



New measures to curb the spread of COVID-19 in our State

March 11, 2020

To Our City Family:

First, I want to thank all of you for your continued flexibility, leadership, and patience as we respond to the spread of COVID-19. I truly believe this outbreak may be one of the most transformative and consequential events that our region and our country will experience in a very long time.

Today, Governor Inslee and King County announced additional measures to curb the spread of COVID-19, including the prohibition of gatherings of 250 people or more for activities such as concerts, parades and sporting events. I want you to know that I support these measures, am fully aware of the kind of impact it will have on the City and larger community, and that the decision was not made lightly. Similar to last week, Public Health – Seattle & King County (PHSKC) will be releasing updated public health guidance and recommendations later today for businesses, workplaces, and schools. You will be able to find PHSKC guidance on their [website](#).

I know this will have an impact on the day to day operations of many of the City's key programs. Over the next day, my office will be working closely with department directors on what both proclamations and new guidance mean for our programs, facilities, and staff and work to provide updates as soon as possible [on our SharePoint](#).

Luckily, in Seattle we have some of the best scientists in the world, and they've helped us better understand this virus. What we believe is that the virus has spread more broadly than the cases we currently have confirmed. Yesterday, I shared what I have learned from public health officials and scientists, and [I hope you'll take a moment to read it](#).

Beyond our organization, I know this will also impact our most vulnerable neighbors, and I am humbled by our City employees who are working non-stop to help those most in need. As we look forward, my administration will be doing everything we can to help small businesses and workers without a safety net who will be feeling a disproportionate impact. It's why yesterday I was proud to announce that for as long as the Civil Emergency is in effect, utilities will stay on, and we took a number of measures for our small businesses to ease the burden during this tough time.

I know it is a stressful time for many in our community, and I ask you all to do everything you can to stay healthy. This is the beginning of a marathon, not a sprint, and I thank you all for your patience as we take these measures to keep our community safe.

Sincerely,

Jenny