

Tift County Facilities Access and Closures in Response to COVID-19 Coronavirus Crisis

Some Tift County facility access will have restricted or reduced public access, or access may be allowed by pre-scheduled appointments only. We ask where possible, that residents contact us via phone or email, and if viable, conduct county business on the County web site at www.tiftcounty.org.

- All county offices will comply with social distancing protocols as recommended and outlined by the CDC.
- Employees with a serious underlying health condition that can be put at an increased risk for contracting COVID-19 are encouraged to stay at home via sick/annual leave or telework from home if available. Otherwise, all Tift County employees will continue to work regular work schedules.

Public Safety:

Normal Operating Hours with Restricted Access

- Sheriff's Office – Will operate as determined by the Sheriff.
- EMS – No public access. Access restrictions include all employee guests, visitors & family members.
- Fire – No public access. Access restrictions include all employee guests, visitors & family members.
- E-911 – No public access. Access restrictions include all employee guests, visitors & family members.
- Emergency Management – No public access. Access restrictions include all employee guests, visitors & family members.

Tift County Elections:

Normal Operating Hours

- Presidential Preference Primary has been postponed until May. Early voting starts April 27, 2020.
- Elections will continue to issue & receive absentee ballots.

Clerk of Courts:

Normal Operating Hours

- If possible, the Clerk of Court's office should be accessed by phone, internet or email.

Courts:

Limited to Public (with Court Security Assistance)

Superior Court, State Court, Probate Court, Juvenile Court, Magistrate & all Accountability Courts will operate per Chief Justice Harold Melton's Georgia Statewide Judicial Emergency Order. Order governs the following:

Criminal Cases –

1. There will be no criminal jury trials, grand jury proceedings, or arraignments in the Tifton Judicial Circuit until after April 13, 2020.
2. All criminal pretrial motions and motions for new trial are continued for hearing until after April 13, 2020.
3. All guilty pleas and probation violation matters are continued until after April 13, 2020. However, all defendants who have negotiated guilty pleas and admissions to probation violation petitions may be considered for consent bonds if the agreed recommendation is for a time-served sentence. Guilty pleas for these situations must be continued until after April 13, 2020, but a consent bond may be used to assure that defendants in this narrow situation are not detained beyond the time they would have been released in the absence of this statewide emergency. Also, please consider pleas in absentia in appropriate situations.
4. Presently scheduled non-jury criminal days will be for bond hearings in situations where a defendant is entitled to bond as a matter of law, or those specifically scheduled by the Court.

5. Magistrate courts will handle warrant issuance, bond reviews, first appearances, and any other matters necessary to protect the health, safety, and liberty of individuals.
6. Accountability courts operate at the discretion of the accountability court judge.

Civil Cases:

1. All jury trials, bench trials, domestic and other general civil hearings are continued until after April 13, 2020, except for evidentiary hearings for temporary protective orders under the stalking and family violence acts, and cases in which there is imminent danger or risk of physical harm to a party or dependent child. Please consult with the assigned judge if there is need for a temporary restraining order or if a genuine emergency arises requiring intervention by the Court earlier than April 13, 2020.
2. Juvenile Court delinquency detention hearings and emergency removal matters shall continue to be handled by the Juvenile Courts of the Tifton Judicial Circuit. Mental health commitment hearings will continue to be handled by the Probate Courts of this circuit.

Animal Control:

Normal Operating Hours with Restricted Access

- Tift County Animal Control will be closed to the public, including the adoption of animals through Friday, March 27, 2020, potentially reopening Monday, March 30, 2020.
- Rescue related operations and/or pickups by pre-scheduled appointments only by certified rescue organizations.

Tift County Recreation Facilities and Programming: *Normal Operating Hours with Restricted Access (Admin Only)*
all other facilities closed

- All Tift County recreation facilities will be closed through Friday, March 27, 2020, potentially reopening Monday, March 30, 2020.
- All recreation programming is postponed through Friday, March 27, 2020, potentially reopening Monday, March 30, 2020.

Development Support Services:

Normal Operating Hours with Restricted Access

- If possible, all requests for permits and licensing will be issued by appointment only.
- All requests for re-zoning will be postponed until the May Tift County Commission meeting.
- Building Inspections will be by appointment only.
- Code enforcement officers will only respond to calls for service that are an immediate danger to public health.
- All interactions concerning plan review will be by phone or email.

Public Works/Building & Grounds:

Normal Operating Hours with Restricted Access

- Tift County Public Works - No public access. Access restrictions include all employee guests, visitors & family members.
- The public can request service by phone or email.
- All public works employees will practice social distancing as outlined by the CDC.

