



**BERTIE COUNTY**  
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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 20, 2020

### **County offices remain open to staff as availability of COVID-19 test kits increases**

*30-day relief for water service suspensions; electronic convenience fees to be absorbed by county for water and tax bill payments, local stores expecting deliveries of essential supplies*

**WINDSOR, N.C.** – Bertie County’s COVID-19 Taskforce met here today to discuss the next 7-days of County operational measures which will officially be in place beginning Monday, March 23rd.

From March 23<sup>rd</sup> through March 27<sup>th</sup>, County staff will report to work as normal, but access to County Offices will be restricted to employees only with the exception of the Department of Social Services.

Any exceptions to this restricted access will be evaluated on a case by case basis, and face to face visits with the public may be considered using a “by appointment only” model. Citizens are asked to contact the desired department in advance if they believe an extenuating circumstance exists to be appropriately screened over the phone.

The Taskforce will meet daily to discuss updates throughout the week as new information becomes available, and make any other determinations as necessary.

National media is reporting that additional test kits are being delivered to more and more health care providers across the United States.

To offset the financial burden that Bertie citizens are already feeling due to the virus, it was also announced today that water service suspensions will be on hold for a period of 30-days, or until Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

For water customers who choose to pay their bills online, convenience fees will still apply, however, once the fee is paid, it will be credited to the water customers’ account until April 22<sup>nd</sup>. No late fees will be applied to water bills during this time.

In addition, the County will absorb the online convenience fees associated with online tax bill payments until April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Due to the uncertainty of this pandemic, Bertie County leaders understand the anxiety about the ability to make ends meet due to recent Executive Orders issued by NC Governor, Roy Cooper.

As a Facebook update on the County's official page noted yesterday, essential supplies are set to be delivered to this area in the coming days. Citizens are encouraged to prepare, not panic.

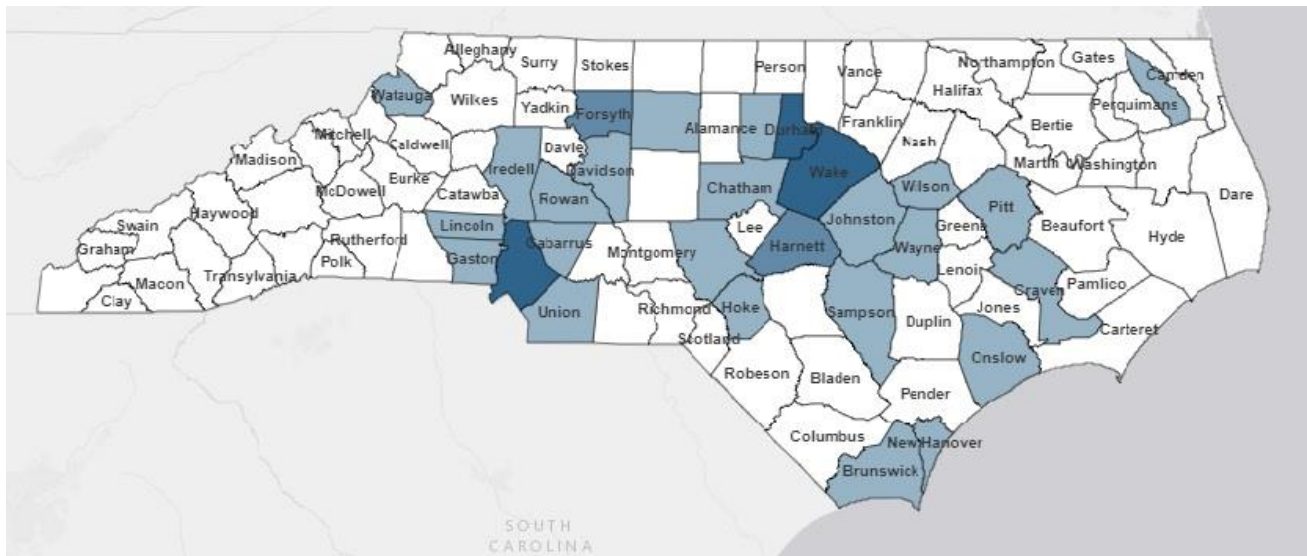
According to the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services today, a total of 137 cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in North Carolina. No deaths from the virus have occurred thus far in our state.

There are still no confirmed or potential cases of COVID-19, also known as the novel coronavirus, in Bertie County.

The closest counties in relation to Bertie reporting confirmed cases include Pitt and Pasquotank County. Both were announced yesterday.

At this time, Durham and Mecklenburg County have the highest number of confirmed cases with 33 and 28 patients, respectively, that are currently being quarantined and treated for COVID-19.

