

**TOWN OF MERIGOLD**

**P. O. Box 348**

**Merigold, MS 38759**

**662-748-2765**

**662-748-2766 (Fax)**

**Ken McGarrh, Mayor**  
**Edna Scott Lloyd, Clerk**  
**Kirk Povall, Attorney**

**Board of Aldermen**  
**Pierce Criss**  
**John Latham Meyer**  
**Brent Branning**  
**Charles Sellers**  
**Stephen Smith**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 24, 2020**

**CONTACT:** Town Hall  
662-748-2765  
[ednascottlloyd@gmail.com](mailto:ednascottlloyd@gmail.com)

**NOTIFICATION OF CLOSURE OF TOWN HALL TO GENERAL PUBLIC  
IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19**

*Building will remain open to essential service staff*

MERIGOLD, MS.- In an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 amongst Merigold residents and Town Employees. Town Hall will be closed to the general public effective March 25<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. until further notice is provided. The building will remain open during our regular business hours to essential service staff to ensure citizens are able to contact the Town should they need assistance.

The Town Police Department and Bolivar County Volunteer Fire Department will continue to operate at full staffing levels. Critical services including Public Works, water, and sewer operations will remain fully staffed and operational.

As a result of this closure, payments for water services, public records requests, municipal court fines and other administrative fees can be made online, via mail or phone. As this is a challenging time for many of our citizens, the Town has suspended all water service disconnections through May 14<sup>th</sup>, pursuant to an order by the Mississippi Public Service Commission.

We encourage citizens to frequent the MS Department of Health's website listed below for up to date COVID-19 information for Mississippians.

MS Department of Health: <http://msdh.ms.gov/>

Please know that we are here to help, and we will inform the public should we receive any information requiring specific action by our citizens. May God Bless our country, state and town.

## **EMERGENCY ORDER FOR TEMPORARY CLOSINGS**

**HAVING DECLARED A STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY**, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Merigold, Mississippi, balanced and considered the economic and social benefits of the activities regulated herein with the directives, guidelines and recommendations of the World Health Organization, the Center for Disease Control, the Mississippi State Department of Health, the President and the Governor; Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, and Bolivar County Emergency Management Agency and found this Emergency Order For Temporary Closings necessary for the health and safety of the citizens of Merigold, including Town employees, to minimize the risk of infection and possible risk of transmission of COVID-19.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED**, that public entrances to all municipal buildings and facilities within the Town of Merigold shall be, and hereby are, temporarily closed to the public as of 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 25, 2020, and shall not re-open until further notice or expiration of the ongoing State of Emergency related to this pandemic issued by the Town of Merigold, whichever shall occur first, with the understanding that the public can still contact and perform business with Town officials and employees through non-face-to-face contact via the telephone, e-mail, drive thru service (where available), and written communications (regular U. S. Mail, etc.) during this period of time. It is further,

**ORDERED** that all restaurants located in the Town of Merigold, with or without drive-in or drive-through services, may only provide take-out, pick-up, delivery, or drive-through services as allowed by law. There shall be no in-house dining or available sitting areas for the public. It is further,

**ORDERED** that all bars, nightclubs, lounges, taverns, and private clubs located in the Town of Merigold shall close, except to the extent that such establishments may only provide take-

Be it further resolved that pursuant to *Miss. Code Ann. §33-15-17 (d)*, that the Board of Aldermen of the Town shall review and approve or disapprove the need for continuing the local emergency at its first regular meeting following such proclamation or at a special meeting legally called for such review. Thereafter, the Town shall review the need for continuing the local emergency at least every thirty (30) days until such local emergency is terminated, and shall proclaim the termination of such local emergency at the earliest possible date that conditions warrant.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by this Board of Aldermen that copies of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the following:

1. Honorable Tate Reeves  
Governor of the State of Mississippi  
20th Floor, Walter Sillers Building  
P. O. Box 139  
Jackson, MS 39205
2. Director, Plans and Operations Division  
Mississippi Emergency Management Agency  
1410 Riverside Drive  
Jackson, MS 39206  
FAX #601-352-8314
3. Michael Lamb, Director  
Bolivar County Emergency Management Agency  
114 South Street  
Cleveland, MS 38732

**RESOLVED AND ADOPTED** on motion by Alderman Pierce Criss, seconded by  
Alderman Brent Branning, with all members present voting "aye" this the 24<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

  
KEN MCGARRH, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
EDNA SCOTT LLOYD, Town Clerk

(S E A L)



out, pick-up, delivery, or drive-through services for food as allowed by law. It is further,

**ORDERED** that all municipal parks and recreational facilities within the Town of Merigold shall similarly be, and hereby are, temporarily closed to gatherings of more than ten (10) people as of 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 25, 2020, and shall not re-open until further notice of expiration of the ongoing State of Emergency issued by the Town of Merigold, whichever shall occur first. It is further,

**ORDERED** that violations of this emergency order may be subject to misdemeanor prosecution pursuant to State Law, including, but not limited to, *Miss. Code Ann.* § 45-17-9, as amended, as well as the Town's Code of Ordinances. It is further,

**ORDERED** that this emergency order is, effective at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 25, 2020.

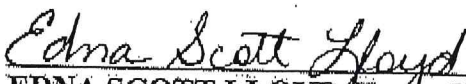
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3. Michael Lamb, Director  
Bolivar County Emergency Management Agency  
114 South Street  
Cleveland, MS 38732

RESOLVED AND ADOPTED on motion by Alderman Stephen Smith, seconded by  
Alderman Pierce Criss, with all members present voting "aye" this the 24<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

  
KEN McGARRH, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
EDNA SCOTT LLOYD, Town Clerk

(SEAL)

## PROCLAMATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Merigold, Mississippi, is concerned for the health, safety, and welfare of the Town's citizens arising from the Novel (new to humans) COVID-19 Pandemic. Acknowledging the findings by the World Health Organization, the State of Emergency declared by the United States President and State of Emergency declared by the Governor of the State of Mississippi, social distancing and non-essential gatherings of more than 10 people is necessary for the health and safety of the citizens of Merigold to minimize the risk of infection and possible risk of transmission of COVID-19.

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Merigold, Mississippi, met in an emergency special called meeting at 3:00 p.m. on March 24, 2020, to address the necessity of taking appropriate emergency action consistent with applicable state law and, having been informed and apprised of the emergency and disaster conditions prevailing throughout the Town of Merigold, Bolivar County, Mississippi, hereby finds it to be both necessary and proper to proclaim a local emergency, to minimize the risk of infection and possible risk of transmission of COVID-19

Therefore, pursuant to *Miss. Code Ann. § 33-15-1*, et. seq., the Town of Merigold hereby declare that a state of local emergency exists within the Town. Be it known that the local powers in the case of a declared state of local emergency include:

During a local emergency, the governing body of a political subdivision may promulgate orders and regulations necessary to provide for the protection of life and property, including orders or regulations imposing a curfew within designated boundaries where necessary to preserve the public order and safety. Such orders and regulations and amendments and rescissions thereof shall be in writing and shall be given widespread notice and publicity. The authorization granted by this section to impose a curfew shall not be construed as restricting in any manner the existing authority to impose a curfew pursuant to police power for any other lawful purpose..”  
*Miss. Code Ann. §33-15-17 (d)*