



## Rutherford County Senior Center to Close Temporarily

Public Service Announcement

*Rutherford County— 03/13/2020*

After consultation with the Foothills Health District Director and the Rutherford County Emergency Management Director and based on guidance we have received from the Governor's Office and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, the Rutherford County Senior Center will be closed for participants beginning Monday, March 16, 2020 through Tuesday, March 31, 2020. We will revisit this the week of March 23<sup>rd</sup> to determine if we need to extend the date. As reported, those over 65 years of age and those with underlying health conditions, including heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, or with weakened immune systems are high risk. DHHS also recommended that mass gatherings of 100 people should be canceled or postponed. Although no cases have been confirmed in Rutherford County, we feel the need to be proactive to protect our seniors.

- Rutherford County Senior Center in Spindale will be closed through March 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Rutherford County Senior Center satellite sites (Ellenboro, Henrietta, and Shingle Hollow) will be closed through March 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Meals will not be served at the main site nor the three satellite sites. For participants with a need for a meal, a packed meal will be provided if one pre-registers the day before by noon.
- We will continue to deliver meals to the home-bound (Home Delivered Meals/MOW) on regular schedule.
- Senior Center staff will be present to answer phones during business hours.
- Commodity Supplemental Food Boxes (CFSP) may still be picked up as scheduled next week on March 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> from 2pm-4pm. Those who are assigned to receive boxes should drive thru and staff will be outside to load boxes into their vehicles.
- AARP Tax Site will be closed during the time the Senior Center is closed.
- SHIP Site will be closed during the time the Senior Center is closed.
- Senior Games Silver Arts will be postponed to a later date to be determined.
- Senior Games Sporting Events remain scheduled for April 6<sup>th</sup> at this time.

As a reminder, the most important thing we can all do is to practice good hygiene habits, including staying home at the first sign of illness for you or your family - and that the best prevention against any virus is to wash our hands often with water and soap for at least 20-seconds.

### *County Commissioners*

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**Steve Garrison**, *County Manager*

**Hazel S. Haynes**, *Clerk to the Board*

**Richard Williams**, *County Attorney*

The CDC is recommending that people at higher risk take the following actions:

- Stay at home as much as possible.
- Make sure you have access to several weeks of medications, food, and supplies in case you need to stay home for prolonged periods of time.
- When you go out in public, keep away from others who are sick, limit close contact, and wash your hands often.
- Avoid crowds.
- If you are sick, call your provider before visiting your doctor.

The Rutherford County Senior Services will continue to work closely with the Foothills Public Health District, Emergency Management, NC Department of Health & Human Services and the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services to monitor the latest developments about COVID-19 and keep our participants and staff safe and healthy.

*For more information, please contact the Senior Center*  
**(828) 287-6409**