

# *Town of Tunica*

*Chuck Cariker*  
Mayor

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## *Board of Aldermen*

*Brad Beach*  
*Andrew Dulaney*  
*Jack Graves*  
*Brooks Taylor*  
*Daniel Pierce*

*Kate Scott Pennock*  
Town Clerk

**From:** Chuck Cariker, Mayor

**Date:** March 20, 2020

**Re:** COVID-19 Virus

As Tunicans, we have always been able to rely on one another in difficult times. Now, we must once more work collectively to defeat the Covid-19 epidemic. Today, a resident of Tunica tested positive for Covid-19. I hope in this statement to provide as much information as I can to better prepare you to battle this disease and protect yourself, your family and our community.

### **Positive Case in Tunica:**

On March 20, 2020, a local resident of the Town of Tunica was diagnosed with Covid-19.

### **What does this mean for Tunica:**

The Town of Tunica has been taking every reasonable step to prepare for this epidemic. On March 17, 2020, the Board of Alderman declared a state of emergency to aid our efforts. We have been working with Tunica County officials and will continue to work closely with them to ensure that we provide updated information as it becomes available to us.

Though we wished this disease would not affect us, we have nonetheless been preparing for the eventuality of the disease being present in our Town and communities. Now that it is present, we must take every effort to quickly combat the spread of the disease in order to protect our citizens.

The Covid-19 virus is highly infectious and transmits easily between people in close contact. Therefore, the only effective means of combating the spread of Covid-19 is social distancing and/or isolation.

### **What I am requesting you to do:**

Based on the advice of the Centers for Disease Control and Mississippi Department of Health, I am asking all residents of Tunica to take the following actions:

1. Practice good hygiene:
  - a. Stay at least six (6) feet away from other people;
  - b. Use hand sanitizer or wash your hands often;
  - c. Avoid touching your face; and
  - d. Clean and disinfect common surfaces.
2. Stay home if at all possible;
3. Avoid social gatherings or any gathering of more than 10 people; and
4. Conduct all business electronically or by telephone if possible.

These precautions are especially important if you are in the high risk group of being over 65 or have an underlying medical condition.

Furthermore, I am requesting that all businesses take the following actions:

1. Do as much business as possible by telephone or electronically;
2. Close or restrict access to lobbies or common spaces open to the public;
3. Allow employees to work remotely;
4. Sanitize often any common surfaces; and
5. Educate employees not to come to work if they display any symptoms or believe they have been exposed to the virus.

### **What to do if you think you have the virus or have come in contact with someone who has the virus:**

The virus is thought to spread mainly person to person through close contact, including touching or airborne droplets produced when an infected person breathes or coughs. Therefore, if you suspect you have the virus or have come in contact with someone who has, please isolate yourself from others, especially those who are elderly or have existing medical conditions.

The symptoms for Covid-19 are:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of Breath

The symptoms usually arise within 2-14 days of exposure to the virus.

If you have these symptoms, **STAY HOME**. Please call your doctor and discuss your symptoms. Your doctor will discuss with you what steps need to be taken next. **DO NOT GO TO THE DOCTOR OR HOSPITAL WITHOUT CALLING FIRST AND BEING ADVISED TO COME.** The virus is highly infectious. You could spread the virus to others.

**Further information:**

Citizens should turn to the Centers for Disease Control website for further information on the virus and how to protect themselves and their families. Please go to the CDC website for Covid-19 at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) and educate yourself so that you may protect yourself and others. Posts on Facebook and other forms of social media are not always reliable sources of information. Make sure your information is from a trusted source.

You may also contact town hall at (662) 363-2432.

**Moving Forward:**

Many of us have not experienced in our lifetimes an event like this. However, this is not a time for panic. I know that in tough times Tunicans are at their best. We must all work together and sacrifice together in order to defeat this disease as quickly as possible. Be aware that your actions during this time not only affect you but everyone in the community, and act accordingly.