



MAYOR'S OFFICE



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April 1, 2020

To the Citizens & Visitors of Westbrook,

We hope everyone is healthy and well. As we go into our third week of this State of Emergency, some may be experiencing frustration and impatience in complying with the various rules & recommendations. We encourage everyone to hang in there as best they can. Weather soon will improve and we can enjoy the outdoors more. Westbrook residents have been doing a great job complying with all current and previous rules & recommendations. We have had some reports of individuals accessing closed facilities and kids gathering in different places. While we fully understand the desire to remain active, it is critically important that we do so according to current rules & recommendations.

Yesterday, Governor Mills provided some new orders and recommendations that our staff is meeting regularly to discuss the City's plans and handling issues that arise due to the coronavirus (COVID-19). As we now know, there are currently over 300 confirmed cases & 5 deaths in Maine, with most of the cases from Cumberland County. We now have 11 cases of City residents being appropriately treated and unfortunately 1 death. Our thoughts and prayers are with those families who are being treated and those who have lost loved ones. We also have 3 City employees that are confirmed cases and we have taken appropriate actions within each department to quarantine exposed employees and disinfect the facilities. We remain in close communication with federal, state and regional officials on developments related to this situation and would like to provide additional updates on the City's response to protect the public health and safety for this current State of Emergency.

Ensuring the safety of our employees and the general public, while also continuing to provide the critical services necessary to run the City, is of paramount importance to us. **In order to minimize the rise of exposure to employees, volunteers and the general public, I have done the following:**

- **Declared a State of Emergency remains in effect until further notice. All actions are reported to the City Council on a weekly basis and previous actions can be reviewed on the City's website:**
www.westbrookmaine.com/639/Coronavirus
- **Enacted Public Services Department COVID-19 Emergency Funeral Protocol**
- **Through a major donation, we will be launching the Westbrook-Warren Memorial Foundation Emergency Arts Fund. This grant program is under development and more details will be released soon.**
- **Enacted schedule changes for all City staff including potential schedule changes for our Public Safety personnel to better protect those employees.**
- **Follow Governor Mills' Executive Order as of March 31st mandating a series of new restrictions effective April 2nd, including:**
 - **Stay Healthy at Home directive that requires people living in Maine to stay at home at all times unless for an essential job or an essential personal reason, such as obtaining food, medicine, health care, or other necessary purposes.**
 - **For essential businesses and operations that remain open, limiting the number of customers in their buildings at any one time, implementing curb-side pickup and delivery options as much as possible, and enforcing U.S. CDC-recommended physical distancing requirements for their customers and employees in and around their facilities.**
 - **Prohibiting the use of public transportation unless for an essential reason or job that cannot be done from home and limiting the number of people traveling in private vehicles to persons within the immediate household unless transporting for essential activities.**

- Mandating the continued termination of classroom or in-person instruction until at least May 1st.
- Mandating that, when out of the home or when at work at an essential business, individuals shall maintain a minimum distance of six feet from other persons.
- We previously launched, Westbrook's Takeout & Delivery Support Effort & Contest to support our local businesses with details available on our website and social media. We gave away our first \$100 gift certificate Monday and congratulations to Jaclyn Hazlewood our first winner. We thank her and the other submissions for supporting local businesses. Get your entries in! We encourage businesses to better protect both customers and employees.
- Superintendent Dr. Lancia also has many announcements for the Westbrook School Department and details are on their website regarding their response.

Police, Fire & Rescue and Public Services continue to remain fully operational and we thank those dedicated employees who continue to serve during this crisis. Given these closures, we strongly encourage the use of telephone, email and online services wherever possible for conducting business with the City.

We continue to rely upon the Governor, Maine CDC, and our Coronavirus Task Force for guidance as we continue monitoring this public health situation. We modify all directives as appropriate and under the continued advisement, we should minimize our public contact in order to reduce the spread of this highly contagious virus. Please continue to practice the recommended "physical distancing" to protect us all.

Remember these preventative actions are being taken out of an abundance of caution and concern for everyone and not panic. We apologize for any inconveniences you may experience as a result of these measures.

We continue to recognize that the spread of this virus is a fluid and rapidly evolving situation that requires close monitoring and the need to adapt quickly. We continue to monitor and respond accordingly as well as provide additional updates to everyone should recommendations change. We encourage everyone to check in with their neighbors, especially seniors, and help each other out if/when possible. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with all affected by this crisis.

Looking ahead, it seems likely that things will get worse before they get better. Let's remain strong right now to flatten the curve, keep each other and ourselves healthy, and protect our first responders and health care providers. Our community is strong, and we will come out stronger. As Governor Mills said yesterday, "Do your part and stay apart!"

For more information on the City's response and the status of the pandemic, please visit www.westbrookmaine.com/639/Coronavirus with links to the CDC and Westbrook School Department.

Thank you and stay safe.



Mayor Michael T. Foley