



COVID-19 Update

from Mayor Armondo Pavone



Monday, April 13, 2020 / Issue: 18

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With information regarding COVID-19 continually being updated, I've decided to publish this newsletter 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.



Renton Police Sgt. John Awai models nitrile gloves and N95 mask that all officers carry with them. (Photo by Ken Lambert / The Seattle Times)

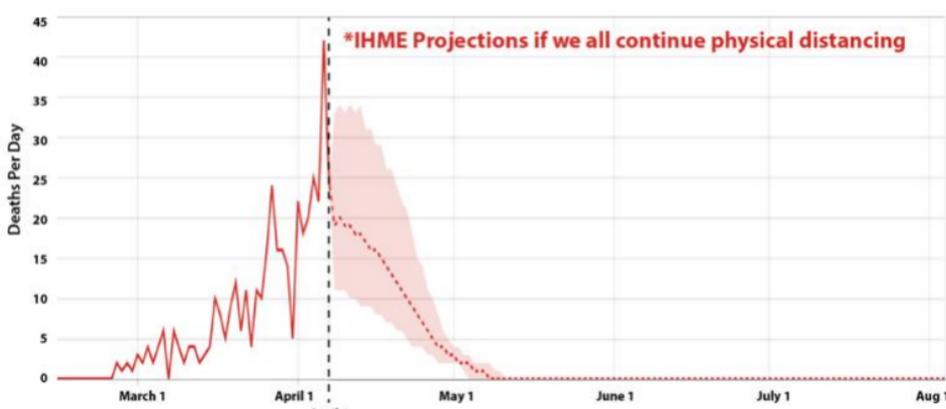
Renton police Sgt. John Awai featured in Times story

Renton Police's own—Sgt. John Awai—is featured in a [Seattle Times story](#) on how departments in King County are dealing with COVID-19. The article follows his 12-hour shift, examining how the sergeant and his colleagues are using social distancing to patrol Renton. Also included is how they're adjusting to the use of nitrile gloves, plastic safety-type glasses and N95 masks.

One of Sgt. Awai's comments in the story is representative of the dedication of the entire department. When he was asked if there was any hesitation in going into work during this crisis, he replied, "My first thought is to be there for my guys." We owe all our first responders a tremendous thank you for their dedication and selflessness. You and I can help them tremendously by going out only when necessary and when we go, practice social distancing and wear a mask.

Flattening the curve

COVID-19 Deaths Per Day in Washington



Data courtesy of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation – University of Washington.

Encouraging numbers came out over the weekend, showing that Gov. Inslee's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" executive order and adherence to social distancing has started to slightly flatten the curve on COVID-19 cases in Washington. Modeling provided by the University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) shows that by continuing to use social distancing, we may be close to the peak. That is indeed good news. But the governor added a warning: IHME modeling also shows that relaxing these guidelines over the next two weeks would bring the virus right back.

I know we're heading into a week of the best weather of the year, and it's only natural that you want go outside and enjoy it. If you do, I ask you, please do not congregate in groups of any size. We can stop the spread of COVID-19, but it has to start with every one of us doing our part and being smart.

Remember our parks and trails are open only for walking. The available parking lots, restrooms, playgrounds, sport courts, fields, and other active recreation areas within parks will remain closed until further notice. This includes the skate park. If you use our parks and trails, you are required to follow recommended social distancing, have no group gatherings and use proper hand washing procedures.

If you do see groups violating the governor's order, I ask that you report them by calling 425-235-2121, our police department's non-emergency number.

Washington joins Western State Pact

Gov. Inslee joined today with the governors of Oregon and California to form the [Western States Pact](#). The three states are pledging to work together on a shared approach for reopening our economies. Each state will build its own plan, but the plans will include three guiding principles: 1) Residents' health comes first; 2) Health outcomes and science—not politics—will guide decisions; and 3) The three states will only be effective by working together.

