

# City Council COVID-19 Update

**3/24/20**

On Wednesday, February 26, 2020, Orange County proclaimed a local emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In accordance with the State and County's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Garden Grove has undertaken immediate health and safety measures aimed at reducing the spread and risks associated with the virus. The City has been closely monitoring State and County directives and guidelines to protect public health and slow the spread of COVID-19 in Garden Grove.

As of this afternoon, the Orange County Health Care Agency is reporting 152 positive cases of COVID-19 in the County, with one total death reported (OC resident, 70-year old male, underlying health conditions). Their website, is: [ochealthinfo.com](http://ochealthinfo.com), where all of the latest news, FAQs, Infographics, and Guidance can be found regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

From the city of Garden Grove's standpoint, it should be emphasized that the city is open, functioning, and delivering critical services, albeit under restricted conditions.

--GGPD , OCFA, and Paramedics/EMTs are fully staffed for first response

--Public Works is on-the-job and maintaining important infrastructure throughout the community

--Community Services continues to provide meals to Seniors and children

--The City also has a robust website: [ggcity.org](http://ggcity.org) that this constantly being updated to help provide COVID-19 information to the community.

With this goal in mind, I want to share some chronological information on the activities that the City of Garden Grove has undertaken since the Orange County local emergency proclamation was issued:

## **March 16, 2020**

- Activated EOC at 8:30am in response to Countywide EOC activation
  - o In effect Monday through Friday, 7:30AM to 5:30PM
  - o Police Chief Tom DaRe designated as EOC Director
  - o City Manager Scott Stiles designated as Deputy EOC Director
  - o GGPD is on heightened alert to public safety issues
  
- Established a modified City Hall lobby and public counter to implement social distancing
  
- Closed the Public Works Municipal Service Center, on 13802 Newhope, to the public, and shifted service and business to online, by telephone, email or mail
  
- Modified the Housing Authority office, shifting service and business to online, by telephone, email or mail

- Established emergency childcare services for City Staff at Garden Grove Community Meeting Center
- Closed the following City facilities to the public:
  - o H. Louis Lake Senior Center
    - City will continue to provide seniors with take-home meals on a first-come, first served basis
    - City will continue to run its Meals on Wheels program
  - o Atlantis Play Center
  - o Garden Grove Sports and Recreation Center
  - o Garden Grove Community Meeting Center
  - o Garden Grove Courtyard Center
  - o Buena Clinton Youth and Family Center
    - Kids lunch program continuing with Second Harvest
  - o Magnolia Park Family Resource Center
  - o OCFA Fire Stations
    - Residents will continue to have access to sandbags @ stations 82, 83, and 84
  - o Additional facilities closed: Gem Theatre and the Amphitheater
- Cancelled the following classes and programs:
  - o Tiny Tots
- Cancelled/postponed the following City-sponsored events:
  - o March 21 – Compost Giveaway
  - o April 11 – Eggscavation
  - o April 18 – Magnolia Park FRC 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
  - o May 21 – Call to Duty Police Memorial
  - o May 26 – Garden Grove College Graduates’ Reception
  - o May 22-25 – Strawberry Stomp and Strawberry Festival, also cancelled by SF Board
- Local emergency declared by City Manager on March 16, 2020 to take effect at 12:01am on March 17, 2020

**March 17, 2020**

- A Social distancing directive was issued by the Orange County Local Health Officer strongly recommending residents to avoid all public and private gatherings until 11:59PM on March 31, 2020.
- At that time, the City temporarily suspended street sweeping citations and water utility shut-offs

**March 18, 2020**

- The City Hall public counter was closed to the public for walk-in service, in response to the directive from the Local Health Officer, shifting service and business online, by telephone, email or mail
- Again, the community can visit the [ggcity.org](http://ggcity.org) coronavirus link to access all the information and telephone numbers necessary to conduct business
- We directed staff to conduct all meetings remotely via conference call
- Directed Department Directors to begin drafting telecommuting plans in order to reduce the number of staff reporting to City Hall

**March 19, 2020**

- Statewide “shelter in place” executive order issued by the California Governor Newsom
- Prepared and approved temporary telecommuting guidelines to further reduce staffing at City Hall
- Issued a temporary suspension on the hours of operation and deliveries to businesses and establishments engaged in essential activities (e.g., this gives resuppliers/truckers/delivery vehicles, more flexibility to get goods delivered to our grocers, large retailers, and to other essential businesses)
- Established a link on the City’s webpage promoting local restaurants that are open for “carry-out” orders
- Partnering with Anaheim, Laguna Beach, Buena Park, Anaheim Chamber of Commerce, Visit Anaheim, and other cities to address tourism and entertainment recovery

**March 20, 2020**

- Closed park amenities including playground equipment, outdoor fitness equipment, basketball and tennis courts, and restrooms
- The community is encouraged to enjoy greenspace recreation, while maintaining social distancing

**March 21, 2020**

- Drafted and established COVID-19 employee exposure procedures

- Increased further activation of telecommuting options; to date, more than 100 city employees are now working in telecommuting assignments

### **March 23, 2020**

- Temporarily closed Willowick Golf Course for turf maintenance with the potential to reopen at a later date depending on social distancing practices
- Clarified questions as to whether Martial Law is in effect in Garden Grove. The answer is NO, GGPD will be “educating” the community about the “stay-at-home” order, rather than “enforcing” whenever possible
- We are continuing to emphasize that panic buying/stockpiling is not necessary. The food supply chain is strong
- Starting to see reductions in shopping lines (that helps our officers and frees them up for police visibility)
- We are actively awaiting guidance on the federal and State small business assistance recovery plans that will be offered, so we can get information shared throughout our community
  - o \$75k in our CDBG-SBA loan program
  - o \$100k in the next fiscal year budget
  - o GG Relief and Resiliency Program on April 1
- Finally, we have built informational links on our website, from the State of California, and other sources that will offer guidance on applications for unemployment, disability benefits, and paid family leave

In short, the City continues taking aggressive and proactive steps to address the COVID-19 pandemic. The health and safety of our Garden Grove community is our top priority.