



Armondo Pavone, Mayor

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# This Week from the Mayor



The Renton Community Center will close for two weeks after a family reported being exposed to the coronavirus.

## Coronavirus has impacted all of us

I UNDERSTAND THAT EACH OF YOU, LIKE MY FAMILY, is concerned with the pandemic we are facing. What I want each of you to know is that your city is taking aggressive and appropriate action to protect our community. What we do know is that the most vulnerable populations, according to research and [Public Health – Seattle & King County](#) (PHSKC) are adults 60 years and older. Others, especially children, seem far less susceptible to this illness.

Yesterday, I issued a proclamation of local emergency for the city due to the public health impacts of the COVID-19. The proclamation supports measures to be taken to protect public health, safety and welfare within the city. Because 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.

### COMMUNITY CENTER CLOSED; CITY MEETINGS CANCELLED

In light of this situation, we will be closing many of our [community centers](#) and the [Renton History Museum](#) for the next few weeks as we continue to assess the most appropriate response. The [Renton Senior Activity Center](#) is closed and the essential drop-in lunch program will now feature sack lunches. They will be available for drive through pick-up only Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. While we do not take lightly the frustration and inconvenience this causes, we are convinced this is the best option.

[Public Health - Seattle & King County](#) also strongly recommends that gatherings be limited to fewer than 10 people. You can imagine how this affects the operation of a city the size of Renton. In support of this, the fate of the March 16 [city council](#) meeting will be decided next week (the March 9 council meeting was cancelled because of council schedules). We are reaching out to civic organizations, individuals and businesses who have upcoming events and asking that they follow our lead.



### CONDUCT CITY BUSINESS ONLINE

For those of you who need to conduct business with us, city hall remains open, but I ask that if at all possible you handle that work online or via telephone. [Permits](#), [business licenses](#) (new or renew) and [fee payments](#) can all be conducted via our website.

The city leadership team has received several briefings this week from health and emergency management professionals to keep us current on the latest developments. We currently have City of Renton [Emergency Management](#) staff embedded in King County's Emergency Operations Center to allow us the most up-to-date information on which to base our decisions. We are also working closely with our community stakeholders and coordinating our communications and strategies.

### SITUATION IS FAST-MOVING

The containment of coronavirus 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 & King County](#) and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#). We've established a [coronavirus](#) page on our website that mirrors a lot of their information and also has status updates on city facilities and events. I'd like to commend our staff for their quick reactions and creative solutions when issues arise and for their willingness to roll up their sleeves and work the situation.

In the days to come we will continue to use the recommendations from county and state health officials to guide our decision-making process. When new information is available we will share with you via all our resources.

Be assured that we are totally committed to protecting our residents in every way possible. The financial impact to our state is already exceptional, in the coming days it will be important for us to not allow uncertainty and undue fear keep us from supporting our local businesses.

## 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](#)