



Here We Grow

City of Fremont Update

Date: March 20, 2020

To: City Employees/ City Boards/ Mayor & City Council

COVID-19

Although there is a lot of local information to report about the COVID-19 pandemic, I want to report on three things, First I want to thank our employees for showing up to work in these difficult times. Many of you have children at home alone because schools have closed or daycares are limiting the number of children at the center. Others, like me, are worried about elderly parents and grandparents that are at risk from being exposed and possibly dying from the virus. Whatever your worry may be, thank you for being here and making a difference in Fremont. We appreciate your efforts.

Second, I want to assure everyone that we are taking all of the necessary precautions possible to make sure the electric power stays on, the water remains safe to drink, the wastewater treatment plant continues to process sewage, and that natural gas remains flowing to homes and businesses in Fremont. Here are some of the things we have done to ensure that utility services will remain available:

- 1) Postponed the outage on Unit #8 at the Lon D. Wright Power Plant. Initially Unit #8 was taken offline on February 28, for what was a planned 7-week outage to inspect the generator and turbine valves, and to conduct a boiler life-study. However, given the severity of the COVID-19 pandemic, the outage was postponed until this fall. Several contractors had started some of the work, which got finished, but most of the work was able to be postponed. Crews are now putting the unit back together so it will be available for the summer heatwave.
- 2) Suspended all non-essential business travel and instituted quarantine measures for employees returning from out of state travel. Employees have been directed to utilize video conferences in lieu of traveling for meetings.
- 3) Stepped up cleaning measures to protect employees and the public from risk of exposure.
- 4) Asked employees, who have direct customer contact, to take social distancing precautionary measures and to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) if they suspect someone may be sick.

And finally, I want to report that the City has unveiled guidelines outlining the delivery of City services during the COVID-19 pandemic. Here are some highlights from the plan.

The service plan has a tiered response to the virus. Here are the tiers and what they mean:

Level	Definition
1. Green	Delivery of services are normal, with minimal staffing impacts.
2. Yellow	Minimal impact to delivery of services.
3. Orange	Delivery of services are impacted and many of the non-essential services will be temporarily discontinued.
4. Red	Only essential services are maintained with minimum staff.

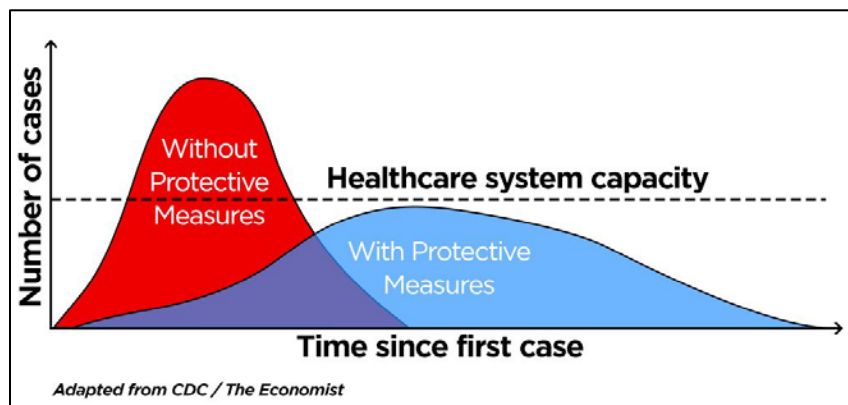
We are currently delivering City services under the Level 2 Yellow, where there is minimal impact to City services. If, however, the COVID-19 continues to spread as predicted and the City moves into Level 3 Orange, the guidelines have the City reducing its workforce and

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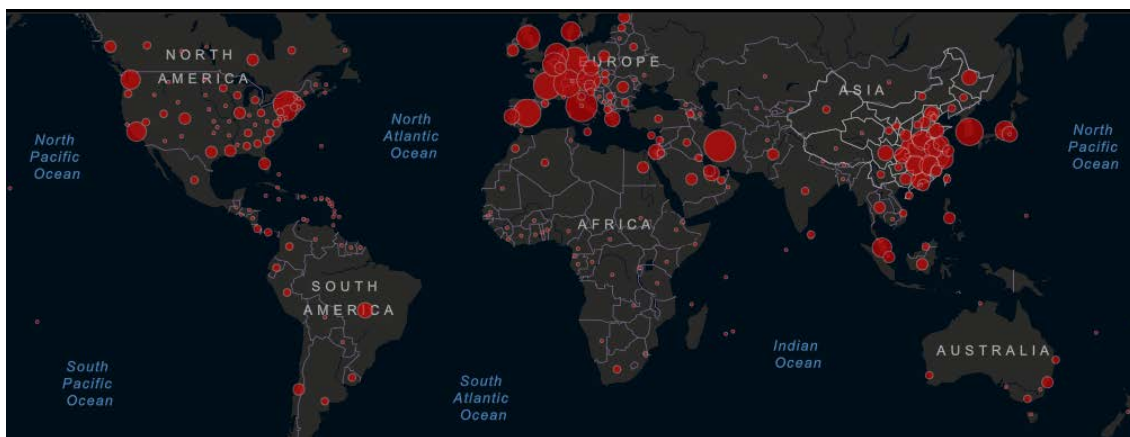
closing all City buildings to the public. In this case, many City services will be impacted. For example, utility customers that typically pay their bill at the office will instead have to mail in their payment, put it in the drop-off box, or use the drive-through. Customers that pay online with a credit card or have setup reoccurring monthly payments will not be affected. In addition, many other City services will be affected as well.

If and when we go into the last level, Level 4 Red, it will greatly affect City services. At this level, employees are sent home, all City buildings are closed, and non-essential city services are suspended. In other words, only those services that are essential to the health and welfare of the community are what will be maintained. That means electric power, water, wastewater, natural gas, police, fire, and emergency 911 services will be maintained at a basic level with minimum staff. For example, employees will only respond to emergency calls; like fires, ambulance calls, emergency utility locates, power outages, gas and water leaks, and other emergency situations. All other City services will be discontinued.

Levels 3 & 4 are necessary for one reason and one reason only; that is to reduce the spread of the virus to the public and to our employees. The graph on the right is a good illustration of why the protective measures found in Levels 3 & 4 work. These measures “flatten the curve” of COVID-19 cases.



As of this writing (Friday), there are 250,856 confirmed COVID-19 cases worldwide. Total worldwide deaths from the COVID-19 virus are 10,389. The U.S. has 14,250 confirmed COVID-19 cases (sixth highest in the world) and 205 total deaths. The largest number of deaths from the virus (74) are in Washington State. The Johns Hopkins website (<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.htm>) has the latest statistics on the COVID-19 global pandemic cases. Below, is the map from the Johns Hopkins website that shows the concentration of COVID-19 cases across the world.



Let's do what we can to “flatten the curve” of COVID-19 cases to protect each other and our loved ones.

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