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PRESS RELEASE

Montmorency County has continued to monitor the Coronavirus (COVID-19). As we continue to adjust to the situation at hand, our employees and our county residents are our primary concern. While most of Montmorency County remains healthy, we must be proactive and attempt to limit the potential strain on local health care providers and hospitals. There is no reason for panic, but caution and preventative measures are wise at this time. Following many other counties, and using caution as our guiding point, **the Montmorency County Courthouse, will be closed to the public beginning Wednesday, March 17, 2020 at 4:30 PM through Monday, April 6th at 8:30 AM.**

During this closure, only Montmorency County employees will continue to report to work as scheduled. Montmorency County residents are encouraged to utilize phone, email, postal mail, or fax options to conduct County business. Where services cannot be accomplished via these options, services may be allowed by a one-on-one appointment at the discretion of the department head. Please review the specific options to each County department below, either within or outside our courthouse walls.

Albert LaFleche, Chairperson
Montmorency County Board of Commissioners

Board of Commissioners Office

Phone: (989) 785-8002
Fax: (989) 785-8001
Email: ccross@montcounty.org

- The March 25, 2020 Montmorency County Board of Commissioners Meeting will continue as scheduled, however, the public is strongly encouraged to reevaluate coming to the meeting and if still desired, take all CDC precautions and maintain social distancing.
- Instructions for Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests can be found at <http://www.montmorencycountymichigan.us/FOIA.html>

Building Department

Phone: (989) 785-8006
Mobile: (989) 390-2284
Fax: (989) 785-8007
Email: stonejoe09@gmail.com

- Hours will be Monday, Wednesday & Friday 8:00AM – 4:30 PM
- Not accepting any permits or correspondence in person at the office.
- Call the office for permit costs.
- Mail, Fax or Email documents to us.
- Accepts payment with a credit card, check or cash.
- Inspections will be on a limited basis, depending on what type of inspection.

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Commission on Aging

Phone: (989) 785-2580
Fax: (989) 785-2983
Email: arogers@montmorencycoa.org

In response to the Covid-19 Pandemic, effective immediately, the Montmorency County Commission on Aging will be enacting the following measures until April 6, 2020:

- The Atlanta, Hillman and Lewiston Senior Centers will be closed for congregate meals and all activities. Public access will be restricted to those locations.
- Home Delivered Meals will be delivered on Tuesday's and Thursday's with frozen meals provided for all other days.
- All Homemaking and Respite services have been suspended.
- Personal Care services will continue with precaution.
- All non-essential services, meetings and community classes/events have been suspended.
- MCCOA staff will be making telephone reassurance calls to check on clients on our service. If contact cannot be made a wellness check will be initiated.
- MCCOA staff that are at high risk have been removed from service for their safety.

MCCOA's goal is to insure all vulnerable seniors in Montmorency County stay safe and to encourage everyone to stay isolated in their homes as much as possible until the situation is over.

Conservation District

Phone: (989) 785-4083 x5
Fax: (989) 785-8001
Email: aprille.williamson@macd.org

- Please call for any questions, staff will be in the office in Atlanta and Alpena to take calls.
- Tree Sale orders can be mailed, emailed, or call in with your order. We take cash, checks, or credit cards.
- You can make an appointment to meet with any of our staff, please call ahead before going into the Alpena office.

County Clerk

Phone: (989) 785-8022
Fax: (989) 785-8023
Email: N/A

- Some services are available by appointment only. Call the office for the best way to proceed.

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County Courts (Circuit, Probate and District)

Hon. Benjamin T. Bolser, Chief Judge, announced that effective March 18, 2020, per local administrative order 2020-1J, the courts within the jurisdiction of Montmorency County will be closed to the public due to the COVID-19 Virus. The courts will be closed beginning March 18, 2020 through April 20, 2020.

- All in-custody arraignments/proceedings, as well as emergency hearings will be conducted while the court's business offices remain closed to the public.
- The courts will be utilizing phone/polycom/videoconferencing for every emergency proceeding unless a special request has been made and approved by the court. Attorneys will be encouraged to speak with their clients to facilitate these appearance capabilities.
- All jurors that have received a summons, will be excused from appearing or calling in unless scheduled after April 20, 2020. Please call the appropriate court for further instructions.
- Michigan Department of Corrections probationers must contact the Montmorency County probation/parole officer at 989-785-8095 for further reporting orders.
- District Court probationers and Montmorency County Veterans Treatment Court participants are to report to the probation officer by telephone (989)785-8041, until further notice.
- Montmorency County Juvenile probationers must contact their probation officer at 989-785-8059 or 989-354-9573 for further instruction.
- Anyone with a notice to appear for a Montmorency County court proceeding between the dates of March 18th, 2020 through April 20, 2020, will be receiving a new notice to appear from the court. Notices will be mailed to the last known address provided to the court, as well as a copy mailed to your attorney.
- Payments toward fines/costs may be mailed or paid over the phone with a major credit card. If you need additional time to pay or having financial difficulties, call the court to request arrangements.
- Friend of the Court/Child Support Payments must be made through the Michigan State Disbursement Unit.
- All civil filings/pleadings may continue to be conducted via mail or email, please contact the proper court for filing procedures.

