



# COVID-19 Daily Update

from Mayor Armondo Pavone



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Thurs., March 26, 2020 / Issue: 10

With information regarding COVID-19 continually being updated, I've decided to publish this newsletter daily to share what we know with the residents of Renton. In each edition our team will bring you the latest updates from around the city as well as information from state and federal officials and agencies.

Google Translation available on website. For additional translation services contact [communications@rentonwa.gov](mailto:communications@rentonwa.gov)



## Looking out for our senior population

Our senior population is one we are monitoring closely during COVID-19.

The Renton Senior Activity Center plays a major role in the social activities of our 50+ residents. When COVID-19 forced the center's closure, social events were out, but we were determined to continue the popular weekday lunch program.

I'm happy to report that because of hard work by center staff and Sound Generations, our nutrition partner, we have not only continued the program but, by the Friday of the second week (March 20) we served almost the same number of participants (over 60) we did when it was a sit-down meal. This week the numbers continue to climb, reaching a high of 86 on Wednesday. Through today, the center has served 599 meals and many more smiles. The nutritious sack lunches are prepared on-site by Sound Generations and delivered to seniors as they drive through.

Lunches are not all they get. Games and puzzles are also available and on Fridays additional snacks are prepared for the weekend. Center staff is also keeping in contact with seniors via phone and email to check on their health and see if they need anything. Staff is developing a survey to help guide future programs.

If you're looking for ways to brighten the day for one of the seniors who use the center, we have an easy way. Simply write a note or draw a picture about anything that you think they might enjoy. Take a photo of it and email to [Debbie Little](mailto:Debbie.Little@rentonwa.gov), senior center manager. She'll include them in the lunches. It'll be a nice surprise!

## Congress moves toward passage of CARES Act

As I write this, Congress is on the verge of enacting a \$2.2 trillion federal stimulus package in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Known as the [CARES Act](#) (Coronavirus Aid Relief & Economic Security Act), it includes \$150 billion in relief aid to state and local governments, with about \$3 billion earmarked for our state. Cities and counties with populations of 500,000 or more would also receive direct aid. Renton will likely be eligible for some of this funding, at least indirectly, but it will be awhile before we have specific dollar figures.

Perhaps more importantly, there will be direct cash payments, extended unemployment insurance payments, and forgivable loans and financial assistance for small businesses and large corporations alike. I will do my best to ensure that Renton gets help for its residents and businesses in these difficult times.

## RRCF adds COVID-19 fund

Renton Regional Community Foundation is accepting donations to help aid those affected by COVID-19. [Their COVID-19 Response Fund](#) supports South King County organizations who work with some of our most vulnerable communities.

Update on city functions. **New/updated information is in red.**

### City Hall

- City Hall is closed to the public until further notice. Most services available via telephone and [online](#).
- Individuals are allowed to attend in-custody court hearings at City Hall, but they will be asked health screening questions.
- CDC guidelines for screening employees has been implemented. Health screening questions will be asked.
- Increased frequency for disinfecting common spaces, counters and door handles in all facilities throughout our hours of operation.
- Created [COVID-19](#) page with links to information and prevention.
- Enacted a telework policy for eligible employees until further notice.
- [Prohibition on enforcement](#) of city noise restrictions on vehicles.
- COVID-19 link added to [Renton Responds](#) app.
- Our HR department is adapting to changes and we are making decisions to be responsive to COVID-19 and making sure we keep our employees safe and healthy as we continue to serve our customers.
- Mayor's [Emergency Order #2020-3](#): Supporting State Moratorium on Residential Evictions for Non-Payment of Rent.
- Don't forget to complete your [2020 Census](#).
- Mayors urge residents [to follow best practices](#).
- [March 23](#) – Mayor's COVID-19 update to City Council Committee of the Whole.
- [March 24](#) - City's response to governor's order of "Stay Home, Stay Healthy"

### City Council

- [City Council will meet March 23](#) via teleconference. City Hall will be open for the meeting, however, residents are encouraged to participate by submitting comments in advance. Email [cityclerk@rentonwa.gov](mailto:cityclerk@rentonwa.gov) or drop off written comments Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at the police walk-up window, [Renton City Hall](#), just south of the main entrance, c/o City Clerk.
- Subcommittee meetings are cancelled.
- Meetings are live on Channel 21 in Renton and [streamed online](#).
- Submit comments to councilmembers via [cityclerk@rentonwa.gov](mailto:cityclerk@rentonwa.gov) or to Renton City Hall, c/o City Clerk, 1055 S. Grady Way, Renton, WA 98057.

