



# *Town of Ridgeland*

One Town Square · Post Office Box 1119 · Ridgeland, SC 29936

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March 16, 2020

## **The Town of Ridgeland Initiates COVID-19 Operations Plan and Announces Social Distancing Measures**

The Town of Ridgeland is concerned about the health and well-being of our residents and visitors. Town leadership, including public safety and town administration officials, continues to closely monitor developments related to Coronavirus Disease 2019, commonly called Coronavirus – or COVID-19.

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, The Town of Ridgeland has implemented a COVID-19 operations plan this morning, Monday, March 16, until further notice, upon the Governor's State of Emergency in effect for South Carolina and due to the local COVID-19 outbreak. The goal of the plan is to minimize exposure between Town staff and the public. The plan is subject to change while active to include all essential departments possibly changing to non-essential status. Changes to this plan impacting the at-large community will be made public.

Town Hall will remain open, but with staff who will conduct internal and external business telephonically and electronically as much as possible. The public should expect to experience Town staff practicing social distancing. We ask citizens to proactively limit their interactions with Town staff as much as possible and to do as much business as possible with the Town online. This includes making traffic ticket payments and water bill payments—both of which can be made online on the town's website at: [www.ridgelandsc.gov](http://www.ridgelandsc.gov)

### **TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Ridgeland Town Council plans to hold its currently scheduled meetings during the declaration of emergency; but, in the interest of public health and due to the coronavirus outbreak, citizens are reminded that all Town Council regular and committee meetings are broadcast on Hargray channels 5 and 8 and are also streamed on our website at: <https://www.ridgelandsc.gov/town-council-videos>. Additionally, public comments and public hearing comments are accepted in writing via email to the Town Clerk at [pdaley@ridgelandsc.gov](mailto:pdaley@ridgelandsc.gov) or PO Box 1119, Ridgeland, SC 29936. Other Town-sponsored public meetings are subject to cancellation or postponement. Updates will be provided on the Town's website at: <https://www.ridgelandsc.gov/news-information>

Citizens are also strongly encouraged to limit their visits to Town buildings unless they have urgent business matters that can only be handled in person.

### **REMINDERS AND HELPFUL LINKS**

The chain of command and direction and control during a public health emergency is different than what is exercised during a natural or human-made disaster. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) is the lead agency. DHEC officials are working closely with our federal partners at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). If you do not have a primary care physician, please be advised that the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) Health Virtual Care is

offering free virtual care consultations and screenings to anyone in South Carolina experiencing COVID-19-like symptoms. New and existing patients should use the promo code COVID19 when logging into the site: <https://campaigns.muschealth.org/virtual-care/index.html> . No appointment is necessary, and this service also covers other conditions, such as allergy/hay fever, pink eye, sinus infection, pink eye, sore throat, or the common cold.

For the latest updates from DHEC on the COVID-19 situation, please visit: [https://www.scdhec.gov/infectious-diseases/viruses/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/dhec-news-releases-videos-2019-ncov?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.scdhec.gov/infectious-diseases/viruses/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/dhec-news-releases-videos-2019-ncov?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)