

Message from the desk of Mayor Johnny L. Smith

May 8, 2020

Moving into May has shown some changes in the number of positive cases of COVID-19 in Calhoun County. I believe this increase is due to the increase in test sites and testing and the fact that the 2-week wait period for test results has been greatly reduced to 15 minutes. We are definitely not out of the woods where this coronavirus is concerned, but we are beginning to phase back to somewhat of a regular routine. City Hall employees will begin returning to work next week on a flexible work schedule. The offices will continue to be closed to the public at this time. Operations will continue under Response Level III of the Infectious Disease/Pandemic Policy. We are all anxiously awaiting to hear from Governor Ivey before the May 15th deadline of the "Safer-at-Home" order. Please continue to do your part with social distancing, handwashing and all sanitation procedures. We all want to see this pandemic behind us!

To the businesses that remain closed currently under the Governor's Order, I completely understand your frustrations. I, however, am not able to make changes where this is concerned. My prayers continue with each of you that God will sustain you during this time. Also, I remain hopeful that changes are made next week from the Governor's Office. The Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama, have announced an initiative for small business assistance. Please click on the following link for both non-profit and small business, with 2-25 employees, for application process: <https://www.yourcommunityfirst.org/news/now-accepting-grant-applications-for-covid-19-relief/>. The Calhoun County Resource Center may be reached by dialing 2-1-1 if you need any assistance. Also, Jacksonville Christian Outreach Center is willing and able to help those in need. They may be reached at 256-435-1891.

NOTE: Census 2020 is still in progress. Online participation at <https://2020census.gov/en.html> is still open. I encourage you to complete the Census online or return the form you received in the mail. The deadline is still a few months away, but the sooner we get that done the sooner you can put that responsibility to bed. Be Counted!