### Donations/Social Services/Healthcare

- Puget Sound Blood Bank is short on supplies. Find a [donation event](#).
- City of Renton [Human Services Resources Guide](#)
- [211.org](#): access point for homeless shelters, food and other related resources.
- Valley Medical Center has a [COVID-19 page](#) with updates.
- [HealthPoint](#) in Renton.
- [Local shelters](#) are available for women, men and families.
- Public Health's [Community Health Access Program](#) for those without a doctor. Call 1-800-756-5437 or [CHAP@kingcounty.gov](mailto:CHAP@kingcounty.gov) for a free consultation and connection to free or low-cost medical providers and low-cost health insurance.
- Those wishing to volunteer can register with [United Way](#).

- [King County Regional Donations Connector](#) is a virtual donation management center.
- [Low-cost food resources](#) in Renton.
- Monetary contributions can be made via Seattle Foundation [COVID-19 Response Fund](#).
- REACH [Center of Hope and Meal coalition](#).
- Doug Baldwin has organized food deliveries through [familyfirstrenton.org](#).
- **Renton Regional Community Foundation has launched a [COVID-19 Response Fund](#).**

## Economic Development

- CED has compiled list of resources for [businesses and employers](#).
- [Small Business Administration](#) is offering disaster assistance loan to small businesses impacted by COVID-19.
- [King County Council](#) collected information on unemployment, workers' comp, rent/mortgage, utilities, student loans, food assistance, insurance & businesses.
- Greater Seattle Partners is asking businesses to take an [economic impact survey](#).

## Facilities/Services

- The following facilities are closed at least through April 24: Renton Community Center, Renton Senior Activity Center, Highlands Community Center, North Highlands Community Center, Renton History Museum, Renton Pavilion Event Center and Carco Theatre.
- Lunch program continues at [Senior Activity Center](#). Seniors (50+) can drive through and pick up a sack lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Public Works, Parks and Facilities shops are closed to the public until further notice.

## Online Payments

- Business licenses, pet licenses, courts, tax and licensing and utility bills can all be paid [online](#).
- Business Licensing & Tax: 425-430-6851; [filelocal-wa.gov](#).

## Permitting

- [Permit counter](#) is closed to the public until further notice. Applicants can use [online options](#) for payments and tracking applications.
- [Fees and permitting](#) waived for A-frame business signs advertising curbside pick-up.
- Permitting (General information): 425-430-7200
- Schedule an Inspection: [Permitting Portal](#); Building: 425-430-7202; Civil/Site: 425-430-7203.

## Public Works

- Maintenance facility is closed to the public until further notice.
- To request service or report a problem call 425-430-7400 weekdays between 7 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.
- After normal business hours, call Renton Police Department dispatch at 425-430-7500 (option #8) to request assistance from an on-call representative. If the problem is an emergency, please call 911.
- 20 MPH flashing school zone beacons disabled.
- Residents can also report via [Renton Responds](#).
- The May 9 Spring Recycling Event is cancelled and will be rescheduled.
- Continuity of operations measures initiated to isolate water treatment operators from other employees during work.
- [Republic Services](#) has put into effect new temporary guidelines for waste collection procedures in the interest of safety for both the public and their drivers. All recycling and organics materials must be placed in a cart or can; any loose, bundled, or bagged items outside of a cart or can will not be collected. Extra garbage must be placed in a cart, can, or secured in bags. Bulky waste collection and Clean Sweep collections are suspended until further notice. All collection routes are on normal schedule. Questions? Contact Republic Services at 206-777-6440.
- Republic Services will waive late fees and penalties and will not activate any service suspensions for a period of 90 days. (March 23)

## Recreation

### Open

- All [parks](#). However, playgrounds, sport courts, fields, and other active recreation areas within the parks are closed.
- All [trails](#), except two sections of the [Cedar River Trail](#).
- In both parks and trails, please follow recommended social distancing and proper hand washing.

