



MAYOR'S OFFICE



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March 20, 2020

To the Citizens & Visitors of Westbrook,

Today our Coronavirus Task Force met to discuss the City's plans on moving forward and handling issues that arise due to the coronavirus (COVID-19). As we now know, there are currently 56 confirmed cases in Maine, most of which are from Cumberland County, and now have 2 cases of a City residents being appropriately treated. We still await CDC investigations for further details to become public. We remain in close communication with federal, state and regional officials on developments related to this situation and would like to provide additional updates on the City's response to protect the public health and safety for this current State of Emergency.

Ensuring the safety of our employees and the general public, while also continuing to provide the critical services necessary to run the City, is of paramount importance to us. **In order to minimize the rise of exposure to employees, volunteers and the general public, I have done the following:**

- **Previously declared a State of Emergency in the City of Westbrook on March 15th and renewed by the City Council during an emergency meeting on March 19th. All previous actions were reported to them on that date and will be reported on a weekly basis. This information can be reviewed on the City's website: www.westbrookmaine.com/639/Coronavirus**
- **Established Remote Access Public Meetings and Adoption of City Council Rules of Procedure. More details to follow for future meetings.**
- **Ordered for the immediate closure of the following City & School facilities: Playgrounds and play structures, athletic courts, athletic fields, Skate Park and outside gathering structures. These closures are made in the interest of public health and safety to slow community spread. The City encourages the use of open green spaces and public trail systems, with the use of social distancing. We strongly encourage compliance with Governor Janet Mill's ban on social gatherings of 10 or more people. We are blessed in our community to have trail systems in the City, please visit the Presumpscot Regional Land Trust's website: www.prlt.org**
- **Follow Governor Mills' closure of all dine-in facilities and encourage take-out, delivery, and drive-thru service. We encourage all businesses offering takeout to implement social distancing practices by limiting the amount of customers inside of establishments and encourage other customers to wait outside.**
- **Launching Westbrook's Takeout & Delivery Support Effort & Contest to support our local businesses. More details will be available on our website and social media.**
- **Encourage other remaining business to explore telecommuting and where not possible, follow all CDC guidelines to keep employees and visitors safe.**
- **Superintendent Dr. Lancia also announced the Westbrook School Department is closed until April 27th, 2020 and they also have details on their website regarding their response.**
- **The Greater Portland Transit District (METRO) is offering FREE rides and announced all Mon-Fri service will now operate on a Sat schedule effective today.**

Police, Fire & Rescue and Public Services continue to remain fully operational. Given these closures, we strongly encourage the use of telephone, email and online services wherever possible for conducting business with the City. We thank those employees who continue to serve during this crisis.

During this time period, we will monitor this public health situation and modify all directives as appropriate. Under the continued advisement, we are seeking to minimize our public contact in order to reduce the spread of this highly contagious virus. Please continue to practice "social distancing" to protect themselves and others.

Remember these preventative actions are being taken out of an abundance of caution and concern for everyone and not panic. We apologize for any inconveniences you may experience as a result of these measures.

We continue to recognize that the spread of this virus is a fluid and rapidly evolving situation that requires close monitoring and the need to adapt quickly. We will continue to monitor and respond accordingly and provide additional updates to everyone should recommendations change. We encourage everyone to check in with their neighbors and help each other out if/when possible. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with all affected by this crisis. Our community is strong and we will come out stronger.

For more information on the City's response and the status of the pandemic, please visit www.westbrookmaine.com/639/Coronavirus with links to the CDC and Westbrook School Department.

Thank you and stay safe.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael T. Foley".

Mayor Michael T. Foley