



CITY OF ANNISTON, ALABAMA

MAYOR

Jack Draper

CITY COUNCIL

Jay Jenkins - Ward 1

David Reddick - Ward 2

Ben Little - Ward 3

Millie Harris - Ward 4

CITY MANAGER

Steven Folks

PRESS RELEASE - MARCH 18, 2020 - 7:40PM

JACKSON HODGES, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER - CITY OF ANNISTON

4309 MCCLELLAN BLVD, ANNISTON, AL 36206 - WWW.ANNISTONAL.GOV

JHODGES@ANNISTONAL.GOV - (256)-846-2044

The City of Anniston, would like its citizens to be aware that the Alabama Dept. of Public Health made it known to the public, at 10:05AM today through an update to their website, that Calhoun County has one confirmed case of COVID-19 as of 03/18/20 at 4:10PM ([Link: https://bit.ly/3b4PZdH](https://bit.ly/3b4PZdH)). According to the Alabama Dept. of Public Health, there are fifty-one confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Alabama and no deaths. At this time, the Alabama Dept. of Public Health has adopted the policy of not sharing the personal information of a confirmed COVID-19 patient, as to protect their personal privacy.

That said, it is expected that additional positive cases may emerge in the coming days, as testing for the disease continues to expand. Therefore, Anniston city leadership urges all of its citizens to continue social distancing practices, and to adhere to the health and safety guidelines set forth by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as the Alabama Dept. of Public Health. Furthermore, be it known that in an effort to adhere our community to the safest practices recommended by both the CDC and the Alabama Dept. of Public Health, the City of Anniston will take the following precautionary measures for the health and safety of our residents:

COMMUNITY CENTER HOURS OF OPERATION

- **Changes to Operating Hours Until End of April 2020:** The following City of Anniston public community centers will now be open from **10:00AM - 6:00PM on Monday through Thursday, 1:00PM - 5:00PM on Friday, 9:00AM - 5:00PM on Saturday, and will be closed on Sunday:** the Carver Community Center, Norwood Hodges Community Center, South Highland Community Center, and Wiggins Community Center.
- In addition, the Anniston Aquatic & Fitness Center will now operate from **5:30AM - 5:30PM on Monday through Friday, 7:00AM until 5:00PM on Saturday, and 1:00PM until 5:00PM on Sunday.**
- Please note, these operating changes will be reevaluated on 04/30/20. Furthermore, be aware that additional changes may be implemented based on the nature of the situation.

ANNISTON MUSEUMS & GARDENS TEMPORARY CLOSURE

- **Temporary Closure Until End of April 2020:** Anniston Museums and Gardens (AM&G) will temporarily close to the public (*effective Thursday, 03/19/20*). This closure is a public health precaution, and it shall be reevaluated on 04/30/20. Please note, that AM&G employees will still be available to offer assistance and answer questions at the following points of contact: *Anniston Museum of Natural History: 256-237-6766, Berman Museum: 256-237-6261, Longleaf Botanical Gardens: 256-237-6766*

STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARED (03/18/20)

- **Anniston City Council Declares State of Emergency:** Be it known, that today (03/18/20), the City Council of Anniston passed a Declaration of a State of Emergency, as it relates to COVID-19 in the City of Anniston; thereby, appointing the Mayor and City Manager as the directors of the city's emergency management, and does confer upon the Mayor and City Manager, and their delegees, the authority and responsibility for the organization, administration, and operation of the city's emergency management functions, among other specific empowerments and authorizations.