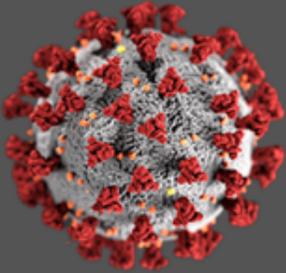




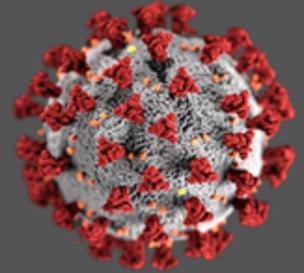
Breeze

Official news from the City of **portland** the
of possibilities.



COVID-19

Local Update, Emergency Declaration,
and Resources



Novel Coronavirus Facts

The coronavirus is a common illness, but the strain that's caused a wide spread contamination since December 2019 (COVID-19) is a new, or "novel", strain of this virus. Very few people have an immunity to this illness since it is new; which partly explains the rapid spread of this virus over the last 4 months. Additionally, there are no vaccines or preventative medications for COVID-19 at this time.

For your knowledge, here are the facts of exposure, prevention, symptoms, and risks of COVID-19.

Exposure

COVID-19 is a highly contagious virus. The germs are spread through contact with an infected individual's bodily fluids. This can happen through direct contact with the infected person via handshakes, hugs, etc. Additionally, infected persons' germs survive on surfaces for long periods of

time. Examples of surfaces that are frequently touched include counters, tabletops, doorknobs, keypads, phones, bathroom fixtures, keyboards, handrails, etc. This form of exposure is referred to as "community spread". It is important to note that a person can be infected and contagious for up to 2 weeks prior to showing symptoms.

Prevention

You can come into contact with the virus unknowingly. To protect yourself, family, and friends, follow the following preventative measures to reduce your chance of becoming infected:

- Wash your hands thoroughly and as often as possible with soap and water
- If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol
- Do not touch your face. Especially your mouth, nose, and eyes
- Wipe down frequently touched surfaces often.

- Practice social distance by keeping at least 6 feet distance from others when possible. NOTE: 6 feet is the typical distance an individual's bodily fluids travel when they sneeze or cough
- If you begin to feel ill stay home and ask your coworkers, roommates, and/or family members to wipe down all surfaces you touched. Your mild cough or cold could turn into COVID-19

Symptoms

The typical symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and/or shortness of breath or difficulty breathing. The emergency warning symptoms include persistent pain or pressure in the chest, confusion, or discolored lips or face. If you experience any of the warning symptoms, call 9-1-1 immediately to receive medical attention.

...continued on page 2

GOOD FRIDAY & EASTER CLOSURES, TRASH & RECYCLE SCHEDULE

All City-owned buildings are closed on Friday, April 10, in observance of Good Friday.

Trash and recycling, and bulk-item pick-up services will operate on the normal schedule and will not be affected by the holiday.

Coronavirus continued...

Illness

If you begin to feel ill, stay home. Once symptoms begin, COVID-19 symptoms typically last 4 to 11 days. There is not a cure or a specific medication for COVID-19. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends taking a fever-reducing medication to help reduce the fever.

If your symptoms get worse, call your doctor or the Texas Department of Human and Health Services (DHHS) at 2-1-1 to discuss your symptoms and if you need medical attention. If you must leave your house, wear a mask so you do not infect others. If you experience any of the emergency warning symptoms, seek medical attention immediately.

CDC advises infected individuals to not interact with others until you do not have a fever for at least 72 hours, your other symptoms have improved, and it's been at least 7 days since your symptoms started.

Resources

COVID-19 updates and resources are available on our website PortlandTX.com. Look for "COVID-19 Updates" in the top banner on the homepage. Information on case counts, closures, etc. are updated every afternoon.

CENSUS 2020

Census 2020 is still underway! The Census is available online at <https://2020census.gov/>. You can also complete the Census over the phone or by mail.

Why Full Response Matters

The Census results help determine how federal funding is designated to states and communities. Additionally, the results of the census determine how many Congressional seats each state gets for the next 10 years!

City-Owned Facility Closures

The following city-owned facilities are closed until further notice:

- Senior Center
- Bell/Whittington Public Library
- Sports Complex
- Municipal Park athletic fields, splash pads, and multi-purpose field
- Aquatic Center
- Skate Park

NOTE: City Hall and the Public Works building are closed to the public until further notice. Our staff are still working and all services and related documents are available by phone, email, or online.

Utility Billing Payments

- Pay your utility bills online at: <https://www.municipalonlinepayments.com/portlandtx/utilities>
- Mail your utility bill payment to: City of Portland - Utility Building
1900 Billy G. Webb Dr.
Portland, Tx 78374*
- Place your payment(s) in the dropbox located in the parking lot between City Hall and the Community Center*

*Include the service name and address on all correspondence.

Utility Forms & Contact Info

Forms for new service, transfer service, and disconnect service at ([website](#)). Processing of these forms take up to 24 hours

Phone: 361-777-4500
utilitybilling@portlandtx.com

Tax Filing Due Date Extension

United States Department of Treasury and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) "issued guidance allowing all individual and other non-corporate tax filers to defer up to \$1 million of federal income tax (including self-employment tax) payments due on April 15, 2020, until July 15, 2020, without penalties or interest" on March 18, 2020. Additionally, "this guidance does not change the April 15 filing deadline." (<https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm948>). It is advised to file your taxes by April 15 or request an extension to postpone the filing deadline to October 15, 2020.

NOTE: The AARP is not offering their annual Tax Aide program at the Bell/Whittington Public Library during the closures.

Municipal Court Payments

- Pay your municipal court fines online at: <https://www.municipalonlinepayments.com/portlandtx/court/search>
- Mail your court fees to:
- Portland Municipal Court
1900 Billy G. Webb Dr.
Portland, Tx 78374*

*Include your name, citation number, date of birth, and contact information with payments.

Court Forms & Contact Info

Forms for pleas, community service, and other related forms at ([website](#)).

It's the defendant's responsibility to ensure all information in the forms are accurate and complete.

All current scheduled dockets, trials and pre-trials are postponed until further notice.

Phone: 361-777-4543
Fax: 361-777-4546