



Chatham County Board of Commissioners

124 Bull Street, Savannah, GA 31401

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

March 22, 2020

Local State of Emergency Declared in Chatham County

Chatham County, GA (March 22, 2020) – Chairman Al Scott has signed a resolution declaring a State of Emergency in Chatham County effective immediately. Chairman Scott reiterated all required resources of Chatham County and its municipalities shall be made available to assist in activities designed to address this emergency and control the spread of COVID-19, as well as, aid in recovery efforts.

The resolution also calls for the immediate closure of all indoor recreation, fitness and entertainment facilities. All eating establishments, bars, and nightclubs within the County shall reduce indoor seating capacity and ensure seating is sufficient to achieve 6 foot social distancing. If restaurants, bars, and nightclubs cannot achieve the 6 foot social distancing protocol they are ordered to close. Restaurants capable of providing take-out, delivery or drive-through service are encouraged to increase these services to avoid in-house dining as much as possible.

Chatham Area Transit (CAT) remains operational throughout the County at this time. Citizens are encouraged to use public transit only when necessary to travel to and from work and when shopping for essential items.

The declaration also provides further guidance on social distancing:

- All houses of worship shall strive for social distancing and density reduction. They are encouraged to use social media and video outlets to broadcast worship services.
- To the extent feasible, it is encouraged that citizens not congregate in groups larger than 10 at any location except in an authorized, official government capacity.
- It is encouraged that all citizens of Chatham County limit travel outside of Chatham County as much as possible.
- Any person showing symptoms recognized by the CDC as indicators of COVID-19 shall refrain from entering public buildings, restaurants, shops, public transportation facilities

and all other areas where the public ingresses or egresses. Such person should seek medical attention and follow the directions of their Primary Care Physician until given clearance to return to public interaction.

The resolution will be in effect until April 22, 2020 or shall be terminated in conjunction with the termination of Governor Kemp's State of Emergency.

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