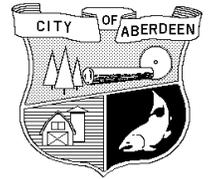


March 24, 2020



Novel Coronavirus and COVID – 19 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

****Updated Information is available through a link on the City’s website:**

<https://aberdeenwa.gov/>

1. What is COVID-19?
 - a. COVID-19 is a respiratory viral disease caused by the novel coronavirus; it has spread to all fifty states in the United States. Washington State has been particularly hard hit with nearly 2,200 confirmed cases resulting in 110 deaths statewide.

2. How many cases of COVID-19 are in our community?
 - a. There has been one confirmed case of COVID-19 in Grays Harbor County, and no deaths.
 - b. Washington State has a website dedicated to providing technical and health-related information about COVID-19 that is updated regularly. The website is: <https://www.coronavirus.wa.gov/>

3. What can I do to protect myself and my community?
 - a. Follow public health advisories to practice social distancing, respiratory etiquette, and frequent handwashing.
 - b. Be compassionate as people are reacting to this situation differently, and may need extra patience.
 - c. Obtain best available information and updates from CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> or Washington Department of Health: <https://www.coronavirus.wa.gov/> or Grays Harbor Public Health: <http://www.healthygh.org/covid19>

4. Where does the City get its information to respond to COVID-19?
 - a. As a municipal government agency, the City is following all recommendations and orders from the Governor’s Office; and all recommendations from the CDC, State, and Local Public Health Agencies.
 - i. The City is also relying on the Grays Harbor County Public Health and Social Services department to provide timely updates and advice. Their website regarding coronavirus is regularly updated and is: <http://www.healthygh.org/covid19>
 - b. The City is actively participating on the Grays Harbor County Public Health Incident Management Team, which is organized under the Grays Harbor County Emergency Management Plan. In this way, we are able to coordinate with other communities to ensure a unified response to this public health situation.

5. What is the City doing to protect public health during COVID-19?
 - a. In response to advice from federal, state, and local public health agencies, the City is following social distancing protocols. This means that for the immediate future:
 - i. The Aberdeen City Council Meetings on March 25th and April 8th cancelled due to the Governor’s Order
 - ii. Public Meetings have been cancelled or postponed, including the Historic Preservation Meeting on March 26th and the Museum Board Meeting on April 7th.
 - iii. Adult sports leagues have been cancelled,
 - iv. Youth sports leagues have been cancelled,

- v. Events have been cancelled, and
- vi. Events at the Rotary Log Pavilion have been cancelled or postponed.

6. What is the City doing to protect City employees during COVID-19?

- a. Following public health advice, each Department is implementing policies and procedures to protect the health of both staff and the public, while still providing necessary services.
- b. This includes alternative work schedules and remote work options to maintain social distancing, while still providing services to the public.
- c. City staff are following procedures for social distancing, limited face-to-face interactions, and frequent hand washing and disinfecting.
- d. City Hall has been closed to the public effective Thursday, March 26, 2020.
- e. City staff are provided certain levels of personal protective equipment (“PPE”) based on the type of work they do. For example, our first responders working in the Police Department and Fire Department have the highest level of PPE available for their staff.
- f. The health and safety of our employees is of the utmost importance, and every effort is being made to ensure necessary PPE is available.

7. What is the City doing for individuals staying at the Temporary Alternative Shelter Location and other unsheltered or homeless people in Aberdeen?

- a. The City is in discussions with Grays Harbor County Public Health and Social Services (“PHSS”) department regarding a state grant they received to address COVID-19 related impacts to that vulnerable population.
 - i. One outcome of those discussions is that a hot water hand-washing station is being obtained to place at the TASL. The City is working diligently to get the hand-washing station placed at the TASL.
- b. PHSS provided general guidance from the CDC and State Department of Health, which the City has posted and handed out to each person registered at the TASL.
- c. The City has provided hand sanitizers at the TASL, and is encouraging social distancing.
- d. To implement additional social distancing protocols, the City has closed the TASL to visitors through the April 27 date in consideration of the timing of Governor Inslee’s closure of all schools.
- e. The City continues to consult with PHSS regarding public health protocols.

8. What City owned buildings are still open to the public?

- a. The Aberdeen Police Department lobby is the only City owned building open to the public.
- b. Finance Department telephone number is 360.533.4100, extension 0
- c. You can reach staff in all other departments by phone or email. Contact information is available on the City’s website at www.aberdeenwa.gov

9. What are things that “I can” and “Cannot” do according to the Governor’s orders and the Mayor’s Proclamation?

- a. You can find the Governor’s *Stay Home Order* at www.governor.wa.gov or <https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/proclamations/20-25%20Coronavirus%20Stay%20Safe-Stay%20Healthy%20%28tmp%29%20%28002%29.pdf>
- b. You can find the Mayor’s Proclamation at www.aberdeenwa.gov , click on the COVID – 19 button in upper left hand corner.
- c. To clarify “essential” status, or to petition to be added to the governor’s list, please email: business@mil.wa.gov.

10. Will there be an extension on my B&O Tax Payment and/or my Utility Payment if I am unable to pay?
- a. The City of Aberdeen is extending the filing and payment deadline for first quarter (January 1, 2020 through March 31) B&O taxes until July 15, 2020
 - b. The City will not be assessing any late fees or shutting off utilities, unless request, though Friday April 17, 2020.
11. Will this have an effect on the Court System?
- a. In accordance with public health advisories from local state and federal agencies, and pursuant to Washington State Supreme Court order No.25700-B-602, the Aberdeen Municipal Court issued an Emergency Administrative Order limiting activities of the Court. These limitations include closing the front lobby and office to public access, and scheduling all out-of-custody criminal and civil hearing after April 24, 2020.
 - b. Hearings for in-custody defendants are held electronically, with defendants having access to legal advice according to their Constitutional rights.
 - c. The court administrative support areas (front lobby and offices) remain staffed to serve the public via telephone, email and regular mail.
 - d. To pay fees or fines, and for more information, please see the Aberdeen Municipal Court website: <https://aberdeenwa.gov/236/Municipal-Court>

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