



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT - COVID-19

The Corporation of Harpers Ferry

March 16, 2020



Message from the Mayor:

Please stay calm.

The Coronavirus Disease, COVID-19 is a respiratory illness caused by a novel (new) Coronavirus. This is a rapidly evolving situation so information and recommendations may change. *Please note that the following is the most current information we have - we will continue to learn more in the coming days and share new information as it becomes available.

Public Safety:

Police - police protection will continue to operate on our usual schedule.

Fire - fire protection and first responders will continue on our usual schedule.

Water company - the water plant and tanks will continue to operate on our usual schedule - protocols are being established to maintain water plant operations.

Sewer company - the PSD and plant operators are following protocols for continuing operations.

Town Hall staff - The Mayor and Town staff have been briefed and are adhering to the following protocols provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s "Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers". We have created an Infectious Disease Outbreak Response Plan which includes preventative measures such as increased cleaning efforts at Town Hall. The Town Hall, meeting rooms, and police station are undergoing morning and evening common-sense cleaning of surfaces, door knobs, rails, service counters, restrooms, and work stations. This will continue until further notice.

Meetings at the Town Hall:

All meetings at the Town Hall are cancelled until further notice. The Town Clerk and the Office Coordinator will provide instructions for our Town organizations to utilize a teleconference service to conduct scheduled meetings, and the meetings will be live-streamed on the Town's Facebook page so that the public may still "attend" them and keep informed.

Harpers Ferry Municipal Court:

Decisions will be made regarding the holding of Court in the coming days.

National Park Service: The NPS is currently evaluating all functions; staffing, buildings, resources, and transportation. Evaluations will be sent to the regional level for risk analysis and determinations.

Businesses: The Mayor is currently evaluating options related to businesses within the Corporation.

Appalachian Trail Conservancy: The ATC is closed until March 20,

2020 with plans to assess the potential need to continue closure. The annual Flip Flop Festival has been cancelled.

WV Governor Jim Justice declared a State of Emergency on March 16th, and has urged anyone with large gatherings planned in the next several weeks to consider rescheduling.

Basic Common-Sense Tips:

- Stay positive.
- Stock up on but **do not hoard** essential items.
- Avoid large gatherings as much as possible, and work from home if you are provided with the option.
- Stay informed and inform others of recommended hygiene practices in both personal and public spaces.
- Keep distance from those who are already sick - check on them via phone call, text, email, etc.
- If you do fall ill, there is currently no available medicine for this virus, so use cough and cold medications and follow doctor's orders.
- *Visit <http://coronavirus.harpersferrywv.us> or <http://coronavirus.wv.gov> for daily updates regarding the progression of this virus in the days and weeks to come.*

Reduce your risk of coronavirus infection:



Clean hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub

Cover nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing with tissue or flexed elbow



Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms

Thoroughly cook meat and eggs



No unprotected contact with live wild or farm animals