Tax Assessors:

Normal Operating Hours

- If possible, the Tift County Tax Assessors office should be accessed by phone or email.

Tax Commissioner:

Normal Operating Hours

- If possible, the Tift County Tax Commissioners office should be accessed by phone, internet, or email.

Tift Lift:

Limited Ridership

- Tift Lift will be transporting for essential services only. There will be no more than two (2) passengers on the van at any given time until further notice.

Airport:

Normal Operating Hours with Restricted Access

- Tift County Airport will be closed except for pilots and passengers of arriving or departing flights.
- Tift County Airport staff will practice social distancing as outlined by the CDC.

Information Technology:

Normal Operating Hours with Restricted Access

- I.T. staff will continue to work regularly scheduled hours.
- All Tift County Departments will limit requests for I.T. support to mission-critical issues.
- I.T. staff will utilize remote access to resolve as many issues as possible.

Finance Department:

Normal Operating Hours

- If possible, Tift County Finance should be accessed by phone or email.

Human Resources:

Normal Operating Hours

- If possible, Tift County H.R. staff should be accessed by phone or email.

Tift County Commission Clerk:

Normal Operating Hours

- Responses to Open Records Requests will be provided electronically if possible; otherwise, responses will be mailed.
- If possible, Tift County Clerk's Office should be accessed by phone or email.
- No Special Events Permits will be issued for events held prior to April 30, 2020
- Neighborhood Service Center will be closed until further notice.

Tift County Administration:

Normal Operating Hours

- If possible, the Tift County Manager's Office should be accessed by phone or email.

Tift County Government Availability Online

Tax Commissioner - (229) 386-7820:

- Motor Vehicle, Property, and Mobile Home Taxes can be paid online.
 - Motor Vehicles - <https://eservices.drives.ga.gov>
 - Property and Mobile Home Tax Payments – www.tiftcountypay.com
- A drop box is also available in front of the Tift County Administration Building located at 225 Tift Avenue North.

Probate – (229) 386-7914:

- Marriage licenses: We encourage you to wait until after April 13, 2020 when the statewide judicial emergency order terminates. If this is not possible, you can complete an application online at www.tiftcounty.org and then call Tift County Probate Court at (229) 386-7914 to make an appointment to come in to sign your marriage license. Tift County judges do not perform marriage ceremonies.
- Weapons Carry Licenses: Issuance of Weapons Carrying Licenses are not considered an “essential” function of the court. Probate Courts across the state of Georgia will temporarily suspend acceptance of applications for Weapons Carry Licenses and Renewal Weapons Carry Licenses pursuant to an Order of the Supreme Court of Georgia declaring a Judicial Emergency. If you are due to renew during the emergency period, your license will not expire. Chief Justice Harold Melton’s Order essentially pushes “PAUSE” on all deadlines created by law or rule. Therefore, you will still be able to renew after the emergency order terminates on April 13, 2020 at 11:59 pm, unless otherwise extended.
- Estate Matters: Only urgent matters will be heard while emergency order is in effect.
- Order to Apprehend: Please call the Probate Court at (229) 386-7914.
- Guardianship of Minors: Only emergency guardianship petitions will be heard during the time the emergency order is in effect.
- Guardianship of Adults: Only emergency petitions will be heard during the time the emergency order is in effect.

Tax Assessors – (229) 386-7840:

- Online property records search is available - <http://www.qpublic.net/ga/tift/>.
- All forms and applications such as conservation use and homestead exemption can be printed online - <https://dor.georgia.gov/real-and-personal-property-forms-and-applications> - and mailed in; however, after review by the Assessors' office, the applicant may have to provide additional materials in person. All applications for homestead, conservation use and FLPA must be postmarked by April 1st. Please be sure that forms are notarized.

Elections – (229) 386-7915:

- Online voting registration and change of voter address can be completed online - <https://registertovote.sos.ga.gov/GAOLVR/welcome.do#no-back-button>.

Clerk of Court – (229) 386-7810:

- Civil filings, including child support, can be entered online (mandatory for all attorneys). The online filing exceptions are Family Violence Act cases (including TPO’s) and Sealed cases (including Adoptions). Bond Validations and pauper affidavits are permitted to be efiled, but not required to do so. Pro Se (Self Represented) filings are permitted to efile online, but are not required to do so – <http://peachcourt.com>.
- All real estate, UCC’s, notaries and liens can be e-filed on <http://www.gsccca.org>.
- Traffic ticket payments can be paid online - <https://www.payyourtix.com/default.aspx> or mailed to Post Office Box 354, Tifton, GA 31793.

