



## MAYOR'S OFFICE



**Mayor Michael T. Foley**

2 York Street

Westbrook, Maine 04092

Phone: 207-591-8110

Fax: 877-688-9553

March 24, 2020

To the Citizens & Visitors of Westbrook,

Today, Governor Mills provided some new orders and recommendations that our staff is meeting regularly to discuss the City's plans and handling issues that arise due to the coronavirus (COVID-19). As we now know, there are currently 118 confirmed cases in Maine, most of which are from Cumberland County, and we now have 4 cases of City residents being appropriately treated. 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](http://www.westbrookmaine.com/639/Coronavirus)**
- **Suspended towing and ticketing of vehicles as part of our snow emergency ordinances.**
- **Enacted a Human Resources Policy and Procedure Families First Coronavirus Response Act**
- **Waive all fees and interest on late sewer payments in conjunction with the Portland Water District.**
- **Follow Governor Mills' Executive Order as of March 24th as follows:**
  - **All non-essential businesses and operations close their physical locations that are public facing, meaning those that allow customer, vendor or other in-person contact. The Order also closes non-essential business sites that require more than ten workers to convene in a space where physical distancing is not possible. Non-essential businesses and operations may continue activities that do not involve these types of in-person contact and convening, and should facilitate the maximum number of employees working remotely. The Order is effective tomorrow, March 25th at 12:01 a.m. and extends for a period of 14 days through April 8th at 12:00 a.m. From a City perspective, we have already been making changes to support these orders while also keeping essential functions of our government working.**
- **We previously launched, Westbrook's Takeout & Delivery Support Effort & Contest to support our local businesses with details available on our website and social media. We encourage businesses to better protect both customers and employees.**
- **Superintendent Dr. Lancia also previously announced the Westbrook School Department is closed until April 27th and they also have details on their website regarding their response.**

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

We understand other communities have issued more restrictive orders though our Coronavirus Task Force does not feel those are necessary at this time and will rely upon the current orders of the Governor. We will continue monitoring this public health situation and modify all directives as appropriate. Under the continued

advisement, we should minimize our public contact in order to reduce the spread of this highly contagious virus. Please continue to practice the recommended “physical distancing” to protect us all.

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 continue to monitor and respond accordingly as well as 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](http://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 "M. Foley", is positioned above the printed name of the Mayor.

Mayor Michael T. Foley