

PRESS RELEASE



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Folly Beach COVID-19 Update 14

As Step One of the City's phased reopening, the **new checkpoint hours are 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.** This allows daily visitors access in the morning and evening hours for recreation on the beach (as outlined below) and to patronize the restaurants for outdoor dining. The City will monitor medical data and public compliance with social distancing for future phases of reopening.

The beach is open to residents and visitors for exercise only. **Permitted exercise:** Running, walking, dog-walking, biking, surfing, swimming and other recreational activities consistent with social distancing. "Keep it moving!" **Prohibited:** Sunbathing (towels and chairs), coolers, loitering without moving, congregating in groups larger than 3 people. Please contact Folly Beach Public Safety if you need a beach wheelchair during this time: 843.588.2433.

New check-ins to short term rentals and other overnight accommodations may begin May 12, subject to the following restrictions from Ordinance 06-20:

- Short-term rentals are limited to a 6-day minimum stay.
- Hotels are subject to occupancy restrictions and must present a phased reopening plan to the City.

Effective Monday, May 4, Governor McMaster has allowed **restaurants and bars to offer outdoor service**. City staff will work with each establishment to create additional areas for outdoor seating to safely accommodate the new regulations. Visitors may come onto Folly to visit the restaurants after the checkpoint hours.

The City enforces all of the Governor's Emergency Declarations, and the full orders can be found [HERE](#).

Checkpoint & Business Restrictions

For access to the island during the checkpoint hours, please see the following guidelines:

- **Residents and property owners:** Please bring two forms of identification showing residency or ownership (driver's license, utility bill, deed, tax bill, long-term lease, etc). Existing family passes should have the name of the family member on the pass. New family passes may be issued for children, spouse, parents, or grandchildren by calling (843) 588-7006 and making arrangements for delivery to the checkpoint. No guest passes are permitted, although residents and owners may bring up to two guests through the checkpoint (no shuttling back and forth).
- **Short and Long-Term Rentals, Hotels, and Other Overnight Accommodations** must show booking confirmation and corresponding photo identification.
- **Caretakers:** passes caretakers can be issued by calling the Citizen Information Line: 843.588.7006 and arrangements will be made to deliver the passes to the checkpoint for pickup. Please expect a 24-hour turnaround time for new passes.
- **Physical businesses** must follow State Executive Orders and CDC guidelines. Businesses are strongly encouraged to use service windows and outside display tables.

- **Construction and service businesses** are permitted through the checkpoint with a copy of the building permit (if applicable) and the 2020 Folly Beach business license vehicle sticker or copy of current Folly Beach business license (or state license for real estate agents and appraisers). Please expect delays in processing new building permit and business license applications. To apply for a new permit or license, please visit our Virtual City Hall at: <https://www.cityoffollybeach.com/virtual-city-hall/>
- **Media personnel** with media credentials presented.
- **Delivery persons** who can demonstrate business on the island at the checkpoint (including pharmacy, FedEx, UPS, Amazon, building supply, and food delivery) by showing delivery order, address, and goods at the checkpoint.
- **Non-Resident holders of Folly Beach Post Office boxes:** must show their key at the check point.
- **Any other emergency requests** must go through the Citizen information Line: 843-588-7006.

Persons found attempting to circumvent local or state laws or employing deceptive practices will be charged to the full extent of the law.

Operations and Other Information

1. [Charleston County School District](#) has extended school closures through for the remaining school year; they continue to provide free “grab and go” lunches to all students (whether or not they previously qualified for free or reduced lunch); the nearest drive-through location is Harbor View Elementary on Harbor View Road.
2. City Parks, Playgrounds, and Facilities are closed, except tennis and basketball courts may be used if social distancing is enforced.
3. City Trash operations will continue on normal schedule. Contact Charleston County for recycling operations, their number is: (843)720-7111.
4. Municipal Court will be canceled through May 31, 2020, except for emergency matters. Please visit our City COVID page for information on how to submit proof for certain items (driver’s license, insurance, equipment, etc) to the Court and Public Safety Department.
5. Public Safety will respond to calls, but please expect extra questions from Dispatch to screen for COVID symptoms for the safety of the public and our officers. Please use the Dispatch phone number (843-588-2433) rather than walk-in for non-emergency questions. The station will be closed to the public for tours and drop-ins.
6. City Hall is operating via virtual, phone, and dropbox operations until further notice.
 - a. All nonessential business walk-in customer service is terminated at this time.
 - b. Building permits and business licenses may be applied for online, but please expect delays as staff focuses on emergency operations.
 - c. Parking and Court tickets can only be paid online or by mail to PO Box 48/Folly Beach, SC 29439
 - d. All payments can be made online via credit card or through the drop box in the lobby of City Hall, or by mail to PO Box 48/Folly Beach, SC 29439. Temporarily, we will accept credit card payments over the phone during the declared state of emergency.
7. All Charleston County Libraries (including Folly Beach) are closed to patrons until further notice.
8. Charleston County Parks: Visit their [Alert Center](#) for updates.
9. Governor McMaster has extended the state filing deadline is extended to June 1st for all *state* taxes.
10. The Governor has ordered that all municipal elections in April be postponed until after May 1st. Therefore, the City Council election and Utility Referendum will be canceled at this time. The Municipal Election Commission is awaiting guidance from the Governor before rescheduling the Folly Beach Municipal elections.
11. All City meetings scheduled for April and May are postponed.

Medical Testing

If you are experiencing life-threatening symptoms including respiratory distress, please call 911.

For all other symptoms of COVID-19, such as fever, cough or shortness of breath, MUSC Health Virtual Care telehealth service is offering COVID-19 screenings free of charge to South Carolina residents experiencing COVID-19-like symptoms located in South Carolina. Non-residents may use the service but

may be charged for the visit and the panel. All MUSC screenings must be initiated online through their telehealth service: <https://campaigns.muschealth.org/virtual-care/index.html>. No walk-up traffic is accepted at the drive-through testing location.

Charleston County is offering mobile testing locations throughout Charleston County, with the closest location to Folly being on May 11 at St. James Presbyterian Church 1314 Secessionville Road (James Island).

You may also be able to obtain testing through your regular doctor's office and lab, dependent on each medical provider's capabilities. Please check with your doctor's office as capabilities continue to be expanded daily. The Governor has *requested* that doctors offices and insurance companies to provide tests at no charge; however, this is not a mandate and may not be followed by every provider.

Prevention

There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. However, as a reminder, CDC always recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, including:

- ✓ Stay home and practice social distancing, whether or not you are experiencing symptoms
- ✓ Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- ✓ Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- ✓ Stay home when you are sick.
- ✓ Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- ✓ Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- ✓ Follow CDC's recommendations for using a facemask.
- ✓ Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
 - If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

About Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

All citizens are encouraged to review the information below and make plans for you and your family in the event of disruptions to your daily routine.

- [About Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [How it spreads](#)
- [Symptoms](#)
- [Prevention & treatment](#)
- [Testing](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control Latest Updates](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control Latest Updates](#)

Information for Travel

- [Coronavirus Disease 2019 Information for Travel](#)
- [FAQ for travelers](#)