Recreation – (229) 382-3282:

- Online registration and payment receipt is available for recreation sports leagues - <https://secure.rec1.com/GA/tift-county-recreation/catalog>

Tift County Clerk – (229) 386-7856:

- Open record request forms are available online at www.tiftcounty.org. Forms can be printed and submitted to the County Clerk via email at miriam.jordan@tiftcounty.org.
- Applications for alcohol licensing can be printed online and submitted to the County Clerk via email at miriam.jordan@tiftcounty.org.

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

GENERAL INFORMATION

COVID-19 (also known as Coronavirus) was deemed a pandemic on March 11 by the World Health Organization.

If You Suspect You May Have COVID-19

If you have a fever and/or cough and difficulty breathing, or have had close contact with a person with a confirmed or suspected/presumptive COVID-19 case in the 14 days before your symptoms began, please call your doctor. Follow this guidance:

- Seek medical care right away. **Before you go visit your medical provider, call ahead and tell them about your recent travel and your symptoms.**
- Avoid contact with others.
- Avoid non-essential travel while sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

At this time, all activities of the Tift County Recreation Department have been cancelled and County athletic fields, parks and recreational facilities are closed to the public until further notice. All other essential Tift County government functions will remain available and offices will be open during normal business hours. However, as this is an evolving situation, we ask that anyone who feels sick, has a fever, exhibits any other associated symptoms or whose business is not critical and/or time sensitive in nature, please consider rescheduling the visit to a later date.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON COVID-19, VISIT:

WWW.CORONAVIRUS.GOV

WWW.DPH.GEORGIA.GOV

STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

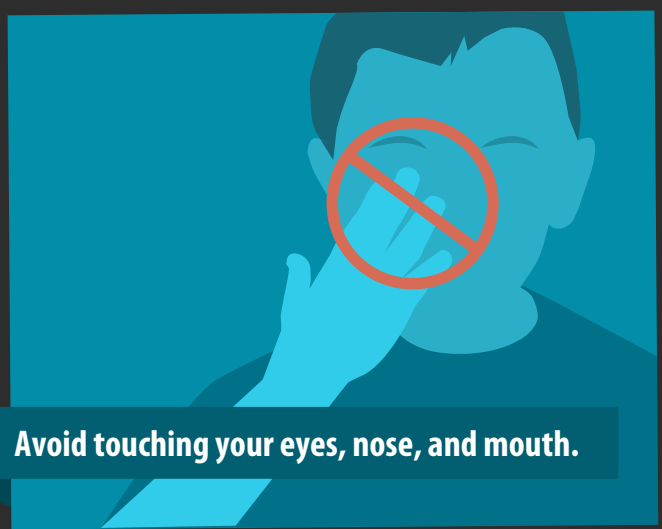
Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

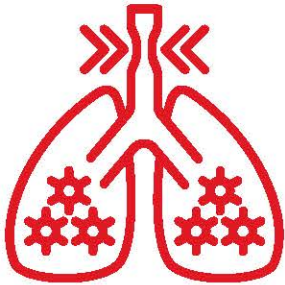


For more information: www.cdc.gov/COVID19

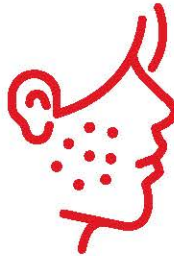
WHEN TO CALL

911 FOR EMERGENCIES

CALL 911 IF YOU:



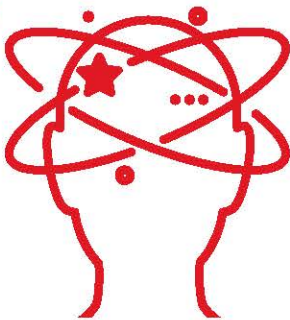
HAVE DIFFICULTY
BREATHING / CHOKING



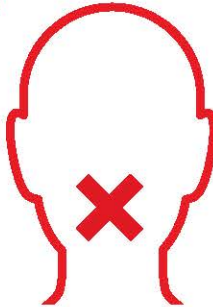
HAVE AN ALLERGIC
REACTION



HAVE SYMPTOMS OF
HEART ATTACK / STROKE



ARE CONFUSED,
DISORIENTED
OR DIZZY



HAVE DIFFICULTY
SPEAKING, WALKING
OR SEEING



HAVE SUDDEN,
SEVERE PAIN

DO NOT CALL 911 IF YOU:



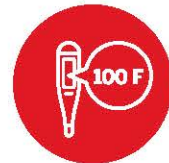
WANT INFORMATION
ABOUT COVID-19



NEED A RIDE TO THE
DOCTOR'S OFFICE



WANT TO GET
TESTED



HAVE MILD
SYMPTOMS*

For more information about COVID-19:

dph.georgia.gov/novelcoronavirus

*Call your doctor for mild symptoms like fever, shortness of breath and cough.