

County of Bamberg

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Administrator

Rose R. Shepherd

Clerk to Council

Press Release

To: News Media

CC: Bamberg County Administration

From: Bamberg County Public Information Office

Date: March 30, 2020

Re: Bamberg County COVID-19 Updates and Responses

Bamberg, South Carolina (March 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.

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 is closed to in-person visitors until further notice, however title searchers will be allowed inside the probate office for research purposes. There are gloves and hand sanitizer provided. There are bins outside the probate office door for use in filing and picking up documents. There are application forms for marriage license. Citizens are asked to use the pens provided on the table and to take it with them when they leave. Also, there is hand sanitizer for general use. All hearings are postponed until further notice unless it is clearly an emergency. 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.

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.

1234 NORTH STREET P.O. BOX 149 BAMBERG, SOUTH CAROLINA 29003

Phone: (803) 245-5191 Fax: (803) 245-3027

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. Governor McMaster's announcement does not change the March candidate filing period. Bamberg County candidate filing opened at noon on March 16 and closed at noon on March 30. 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 5, 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.

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).

Citizens are advised to use online, phone, or email services to conduct business with other county offices whenever practical and possible.

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