

Community Engagement and Public Information Department



IMPORTANT EMERGENCY INFORMATION

**Public Access to County Offices and Buildings
Suspended until Further Notice; Board
Meeting Schedule Updates**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Quinton Sheppard

gsheppard@gloucesterva.info

(804) 693-5730

Due to the continuing concerns of the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and recommendations by state and national government to limit exposure to others, public access to all Gloucester County offices and buildings will remain suspended until further notice. Gloucester County continues to operate under a Local Emergency declaration. This is a precautionary security measure, which allows for the full powers of government to deal effectively with emergencies or hazardous weather conditions.

During this time, County staff remains committed to continuing services to the public to every extent possible, with a goal to open back to the public as soon as it is safe to do so.

Also, due to the continuing concerns over COVID-19, and the Governor's temporary ban of gatherings with 10 or more people, the following additional changes to the Gloucester County Board of Supervisors' meeting schedule have been made:

- The public hearing on the proposed fiscal year 2021 budget and the public hearing on the calendar year 2020 tax rates, both of which were originally scheduled for March 25, were cancelled. The public hearings will be rescheduled to a later date, which will be advertised in local media outlets and announced through the County's website and social media.

- The Board's budget work session, which was tentatively scheduled for April 1, will not be held. Dates for additional budget work sessions will be determined during the coming weeks. Those dates will also be advertised in local media outlets and announced through the County's website and social media outlets.
- The April 7 regular meeting of the Board will take place via electronic means. During this meeting, the Board will contemplate only items directly associated with the emergency declaration and measures that need to be taken to sustain the essential business of the County government moving forward. The meeting will be advertised as usual, and the Board packet will be published in advance, as usual. The public can view the meeting (streaming live and/or recorded) by visiting www.gloucesterva.info/640/Meeting-Portal, or by watching on Cox Cable Channel 48.

For future meetings, instructions will be posted on how citizens can engage in public comment by alternate means including electronic forms, telephone / voicemail or U.S. Mail. Guidance on how the public can submit comment for future meetings will be forthcoming in a future Public Service Announcement, included in the advertisement for public meetings / hearings, and announced through the County's website and social media outlets.

For more information, contact the County Administrator's office at 804-693-4042 or e-mail county.administrator@gloucesterva.info.

GLOUCESTER COUNTY'S COMMITMENT TO YOU

To the best of our ability, Gloucester County will continue delivery of services, so long as we can do so in a safe manner – promoting the continued health of our employees, our citizens, and the community overall. While we are doing our best to create service delivery solutions to accommodate these unique and unprecedented times, we acknowledge that no solution is perfect. Those identifying service delivery gaps that we need to focus on, and those with ideas as to how we can better serve our community are encouraged to provide feedback directly through the department affected.

Additionally, County Administration can be contacted directly for escalation of concerns, for suggestions that may impact multiple departments, and otherwise with regard to County service delivery generally at county.administrator@gloucesterva.info or by dialing 804-693-4042.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

This is an evolving situation and all information is subject to change at any time. For up to date information, visit www.gloucesterva.info or the County's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/gloucesterva. For specific questions, contact Gloucester's Community

Engagement and Public Information office at 804-693-5730 or e-mail gsheppard@gloucesterva.info.

For health-related information, contact the Virginia Department of Health, Three Rivers Coronavirus Call Center, by calling 804-313-1638. Call Center Hours are 8AM to 6PM Monday through Friday. Alternatively, the public is encouraged to visit the Virginia Health Department's special website on Coronavirus at <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/surveillance-and-investigation/novel-coronavirus/>.