Northwest Harvest food distribution point at Sunset Community Church

Starting Tuesday, Sunset Community Church (1032 Edmonds Ave NE) will serve as a Northwest Harvest food distribution point in the Renton Highlands. It will be a drive-through event to minimize contact and will run from 3-6 p.m. or as long as supplies last.

Anticipating a special session

In anticipation of the governor calling a special legislative session to deal with the state budget, I have asked our administrators to huddle and revisit our legislative priorities. The administrators will develop a priorities list in response to the governor's recent veto list, the impact COVID-19 has had on the budget and some of our own shifts. Once the list is developed, we will discuss it with our local legislators.

Erasmus turns one



It was exactly one year ago today that [Erasmus, our rooftop dragon](#), was unveiled on top of the Old Western Hotel building. Erasmus (named for Erasmus Smithers, the founder of Renton) was the brainchild of Renton Municipal Arts Commission members Marsha Rollinger and Mitch Shepherd. They felt a dragon was appropriate for Renton since we're the home of Wizards of the Coast headquarters. Plus Erasmus' ability to fly would be representative of both the Boeing plant and Renton Municipal Airport. Happy birthday, Erasmus!

Renton's census response rate continues to rise

Our current [Census 2020](#) response rate is 55.8%, giving us the highest self-response rate among cities in South King County and two points ahead of the state's rate. We are showing steady progress, but our goal is 100 percent response and we need help specifically in the Renton Highlands, West Hill and Valley neighborhoods.

To help we're launching a census radio campaign with El Rey 1360 AM, La Zeta, and La Grande, the leading Hispanic stations in the state.

We're also inserting census flyers this week at drive-thru food banks and in Viet-Wah Market grocery bags.

Our incentive program features gift certificates from Viet-Wah Market, Santa Fe Mexican Grill and other Renton business to encourage those that haven't yet fill out their census. Finally, we're launching a [census art contest](#) for students on why the census is important to them.

This is your chance to be counted. The census is 10 questions that will take less than 10 minutes to complete but the results will be with us for the next 10 years. So, if you haven't completed the census, please do. If you have questions or concerns, Ginna Hernandez, the city's census manager can help. Cal her at 425-430-7728 or ghernandez@rentonwa.gov.

Update on impact of COVID-19

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](#).
- CDC guidelines for screening employees have 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"
- [March 30](#) – Mayor's letter of support to Renton businesses detailing available resources.
- [April 1](#) – City launches senior resources survey.

City Council

Councilmembers will be attending their meetings remotely. Due to security concerns, the video-conference identification number is not being shared publicly. City Hall is closed, so in-person comments will not be accepted; however, residents are encouraged to participate in variety of ways.

- Residents may submit comments in advance to cityclerk@rentonwa.gov.
- Residents may call 425-430-7171, enter code 0033665# to listen to the proceedings
- Residents may view the proceedings live on Renton's Channel 21
- Residents may view the proceedings streaming live at rentonwa.gov/streaming.
- [Next meetings](#) - Monday, April 13, at 7 p.m. Committee of the Whole will meet at 6 p.m. and receive a COVID-19 update. The Finance Committee will meet at 5:30 p.m.
- [April 6](#) - Committee of the Whole and regular council meeting video.

Donations/Volunteering

- Puget Sound Blood Bank is short on supplies. Find a [donation event](#).
- American Red Cross [Blood Drives](#).
- Those wishing to volunteer can register with [United Way](#).
- [King County Regional Donations Connector](#) is a virtual donation management center.
- Monetary contributions can be made via Seattle Foundation [COVID-19 Response Fund](#).
- Doug Baldwin has organized food deliveries through familyfirstrenton.org and can use volunteer help.
- Renton Regional Community Foundation has launched a [COVID-19 Response Fund](#).
- Communities In School Renton-Tukwila [COVID-19 Emergency Fund](#).

