

March 18, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Elko COVID-19 Update – March 18

On the evening of March 17, 2020, Governor Sisolak ordered a 30-Day statewide shutdown of “non-essential” businesses, effective at 12:00 noon on March 18, 2020. This unexpected coronavirus containment action creates an immediate and significant impact on our citizens, regional partners, and the City of Elko government. As such, the Elko City Council met in Emergency Session earlier today and took the following action:

- Declared an emergency based upon State of Nevada Governor Sisolak’s 30-Day statewide shutdown of “nonessential” businesses.
- Suspended most in-person services at City of Elko Departments and/or Facilities.
- Amended the City of Elko Sick Leave Policy to allow full-time City employees to use accrued Sick Leave if sent home pursuant to the Governor’s shutdown order.
- Deferred water service shutoffs for the next 45-Days.
- Cancelled the regularly scheduled March 24, 2020 City Council meeting.
- Cancelled the regularly scheduled April 7, 2020 City Planning Commission meeting.

Most City Facilities have been closed for in-person services. Exceptions include the Elko Regional Airport, Landfill, Cemetery, and WRF Laboratory. While many offices have been closed, reduced staffing is available via telephone and/or email. **Emergency Police and Fire operations remain available by calling 911.**

Based upon the Governor’s March 17, 2020 Press Conference, there is considerable confusion regarding the definition of “nonessential” businesses. Although the City Council took action to not determine what businesses are considered “essential” or nonessential,” the Governor’s Press Conference did identify the following essential services that should remain **OPEN: Fire, Police, Transit, Health Care Services, and businesses that provide food, shelter, or social services for disadvantaged populations. Pharmacies, grocery stores, drug and convenience stores, banks and financial institutions, hardware stores, and gas stations should remain OPEN. Also, truck stops and truck service centers will remain open so that motor carriers will be able to deliver supplies as needed.**

The Governor’s Press Conference also identified numerous examples of nonessential businesses that should remain **CLOSED: beauty shops, barber shops, nail, tanning, and waxing salons. Additionally, casinos, community recreation centers, clubhouses, movie theatres, gyms, health clubs, or fitness centers should remain CLOSED. Restaurants throughout Nevada, in addition to pubs, wineries, bars, and breweries that include meals provided by a full kitchen should be reduced to serving food only in a drive-thru, takeout, or delivery capacity. Pubs, wineries, bars, and breweries that do not include meals provided by a full kitchen must CLOSE. Dine-in food establishments, including food courts, coffee shops, catered events,**

clubs, bowling alleys and other similar venues in which people congregate for the consumption of food or beverages should NOT be allowed until further notice.

The Governor stated that all gatherings should be postponed or cancelled, and that citizens should stay away from auditoriums, stadiums, arenas, large conference rooms, meeting halls, and cafeterias. Faith leaders were urged by the Governor to find ways of delivering to congregations without bringing them together in person. **Finally, “nonessential” businesses were given two (2) choices: Find a way to service customers through delivery, drive through, curbside pickup or front door pickup OR close their doors.**

The City of Elko has posted additional information from Nevada Health Response on elkocity.com that further clarifies the definition of “nonessential” and “essential” businesses. The City of Elko encourages all citizens to review the information and cooperate with State-issued guidance.