



*City of Florence*

**A City in Motion**

# PRESS RELEASE

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## City of Florence Approves COVID-19 Emergency Declaration

**FLORENCE, OR** – During the March 23, 2020, special City Council meeting, the Florence City Council declared a state of emergency within the City of Florence. The declaration was effective upon approval and shall remain in effect until June 30, 2020, with the ability to be extended if necessary.

Mayor Henry began the meeting by stating “I know this is an incredibly hard time. Our day-to-day lives have taken a dramatic shift and our health and well-being are at stake due to coronavirus/COVID-19. My heart is breaking as I watch the widespread impacts this is having on all aspects of our daily family, social, and business lives. We are with you in this, we care for you, we are doing our best as City and community leaders to work through this and lead in this crisis.”

The emergency declaration action will allow the City to take the steps necessary to respond to the emergency in a legal and timely manner. Such steps could include:

- Requesting assistance, funds and reimbursement from the State of Oregon and federal agencies;
- Adopting temporary rules and policies regarding city facilities, funds, fees, resources, and staff;
- Entering into contracts for services and aid agreements with other governmental and private entities;
- Cancelling non-essential City meetings and events; Emergency procurement of goods, services, and public improvements; and
- Policy to not send shut-off notices or shut off water for nonpayment of unpaid utility bills.

The emergency declaration would grant authority to the City Manager, or designee, to take actions and issue orders necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the City as long as such actions are in compliance with City, state, and federal law.

Mayor Henry concluded his comments by saying “during this time, it is important that we take care of ourselves, our neighbors, and vulnerable individuals in our communities by following regulations and precautions from State officials and medical experts. I cannot emphasize enough how important it is for each individual to follow the Governor’s updated orders that were released today to ‘Stay home to Save Lives.’”

In addition to the emergency declaration, the Florence City Council approved Resolution No. 5, Series 2020 to establish temporary COVID-19 public meeting procedures. The updated meeting procedures were effective upon adoption.

The full declaration of emergency and temporary meeting procedures can be viewed on the City’s website at <https://www.ci.florence.or.us/council/city-council-special-meeting-3>.

## **Key Resources**

- [Lane County Public Health](#)
- [Oregon Health Authority](#)
- [Center for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#)
- [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)
- School Closures & Food Service Plans
  - [Siuslaw School District](#)
  - [Mapleton School District](#)
- [PeaceHealth COVID-19 Information](#)
- [City of Florence COVID-19 Information](#)

## **Lane County Public Health Community Call Center**

Lane County Public Health's call center is available for non-emergency calls related to COVID-19 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. The phone number is 541-682-1380. You can also contact Lane County Public Health's Coronavirus Response Team via email at [corona-info@lanecountyor.gov](mailto:corona-info@lanecountyor.gov).

## **Oregon Health Authority Updates**

You can sign up for Oregon related updates on the OHA website. There is a link in the box at the top of the page. They also have some good informational handouts at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/index.html>.

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