



City of South Fulton Government

NEWS RELEASE

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South Fulton Officials Ask Residents to Follow Governor's Shelter-in-Place Order

(CITY OF SOUTH FULTON, GA – March 23, 2020) – City of South Fulton officials are encouraging residents to follow guidance from Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp after he announced an executive order Monday asking people at high-risk for certain medical conditions to shelter in place to help curb the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

At a minimum, the shelter-in-place order applies to people in long-term care facilities, those with chronic lung disease, those undergoing cancer treatment, those who have tested positive for COVID-19 and those suspected of having the virus because of symptoms or exposure to an infected person.

“As we continue to fight COVID-19, our top priority remains the health and safety of residents and staff,” said Mayor William “Bill” Edwards. “Today, the governor announced new strategic steps that will help slow the spread of this virus. I am calling on all of my friends and neighbors in the City of South Fulton to do their parts in this fight.”

Governor Kemp announced measures to close all restaurants and bars – with the exception of carry-out or drive through service – and banned public gatherings of more than 10 people, except where a minimum distance of six feet between people can be maintained at all times. The executive order takes effect Tuesday, March 24, at noon and expires at noon on Monday, April 6.

Kemp also said the order was developed with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Georgia Department of Public Health. The health department has been charged with developing procedures that will allow those sheltering in place to gain access to essential services and resources. Department of health officials also are empowered to enforce all provisions of the order, the governor said.

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“These measures are intended to ensure the health and safety of Georgians across our state,” he said. “They will protect the medically fragile, mitigate potential exposure in public venues and allow the state to ramp up emergency preparedness efforts as cases increase in each region.”

In a separate order addressing critical healthcare needs, Kemp suspended restrictions on doctors whose licenses have lapsed in the last five years and approved temporary licenses for graduate nursing students who have not taken the licensing exam.

Kemp joined 21 other governors Monday in signing a letter to senior congressional leaders, asking for federal block grant funding to assist in fighting the virus.

“Governors across the country are on the front lines of this fight and many of us are spending heavily at the end of the budget year, while facing a significant decline in economic activity during this crisis,” he said. “We desperately need these resources.”

Beyond complying with Monday’s orders, as well as previous directives, Georgian’s can help by continuing to follow the guidance of healthcare professionals by regularly washing their hands, practicing social distancing and disinfecting frequently used areas to prevent infection.

Kemp also asked people to call out and report any people or organizations not following the directives and stop doing business with those not complying with the order.

“This fight is far from over, but we are in this fight together,” he said. “While we have taken strategic, direct action today, I am calling on my fellow citizens to fight this virus with everything you’ve got. We are all part of the solution.”

On March 17, Mayor William “Bill” Edwards with support from the City Council approved a resolution declaring a state of emergency. The resolution limited public gatherings to 10 people and set a curfew from 9 p.m. until 7 a.m. for all residents and businesses open to the public. The city has suspended all non-essential programs and services as well as closed all non-essential facilities until further notice. Residents are encouraged to call 911 for emergencies and use the SeeClickFix app or call the city’s 24-hour 311 call center at (470) 522-4311 for information or to report non-emergency issues.

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