

Governor tells all of California to remain home; border remains open, city operations continue

March 24, 2020



Gov. Gavin Newsom issued a shelter in place order on March 19 for California, mandating citizens to stay at home to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus. Residents may still venture out to acquire food, prescriptions and medical care.

“We need to bend the curve in the state of California,” Newsom said during a news conference. “There’s a social contract here. People, I think, recognize the need to do more. They will adjust and adapt as they have.

“This is a moment we need to make tough decisions. This is a moment where we need some straight talk and we need to tell people the truth,” Newsom added.

According to the state’s coronavirus responses website, <https://covid19.ca.gov/stay-home-except-for-essential-needs>, Newsom’s executive order identified 16 essential public sector businesses that may remain open, including:

- Gas stations
- Pharmacies
- Food: Grocery stores, farmers markets, food banks, convenience stores, takeout and delivery restaurants
- Banks
- Laundromats/laundry services

Essential state and local government functions will also remain open, including law enforcement and offices that provide government programs and services.

The order closes the following venues:

- Dine-in restaurants
- Bars/nightclubs
- Entertainment venues
- Gyms and fitness studios
- Public events and gatherings
- Convention centers

The California Highway Patrol dispelled rumors over state actions to limit the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus. Under Sheriff Bill Steven said the California and Oregon border remains open and the CHP's role will be limited in Governor Gavin Newsom's remain home executive order.

"The border has not been closed, there was no talk of closing the border and the border will not close in the foreseeable future," Steven told The Triplicate.

He added the key element in the governor's order remains social distancing.

"As long as folks are practicing it, everything should remain fine. If groups are growing, we will not arrest or cite them. Rather we'll take an education standpoint if needed. 'Hey, should probably not gather.' But I don't think in Del Norte County we have to worry about that. We won't see anyone going against social distancing rules," Steven said.

Newsom said during his press conference he expects the order to be enforced not through law enforcement, but rather through social pressure.

"People will ask 'Well, how will you enforce?'" Newsom said. "As I say there is a social contract here, people I think recognize the need to do more and to meet this moment."

"We will have social pressure that will encourage people to do the right thing," he added. "I don't believe the people of California need to be told through law enforcement that it's appropriate just to home isolate, to

protect themselves, go about the essential patterns of life, but do so by socially distancing themselves from others and do so using your common sense.”

According to a letter Newsom sent to President Trump on March 18, his office expects the COVID-19 virus to infect more than half of California’s nearly 40 million people within two months.

The shelter in place order will remain until further notice.

Crescent City Services

During the shutdown order, Crescent City’s Manager Eric Wier said city facilities including the Water Department, Public Works Department, Housing Authority, Police Department and Fire Department have closed their public lobbies to the public until further notice.

“The city is dedicated to providing service and has created ways for you to complete your city business remotely,” Wier wrote on the city’s website. “For details on individual city department closures and how to navigate departmental services, please visit the City website at www.crescentcity.org.”

Wier outlined how city services will continue by department.

Crescent City Police Department

- If you have an emergency, please dial 911.
- All civilian ride-alongs have been suspended until further notice.
- Sex offender registrations will continue as scheduled once a week.
- Report for crimes not in progress by calling (707) 464-2133 or by sending an email to ccpd@crescentcity.org.
- Office is available by phone and email, from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday
- For more information, go to the Crescent City Police Department’s Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CrescentCityPD>.

Crescent City Fire and Rescue (Washington Fire Station)

- If you have an emergency, please dial 911.
- Office is available by phone at (707) 464-2421 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday by email at vduncan@crescentcity.org.

Water Department

- The water department will not be taking cash payments until further notice.
- Payment by check or money order can be dropped off in the payment box at City Hall.

- To view your bill, track usage and make payments online go to www.crescentcity.org.
- Through the website, there is the ability to use credit and debit cards, or by using your checking information.
- Payments can be made by phone at 1-800-287-6266 using a credit or debit card.

Crescent City Housing Authority

- For families seeking assistance, obtain an application by visiting the city website at www.crescentcity.org. If you do not have internet access, call Mari-Ann Wiedig at 707- 464-9216, ext. 221, to request an application and it will be mailed to you.
- For families requesting an adjustment to their portion of rent, you may drop off documentation supporting the income change in our office mail slot, or you may email the documentation to your caseworker (Jolene Hurt or Wendy Hartwick) at jhurt@crescentcity.org or whartwick@crescentcity.org.
- You are also welcome to contact your caseworker by phone about any issues you wish to discuss concerning your housing assistance at 707-464-9216, ext. 227 for Jolene and ext. 222 for Wendy.
- While on-site inspections have been suspended, the city can accommodate virtual inspections through FaceTime or Google Duo. To request a virtual inspection, contact Mari-Ann at 707-464-9216, ext. 221.
- All previously scheduled meetings and appointments will be kept and conducted via phone rather than an in-office visit.
- All housing assistance payments to landlords will continue without interruption.