



COVID-19 Daily Update

from Mayor Armondo Pavone



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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

City to waive late fees and penalties for utility bills; no service interruptions for 90 days

Yesterday I was joined by some of my fellow mayors to urge our residents [to follow the best practices](#) to prevent the spread of the virus. I am pleased to share that more than a dozen elected officials have now joined forces to do the same.

My thanks to those Renton residents who have diligently followed the medical community's recommendations for social distancing. It's only by adhering to these guidelines that we can stop the spread of COVID-19.

During this difficult time we also understand the concerns many businesses and residents may have about paying their utility bills. To help, the city will waive any late fees and penalties and will not shut off water service for a period of 90 days. We are committed to do everything in our power to help ease our utility customers' financial stress. We encourage residents to contact the city's utility billing division at 425-430-6852 or ub@rentonwa.gov to have questions answered and work out a payment plan.

Gov. Jay Inslee earlier today 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 Wednesday 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 can still conduct business via to-go orders.

Shortly after the governor's address, I [gave the City Council an update](#) on the steps we have taken thus far to keep our community safe and our future plans as we go forward to minimize the impact of the virus. Our actions have been unprecedented. We have worked together with elected leadership at all levels, city staff and with the advice of our public health experts. Throughout, my primary focus has been on ensuring the safety of our residents, employees, and helping provide resources to our business community.

With most of our focus on COVID-19, please do not forget to complete your [2020 Census](#) form. A complete count of all residents is vital for Renton. Currently we're at 22.5% response rate which is trailing our neighboring 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

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 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 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 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 Office of Emergency Management will come online Friday with a virtual donations 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](#).

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.
- Recycling, organics and garbage services are operating normally. To protect the drivers, please bag all facial tissues and cleaning items (gloves, wipes, paper towels). To prevent sewage backups, only flush toilet paper in the toilet, not cleaning wipes or personal wipes.

Recreation

Open

- All [parks](#). **Note the 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 are closed.
- All classes, event and activities at least through April 24.
- Registrations through April 26 will be cancelled.
- Refunds processing for March cancellations; April to follow.
- River Rock Grill until further notice.

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

- Continuing all [non-essential hearings](#) until a later date.
- [Hearing cases](#) on the jail calendar.
- Instructions posted at City Hall explaining access to in-custody court hearings.

Renton Police Department

- [March 13](#) – Chief Ed VanValey updates procedures.
- Department lobby at city hall is closed. Exterior walk-up window is open.
- 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.

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](#)
- **Add your restaurant to the list.**
- **Gift cards are also appreciated**

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

- 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

State

- [March 19](#) – **Governor orders 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.**

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](#)