



March 12, 2020

Greetings neighbors,

I would like to take a moment to address the community on the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). On March 4, 2020, the County of Los Angeles declared a public health emergency in response to the new novel coronavirus activity (COVID-19).

I know many of you have questions on the possible spread of the virus within our community. While we have not received word of any confirmed cases in our City, I want to assure you that staff is monitoring the situation closely. All cities in our region are following the lead and direction of Los Angeles County and its Department of Public Health (Public Health) and is preparing to be at-the-ready for local action if the County or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend it.

Authorities are reporting the **risk of the disease spreading in Los Angeles County remains low**. However, I want to assure our residents that staff is actively engaged in preparing and taking necessary measures to provide a safe environment for employees and community members should the risk of infection to the general public increase.

We have been following CDC guidelines closely to evaluate our current policies and procedures to allow for continuity of services, including refining our business plan, determining essential functions and key staff members, and preparing to change our business practices (if needed) in an effort to maintain critical operations.

In the meantime, I ask that you follow the recommended guidelines provided by Public Health to protect yourselves and to prevent the spread of all respiratory illnesses:

- **Stay home when you are sick and notify your supervisor.**
- **Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds** (preferred method), especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. You may also clean your hands often with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 65% alcohol, if soap and water is not available.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.** Limit close contact, like hugging and sharing cups or utensils.
- **Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces** using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.



- **Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.** If you do not have a tissue, use your sleeve (not your hands).
- **Facemasks are not recommended for people who are healthy.** They should be used appropriately by Health care workers and people who are sick. Stockpiling masks will take away important resources from health care professionals.
- Get a flu immunization if you have not done so this season.

For up-to-date and accurate information, please visit these websites:

California Department of Public Health (CDPH, State)

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/nCOV2019.aspx>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC, National)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH, County)

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/>


World Health Organization (WHO, International)

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

Staff is following developments with Public Health and CDC to stay abreast of the latest information regarding the Coronavirus. We will continue to share such information with our residents as we receive further updates. We encourage you to visit our website [www.irwindaleca.gov](http://www.irwindaleca.gov), follow us on social media, and sign up for Civic Ready <https://ca-irwindale2.civicplus.com/418/CivicReady-Notifications>, our citywide mass notification alerts system to receive the latest information pertaining to Coronavirus.

On behalf of your entire city council, please know your City government is working diligently to be prepared and keep our community safe.

Sincerely,



Albert F. Ambriz  
Mayor

Attachments