



Public Health Response

The City of Syracuse held its first Coronavirus briefing with Onondaga County Health Commissioner Dr. Indu Gupta on Monday, Feb. 3. Mayor Walsh convened a dedicated City of Syracuse Coronavirus Response Team on Wednesday, March 4. The team meets daily, seven days a week. The City works in close coordination with Onondaga County and Governor Cuomo's office in all aspects of its public health response.

We have a Coronavirus information page at syrgov.net/coronavirus. It includes links to the County, State and Federal sites for the most reliable information, as well as updates from the City.

City Government Operations

Facilities

All City buildings were closed to public access effective Tuesday, March 17 to reduce the spread of Coronavirus and lessen the demand on staff as it transitioned to remote work and adapted practices for essential services.

Outdoor City parks remain open and are experiencing heavy use. Play and exercise equipment and indoor facilities are closed. In-person programming is suspended but the Parks team is introducing new online programming.

Essential Services

The City of Syracuse continues to deliver all essential services, as usual, with some modifications to operations and practices to ensure safety and continuity of service. We are in compliance with the Governor's directive regarding remote workforce and are also moving additional essential employees to work at home, where possible. Essential services functioning, as usual, with appropriate health and safety precautions, are defined as:

- Fire
- Police
- Sanitation
- Sewer
- Snow and Ice
- Water: Operations
- Buildings and Grounds: Janitorial

We have also identified other essential services that are operating on a reduced or modified basis:

- Buildings and Grounds: General
- Codes: Health and Safety Enforcement
- IT: Payroll and Accounts Payable Support
- Info Services: Litter and Trash Pickup
- Permits: Emergency Permits
- Street Cleaning
- Street Repair
- Transportation
- Water: Meter Reading

Public Safety

Syracuse Police and Syracuse Fire have eliminated in-person non-emergency responses to reduce the risk of contracting Coronavirus. These calls are being handled by e-Serve and Teleserve. Consistent with best practices in emergency management, we are taking every step possible to protect the health and safety of our first responders so they can deliver their core public safety duties. Both departments have developed comprehensive plans for continuity of operations under a wide range of potential pandemic scenarios.

Non-Essential Services

Most other "non-essential" services are responding to constituent inquiries and/or providing reduced services via phone, email, mail, online, and, if possible, appointment. All departments are working to increase services provided remotely.

We have more Coronavirus information for employees available on a public web page at syrgov.net/employees.

Public Meetings

The Syracuse Common Council is fulfilling its legislative duties, uninterrupted. Committee meetings were postponed for the week of Mar. 16 but all other meetings and functions continue. Meetings in the Council Chambers for the Council and other public bodies have moved to online and conference call consistent with the State's Emergency Declaration Order.



Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

Support for Constituents

Deputy Mayor Owens has been the City's point person in working with our government and community partners to meet human needs in the community. In close coordination with Onondaga County, our Response Team is focused on support for:

- School students and families
- Senior citizens
- Homeless
- Unemployed and under-employed

Constituent Financial Relief

In consultation with the Syracuse Common Council, we have been considering a variety of steps the City can take to provide financial relief to City residents. These include:

- Reduction of the fee for some online transactions
- Collection efforts on personal judgments and delinquent taxes will be suspended for 30 days.
- Collection efforts on judgments and delinquent taxes under business names will be assessed individually.
- Shutoffs for delinquent water bills and payment plans have been suspended (except for vacant properties.)

Parking Accommodations

While continuing to enforce all safety-related parking requirements, we suspended parking meter enforcement and booting and extended parking payment plans. Information on other parking changes [here](#).

Business Assistance

SEDCO COVID-19 Emergency Relief Program

The City announced the creation of the COVID-19 Emergency Relief Program for small businesses in the City of Syracuse that have been impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic. The Syracuse Economic Development Corporation (SEDCO) created a dedicated \$500,000 fund to provide zero-percent interest, 180-day emergency loans to small businesses in the City. Applications will be available beginning Monday, March 23.

This program will complement other small business loan programs made possible by the Small Business Administration and Onondaga County.

COVID-19 Economic Resiliency Task Force

The City is working with Onondaga County, CenterState CEO, MACNY, and other partners to create a COVID-19 Economic Resiliency Task Force to coordinate assessment, response, mitigation, and recovery efforts for businesses. We expect to officially announce and convene the group during the week of Mar. 23.

Information or Assistance

Thank you for the significant support and assistance from all of our government partners. If your office needs information or assistance from the City of Syracuse or has support to provide, please contact Chief Policy Officer Greg Loh at (315)415-6766 or glohesyrgov.net. Thank you.