

COVID-19 (Corona Virus)
Operational Changes
For Dearing, Thomson, and McDuffie County
In Accordance With Governor's Executive Order 04.02.20.01

The Town of Dearing, The City of Thomson, and McDuffie County will implement the following operational changes to comply with Governor Brian Kemp's Executive Order 04.02.20.01, issuing a statewide shelter in place to stop the spread of COVID-19.

1. In order to meet specific social distancing requirements and measures to mitigate exposure established within Executive Order 04.02.20.01 all McDuffie County, City of Thomson, and Dearing facilities will reduce operational staff. County Staff shall be compensated in accordance with Section VIII, Sub-Section 0.81.00 of the McDuffie County Human Resources Policies.
2. All County owned public parks, recreation facilities and Raysville Campground will remain closed to comply with requirements for residents "to shelter in place within their homes or place of residence."
3. Operational staffing will Limit Physical Interaction with others in public. During the effective dates of the Governor's Order the County, the City of Thomson, and the Town of Dearing shall implement measures which mitigate the exposure and spread of COVID-19 among its workforce. Such measures may include, but shall not be limited to:
 1. Screening and evaluating workers who exhibit signs of illness, such as a fever over 100-4 degrees Fahrenheit, cough, or shortness of breath;
 2. Requiring workers who exhibit signs of illness to not report to work or to seek medical attention;
 3. Enhancing sanitation of the workplace as appropriate;
 4. Requiring hand washing or sanitation by workers at appropriate places within the business location;
 5. Providing personal protective equipment as available and appropriate to the function and location of the worker within the business location;
 6. Prohibiting gatherings of workers during working hours;
 7. Permitting workers to take breaks and lunch outside, in their office or personal workspace, or in such other areas where proper social distancing is attainable;
 8. Implementing teleworking for all possible workers;
 9. Implementing staggered shifts for all possible workers;
 10. Holding all meetings and conferences virtually, wherever possible;
 11. Delivering intangible services remotely wherever possible;
 12. Discouraging workers from using other workers' phones, desks, offices, or other work tools and equipment;
 13. Providing disinfectant and sanitation products for workers to clean their workspace, equipment, and tools;
 14. Prohibiting handshaking and other unnecessary person-to-person contact in the workplace; and
 15. Placing notices that encourage hand hygiene at the entrance to the workplace and in other workplace areas where they are likely to be seen; and
 16. Suspending the use of Personal Identification Number ("PIN") pads, PIN entry devices, electronic signature capture, and any other credit card receipt signature requirements to the extent such suspension is permitted by agreements with credit card companies and credit agencies.

Additionally, the Town of Dearing, the City of Thomson, and McDuffie County recommend that our citizens continue to follow the following mitigation strategies:

1. Stay at home. Limit your community movement.
2. Certain persons within the State of Georgia and therefore, McDuffie County, who have serious underlying conditions likely to cause and increase the spread of COVID-19 if such person were to become infected are to isolate, quarantine, or shelter in place within their homes or place of residence. This shall include the following:
 - a. Those persons who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility;
 - b. Those persons who have chronic lung disease;
 - c. Those persons who are currently undergoing cancer treatment; and
 - d. Those persons included in Department of Public Health Administrative Order 03.22.20.01.
 - i. Persons with known COVID-19, based on notification by a healthcare provider or official.
 - ii. Persons with suspected COVID-19, based on notification by a healthcare provider or official.
 - iii. Persons with COVID-19 exposure likely to result in infection, based on notification by a healthcare provider or official.
3. Cancel community gatherings and no Faith Based Gatherings, including church services and funeral services, of more than ten (10) people in a single location unless there is six (6) feet between each person at all times.
4. All citizens of McDuffie County, the Town of Dearing, and the City of Thomson are strongly encouraged to follow all relevant guidelines and recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Department of Public Health.