



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ONLOW COUNTY GOVERNMENT UPDATES FOR MARCH 21, 2020

Onslow County, N.C. – We currently still have only one confirmed case of Coronavirus in Onslow County, but we have a large number of outstanding tests. In North Carolina, at there are now 165 confirmed cases in 29 different counties.

In an abundance of caution, Onslow County will take the following precautions to help flatten the curve of the spread of the Coronavirus.

- The **Museums** will close to the public beginning tomorrow for at least two weeks. They will answer calls at 910-324-5008 and they are providing virtual tours and online resources to those who are interested.
- Beginning tomorrow, **Libraries** will be closed to the public except for curbside book service and appointments for computer use (please see attached).
- We will be asking the public to increase the use of internet and telephone service today. Beginning Monday, citizens will access the **Government Center by appointment only**. Staff may continue to work at the Government Center, but please limit your meetings to small groups, spaced apart as much as feasible. The contact lines are below:
 - **Veterans' Services** appointments can be made by calling 910-347-3309. Veterans Services is working hard to protect the health of our veterans, and strongly urges all veterans who need services to call. No walk-ins will be accepted.
 - Application submittal for **Environmental Health Services** can be handled by online submission at Environmental_Health@onslowcountync.gov and payment can be accepted by telephone. Payment and appointments can be made at **910-938-5851 Ext. 0**.
 - **Planning & Development** has a portal on their website that enables citizens to submit permit applications on-line. Once approved, applicants can provide payment over the phone. Field inspections are being performed as a next day service. Appointments are also available to assist with any documents that require a physical signature. Call (910) 455-3661 for more information.
 - **Tax Administration** is providing all necessary services on-line, over the phone, and by appointment. A drop box will be established on Tuesday, March 24th to provide citizens a location to drop off plats or other documents for review and approval. For more information, the Tax Office can be reached at the following numbers:
Main Number: (910) 989-2200

Appraisal Division: (910) 455-7431
Collections Division: (910) 989-2202
Land Records Division: (910) 989-2204
Listings Division: (910) 989-2201

- **Human Resources, IT, GIS, Finance, Purchasing, and Administration** encourage everyone to contact us by email and telephone.
- Beginning Monday, the **Register of Deeds** will make changes to operations:
 - Electronic Recording of Real Estate Documents is being encouraged and a drop box is available for those who need to leave documents. The payment, a phone number, and a self-addressed stamped envelope must be included with items left in the drop box.
 - Marriage Licenses are only available by appointment (and for well citizens only). 910-347-3451
 - Throughout the declared State of Emergency, all certified copies of birth, death and marriage certificates will be available for purchase online and by mail only. <https://onslowrod.permitium.com/rod>
 - Anyone needing to be sworn in as a notary or needing to record a military discharge (DD-214's) will need to be recorded in person by appointment only, by calling 910-347-3451.
- **Animal Services** is making some adjustments as follows:
 - Stray-intake, owner reclamation, and adoption services will be available by appointment only.
 - Animal Control Officers will only be responding to emergency calls.
 - Rabies vaccination clinics at the shelter are suspended until further notice.
 - Owner-surrender appointments will only be available in emergency circumstances.
 - In-person donation drop-offs will be temporarily suspended.
 - Volunteer trainings and adoption events are temporarily suspended.
- The **EOC** is limiting access to the E911 Center to protect our telecommunicators. No individuals are permitted inside the E911 Center other than E911 personnel and Emergency Services Command Staff.
- The **Sheriff's Office** has made the following changes:
 - Restricted the entry to the main lobby of the Sheriff's Office to those with business that requires entry.
 - Suspended inmate visitation until further notice. Telephone services will not be interrupted.
 - Suspended mass inmate congregation during religious services in one area until further notice.
 - Suspended non-essential fingerprinting, including suspending fingerprinting for conceal carry applications.
 - Pistol purchase permits will still be processed but applicant contact for payment and identification will be conducted at the service window of the main lobby area with applicants not entering the Sheriff's office.
- In addition, we will adjust and open the **Citizens' Phone Bank from 8 AM to 6:30 PM, Monday through Friday**, until further notice. Please refer anyone with questions about the impact of Coronavirus in Onslow County to **910-989-5027**.

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