



March 18, 2020

PRESS RELEASE:

LINCOLN COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION AND LIBRARY FACILITIES OPERATIONS UPDATES, CLOSURES, MODIFICATIONS IN RESPONSE TO ONGOING PUBLIC HEALTH PRECAUTIONS CONCERNING CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

Lincolnton, NC –Lincoln County continues to work under the direction of the Governor’s Office and follow the guidance of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in regards to operation of facilities and any modifications that may be necessary.

Lincoln County administrative staff and public health officials are working together collectively to keep citizens and residents informed and updated. In an effort to remain as proactive as possible, local preparations or adjustments to services and programs are continuously being considered. In addition to the modification of services, activities and events released earlier this week, the following measures are being taken:

- **The Lincoln County Public Library System is closed until further notice beginning today Wednesday March 18th at 6:00PM**
 - This includes all branches. All fines will be suspended while the library is closed. Please visit our Facebook page for important updates about curbside service and online story times and programming.
 - Should you need help accessing any of the online web resources or have questions about programming that will be offered online as an alternative to traditional programming please do not hesitate to contact local branches.
 - Shanklin (East) Branch (704)483-3589
 - Jonas (Central) Branch (704)735-8044
 - West Lincoln Branch (704)735-8044

- **Lincoln County Parks and Recreation has closed all athletic fields and the East Lincoln Community Center Gymnasium and Facilities until further notice effective immediately.**
 - This includes all activities, classes, group meetings, and athletic events.
 - If you have questions concerning recreation events or activities please call (704) 748-1518.

All citizens are urged to do their part to slow the spread of the disease, so it does not overwhelm our healthcare facilities and providers. We have posted current information and recommendations to our website at lincolncounty.org and will provide future updates and instructions as they become available.

Lincoln County residents are urged to exercise judgment and take the following precautions as appropriate:

- Monitor information provided by the CDC and NCDHHS in addition to any official State or County communications.
- Practice good hygiene and take everyday preventive actions:
 - Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds at a time.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
 - Avoid close contact with people who are ill.
 - Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
 - Do not reuse tissue after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose.
 - Clean and disinfect surfaces that are frequently touched.
- Older people and people with severe chronic conditions (heart disease, diabetes, and lung disease) should [take special precautions](#) because they are at higher risk of developing a more serious COVID-19 illness.
- Pay attention for potential COVID-19 symptoms including **fever, cough, and shortness of breath**. If you feel like you are developing symptoms, call your doctor or medical provider.

For general questions regarding COVID-19 please call the Coronavirus Helpline at 1-866-462-3821.

For specific concerns regarding Lincoln County please call the Lincoln County Health Department triage line at 704-736-8510.

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