



## COUNTY OF BEDFORD, VIRGINIA

### County Administration Building

122 East Main Street, Suite 202

Bedford, Virginia 24523

Tel: (540) 586-7601

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#### ADMINISTRATION

For immediate release:

March 20, 2020

Contact: Robert Hiss, County Administrator, [rhiss@bedfordcountyva.gov](mailto:rhiss@bedfordcountyva.gov), (540) 586-7601

### Bedford County Government Offices Closing to Public

**Bedford, Va. (March 20, 2020)** - As the spread of the coronavirus is being continually monitored and in an effort to follow CDC recommendations to limit interpersonal interactions, Bedford County government will be closing its County Administration Building, Department of Social Services Lobby, and the Parks and Recreation Facility at Falling Creek Center to the public beginning on Monday, March 23. This closure will be re-evaluated as conditions evolve. Working hours will remain Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

The purpose of the Bedford County government, its employees, and programs is to provide the highest quality of life for its citizens. In order to maintain this purpose while keeping health and safety at the forefront of all decisions, employees who are able to work remotely will do so, with limited staffing on site; this will allow citizens to conduct the business needed and meet the needs of the community in the safest manner possible.

Below is a comprehensive list of how to contact and/or make payments and transactions with Bedford County departments.

#### County Administration Building Departments:

- **Community Development:** Residents can apply for building permits online using the County's self-service site: <https://selfservice.bedfordcountyva.gov/energovprod/selfservice/home>. Staff will review and issue permits via email.
- **Commissioner of Revenue Office:** For inquiries regarding income tax filings please call (540) 586-7621.
- **Finance:** Payments to vendors will be sent via mail. No in-person pick-up of checks will be permitted.
- **Treasurer's Office:** Please call (540) 586-7670 with any questions.
  - **Mail:** Tax payments can be mailed to 122 E. Main St, Suite 101, Bedford, VA 24523.
    - For credit card payments through the mail please use the back of the bill or visit <https://www.bedfordcountyva.gov/about-bedford/covid-19> to download a credit card form (form is located under the FAQ section on the left hand side).
    - Checks: If possible, please include a copy of the tax bill and/or write the account number or RPC number on the check.
  - **Drop Box:** Payments can also be placed in the secure drop box located in front of the Administration Building on Main Street.
  - **Online:** Residents may also use [www.officialpayments.com](http://www.officialpayments.com) (a small convenience fee is added per transaction). To use this site, residents will need their account number, amount owed, and the jurisdiction code 1067.



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##### Department of Social Services

- *On site visits:* Family services staff will be dispatched out to valid cases as appropriate.
- *EBT Cards:* The issuance of emergency EBT cards will be facilitated as needed by meeting residents outside of the building. Enterprise Customer Service Center for SNAP can be reached at 1-855-635-4370.
- *Healthcare:* Cover Virginia for Medicaid can be reached at 1-855-242-8282. Help answering questions regarding benefits can be found at [www.commonhelp.virginia.gov](http://www.commonhelp.virginia.gov). Health Insurance Marketplace questions can be directed to 1-800-318-2596 or [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov)

##### Parks & Recreation Facility at Falling Creek Park

- The Cooperative Extension can be reached at (540) 586-7675.
- The Parks and Recreation Department can be reached at (540) 586-7682.
- Drop boxes are located at the front of the building located at 1257 County Farm Road (adjacent to Falling Creek Park) for any paperwork or small returns.

##### Safety Reminders:

- Social Distancing: Citizens are asked to practice social distancing; social distancing is deliberately increasing the physical space between people to avoid spreading illness. Staying at least six feet away from other people lessens your chances of catching the coronavirus.
- Self-Quarantine: People who have been exposed to the coronavirus and who are at risk for coming down with it are encouraged to practice self-quarantine. Health experts recommend that self-quarantine lasts 14 days. Two weeks provides enough time for them to know whether or not they will become ill and be contagious to other people.
- Small Groups: The presidential administration has limited gatherings to ten people or less and has asked for citizens to avoid discretionary travel and eating and drinking at bars, restaurants, and public food courts.

##### Local Information Resources:

- For the latest updates on how COVID-19 is effecting our area, please visit <https://www.bedfordcountyva.gov/about-bedford/covid-19>

##### National and State Resources:

Citizens are also encouraged to visit the links below for the most current information.

- [www.cdc.gov/COVID19](http://www.cdc.gov/COVID19)
- <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/>

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