



# THE CITY OF OXFORD

**March 22, 2020**

**MAYOR'S UPDATE RE: COVID-19**

The Mississippi Department of Health reports that Lafayette County now has 5 positive cases of Covid-19 with the State of Mississippi total over 200. With the rapid spread of this virus, I recommended to our Board a few minutes ago in a Special Meeting a Second Resolution which was approved unanimously. You can read this Resolution by going to the City of Oxford website at [oxfordms.net](http://oxfordms.net) or the City of Oxford social media sites.

The intent of this resolution is to slow the spread of Covid-19 in our community. We hope to do this by ensuring the maximum number of people self-isolate in their places of residence to the maximum extent possible. This is NOT a Shelter-in-Place order which prevents travel around town if the need exists but rather a request to our citizens to Stay at Home only leaving for essential needs. It also does not impose a curfew. And it requires no changes to the way our restaurants are operating now...restaurants will still be able to offer curbside, drive thru and delivery. Package stores will be able to continue curbside pick-up, as well.

Vulnerable populations including the elderly and those with underlying health conditions should completely stay at home. All community members should stay at home except to perform essential duties for business continuity or government functions, to get food, care for a relative or friend, get necessary health care or perform activities related to maintaining a healthy lifestyle during this time.

It is OK to go outside for walks if you are not in a group and practice proper social distancing.

Realizing that this Resolution will generate many questions from citizens, we have developed a Frequently Asked Questions list. You can also find this list on our website.

But a quick overview:

Non-essential businesses and business functions that will be closed include all bars, entertainment venues, meetings of fraternal and civic organizations, bowling alleys, theatres, tattoo parlors, barbershops, hair/beauty/nail/tanning salons, spas, gyms, convention centers, community centers and parks (except for walking trails), shopping centers, retail stores (except where curbside is available and utilized) shall be closed to the public. This Section also applies to municipally owned convention spaces, community centers and parks (except for walking trails).

Also all churches, temples, and places of worship, assemblages and gatherings, including but not limited to private clubs within the City limits of the City of Oxford, shall adhere to the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Mississippi Department of Health, and shall limit crowds, assemblages or gatherings to no more than 10 people. This provision shall apply (non-exclusively) to funerals, weddings, and other social gatherings.

The following are identified as essential businesses and are to remain operational following the CDC guidelines: City government services (police stations, fire stations, courts, garbage/sanitation, and utilities), hospitals/clinics and healthcare operations (nursing homes and assisted living facilities), veterinarian offices, gas stations, drug stores and pharmacies, food services (grocery stores, farmers markets, food banks, convenience stores, take-out, curbside and delivery restaurants) hardware stores, security companies, businesses providing services necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation and essential operation of residents (plumbers, electricians, landscapers, HVAC services, and the like) banks, community benefit organizations on a case-by-case basis (Interfaith Compassion Ministries, United Way, Salvation Army, Red Cross, Communicare, etc.), laundromats/laundry services, cemeteries, and professional services which service companies and individuals who or which are essential businesses, agencies, or governmental units (such as accountants, attorneys, engineers, architects, etc.), to the extent such professional services are able to operate under CDC and MS DOH regulations.

The health and future of our community is at risk. It will be dependent upon every single citizen of Oxford to do their part. We are stronger together.