



Town of Surf City

You Have Questions? We Have Answers!

A State of Emergency, in accordance with NCGS 166A, Article 1, and all Governor's Executive Orders, was enacted on March 23, 2020 (as amended), to help protect the citizens of Surf City. The State of Emergency has placed restrictions on citizens and visitors to Surf City which understandably has produced questions to come in over the phone, website, and social media platforms. We are listening to your questions and comments and have provided the following. These will be updated as needed:

Q: Does the current State of Emergency implemented by the Town of Surf City close the entire beach strand or just Public Beach Accesses managed by the Town of Surf City?

A: The current State of Emergency restricts Public Beach Accesses and parking areas. It does not restrict private accesses.

Q: Why can the Town not allow the "locals" to access the beach via Public Beach Accesses and not allow "non-locals" to access the beach? Can we not use utility bills, key cards, etc?

A: The Town understands the desire for citizens to be able to access the beach through the Public Beach Access system. Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) cannot be obtained at this time due to the national supply chain issue, which does not allow someone to be able to check residency for people to access the beach. We do not want to put our residents and Town staff at risk. We understand the desire to get on the beach for recreation and overall health benefits, however, other options will need to be pursued at this time.

Q: If we have a permanent camp site in a local campground are, we allowed to access the beach?

A: If the access from the campground is private, the current State of Emergency does not prohibit private accesses. The individual would need consent from property owner to access the beach via private property.

Q: Is the boat ramp open in Soundside Park?

A: The boat ramp is not currently open for use. The Town has spoken with the NC Wildlife and they advised the Town to make a decision that is consistent with our current operation. Soundside Park is temporarily closed at this time, which includes the boat ramp. Individuals may visit the NC Wildlife site at <https://www.ncwildlife.org/> to check on the status and locations of other state managed boat ramps.

Q: If you own property on the island, are you allowed to come to the island to check on it?

A: At this time there are no restrictions in the current State of Emergency keeping you from checking on your property. If you choose to come into town to do so, you must follow any guidelines put in place by local, state, and the federal government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. If you are worried for security reasons, the Town of Surf City Police Department can assist you with that concern and can be reached at 910-328-7711.

The Following Have Been Compiled Based on the Governor's Executive Order No. 121

Q: What can we do during the Stay-At-Home Order?

A: You can still leave your home to:

- Buy groceries. Grocery stores will remain open.
- Pick up prescriptions and other medical supplies. This includes prescriptions for your pets.
- Order and pick up takeout food. This includes drive-through windows.
- Care for family members and help others get needed supplies.
- Exercise outdoors. Whether it's walking, hiking, running, etc., you're still allowed to stay active, so long as you practice social distancing. That means keeping a six-foot distance from others. (While parks are open, playgrounds are closed.)
- Go golfing. Yes, you're still able to hit the links during this stay-at-home order. Many courses have already started taking protective measures to help stop the spread of COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus.
- Go to work if your job is considered an essential service.
- Be helpful. You can go out and get supplies for someone who is unable to do so.
- Visit a bank. Financial institutions can remain open.
- Visit the post office. Along with other businesses that deliver goods.
- Use a laundromat, dry cleaner and other laundry services.
- Use gas stations and auto-repair and auto-supply businesses.

Q: What is not allowed during the Stay-At-Home Order?

A: You are not allowed to:

- Leaving your home for work unless your job provides a defined list of essential services. Generally, the exceptions include healthcare services, human services, essential government functions, journalists and essential infrastructure.
- Public or private gatherings of 10 or more people (does not apply to members of a household or residence).
- Visiting family and friends, including those in hospitals except under limited circumstances.
- Traveling, unless for permitted reasons.

Q: What kind of businesses are considered essential?

A: The following businesses are considered essential:

- Government workers, including first responders, emergency management, law enforcement and corrections personnel, military and other functions considered essential.
- Media, including newspapers, television and radio.
- Gas stations, auto repair, bicycle repair, auto-parts stores.
- Financial institutions, including banks, consumer lenders and credit unions.
- Hardware stores, and those distributing plumbing, electrical and heating material.
- Critical trades, such as construction, and including plumbers, electricians, exterminators and janitors.
- Mail, and other shipping and delivery businesses.
- Educational institutions, both K-12 and colleges and universities, to facilitate distance learning and critical research related to COVID-19. With an expectation of social distancing.
- Laundry services, including laundromats and dry cleaners.
- Restaurants, for takeout or delivery.
- Supplies to work from home.
- Home-based care, including adults, children seniors and the disabled.
- Residential facilities and shelters.
- Professional services, such as legal, accounting, insurance and real estate. Real estate services are restricted to appraisal and title services.
- Hotels and motels.
- Funeral services.
- Wireless provider retail stores.