Headlines

News from University Place City Hall



December 16, 2020

Gov. Inslee Extends State of Emergency

On Thursday, Dec. 10, Gov. Jay Inslee ordered that a State of Emergency continues to exist in all counties of Washington State. Current plans call for prohibitions under this emergency to expire at 11:59 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 4, 2021 (unless extended).

This newest order includes modifications to existing prohibitions, notably:

- **Indoor social gatherings** with people from outside your household (individuals residing in the same domicile) are prohibited unless they quarantine for 14 days prior to gathering; or quarantine for seven days prior to the social gathering and receive a negative COVID-19 test result no more than 48-hours prior to the event.
- **Outdoor social gatherings** are limited to five people from outside your household.
- Restaurants and bars are closed for indoor dine-in service. Outdoor dining and to-go service are permitted. Outdoor dining is limited to a maximum of five people at a table.
- **In-store retail** is limited to 25 percent of indoor occupancy limits. Common areas and indoor dining facilities such as food courts are closed.
- **Fitness facilities and gyms** are closed for indoor operations. Outdoor fitness classes are permitted but are subject to the outdoor social gathering restriction listed above.
- **Professional services** should mandate that employees work from home when possible and close offices to the public if possible. Any office that must remain open must limit occupancy to 25 percent of indoor occupancy limits.
- Personal services, such as hairstylists, barbers, nail salons, tanning salons and tattoo parlors, are limited to 25 percent of indoor occupancy limits.
- Bowling centers, museums, zoos/aquariums and movie theaters are closed for indoor service. Drive-in movie theaters are permitted.
- **Religious services** are limited to 25 percent of indoor occupancy limits or no more than 200 people, whichever is fewer. Participants must wear facial coverings at all times. Indoor congregation singing is prohibited.

Those with questions can view the entire order **here**, including additional specifications for religious services and funerals.

Chief's Corner

I hope by now you've received your copy of our fall issue of the Public Safety newsletter. Copies were mailed to all U.P. addresses. In addition to several important stories about crime and safety issues in our city, you'll also find brief recaps of the five sessions we hosted during our Fall Public Safety Academy.

Because of COVID, our Academy sessions were held virtually, but the good news is that even if you could not participate at the time, you can now view the first two sessions on the **City's YouTube channel**. This week, we debut our second session, which



focused on Use of Force. This session was led by Pierce County Sheriff's Department Sergeant Jason Youngman, who provided an in-depth look at the PCSD's patrol procedures and Use of Force protocols, including:

- Case Law regarding Reasonable Use of Force
- Crime and Use of Force statistics
- Force options
- Defensive Tactics Training received by deputies

His presentation included powerful videos as well as hands-on demonstrations of proper use of batons, tasers and physical restraints. It was accompanied by a robust question and answer session with participants. I encourage everyone who was not able to participate in the Academy to watch these sessions, including this one, which is likely to answer many questions people have about use of force and how, contrary to some public opinion, PCSD officers are trained to use force as a last resort, not an opening salvo.

As always, if you have questions, let me know. I welcome the opportunity to help increase understanding of our protocols and training.



Celebrate Wisely

The good news is that distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine is underway, but the bad news is that it will be several months before the vast majority of Americans can be immunized.

Until that time, we must remain vigilant in practicing safety precautions to prevent the spread of the virus. That means that for many families, Christmas gatherings will have to be different in 2020.

The Washington Department of Health has put together an extensive **checklist for how to prepare** for holiday gatherings, as well as how to **talk to your family and friends about making smart choices** in the midst of this pandemic. They also have **tips on how to cope** if you will be apart from loved ones this holiday season.

Remember that even small gatherings create the potential for the virus to spread outside of the immediate group. So please follow the Governor's orders, thinking not just of your own family, but also all those families who have lost a loved one to the virus or who have loved ones at risk.

Holiday CheerUP! Brings Smiles and Fun

Despite some rain, the Holiday CheerUP! event organized by businesses in the Village at Chambers Bay and Green Firs Towne Center was a big hit. A total of 15 businesses from the shopping centers participated in this first-time event by decorating the sidewalks in front of their shops. Some also provided individually-packaged treats and coupons to those who drove by, while numerous cars "passed it forward" by dropping off donations for the Toys for Tots campaign.

