

**March 17, 2020**

**Buncombe County To Modify Operations Amid COVID-19 Pandemic**

*Essential operations including Emergency Services, Public Health and Health and Human Services mandated services, Sheriff's Office, Permitting, Solid Waste, and Transportation to continue.*

Effective March 18, Buncombe County will modify services until further notice to protect our citizens and staff and minimize opportunities to spread COVID-19 in our community. All nonessential, public-facing functions are closed at this time. Since this is a rapidly evolving situation, we will reevaluate these changes as more information becomes available and provide more detailed information at [buncombecounty.org](http://buncombecounty.org).

Taking into consideration CDC and NCDHHS recommendations on social distancing and measures taken across the nation to include travel bans, school closures, quarantines, and event cancellations, the County is taking the following measures until further notice:

- Some nonessential employees will temporarily telecommute and/or be in emergency on-call status.
- For essential employees unable to work remotely, increasing physical working space between employees and modifying operations are among the options being evaluated.
- Public access to county facilities that house nonessential functions will be restricted or closed.
- All public libraries will be closed.
- All County parks will be closed.
- Permitting Office will be closed, but permitting remains available.

We will continue to share information as it becomes available. Buncombe County residents can access all of our online resources and find regularly updated information at [buncombecounty.org](http://buncombecounty.org). Find the latest COVID-19 information at [buncombecounty.org/bcready](http://buncombecounty.org/bcready).

**Online resources available**

These are payment/application functions that can be done online:

Apply for Pistol Purchase Permit: <https://buncombeso.permitium.com/>

Pay Property Tax: <https://www.billpayit.com/buncombeconctax>

Request Birth, Death, Marriage

Certificate: <https://payonline.buncombecounty.org/RoD/Default.aspx>

Records

<https://www.buncombecounty.org/Governing/Depts/register-of-deeds/recording/default.aspx>

Building Permits, Planning, Septic, Well, Water Testing Portal (account registration required, only "simple" permits can be applied for online): <https://onlinepermits.buncombecounty.org/CitizenAccess/Default.aspx>