



City of Florence

250 Hwy 101, Florence, OR 97439
www.ci.florence.or.us

March 19, 2020

Dear Florence Community,

I wanted to take a moment to connect with our community and provide some information on the current situation we all find ourselves in. I know the past few weeks, especially the past few days, have been filled with uncertainty, fear, and heartache. Many of us have never experienced something like this in our lifetimes. Working together I think we can come through this stronger as a community, but we know it will be difficult before it gets better.

Our fight against the coronavirus or COVID-19 has entered a stark new phase. The Federal Government and our State have taken extraordinary actions over the past few days to slow the spread of COVID-19, under the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control. This includes limiting public and private gatherings, restricting restaurants to take-out and delivery services, and extending school closures.

During a public health emergency, Lane County Public Health in conjunction with the Oregon Health Authority are the lead agencies in our area. Therefore, the City is looking to those lead agencies for guidance and information on response. We recommend that our community members follow the information provided by these two organizations, along with the Centers for Disease Control, for the most up to date and accurate information.

In their open letter to Oregonians on Tuesday, the Oregon Health Authority acknowledged the following:

“social distancing measures are urgent and necessary to slow the spread of COVID-19. These sweeping actions will create profound disruption and hardship in all our daily lives. The impact of these decisions will ripple through homes, schools, communities across Oregon – and through our state economy. These restrictions will demand unprecedented sacrifice from all of us. But they are urgent, necessary, and justified in the face of the COVID-19 threat. Every one of us must help. We all have the power to stop COVID-19 and save the lives of people we care about.”

In Florence, our local agencies and regional partners are taking steps to prepare for and slow the spread of COVID-19. The City of Florence is committed to the safety and well-being of our community and staff and will continue to provide essential services to the Florence community.

Public Works
989 Spruce St.
(541) 997-4106

**City Manager/
City Recorder**
(541) 997-3437

**Community Development:
Planning & Building**
(541) 997-8237

**Finance/
Utility Billing**
(541) 997-3436

Justice Center
900 Greenwood St.
(541) 997-3515

Florence Events Center
715 Quince St.
(541) 997-1994



The City has taken measures to implement social distancing and provide relief in the form of suspending utility shutoffs, among other items. We urge our community members to adhere to the social distancing measures being implemented by the State of Oregon and the Centers for Disease Control.

While these measures mean we may need to postpone our important events, such as weddings, celebrations of life, and other events or gatherings, it is our shared responsibility to protect each other and our most vulnerable populations. I understand that making these hard decisions is difficult and often disappointing. If we do our part to slow the spread of COVID-19, those events will be all the more meaningful.

The virus does not discriminate. We cannot combat COVID-19 if we turn on each other or stigmatize people who test positive and become ill. That only puts sick people and the broader community at-risk because it discourages people from getting tested, getting care, and staying home. We are all afraid of the unknown and how this virus will end up impacting our lives. It is our job to remain kind and supportive during these uncertain times.

Please educate yourself through trusted and official resources to reduce the spread of misinformation. Much of what is shared on social media does not have a reliable or trackable source. We urge our community to be diligent in ensuring the information they consume and share is from official sources. The City of Florence has outlined the measures we are taking and provided links to Lane County Public Health and the Oregon Health Authority at www.ci.florence.or.us/covid19.

So, in closing, I urge you to stay safe and healthy, stay informed, and continue to be the caring and compassionated community I know we are. And, may God bless the City of Florence.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe Henry", is written over a faint, light blue circular stamp or watermark.

Mayor Joe Henry