



Town of Beaufort  
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**March 20, 2020**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**BEAUFORT** – With the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 increasing rapidly, the first reported case of community spread in North Carolina being announced in Wilson County yesterday, and the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in Carteret County today, the Town of Beaufort is taking additional measures to reduce contact.

“The Coronavirus is a very serious threat and is now confirmed in Carteret County. The virus is still accelerating in North Carolina and we need all citizens and business owners to use best practices for hygiene, to include washing hands, keep a social distance of six feet from others, and, if you’re not feeling well...stay at home. We are only at the beginning phases of this crisis. Stay aware and plan ahead,” Mayor Newton said on Friday.

Effective Monday, March 23, only essential Town employees will be on duty. Many others will be working from home. Most Town services will continue to be provided under the same conditions announced on Monday, March 16, including fire, police, building inspections, utilities, planning services, and waste removal.

People are urged to stay at home to the extent possible, and practice social distancing whenever you leave. Please wash your hands often and use disinfectant to clean frequently touched areas.

If you have any flu-like symptoms, please call your doctor or the Carteret County Health Department at (252) 728-8550 for instructions. The Carteret County Health Department has also established the Carteret County Public Call Center at (252) 726-7177 for 24/7 information. Additionally, you may call the Citizen Inquiry Line at (252) 726-7060. This phone line is staffed for questions from the public that are not answered via the automated line. The line is staffed 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Please follow [www.beaufortnc.org/coronavirus](http://www.beaufortnc.org/coronavirus) and [www.Facbook.com/BeaufortTown](https://www.Facbook.com/BeaufortTown) for the latest information from the Town of Beaufort.

For more information, contact Rachel Johnson, Town of Beaufort Public Information Officer, at [r.johnson@beaufortnc.org](mailto:r.johnson@beaufortnc.org).