



CITY OF  
*Palos Verdes Estates*

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**PRESS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**City Takes Actions to Address Coronavirus Pandemic**

Palos Verdes Estates, CA (March 17, 2020) – As the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic continues to evolve, the Acting City Manager, as Director of Emergency Services, took actions to protect the health and safety of the public. These actions included:

- [Proclaiming the existence of a local emergency](#) regarding COVID-19;
- Closing the Police Department lobby while asking for those with Police Department business to call first until further notice; the Police Department will continue to respond to calls for service and have incorporated response protocols to safeguard employees and the public to reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19.
- Closing City Hall while requiring those with City Hall business to perform business by telephone, email or online only until further notice;
- Only allowing on-line submissions for plan checks or other submittals and issuance of permits;
- Exploring how public participation during City Council and Planning Commission meetings can be accommodated via email in advance of the meetings or via telephone during the meetings;
- Closing the Palos Verdes Estates Golf Club, Beach and Athletic Club and Tennis Club to the public through March 31st; and canceling special and group events at Palos Verdes Stables through March 31st;
- Prohibiting organized activities at City fields through March 31<sup>st</sup>; and
- Activating the Emergency Operations Center at Level 3 - lowest activation level in order to maintain continuous communication with government agencies, the City Council, and the community; and continuing to monitor information as it becomes available.

“The public’s and staff’s health and welfare are our number one priority. As the Coronavirus pandemic evolves, the City must take the necessary actions to protect the public and at the same time provide necessary City services. We are facing an unprecedented situation; however, not all business activity can or should come to a complete stop. The City is working to develop means to continue to conduct business safely utilizing technology where possible and within the guidelines being disseminated by health authorities and governmental authorities,” said Mayor David McGowan.

A declaration of a local emergency will assist in a coordinated public health response to reduce transmission and illness severity, provide assistance to health care providers, coordinate and mitigate public services that may be disrupted from this emergency, mitigate any other effects of this emergency on the citizens of the City, and enhance the City’s ability to access federal and state funding for COVID-19 responses.

Local emergencies can be declared by the City Manager, with ratification by the City Council within seven days. The local emergency is now in effect and ratification of the existence of the local emergency will be considered by the City Council at its meeting on March 24, 2020.

Given the California Department of Public Health's advisement that gatherings should allow for social distancing of six feet per person coupled with recommended actions for preventing the spread of COVID-19 at mass gatherings and large community events, the City is instituting alternate methods to allow for public participation. These methods will include dial-in and email options for public comments. Information to participate will be included in the meeting agendas.

The City of Palos Verdes Estates is supporting trusted resources such as the Center for Disease Control and LA County Department of Public Health who are monitoring and leading response efforts by helping to share information and resources available to the public regarding COVID-19. We are closely monitoring updates and information provided by these sources and will continue to provide updates to the community.

As a reminder, Public Health continues to recommend that the public do the following to protect themselves and others from respiratory illnesses:

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unclean hands.
- Limit close contact, like kissing and sharing cups or utensils, with people who are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and 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).
- Face masks are most effective when used appropriately by health care workers and those directly caring for people who are sick and by people who are sick (source control).
- Get a flu immunization to prevent influenza if you have not done so this season.

If you have questions and would like to speak to someone, or need help finding medical care, call the Los Angeles County Information Line 2-1-1, available 24/7.

Always check with trusted sources for the latest accurate information about COVID-19.

**Los Angeles County Department of Public Health**

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

**California Department of Public Health**

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

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**

<http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/novel-coronavirus-2019.html>