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This Week from the Mayor

Armondo Pavone, Mayor



Renton schools to close until April 24; city offers employees telework option.

City takes action to address COVID-19

Just like the rest of our region, we continue to experience impacts from the outbreak of the respiratory illness caused by a novel coronavirus, [COVID-19](#). The virus has spread rapidly and globally, with some fatalities in King County with cases of hospitalization or prolonged illness in other instances. The city has adjusted business practices and services to support efforts at mitigating the impacts and minimize the spread of the disease.

These are particularly challenging times for all of us and I want to assure you we are doing everything possible to protect you and everyone in our community. We have also been working hard to provide you with frequent and updated information on the COVID-19 and what actions we are taking at the city.

Also, I'd like to express my gratitude and deep appreciation to our police, firefighters and all the city staff who are on the front lines continuing to provide services as we work through this challenging period.

TESTING TELEWORK AT CITY HALL

We have expedited our telework policy and urged all staff who are eligible to complete the paperwork as soon as possible in preparation for a potential closure. The city is continuing to test remote work capabilities and encouraging more employees to work from home if possible. On Thursday and Friday, March 12 and 13, employees who have been approved to telework will be working from home. If you have an emergency and need immediate assistance, please call 9-1-1.

COUNCIL TO TELECONFERENCE MARCH MEETINGS

[Renton City Councilmembers](#) are committed to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. At the same time they understand how important it is for us to conduct the business of the city and continue to be accessible to the public. So the council will be conducting their [March 16 and March 23 meetings](#) via teleconference. Council is not scheduled to meet on March 30. All committee meetings in March are cancelled.

All city council meetings are broadcast live on Channel 21 in Renton and available online at rentonwa.gov/21.

EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION

On March 5, I issued a [proclamation of local emergency](#) for the city due to the public health impacts of the COVID-19. During uncertain times such as these, the city may require supplemental assistance if the severity of the event goes beyond the capabilities of local resources. The emergency declaration enables the city to call in those additional resources. Also, the city's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is activated virtually between 8 am to 5 pm and using Zoom video conference links for EOC meetings.

FACILITIES AND EVENTS

Large events and meetings over 250 people have been canceled per governor's emergency order.

Public Health Officer also prohibits ALL gatherings under 250 to reduce infection unless they comply specifically with Public Health guidance.

We have [closed and cancelled](#) all programming, events, meetings, and rentals through March 31 at the following locations:

- » Renton Community Center
- » Renton History Museum
- » Renton Senior Activity Center
- » North Highlands Neighborhood Center
- » Highlands Neighborhood Center

The [Senior Lunch Program](#) is also still operating. Sack lunches available for pick-up by drive through only, Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. City staff will be out front to hand out sack lunches.

We have increased the frequency for disinfecting common spaces, counters and door handles in all city facilities throughout our hours of operation.

COVID-19 RENTON BUSINESS RESOURCES

We want to reassure our business community that the City of Renton is coordinating with local and regional partners to provide resources and information to help our local businesses and employers. We have compiled a number of resources for your reference. These resources and links are available on our [website](#).

COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION

We've also established a [COVID-19 page](#) on our website and are working diligently to share information from public health officials via our [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Nextdoor](#) accounts. We have been working closely with members of my Inclusion Task Force to keep them informed of the situation and be available to them and their communities during these times.

The containment of COVID-19 is an ever-evolving situation with all events happening in real time.

Because of this, your best source for the most up-to-date information is [Public Health - Seattle and King County](#) and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).

Based on Public Health's assessment that the virus has not yet peaked, the city is preparing to sustain the reduction in services and modified business practices.

Each of us can play a role in preventing the spread of germs.

Renton is a city where we all pull together, we all work together, and we all care for each other. It's just who we are—and we should all be proud of that.

As I learn more, and as the situation changes and evolves, I'll continue to provide more information.

Feedback

Comments, questions or suggestions, or just want to share all the great things that are happening in the city, please [email](#) me. Thanks for reading. [Translate](#) | [Archive](#)

