

Brunswick County Sheriff's Office

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM Sheriff John W. Ingram

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a very stressful and in some cases, scary time for many of us in Brunswick County. The stay-at-home order issued yesterday by Governor Cooper likely and understandably enhanced those emotions.

I want to take a moment to share with you my perspective of Governor Cooper's Executive Order. I think it is important to address what the Sheriff's Office will and will not be doing as a result of the Order. I hope this will ease some worry for those trying to understand what the stay-at-home order means for you and your families. There is a great deal of information included in the order but I hope to cover the main points and clear up as much confusion as possible.

First, members of the Brunswick County Sheriff's Office will not have roadblocks setup to check those who are out and about. We trust everyone moving about will be doing so for the purpose of work and/or taking care of essential needs.

What is considered essential as related to the stay-at-home order? A person may be out if they are coming or going to: Work, medical appointments, shopping for food, medications and home products for yourself or for someone unable to leave their home. This also includes travel to and from places of worship as well as travel to volunteer with organizations that provide charitable services. Additionally, you CAN go outside and enjoy the beautiful weather. You can go for a walk or a jog and you can take your dog for a walk. However, this does not mean you can go to public places that have been closed by our county or our local municipalities (Please check with your local municipalities for a list of closures).

There are many businesses and services that are considered essential which will remain operational and available to you. While there are too many to list, some are: food services, healthcare services, banking services, construction services and gas stations. The Order with a complete list is provided below.

The goal of the order is to limit the amount of contact between people in an effort to minimize the risk of exposure to COVID-19 while still allowing you to have access to essential needs and giving providers of these needs authority to come and go. Exercising social distancing (maintaining at least six feet apart) and only gathering in groups of 10 people or less is key to minimizing the spread of COVID-19.

I offer encouragement to everyone during this time to stay positive and stay calm. This is a time for people with children to reassure them they are safe and everything will be okay. While many of us aren't cut out to be teachers, do the best you can (and when this is over, Thank a Teacher!) Use this as an opportunity to spend quality time with your families, get caught up on simple home projects, and enjoy this beautiful springtime weather. We are BRUNSWICK COUNTY STRONG and we will get through this! We have proven time and time again through hurricanes and other natural disasters how strong and resilient we are. As always, WE will overcome this crisis stronger and even more resilient than before. This too shall pass. Until then, my thoughts and prayers continue to be with everyone as we navigate through this unsettling time.

Remember, your Sheriff's Office is available to you 24/7. We remain on duty, protecting and serving you and your families. Never hesitate to call on us if you need us. If you have questions about the stay-at-home order, we will do our best to answer them. You may email us directly at bcsquestions@gmail.com. For questions related to the coronavirus, continue to use the county hotline at 910-253-2339 or coronavirus@brunswickcountync.gov.

Sheriff John W. Ingram V
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