Economic Development

- CED has compiled list of resources for [businesses and employers](#).
- [Go Renton](#): Renton Chamber of Commerce.
- State resources: coronavirus.wa.gov.
- [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.
- [March 30](#) – Mayor's letter of support to Renton businesses detailing available resources.
- [April 5](#) - Boeing extends temporary suspension of Puget Sound production operations.
- [April 7](#) - Working Washington Small Business Emergency Grant to assist small businesses (1-10 employees including proprietor). The grant program will provide a limited number of businesses with emergency funds of up to \$10,000.
- [The Plate Fund](#) - One-time \$500 payment to restaurant workers in King County.
- Small Business Hotline – If you're a Renton small business owner who needs assistance, please contact the city's Economic Development staff

through the Small Business Hotline at (206) 503-1742 or by emailing thrive@rentonwa.gov.

- Facebook Discussion - It's more important than ever that we share resources and information in real time. [Join the discussion](#) and follow [@RentonBusiness](#) for more updates on resources and opportunities. This group is a networking platform for Renton's small business owners and is meant to be a safe space where business leaders can support each other and help the community thrive again.
- Renton Business Minute - Take a Renton Minute to get to know the small business community. We will post short interviews with local business owners and entrepreneurs on the [Visit Renton YouTube channel](#). Hear first-hand why they chose Renton! [Email us](#) to schedule your interview to be featured in the next Renton Minute.
- Local lenders eligible to issue loans under PPP - To find a Paycheck Protection Program lender, the SBA recommends contacting current bank or lender to see if they are offering PPP. New banks are coming on board every day. The [SBA](#) has lenders listed by zip code.

Facilities/Services

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

Food Banks/Resources

- City of Renton [Human Services Resources Guide](#)
- [Low-cost food resources](#) in Renton.
- [211.org](#): access point for homeless shelters, food and other related resources.
- 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](#).
- Sustainable Renton [Free Grocery Store](#) on Monday evenings.
- [South King County Food Fighters](#).
- Donations to [WA Food Fund](#) provide financial assistance to three organizations that supply every food bank in Washington: Second Harvest, Food Lifeline and Northwest Harvest. Donations will fund food, materials, and personal protective equipment, as well as delivery and distribution.
- [King County](#) - Emergency food access resources.
- [Sunset Community Church](#) (1032 Edmonds Ave NE) will serve as a food distribution point in the Renton Highlands for Northwest Harvest starting April 14. It will be drive-through/pick-up to minimize contact from 3-6 p.m. or as long as supplies last.

Housing

- [United Way of King County](#) - Rent help for King County residents.

Inspections - Building and Development Engineering

Community and Economic Development Department (CED) has been receiving questions from homeowners and contractors regarding how the city is interpreting the construction-related provisions of Gov. Inslee's Stay Home, Stay Healthy Proclamation and related guidance issued by the Governor's Office.

- CED has interpreted the Stay Home, Stay Healthy order to deem new residential and commercial construction as non-essential activities, except that construction of public projects (such as public affordable housing projects) and public components of private projects (such as utilities and streets intended for turnover to the city) are essential activities. Furthermore, CED has interpreted the Stay Home, Stay Healthy order to allow construction related to the order's list of essential activities including supply chain for goods, services, and healthcare.
- Under these interpretations, CED will continue its physical inspections associated with the following city-issued permits:
 - Building permits for occupied residential structures necessary to avoid damage or unsafe conditions;
 - Building permits for buildings that are a necessary component of the community's supply chain for goods, services, and healthcare;
 - Engineering permits for facilities intended to be made part of the city's public infrastructure. Such facilities include water, sanitary sewer, and stormwater utilities intended to be transferred to the city at completion and street improvements intended to be transferred to the city at completion.
- Although CED will not be performing physical onsite inspections for new unoccupied homes or other projects not falling into the above list, some inspections can be accomplished virtually. If you are interested in more information about virtual inspections, please contact the Building Division: 425-430-7200.
- These interpretations are valid as of March 30, 2020 under the governor's guidance in effect as of that date. Please note that these interpretations are subject to change as more information becomes available regarding the efforts to contain COVID-19 or if further guidance is issued by the governor's office.