Many of the estimated 500 or so vehicles that came out to partake in the event also got in the spirit by



decorating their own cars for the drive-by festivities. "It was a great night!" said Dawn Morris of Bishops Cut/Color and one of the celebration's organizers. "The people driving by expressed appreciation and excitement about the reverse parade. We saw many little faces with shining eyes and big smiles as they passed by."

Kudos to the organizers and the businesses who shared their Christmas spirit in this challenging year:

Village at Chambers Bay: Anthem Coffee, Bishops Cut/Color, Bliss Small Batch Creamery, Coldwell Banker Bain, First Financial Northwest Bank, Mediterranean Gyro Grill, Naturepedic Mattress, Pensee Nails, Urban Float, Whole Foods.

Green Firs Towne Center: Body & Brain, Maria's Cocina Mexicana, Pizza Hut, See's Chocolates, Trader Joe's.

Thank you also to MAGIC! in the PNW for donating their time and efforts to bring smiles to all of the families at this event!

Miss the Virtual Tree Lighting? See it here!



What's UP with Biz? Three Cheers for Cheers U.P. Bar & Grill

On Saturday, Dec. 19, Cheers U.P. Bar & Grill at 7102 27th St. W. will give away 300 whole frozen turkeys. The distribution will begin at 11 a.m. and last until all the turkeys are gone. Vehicles should enter from 27th Street and will exit onto Rochester Street West behind the restaurant.

"Time and time again, we continue to be amazed by the generosity of our U.P. businesses, many of whom have been significantly impacted by COVID themselves," said Mariza Craig, Economic Development director for the City of University Place. "We are so grateful to Cheers U.P. for this act of selflessness to those families in our community who are struggling this year. What a great representation of the kind of special businesses we have here in U.P."

Cirque Drive Construction Update



Free Mobile COVID-19 Testing in U.P.



On December 19 and 29, **West Pierce Fire & Rescue** and the City of University Place will team up to host a **free** mobile COVID-19 testing site at the old City Hall location in Windmill Village from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

There will be walk-up and drive-through testing and, although appointments are not required, safety is paramount so numerous measures will be in place to ensure the tests can be completed without risk to anyone. These measures include:

- Social distancing of walk-up testers will be enforced, and each walk-up will be given a mask.
- Pierce County Emergency Management is providing self-contained trailers (for bio waste and test swabs).
- All testing personnel will be outfitted with personal protective equipment (PPE), including gloves, masks and face shields.

Come prepared: To make the process go faster, please fill out each of these forms for each individual being tested in advance, print them and bring them with you to the testing site:

Contact form Test form

The test swabs will be taken to a local lab, with results available within five to seven days and shared with the individual. If the test was at the bequest of a person's employer, the **Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department** will contact the employer to share the results with the employee.

These free tests are being offered through a partnership between the Pierce County Department of Emergency Management and with volunteers from West Pierce Fire & Rescue that have been trained through the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) program.

For more information about the upcoming free testing sites county-wide, visit the **Pierce County Website**.

Get the Facts: COVID Resources

As the nation and our region continues to battle the COVID-19 outbreak, be sure to stay informed with accurate

information from these official sources:

- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control offers the latest facts and information about COVID-19, including information on travel and return to school or work.
- CDC.gow/COVID19
- The **Governor's Office**provides details about on-going response efforts throughout the State of
 Washington, including the state's Risk Assessment Dashboard.
- The **Washington State Department of Health** provides updated statistics on the occurrence of COVID-19 across the state, as well as testing data.
- The Tacoma-Pierce County Department of Health and Pierce County Government provide important local information on testing sites, phased re-opening status and CARES Act funding to support recovery efforts.
- The City of University Place's dedicated **COVID-19 info page** includes valuable information on resources for businesses and residents, such as local school meal sites and public utilities' contact information for payment plans or assistance.





UNIVERSITY PLACE VIRTUAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, Jan. 4, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

WWW.CITYOFUP.COM





Mayor Pro Tem Steve Worthington







Howard Lee





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