

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



**REVISED UPDATE from the City Manager for  
Monday, March 16, 2020**

Thank you for your ongoing patience, support and concern for your fellow citizens.

The consistent message from all health professionals responding to the Coronavirus is that social distancing - staying six feet apart - is the best way to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Therefore, with the utmost sense of caution, and trust that the public, with guidance, will do the appropriate thing, the City Health Officer with the City Manager's support is directing that the following policies be put in place:

In accordance with the order from [NH Gov. Chris Sununu who called on New Hampshire restaurants and bars to shift operations to take-out, delivery or drive-through services only](#) in an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19: Portsmouth bars and restaurants will offer no on-premises services of food or beverages, including alcohol.

**Starting at the end of business on Monday, March 16 and effective for the next two weeks (through March 31, 2020) or until otherwise directed:**

**All municipal buildings and facilities are closed to the public.**

- **City Hall is closed to the public.** A skeleton staff will be in place to answer the phone and perform City business. Residents are asked to use the City's [online services](#) to process their water bills, parking tickets, taxes, fees, fines, permits, etc.
- **Recreation Department** buildings, playgrounds, ball fields, basketball courts and dog parks are all closed.
- **Senior transportation and Meals on Wheels** are operating as usual.

**Following the March 16, 2020 City Council meeting, City Board, Commission and Committee meetings are POSTPONED.**

**Portsmouth Public Schools and the Portsmouth Public Library are CLOSED as of Monday, March 16, 2020 and until further notice.**

- Schools are providing guidance to students for on-line learning.
- All school field trips are cancelled.
- The Public Library offers many resources [online](#).

**NOTE FROM DPW: Dispose of disinfectant wipes in a separate trash bag.**

**Do NOT flush in the toilet (not even those marked "flushable.")**

Also use [Click 'n Fix](#) as needed so service requests can be logged and addressed.

### **Health Department Guidance for Returned Travelers and others who believe they may have been exposed:**

If you have returned from a country with a level 3 travel advisory for COVID-19 (China, Iran and most countries in Europe), follow these guidelines for self-quarantine for 14 days from your last potential exposure:

1. Take your temperature with a thermometer in the morning and at night, and watch for cough or difficulty breathing.
2. Stay home from school and work.
3. Employees: Discuss your work situation with your employer before returning to work.
4. Do not take public transportation, taxis, or ride-shares.
5. Do not have any visitors to your house during this time. If you have home health care or other necessary in-home services, tell them that you are under COVID-19 self-quarantine.
6. Keep your distance from others (about 6 feet).
7. If you get sick with fever, cough, shortness of breath, or other signs of respiratory illness, call your primary care physician.
8. If you need to seek medical care for other reasons, such as dialysis, call ahead to your doctor and tell them about your recent travel.

If you have a medical emergency, call 911. Tell them your symptoms and that you are being monitored for COVID-19.

**For more information, visit the [Health Department page on COVID-19](#).**