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Mayor Justin M. Wilson

Alexandria, Virginia

March 16, 2020

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For the first time, I am sending an edition of this newsletter, ordinarily sent monthly, to provide you with updates on the COVID-19 outbreak that is facing our community.

The significance of the pandemic flu outbreak that has been spreading around the globe for the past few months cannot be overstated.

[This is a dangerous virus, that has already killed at least 5,735 people around the world, including 41 in the United States.](#)

Over the weekend, **[we announced that a second Alexandria resident had received a presumptive positive test for coronavirus COVID-19.](#)** There is every expectation that this number will grow.

This outbreak will have dramatic impacts on the health of our residents, the survival of many businesses that operate in our City, the jobs those businesses create and the finances of your City government. The collateral impacts will create human service challenges that will face our community for months and years to come.

The City has partnered with ACT for Alexandria to raise money for the emergent human service needs facing the residents of our City during this time. **[Please join me in contributing to this COVID-19 Response Fund.](#)**

The City Council voted on Saturday to contribute \$100,000 to the ACT for Alexandria Response Fund and an **[additional \\$20,000 to ALIVE to help fund food for distribution.](#)**



We are a resilient City. We have been through difficult times before and we will get through this. Please look out for your neighbors and particularly for [vulnerable populations](#) during this time.

Below, I have provided updates, resources, and precautions to ensure safety during this challenging situation.

We will have more comprehensive responses to address the short-term and long-term needs as a result of this situation over the next few days and weeks.

Let me know how I can help. [Please contact me anytime](#)

Updates

COVID-19 in Alexandria

[If you have the symptoms of COVID-19, the Coronavirus](#), which include coughing, a fever of over 100.4 F and shortness of breath, please contact your primary care physician for information on an exam and testing. If your physician is not available or you do not have a primary care physician, an [urgent care center](#) or [Neighborhood Health](#) can assist.

If you have questions about the outbreak that cannot be answered by your physician, the Alexandria Health Department has set up a hotline staffed during business hours at 703-746-4988. Additionally, the [Virginia Department of Health](#) has a hotline at 877-ASK-VDH3.



The Alexandria Health Department is advising residents to practice social distancing by maintaining 6-feet of separation from any other person and [washing hands frequently with soap and hand sanitizer](#). This is not only to protect your health, but to protect the health of others.

[The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) has advised against any public gatherings of more than 50 people for the next 8 weeks.](#)

On Saturday, the [City Council ratified the City Manager's declaration of a Local Emergency](#). This expands City Government capabilities to respond to this challenge.

[The Alexandria City Public Schools \(ACPS\) are closed](#) and will remain closed through the end of Spring Break (April 13th).

[ACPS has arranged food for ANY child 2-18 and ANY family who needs it.](#)

[ACPS has set up "ACPS-At-Home" to provide details to students and families during this extended closure.](#)

Effective today, [Comcast is now providing free "Internet Essentials" service to low-income families for 60-days. Sign-up is available online.](#)

All of the utilities serving the City have suspended disconnects due to non-payment, including:

- [Alexandria Renew](#)
- [Dominion Virginia Power](#)

- [Virginia-American Water Company](#)
- [Washington Gas](#)
- [AT&T](#)
- [Verizon](#)
- [Comcast](#)

For those whose jobs have been impacted by the virus outbreak, [details are available from the Virginia Employment Commission](#) .

[Inova Blood Services has significant need for blood donations during this time. Schedule a donation today.](#)

We [have cancelled many city meetings and events.](#)

All [activities and programs produced by the Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities have been cancelled](#) through March 21st.

[All Alexandria Library programs and events have been cancelled through the end of the month.](#)

[Changes have been to visitation at the Alexandria Jail by the Alexandria Sheriff's Office.](#)

With a declared State Emergency declaration in effect, price gouging laws are in force right now across the Commonwealth. [Report suspected violations to the Virginia Attorney General's Office.](#)

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