

To Our Community:

Although there are no known positive cases of coronavirus in Bull Shoals, we must be proactive and take precautions now to mitigate the spread of the virus in our community. Out of an abundance of caution, the Bull Shoals Police Department is implementing minor adjustments in our operating procedures to ensure we can continue to provide the safety and core services our community has come to not only expect, but to depend on. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), social distancing is believed to be one of the most effective methods of preventing the spread of COVID-19. To prevent the introduction and/or the spread of the virus, and to ensure the safety of our community and our Police Officers, the Bull Shoals Police Department is following CDC guidelines, and we have implemented the following temporary plan:

- Effective immediately, many non-violent criminal reports will only be taken by telephone. Reports can be made with a live Bull Shoals Police Department employee at: 870 – 445 – 4775. If an Officer isn't in the Police Station at the time of your call, please leave your name and number and we will get back in touch with you as soon as we can. After business hours, please contact the Marion County Sheriff's Office at 870-449-4236. They will gather your information and forward it to a Bull Shoals Police Officer to handle your report.
- Our Telecommunicators will be asking more questions to collect a wider range of information from callers to better prepare officers who are responding to calls and Officers may ask community members to meet them outside of homes and businesses where appropriate in order to practice social distancing.
- Officers have been issued protective equipment such as gloves & may ask community members to wear surgical face masks if they are showing signs of illness.
- The Bull Shoals Police Department attempts to utilize alternatives to arrest when possible, and we are working with the Marion County Sheriff's Office to screen arrestees and employees who may be entering the detention center facilities. This is to reduce the risk of introducing and/or spreading the virus in the detention center environment.
- We are regularly sanitizing our facilities and our vehicles in an attempt to keep our employees and citizens safe and We have temporarily suspended all civilian ride-alongs.

On behalf of the members of the Bull Shoals Police Department, we want to reassure you that public safety is our number one priority; it always has been, and it always will be.

Sincerely,

Jim Kuchenbecker
Chief of Police