



COUNTY OF AMHERST



Public Information Officer

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For Immediate Release

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County Administrator Adopts Minimum Staffing Policy in response to COVID-19

Earlier this morning County Administrator, Dean Rodgers, adopted a “minimum staffing” policy for County staff:

“In response to the President's call for maximization of social distancing, the County government offices are adopting a policy of ‘minimum staffing’. This policy does not apply to Public Works, Public Safety, constitutional officers, or the courts. Constitutional offices are invited, and Department and Agency Heads are instructed to direct their non-essential personnel to operate from home so as to minimize social interactions. We will be sensitive to stagger those who are asked to report so no individual bears the entire burden of this policy. Anyone directed to operate from home is on the county payroll for their normal duty hours and expected to be available by telephone and by email, if possible. Anyone operating from home may be directed to report, within one hour, to work for a limited purpose or task or time and then directed to return home. This policy will remain in effect so long as the schools are closed. Those working from home should be on a computer, if they have one, doing something productive if possible. People should avoid bars, restaurants, gyms and other gathering places and remember that their actions reflect on the County.

Our goal is to keep county offices and the functions of government operating while encouraging social distancing. The Chairs of boards, committees, commissions and councils are invited to rearrange their agendas to postpone less urgent work until after social distancing is no longer a necessity. Until I receive further guidance, the Board of Supervisors will continue to meet as regularly scheduled to conduct the business of the county.

Citizens are asked to call ahead by telephone to determine if the service needed is available.”

As a local government we are committed to protecting the health and safety of our residents. Elected officials, staff, and particularly the public safety personnel are continuously monitoring and discussing the Coronavirus pandemic and its impact on our community. We are daily evaluating how we serve the public while considering the ever changing dynamics of the situation. We ask that the community be

flexible with any adjustments, postponements and cancellations as the County works to keep everyone safe. Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

Keep in mind that some county business can be conducted online.

Taxes and water bills can be paid on the county website:

<https://www.countyofamherst.com/egov/apps/services/index.egov?view=detail;id=109>

Many permit applications can be submitted online through iWorQ:

<https://amherst.portal.iworq.net/portalhome/amherst%20>

We will do our best to keep both the county website and Facebook page update with information as it becomes available:

<https://countyofamherst.com>

<https://facebook.com/countyofamherst>

Additional information may be obtained from Joy Niehaus at jlnehaus@countyofamherst.com or (434)-946-9400.