Mental Health Resources/Health Care

Mental Health

- CDC: [Managing Anxiety and Stress during COVID-19](#)
- CDC: [Coping with a Disaster or Traumatic Event](#)
- SAMHSA: [Taking Care of Your Behavioral Health](#)
- King County: [Crisis Connections](#)
- Wash DoH: [Social Distancing and Mental Health](#)
- Seattle Times: [Community Support Resources](#)

Additionally, there are also several recommended things you can do to support yourself:

- Take breaks from watching, reading, or listening to news stories, including social media. Hearing about the pandemic repeatedly can be upsetting.
- Take care of your body. Take deep breaths and stretch, eat healthy meals, exercise regularly, get plenty of sleep, and avoid excessive alcohol and drugs.
- Make time to unwind. Try to do some other activities you enjoy.
- Connect with others. Talk with people you trust about your concerns and how you are feeling.

Health Care

- Valley Medical Center has a [COVID-19 page](#) with updates.
- [HealthPoint](#) in Renton.
- Public Health's [Community Health Access Program](#) for those without a doctor. Call 1-800-756-5437 or CHAP@kingcounty.gov for a free consultation and connection to free or low-cost medical providers and low-cost health insurance.

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.
- The Public Works Maintenance Services Division and Transportation Maintenance teams are working a reduced schedule of 10-hour days on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.
- The maintenance facility is closed on Wednesdays to allow for an additional thorough cleaning.
- To request service or report a problem call 425-430-7400 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays 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 issues via the [Renton Responds](#) app.
- May Spring Recycling Event will be rescheduled.
- June Stop 'n Swap event has been cancelled and will return in 2021.
- Continuity of operations measures initiated to isolate water treatment operators from other employees during work.

Recreation

Open

- All [parks](#). However, restrooms, playgrounds, sport courts, fields, and other active recreation areas within the parks, including the skate park, are closed until further notice.
- All [trails](#) except two sections of the [Cedar River Trail](#). King County has closed their sections of the trails.
- Boat launch at Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park.
- In both parks and trails, YOU ARE REQUIRED to follow recommended social distancing, NO GROUP GATHERINGS and proper hand washing.

Closed

- All restrooms, playgrounds, sport courts, fields, and other active recreation areas within city parks, including the skate park.
- All classes, events and activities until further notice.
- Registrations through May 4 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. ABSOLUTELY NO TRESPASSING.

Renton Municipal Airport

- Offices are closed to the public until further notice. Runway and support 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.
- Continuing all [non-essential hearings](#) until further notice.

Renton Police Department

- If you suspect a business is in violation of the governor's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order, the state has an [online reporting form](#). If report is about an individual or private group, use the police department's non-emergency number 425-235-2121.
- Department lobby and walk up window at city hall are 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.
- File a [police report](#) online.
- [March 27](#) - Message from Chief Ed VanValey: "our primary role is to help educate".
- [March 23](#) - Message from Chief Ed VanValey on governor's "Stay at Home Order".
- [March 20](#) - Message from Chief Ed VanValey.
- [March 13](#) - Chief Ed VanValey updates procedures.

Renton Regional Fire Authority

- [Procedures updated.](#)

Renton School District/Education

- Renton Schools are [closed](#) for the rest of the school year. Distance-learning in effect.
- [Services are being offered](#) during their closure.
- [Closure and classroom information](#) for students and families.
- [OSPI](#): Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.
- [April 8](#) - Governor provides additional guidance on school closures and impact on available services.
- Communities In School Renton-Tukwila [COVID-19 Emergency Fund](#).
- [Best Start for Kids](#): Tips for teaching your child with special learning needs.

Republic Services

- [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)
- Businesses with solid waste accounts and operating during "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" can call Republic Services at 206-777-6440 to request necessary service changes including increased/decreased container size or frequency of service. The city's mandatory garbage code requires at least the minimum level of service (20-gallon cart) and one collection per week.
- Businesses with solid waste accounts and temporarily closed as a result of COVID-19, can contact Republic Services at 206-777-6440 to request a temporary hold on their account. No service will be provided during the temporary hold and businesses MUST NOT place any garbage or recyclables in their containers during the hold period, as this could result in a public health problem. All COVID-19 holds will be reinstated to normal collection once "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order is lifted.
- Any service level change, including COVID-19 holds due to temporary closure of business, will be shown as adjustments on the solid waste bill.

