



Office of the Business Administrator
MLK Government Center
10 N. Second St.
Harrisburg, PA 17101

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

The World Health Organization has declared the COVID-19 (Novel Corona Virus) outbreak a pandemic, and the President of the United States has declared a State of Emergency. The City of Harrisburg is committed to the safety and well-being of all residents, workers, and visitors. Currently, there are confirmed cases of COVID-19, Coronavirus, within Central Pennsylvania and the City is taking proactive steps to ensure that we limit the exposure to our citizens, guests, and employees.

We urge people to stay educated on the topic. The Pennsylvania Department of Health and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention websites are great resources. They provide tips on how to prevent the spread of COVID-19, as well as background information on the disease.

As we all are aware, you can protect yourself by:

- Cover coughs or sneezes with your elbow. **Do not use your hands!**
- Wash hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Clean surfaces frequently, including countertops, light switches, cell phones, remotes, and other frequently touched items.
- Contain: if you are sick, stay home until you are feeling better.

For City of Harrisburg facilities, we are doing our part by keeping soap and sanitizer stations filled, wiping down surfaces and keeping our working areas clean. If employees are sick, they are urged to stay home. If employees are able to work, they may be required or otherwise allowed to work remotely. We are doing everything in our power to maintain services to the public, but in the days or weeks to come how some services are provided may look different. We are committed to open communications that will alert the public to changes as together we navigate this new terrain.

Depending on the severity of the outbreak in our City and region, public health officials may recommend community actions designed to limit exposure. Officials may ask you to modify, postpone, or cancel large events for the safety and well-being of your event staff, participants, and the community. Public health agencies have advised that **older adults and people who have severe underlying chronic medical conditions** like heart or lung disease or diabetes may be at a significantly higher risk of developing more serious complications from COVID-19 illness.

HARRISBURG'S PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY POLICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

People who are at higher risk are encouraged to avoid crowds as much as possible. In an abundance of caution, the City of Harrisburg will not be accepting requests for use of our facilities or parks for gatherings until further notice.

We understand this is an anxious time for everyone, as the duration and full effect of COVID-19 is still unknown. The City of Harrisburg will do everything in its power to keep our community safe and provide opportunities to be heard. If you have questions concerning **City services** during this crisis please email coronavirus@harrisburgpa.gov

“When crisis hits, we don’t turn against each other. We listen to each other. We lean on each other. We are always stronger together” We acknowledge and appreciate the efforts of the public to contain this disease, and we will work with you to protect the health and well-being of our community.

Sincerely,

Marc Woolley
Business Administrator
City of Harrisburg, PA