The map represents the 28 counties who have reported confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus:



Source: North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services, <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/covid-19-case-count-nc>

Citizens are highly encouraged to conduct any needed county business online, by phone, or via drop box as much as possible. Please be aware of the following:

- **Taxes** may be paid:
  - **Online** - [bertiecountytax.com](http://bertiecountytax.com)
  - **By Phone (automated system)** – call 1.888.546.4220
  - **Via Marked Drop Box** – check/money orders only, County Administration Building, 106 Dundee Street, Windsor, NC
  - **Via Mail** - remit check/money order payment to: PO Box 527, Windsor, NC 27983
  
- **Water payments** may be paid:
  - **Online** - [co.bertie.nc.us/departments/pw/paywater.html](http://co.bertie.nc.us/departments/pw/paywater.html)
  - **By Phone (automated system)** – call 1.800.272.9829
  - **Via Marked Drop Box** – check/money orders only, County Administration Building, 106 Dundee Street, Windsor, NC
  - **Via Mail** - remit check/money order payment to: PO Box 487, Windsor, NC 27983
  
- **Birth, death, marriage certificates** may be ordered and processed through the Register of Deeds Office:
  - **Online** - <https://www.getcertificatenow.com/Bertie>
  - **Via Phone** – call 252.794.5309
  - **By Appointment Only** – issuance of marriage license once online application is completed, notaries looking to take their oaths of office, veterans seeking their discharge paper (DD-214)
  - **Via Mail:** death certificate requests by funeral homes and document recording requests at PO Box 340, 108 Dundee Street, Windsor, NC 27983
  - **Via Fax:** 252.794.5374
  
- **Permits, building inspections, and Environmental health** needs can be met via:
  - **Mailbox** - County Administration Building, 106 Dundee Street, Windsor, NC
    - Forms are available for pick up in marked, gray mailbox; **please follow all directions listed on information form**
    - Remit payments and applications in sealed envelopes in either the Tax or Water secured drop boxes

Other County department updates include:

- **Parks & Recreation** - Sport registration forms can be accessed online, and registration deadlines will most likely be extended once the threat of COVID-19 has dissipated. No rentals of picnic areas or sports fields are available at this time.
- **Council on Aging/Senior Center** – Take out services for senior meals is no longer available. Home delivery will be the only means of delivery. The senior exercise center, all exercise classes, and senior trips are cancelled until further notice. Any questions should be called into the Council on Aging staff at 794-5315.
- **Department of Social Services** - Per State regulations, many DSS programs are still being implemented. Each program requires a different level of phone or face to face interaction. For specific program information, please contact Bertie County DSS at 794-5320.
- **Bertie County Sheriff's Office** – For the time being, the Bertie County Sheriff's Office has discontinued the use of fingerprinting equipment. If you have any questions or concerns about your concealed carry permit renewal, or the process for applying for a new concealed carry permit, please call the Sheriff's Office at 794-5330.

A directory of County departments is available below:



## COUNTY DIRECTORY

**794-5300**

ANIMAL CONTROL .....	794-5340
BERTIE-MARTIN REGIONAL JAIL .....	794-9283
BUILDING INSPECTIONS & PERMITS .....	794-5336
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION .....	794-5317
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES .....	794-5320
ELECTIONS .....	794-5306
MAGISTRATE'S OFFICE .....	794-5328
NON-EMERGENCY TRANSPORT .....	794-5334
PARKS& RECREATION .....	794-5363
REGISTER OF DEEDS .....	794-5309
SHERIFF'S OFFICE .....	794-5330
TRAFFIC TICKETS/CHILD SUPPORT .....	794-6800
TAX AND TAX MAPPING .....	794-5310
WATER.....	794-5350

**Emergency? Dial 911**

Coronaviruses like COVID-19 are most often spread through the air by coughing or sneezing, through close personal contact (including touching or shaking hands), or through touching your nose, mouth, or eyes before washing your hands. In order to help prevent the spread of all infectious diseases, including COVID-19, take the following common-sense precautions:

- 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; if you or a loved one is suspected to have COVID-19, please self-quarantine immediately, and contact your local Emergency or Health Department in advance of traveling to those departments to minimize risk to others.
- If you or a loved one is **CONFIRMED** to have COVID-19, please have your entire household self-quarantine for a period of at least 14 days.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze to minimize risk to others. Then, dispose of the tissue properly.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that are frequently touched such as computer monitors, keyboards, mouse/mouse pad, steering wheels, vehicle controls, remote controls, cell phones and cell phone cases, counter tops, etc.

Updates on COVID-19 are subject to change on an hourly basis. We ask that all citizens continue to maintain awareness about further updates from Bertie County and national media outlets.

For the most up to date information about the Coronavirus, please visit [CDC.org](https://www.cdc.org), [WHO.int](https://www.who.int), and [NCDHHS.gov](https://www.ncdhhs.gov), as well as follow all respective social media accounts including the official Facebook page for Bertie County Government.

Media inquiries may be relayed to Emergency Services Director, Mitch Cooper, at 794-5302 or [mitch.cooper@bertie.nc.gov](mailto:mitch.cooper@bertie.nc.gov).

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