Restaurants

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

Shelters

Men's Shelters & Day Centers

- **ARISE** [Catholic Community Services](#). Hosted by a different Renton church every month. Includes Case Management services.

- **Congregations for the Homeless**

- Space is provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Overnight services from 7:30 p.m.-7:30 a.m. Men allowed on-site at 7 p.m.
- 515B 116th Ave NE
Bellevue, WA 98004
(425) 289-4044

- **Day Center**

Resource referrals, showers, laundry, meals. Open Sunday – Thursday from 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

- 515B 116th Ave NE Suite 174
Bellevue, WA 98004

Women’s Shelters & Day Centers

- **Kent Hope**

Resource referrals, showers, laundry, meals, healthcare. Open every day 7 a.m.-8:30 p.m.

- 9009 Canyon Drive
Kent, WA 98030
(253) 480-2325

- **The Sophia Way**

Apply for extended stay shelter [online](#).

Resource referrals, showers, laundry, breakfast/lunch. Open every day 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

- 3032 Bellevue Way NE
Bellevue, WA 98004
(425) 896-7385

- **Women’s Referral Center**

Check in at Angeline’s Day Center between 6-9 p.m. then transported to host locations for overnight stay. The Center offers showers, laundry, and dinner.

- 2030 3rd Ave.
Seattle, WA 98101
(206) 441-3210

- **Hospitality House**

Opens at 6 p.m. every night.

- 1419 SW 150th St
Burien, Washington 98166
(206) 242-1860

Family Shelters & Day Centers

- **REACH**

All for shelter/day center intake.

- 316 S 3rd St, Renton, WA 98057
(425) 277-7594

- **Center of Hope Day Center**

Resource referrals, showers, laundry. Open Monday – Friday 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

- Renton City Hall
1055 S Grady Way
Renton, WA 98057
- Effective April 6: REACH Center of Hope is relocating to St. Matthews Lutheran Church, 1700 Edmonds Ave. NE. They will be there through the end of May.

- **Mary’s Place**

Call 206-245-1026 for shelter referrals.

Transportation

- [March 30](#) - Interactive tool for Metro riders whose routes experienced service cuts.
- [March 29](#) - If your Metro route was cut on March 23, are some alternative routes to consider.
- [March 21](#) – Sound Transit service change includes new route, temporary service reductions.
- [March 20](#) – Sound 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.

King County Response

- [March 31](#) – County Council approves \$2.2 million for emergency childcare for first responders and other essential workers during COVID-19 crisis.
- [March 30](#) - King County postpones payment deadline to June 1 for individual property taxpayers.
- [Don't flush trash](#) - Wipes, paper towels, and other "unflushables" can create a sewer backup in your home. Flush only toilet paper and protect your home, the sewer system, and the environment.
- [COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#) from Public Health-Seattle & King County.
- [March 24](#) - King County releases new health and safety guidelines to childcare providers.
- [COVID-19 Resources](#) from King County.
- [COVID-19 Resources](#) from Public Health Seattle & King County. Contains information in multiple languages.
- [King County press releases](#).

Public Health – Seattle & King County

- [COVID-19 resources](#). Information in multiple languages.
- [Public Health Insider](#): official insights from staff
- [COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#)
- [COVID-19 Fact Sheets](#) (translations)

