



*City of South Fulton Government*

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Department of Communications**

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### **South Fulton Issues Full Shelter In Place Order to Stop the Spread of COVID-19**

(CITY OF SOUTH FULTON, GA – April 2, 2020) – City of South Fulton officials issued a shelter-in-place order Thursday requiring residents to stay in their homes except for certain essential exceptions and directing the closure of all non-essential businesses.

The decision comes after Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp announced Wednesday that he will issue a statewide executive order with similar provisions that will take effect Friday. The city's ordinance will take affect at the same time as the governor's, which has not been announced, and will end on April 16.

“We are working through times like we’ve never seen before, but our top priority remains the safety of residents and our staff,” said Mayor William “Bill” Edwards. “It’s hard to make decisions like this. But, it is our responsibility to ensure the wellbeing of those who live and work in the City of South Fulton. We take that responsibility seriously.”

“This decision is not personal or political,” Edwards added. “The governor and many of our neighboring cities have issued similar orders as sheltering in place is the best way to stop the spread of this deadly virus.”

Under the order, residents are required to stay home between 9 p.m. and 7 a.m., except for when they are traveling to or from work, medical or pharmaceutical facilities, childcare providers or business promotions designed to help high risk persons from contracting COVID-19. The ordinance also allows people to travel to protect others or property from imminent harm.

Between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m., the order allows people to make trips to essential businesses, including medical and childcare facilities; grocery, convenience and liquor stores; gas stations; financial institutions and banks; legal practices; food banks; hardware stores and nurseries; funeral homes; post offices; laundromats; educational facilities providing distance learning; hotels and transportation providers. These businesses must ensure patrons can maintain a distance of at least six-feet apart as directed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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Patrons can visit restaurants, which can provide drive-through and walk-in takeaway service between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. and only drive-through service between 9 p.m. and 7 a.m. People also can travel to schools that provide meals, provided the food is picked up taken away.

All other businesses must remain closed while the order is in effect. The city will continue to conduct all essential operations, including public safety and utility services.

Council members voted to continue issuing permits for new construction and renovation projects, although no in-person transactions are being completed. The city's Community Development and Regulatory Affairs Department plans to launch a new online service Monday that allows residents and contractors to submit applications, supporting documents and inspection reports electronically. Until then, applications can be submitted through the department's [website](#).

“While we have been forced to drastically alter how we interact with residents and businesses, we remain committed to providing world-class service to help them go about their daily lives during this unprecedented time,” said City Manager Odie Donald II. “We greatly appreciate their patience as we work through this process and we look forward to continuing to serve them when this global event is over.”

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