If you have any questions/concerns/emergencies, please call the appropriate court for further instruction.

PLEASE CONTACT THE APPROPRIATE COURTS AT THE PHONE NUMBERS BELOW:

26th Circuit Court Administration

989-354-9573

88th District Court

989-785-8035

Montmorency County Clerk

989-785-8022

Montmorency County Probate Court

989-785-8064

Montmorency County Family Division

989-354-9696

Montmorency Co. Friend of the Court

989-785-8053

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Department of Corrections

Phone: (989) 785-8095
Fax: (989) 785-8096
Email: rhoadsk@michigan.gov

- Please call the office regarding your specific needs.

Equalization

Phone: (989) 785-8046
Fax: (989) 785-8094
Email: keller.kevin@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.montmorencycountymichigan.us/EQUALIZATIONDEPARTMENT.html>

- Please call the office regarding your specific needs.

Family Division

Phone: (989) 785-8059
Fax: (989) 785-8078
Email: N/A

- Please call the office regarding your specific needs.

Friend of Court Office

Phone: (989) 785-8053
Fax: (989) 785-8063
IVR: (877) 543-2660
Email: foc60@alpenacounty.org
Website: <http://www.montmorencycountymichigan.us/Friend.html>

- Please call the office regarding your specific needs.
- MiChildSupport Sign-up can happen at <http://www.michigan.gov/MiChildSupport>

MSU Extension

Phone: (989) 785-8013
Fax: (989) 785-8014
Email: makinspa@msu.edu

- Please call the office regarding your specific needs.

Prosecutor's Office

Phone: (989) 785-8070
Fax: (989) 785-8071
Email: vkundinger@gmail.com

- Please call the office regarding your specific needs.

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Register of Deeds

Phone: (989) 785-8079
Fax: (989) 785-8080
Email: montmorencyregisterofdeeds@gmail.com

- Please call the office regarding your specific needs.
- All staff will be working and available to answer any questions, please feel free to call.
- We will only accept documents through USPS, UPS and FedEx
- We will allow Title Searchers Only to enter the office. Please call ahead to schedule an appointment as we only have the 6' distancing capability to accommodate 2 searchers at a time.
- We are working diligently to keep our Office clean by bleaching counters and using hand sanitizer.

Sheriff's Office

Phone: (989) 785-4238
Fax: (989) 785-4471
Email: donna@montmorencysheriff.com

The Montmorency County Sheriff Office would like to reassure the community that our office continues to provide all essential public safety services to our residents and visitors. We are dedicated to the health and safety of all.

In response to the ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Montmorency County Sheriff Office is taking steps to safeguard the public, our staff and inmates.

Effective immediately, the following changes will take place until further notice:

- All public contact to the jail will be limited to professional staff and attorneys only
- All on-site visits have been suspended
- All jail programs have been suspended
- Deputies will use discretion on calls for service and when appropriate will handle calls over the phone to minimize contact.
- The Sheriff's Office lobby will be limited to essential business only. We are suspending fingerprints, purchase permits, SOR, visitation, PBT's and any other walk-in services.

These measures are in response to guidelines provided by the Health Department, State of Michigan and CDC to help limit the spread of this disease. We appreciate the support and cooperation of the citizens of Montmorency County during this difficult time.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

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Treasurer

Phone: (989) 785-8086
Fax: (989) 785-8087
Email: jklein@montcounty.org
Email: cbrandt@montcounty.org
Email: kedwards@montcounty.org
Mail: Montmorency County Treasurer
PO Box 789
Atlanta, MI 49709

- Property taxes may be mailed or paid with a credit or debit card over the telephone.
- All other issues will be addressed by appointment only, please call the phone number or e-mail to one of the addresses listed above.

Veterans Affairs / Veterans Trust Fund

Phone: (989) 785-8043
Fax: (989) 785-8003
Email: rvinton@montcounty.org

- Please call the office regarding your specific needs.