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 and other 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 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 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 for 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 by teleconference. Council is not scheduled to meet on March 30. All committee meetings in March are cancelled.

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. If you need sack lunches, city staff will be out front to hand out sack lunches.

We have increased the frequency for disinfecting common spaces, counters and door handles. Food service staff are cleaning front to back three times a day.

The Renton Senior Activity Center will be closed to the public after March 13.

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 also 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.

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 rentonwa.gov/21.

COVID-19 RENTON BUSINESS RESOURCES

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COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION

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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.

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