### Closed

- All playgrounds, sport courts, fields, and other active recreation areas within city parks.
- All classes, events and activities at least through April 24.
- Registrations through April 26 will be cancelled.
- Refunds processing for March cancellations; April to follow.
- Maplewood Golf Course, driving range, pro shop and River Rock Grill until further notice. No public access.

## Renton Municipal Airport

- Offices are closed to the public. Runway and services are operational.
- General information available on [website](#) or by calling 425-430-7471 (admin) or 206-423-3715 (maintenance).

## Renton Municipal Court

- Courts are closed until further notice and staff is working remotely.
- In-custody court hearings are no longer being held at City Hall.
- Jail calendar is heard via video conference with prosecutors and public defenders
- Work is on-going to conduct Domestic Violence No Contact Order Recalls.
- Jury service and passport service is suspended until at least April 27.

## Renton Police Department

- [March 13](#) – Chief Ed VanValey updates procedures.
- Department lobby and walk up window at city hall is closed.
- Only use 911 for emergencies; Non-emergencies: 425-235-2121.
- Public Health - Seattle & King County (206-477-3977) handles complaints of crowds of 50 or more.
- School zone cameras turned off.
- [March 20](#) – Message from Chief Ed VanValey.
- [March 23](#) - Message from Chief Ed VanValey on governor's "Stay at Home Order".
- File a [police report](#)

## Renton Regional Fire Authority

- [Procedures updated](#).

## Renton Schools

- [Closed until](#) at least April 24.
- [Services are being offered](#) during their closure.

## Retail

- Renton restaurants open for take-out/delivery: [General Renton](#), [Downtown Renton](#), [Google Document](#). Gift cards are also appreciated.
- Add your restaurant [to the list](#).

## Transportation

- [March 21](#) – Sound Transit service change includes new route, temporary service reductions.
- [March 20](#) – Sounds Transit to suspend fares on all transit modes until further notice.
- [March 19](#) - Sound Transit to temporarily reduce service on Link light rail, Sounder trains, some ST Express routes.
- [March 18](#) - Metro plans to temporarily reduce service starting Monday, March 23 to support the health of the community.

## Utilities

- City will waive late fees and penalties and will not shut off water service for a period of 90 days. (March 23)
- Questions? Utility Bills: 425-430-6852; [rentonwa.gov/ub](#).
- Puget Sound Energy (PSE) will not disconnect customers for non-payment, will waive late fees and work on [payment plans](#) and [choosing a new bill due date](#). PSE has an [energy assistance portal](#) to facilitate access to funds available to income qualified customers.

## State/Federal actions

### County

- [COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#) from **Public Health-Seattle & King County**.
- [March 24](#) - King County releases new health and safety guidelines to child care providers.
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### State

- [March 23](#) – Governor announced a stay at home order, banning all gatherings and closing all but those businesses [classified by the federal guidelines](#) as essential. The ban will take effect on March 25 and be in place for a minimum of two weeks. The governor indicated the order is voluntary in nature, it is enforceable by law. Resident will be able to conduct essential business (shopping, doctor’s appointments) and restaurants cans still conduct business via to-go and delivery orders.
- [March 19](#) – Governor orders a halt to elective surgeries and dental services to reserve critical equipment for COVID-19 health care workers.
- [March 18](#) – Governor waives one-week wait for unemployment benefits.
- [March 17](#) – Governor signs bill package to support state effort combating the COVID-19 outbreak.
- [March 16](#) – Governor issues statewide shutdown of restaurants, bars and limits on size of gatherings expanded.
- [March 13](#) – Governor expands school closure/gathering ban statewide.

### Federal

- [March 22](#) – President approves major disaster declaration for Washington.

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## Important Links

- [Public Health - Seattle & King County](#)
- [King County Emergency news](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [Governor’s Coronavirus resources](#)
- [Washington State Coronavirus Response:](#)
- [Coronavirus fact sheets in multi-language resources](#)
- [King County Emergency Preparedness Standards](#)
- [State Resources for Business](#)
- [Homeless Services Provider Resources](#)