All meals will be delivered to homes with appropriate safety measures. The Senior Center is closed to the public until further notice. Medical transportation and home delivery of frozen meals will continue for as long as possible.

Per Executive Order 2020-16, Governor Henry McMaster ordered the closure of public boat landings, therefore all county boat landings along the Edisto River are closed until further notice.

Bamberg County Administration and Emergency Services continues to monitor the coronavirus situation and will inform the public and staff of any updates via the county website at <http://www.bambergcountysc.gov/covid-19-updates> and Facebook page. Other reliable sources of information include SC DHEC, SC Emergency Management Division (SCEMD), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and World Health Organization (WHO).

###

For more information on this press release, email info@bambergcounty.sc.gov.