



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **City of Lomita Response to Covid-19**

**UPDATED 3/18/20 10:00 AM - This Document will continue to be updated as more information becomes available.**

**CITY OF LOMITA, CA,**— As we are all keenly aware, Covid-19 has been dominating the news cycle over the past several weeks.

This is an unprecedented situation that is fluid and changing rapidly, we would like to assure our residents that we are monitoring it closely and, along with our partner agencies around us, adjusting as necessary. Although we do not believe that there is cause for alarm, and while some of the information below may be available to you in other places, below are some of the City's efforts to date and some measures we are implementing to protect the public's health and safety. Although we may not be directly impacted by this event currently, we owe it to those around us to do our part to protect and support each other.

### **What We Know Today**

- **FOR THE MOST UP TO DATE INFORMATION AND STATISTICS IN LA COUNTY, PLEASE VISIT LA COUNTY DEPT. OF PUBLIC HEALTH AT <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/>**
- Public health agencies are evaluating the rapidly evolving situation and issuing guidelines with the goal of limiting the spread of COVID-19 (and other respiratory illnesses).
- While approximately 80 percent of known cases have resulted in mild reactions that do not require hospitalization, older individuals and people with underlying health conditions (such as heart disease, lung disease, kidney disease, diabetes, asthma, or immunodeficiencies) seem to be at greater risk of serious illness.
- Unlike the common flu, there is currently no vaccine for COVID-19, no specific treatment for COVID-19, and there is no natural immunity in the population.

- Even if you are young and healthy and not personally concerned about contracting COVID-19, please be aware that you could transfer the virus to higher risk people who may suffer serious consequences from contracting this virus.

We are actively monitoring information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH) to help ensure the actions we are taking are in line with the latest recommendations and guidance. These links provide the most up-to-date information on COVID-19.

### **Actions of the City of Lomita, Declaration of Local Emergency and Adjustments to City Services**

At its meeting of March 17, 2020, the City Council of the City of Lomita approved Resolution 2020-02 confirming the existence of local emergency within the City of Lomita. A copy of the resolution is available at

<http://www.lomita.com/cityhall/announcements/COVID-19-LOCAL-EMERGENCY-RESO-%20PROC.pdf>.

As part of that resolution, and in an effort to protect the health and safety of the public and of City staff, **the City Council directed that City services continue to be provided and City staff available, but that all City facilities be closed to the public except by prior appointment until further notice.** The City's staff remains available by prior appointment, and with appropriate measures in place, but we encourage our residents to utilize our phone and online services to the maximum extent possible. Contact information for each of the City's departments is available on the City's website. For more information, or for direct assistance, please call City Hall directly at (310) 325-7110. In addition the City of Lomita has:

- postponed scheduled internal and external meetings where possible and asked our partners who use our facilities to do the same.
- canceled organized youth sports and other classes and events scheduled at Lomita Park or other City facilities between Monday March 16, 2020 and Tuesday March 31, 2020, canceled or postponed senior activities at Lomita Park until further notice and will be closing the Lomita Railroad Museum to visitors until further notice. These actions are out of an abundance of caution for the health and safety of our residents and our staff and we will reevaluate at the end of the month.
- posted related information on our City website to help our community prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses like COVID-19.
- increased our daily efforts to clean and sanitize high traffic areas including restrooms, conference rooms, counter tops and other publicly accessible areas.

- The City is evaluating future critical staffing needs should there be need to adjust scheduling or general operations further and to ensure we are able to continue to provide public services.

### **Actions of the L.A. County Health Officer Related to Business Operations**

Today, The Los Angeles County Health Officer announced a Public Health Order which applies to all 88 Cities in LA County, including the City of Lomita, and orders the cancellation or limitation of certain events, implements required social distancing measures, and orders the closure of certain businesses. Although this action was not an action of the City of Lomita, it does apply to our businesses. As of today, all bars, breweries, wineries, nightclubs, theaters, gyms, and entertainment centers in the County of Los Angeles are ordered to be closed. Restaurants will be permitted to serve take-out or delivery food only and grocery stores will remain open.

