

Good Afternoon,

This is Mayor Steve Smith. Our Community, State and Nation continue to face the challenges of the COVID-19 Virus. It is expected that all 100 counties in North Carolina will have a case of COVID-19 by the end of this week. Your town government and town employees are working to ensure we are all safe.

In order to limit Community Spread of the virus; Topsail Beach has limited rentals, closed all public parking, limited the use of Bush Marina and closed all parks. Your town hall is operating but we have closed our doors to reduce COVID-19 exposure to our town employees. Please call, email or use the drop box for assistance.

We are asking that you continue to follow the CDC guidelines. Please practice social distancing (6 feet or more apart) and wash your hands. These two practices have been shown to have a significant impact on controlling the spread of COVID-19. The CDC also recommends limiting gatherings; however, if you need to meet others in a group, please keep the group under 10 people. Remember SOCIAL DISTANCING only works if it is practiced.

Social distancing is especially important for our older citizens. Please stay at home. Individuals 65 or older and especially those with heart disease plus a respiratory illness or have diabetes are especially vulnerable. Younger individuals with underlying health conditions are also at risk if you have diabetes or asthma. Please stay home and self quarantine, if you are in a high-risk category.

Currently 20% of those who become infected with COVID-19 will need hospitalization - with the flu, only 3% may need hospitalization. This one difference is massive and stretches all our hospital resources.

Personal Protective Equipment is in short supply. The State Government is doing all it can to obtain for our hospital system and for our emergency operations. The state has received 2 shipments from the nation's stock-pile. We are also sourcing items for our town's needs.

We understand this virus is a real burden on our citizens, our visitors, our businesses, and our town. The loss of jobs, loss of pay checks, and fear of the unknown are impacting many. Thank you for all the cooperation you have shown. Please remember that your actions can have an impact on your neighbor or family member. Please **reduce travel, stay home, wash your hands and practice social distancing.**

Please call Town Hall (910-328-5841) if you need assistance or have a concern. We will do our best to assist you. Your town government is working to ensure we are all safe. Again, please reduce travel, stay home and follow CDC guidelines.

Please refer to the town's web site for specific details of restrictions under the current State of Emergency.

Take care of yourself and others, Working together, makes us a stronger community. be well ---
Thank You.