State of Washington Response

- [April 13](#) – **Governor issues protection for high-risk workers.**
- [April 13](#) - **Washington, Oregon and California announce Western States Pact.**
- [April 13](#) – **Governor announces strategies for reducing the number of individuals incarcerated to address CoVID-19 in DOC system.**
- [April 8](#) - Governor's statement on Century Link field hospital redeployment.
- [April 8](#) – Governor provides additional guidance on school closures and impact on available services.
- [April 7](#) - Working Washington Small Business Emergency Grant program to assist small businesses (1-10 employees including proprietor). The grant program will provide a limited number of businesses with emergency funds of up to \$10,000.
- [April 3](#) - Guidance on cloth face coverings from Department of Health.
- [April 1](#) - The state is seeking to fill shortages of specific personal protective equipment (PPE) and infection-control products to support our medical system, first responders, public health and care facilities.
- [April 1](#) – Governor issues additional guidance on the “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” order related to essential businesses. It clarifies as “essential” nannies (who are deemed essential if they are in the home taking care of children of essential workers), automotive repair facilities and limited automotive sales and leasing activities, and renewable energies. The bulletin also includes guidance that recreational fishing and golf are NOT deemed essential.

- [March 31](#) – Governor and Washington State Department of Financial Institutions announce assistance for homeowners unable to make mortgage payments.
- [March 30](#) - Department of Licensing is temporarily closing all driver licensing lobbies on March 31.
- [March 30](#) – The state has set up an [online form](#) to report non-essential businesses that violate the governor’s Stay Home-Stay Health order.
- [March 27](#) - Governor welcomes Army doctors to field hospital in Seattle.
- [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 even though 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 can 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.
- Governor’s [press releases](#).

“Stay Home, Stay Healthy” Order

“Stay Home, Stay Healthy” is the governor’s executive order asking all state residents to stay indoors. Originally issued on March 23 for a two-week period, it was extended on April 2 through May 4.

If you suspect a business is in violation of the governor’s order, the state has an [online reporting form](#). If report is about an individual or private group, use the police department non-emergency number 425-235-2121.

The following are allowed under the order. Please keep appropriate social distancing of at least six feet.

- Grocery shopping
- Ordering restaurant takeout or to-go
- Medical appointments and pharmacy pickup
- Walking, running, biking and gardening
- Going to gas stations, food banks, banks and laundromats
- Going to work if your job is part of [essential businesses](#)
- Funerals only if at a funeral home or at cemetery gravesides. Only immediate family members of the deceased can attend and proper social distancing by staying is maintained.

What is not allowed:

- Attending weddings or religious services
- Attending or playing in sports games and practices
- Participating in any in-person leisure, hobby or social clubs
- Going to concerts, festivals, parades, theaters, museums, art galleries or fundraisers
- Working out at a gym or fitness center
- Going to barbers, nail salons or tattoo parlors

Federal Response

- [April 3](#) - CDC recommendation regarding the use of cloth face coverings, especially in areas of significant community-based transmission.
- [WHO](#) - When and how to use masks (World Health Organization)
- [March 27](#) - Congress passes CARES Act, a \$2.2 trillion federal stimulus package to aid coronavirus relief and economic stimulus.
- [March 22](#) – President approves major disaster declaration for Washington.
- [coronavirus.gov](#)

Important Links

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

Information for Businesses and Employees

For Businesses

- [Stay Home – Stay Healthy Guidance for essential business](#)
- [What do I do if an employee tests positive for COVID-19](#)
- [OSHA guidance for preparing workplaces for COVID-19](#)

For Employees

- [Employment Security Division: for workers affected by COVID-19](#)
- [ESD’s Paid Family and Medical Leave Program](#)
- [SharedWork Program](#)
- [Temporary layoffs, standby and furloughs](#)
- [Layoff Assistance](#)
- [United Way of King County: Where to get help](#)

Financial Resources

- [U.S/ Small Business Administration Disaster Loan Assistance](#)
- [Keep Workers Safe and Healthy Fund \(Seattle Metro Chamber\)](#)
- [Washington State Department of Revenue: Business Relief During COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [IRS: Coronavirus Tax Relief](#)
- [Facebook Small Business Grants Program](#)
- [Association of Washington Businesses](#)
- [Business Washington COVID-19 Business Resources](#)
- [Restore Your Economy.org: COVID-19 Resources for Economic Development](#)