On Thursday, March 26 Columbia City Council passed the *Stay Home Stay Safe* Ordinance (ORDINANCE NO: 2020-034). This ordinance aims to slow the spread of COVID-19 and prevent local medical systems from being overwhelmed.

**Below are frequently asked questions and answers.**

- **What does *Stay Home Stay Safe* mean?**

  It means people should stay at their residence and limit social interactions and travel except for essential activities, such as obtaining food, household items or pharmacy items.

- **What are potential penalties for any “non-essential” business that continues to remain open?**

  Violation of this ordinance is a misdemeanor, and punishment is set forth under Sec. 1-5 of the City Code. Each day of violation is considered a separate offense.

- **Who will enforce the ordinance?**

  The City of Columbia Fire Department, Office of the Fire Marshal, Police Department, Building Inspections Division, Livability Code Enforcement Officers, and their designees are authorized to inspect and determine whether businesses and individuals are complying with the ordinance.

- **When will the *Stay Home Stay Safe* ordinance go into effect?**

  The ordinance goes into effect Sunday, March 29, 2020 at 12:01 a.m.

- **When will the *Stay Safe Stay at Home* ordinance expire?**

  This ordinance will expire on April 12, 2020, unless it is extended to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the city.

- **Does the *stay Home Stay Safe* ordinance apply to all businesses and residences within the city limits?**

  Yes, this ordinance applies to all addresses within the City limits.

- **Is there a list of essential services?**
The customer service teller can consult the separate List of Essential Services sheet, and/or direct the caller to visit the full list at https://tinyurl.com/w4r3ueg.

- Can I leave my home to visit friends or family members?

  Individuals may leave their homes to care for a family member or friend, or to help a family member or friend get essential goods or receive necessary health care. Individuals should not visit with friends or family members if there is no urgent need.

- What if I require medical attention?

  Individuals may leave their homes to receive necessary medical care.

- Can I leave my home to exercise?

  People are encouraged to maintain healthy lifestyles, including outdoor recreational activity such as walking pets and jogging. While exercising, individuals should maintain social distancing and continue to take protective measures to maintain their personal health and well-being.

- Where can I find out about the current spread of COVID-19 in South Carolina or in the Midlands?


- What is the City doing to help small businesses?

  City Council has enacted the Resilient Columbia: Economic Sustainability Plan. For more information visit https://www.columbiasc.net/headlines/03-20-2020/a-resilient-columbia.