For more detailed information, please see the Order by clicking [http://www.lomita.com/cityhall/announcements/HOO-3\\_16-c1.pdf](http://www.lomita.com/cityhall/announcements/HOO-3_16-c1.pdf). For information regarding this order, you can contact the LA County Department of Public Health at (213) 240-8144. Businesses can also access resources through the LA County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs at <https://dcba.lacounty.gov/portfolio/coronavirus-businesses/>

### **Lomita Water System information**

Lomita Water System continues to provide safe, clean drinking water to our residents. Most importantly, the drinking water we supply is safe and can be used as normal. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and World Health Organization have explained that there is no evidence that COVID-19 is or can be transmitted through drinking water. Residents can be confident that the rigorous water treatment protocols we already employ safeguard their drinking water. Lomita Water System operators are continually monitoring the City's water system to ensure all State and Federal safety standards continue to be met. You can find specific information about the Lomita Water System at [www.LomitaWater.com](http://www.LomitaWater.com)

### **Suspending Lomita Water System Water Shutoffs**

To ensure our residents have a safe, reliable supply of clean water for hand washing and surface cleaning, we will be suspending and/or postponing previously scheduled water shutoffs to accounts with delinquent payments through March 31, 2020.

### **Suspension of Parking Enforcement related to Street Sweeping**

As our residents cope with the impacts of school closures and other effects, we understand parking may be difficult on street sweeping days. As such, the City will be suspending enforcement of Parking violations related to street sweeping through March, 31, 2020. Our teams will still be in the City to address safety and other violations as

appropriate. For questions regarding parking enforcement, please call City Hall at (310) 325-7110.

### **Encouraging Customer Service and Payment Through Phone & Digital Methods**

You can help reduce person-to-person transmission by signing up to pay your water bill online! In recent months, the City has upgraded its accounting software and is now able to accept online payments for water bills. We encourage our residents to take advantage of this new opportunity, especially now when we can lessen the impacts of COVID-19. To sign up for e-billing, set up your account and pay your water bill online you can visit [www.LomitaWater.com](http://www.LomitaWater.com) and click on Online Bill Payment.

Our City Hall offices remain staffed, and our team continues to operate the water system to ensure residents have safe, reliable drinking water. Bills can still be paid in person, or over the phone, but the online bill pay system will be one more way we can all do our part to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses. If you prefer payment or other contact over the phone, you can call the City of Lomita at (310) 325-7110.

### **Public Works Department Services and Operations**

The City of Lomita is continuing to offer services as we are able, and we are working with our contract partners to do the same. Please bear with us while we adapt. For information regarding Public Works Department's available Services and Operations including Water, Field Operations, Engineering Services and other requests, please visit [http://www.lomita.com/cityhall/public\\_works/index.cfm](http://www.lomita.com/cityhall/public_works/index.cfm).

### **Economic and Community Development Department Permits and Business Operations**

The City of Lomita is continuing to offer services as we are able, and we are working with our contract partners to do the same. Please bear with us while we adapt. For information regarding Community Development Services such as Planning, Permitting, Code Enforcement, and County Building and Safety, please visit <http://www.lomita.com/cityhall/government/commdev/index.cfm>

For County Department-specific information regarding COVID-19's impact on County services, please visit LA County's "[Cancellations, Closures, and Modifications](https://lacounty.gov/covid19/closures/)" webpage at <https://lacounty.gov/covid19/closures/>

### **Additional General Tips and Guidance**

Follow the general advice provided by the CDC, CDPH and others, e.g. if you are sick or think you may be sick, stay home, wash your hands frequently, etc. For more information or guidance in this regard, please visit the links above.

**About the City of Lomita**

*Located in the South Bay area of LA County and near the Pacific Ocean, over 20,000 Lomita residents enjoy a quiet lifestyle featuring friendly neighbors, access to services and burgeoning social scene. As a family-friendly community, the City of Lomita strives to creatively and consistently provide excellent public service and employee performance, with the intent to enrich the quality of life for every citizen, worker and business owner. The mission of the City of Lomita is to provide a healthy, safe and friendly small-town community where everyone can successfully live, work and play.*

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