



City of Falls City  
299 Mill Street  
Falls City, OR 97344  
Ph. 503.787.3631

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**  
**JEREMY GORDON**

March 24, 2020

**City of Falls City Emergency Declaration Introduction**

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I hope this letter finds you all coping as best as you are able considering the ongoing events related to COVID-19. Without question, all our lives look different in some way. Some are living with reduced incomes or have lost their jobs completely, some cannot find safe childcare for their young ones, and others, like Dana and me, are juggling having children at home full time while working from home. And many are struggling as they try to adapt to this new but temporary way of life while losing familiar community hubs like schools and churches. Despite these challenges, I have no doubt that this community will continue to support each other, listen to guidance from experts, and become stronger as a result. I know this because people here take care of each other and rally around each other in a way not seen in many other places. There is nowhere I would rather be during this difficult time than in this community with all of you.

Changes are constant and we are receiving more and better information every day as the virus spreads rapidly. On March 23, the Oregon Health Authority reported 30 new cases of COVID-19 in one day, bringing the total to 191 known cases in Oregon, 3 in Polk County and 30 in Marion County. By the time you read this there will be more, and more the following day. This number is expected to rise as testing becomes more available and as the virus manifests in our communities. This is a serious disease, is many times more contagious and deadly than the flu, and is obviously scary for everyone, especially our seniors and people with underlying health conditions.

Fortunately, there are precautions we can take to lessen the transmission rate of the virus. Due to the seriousness of the emergency, and evidence that many were not following previous guidelines, the Governor issued Executive Order 20-12 which includes the following mandates that apply to all of Oregon, including Falls City. For more detail about the Order, go to [www.oregon.gov/oha](http://www.oregon.gov/oha):

**1. Stay home as much as possible**

Trips to the grocery store, buying necessary supplies, receiving medical care, and picking up prescriptions are permitted. In doing so, we must maintain a minimum of 6 feet of distance from other people. Do not gather in groups, get together with friends in person, schedule play dates or make unnecessary trips. Remember, people can carry the virus without showing symptoms and leaving the home unnecessarily puts other people at risk for serious illness or death. This will be especially hard for teenagers and kids, however, avoiding contact with other people will limit the transmission of the virus and keep other people safe. Let's all do our part while encouraging others to stay home.

**2. Certain businesses and facilities must close, including city and school playgrounds**

Closed: malls and retail complexes, gyms, barbershops and hair/nail salons, theaters, playgrounds

Open: grocery stores, banks, pharmacies, bars/restaurants (takeout or delivery only), gas stations, and some other stores that can guarantee people maintain 6 feet from others.

**3. Walking, jogging, biking, hiking is permitted**

Outside activities like these with yourself or others who live in your household is permitted but please maintain at least six feet or more between other people.

We convened a meeting between the City, School District, Fire Department, and community and faith leaders today and will continue to do so every Wednesday going forward. We plan to share information with one another, check in on the health and well being of community members, share best practices for volunteer and citizen engagement, and share what we learn with the broader community.

Volunteers are compiling a list of Falls City citizens who are deemed at-risk and plan to check in to offer assistance and share information. It's difficult for many of us to ask for help. But during this time, we will be required to ask for, receive, and grace one another with more help than ever to ensure that nobody goes without proper food, prescriptions, and other basic needs.

Volunteers will also distribute a list of useful resources and information regarding utilities and other service providers that may be helpful to residents.

Your City is in good hands. City Manager Mac Corthell and your city staff are adapting to the changes and requirements with the utmost professionalism and care. Manager Corthell is tasked with assuming the role of Emergency Manager and will continue to be in communication with his counterparts at the County, State, and Federal levels and respond to needs in Falls City as necessary.

Thank you again for all of your work thus far taking care of yourselves, your families, and your community. Please continue to check in with your neighbors and friends who may be at-risk and require some assistance with grocery shopping, yard work, or other tasks. Until next time, take plenty of breaks from the news, talk a bit more on the phone, and hang in there. We are in this together.

Please see the following page for the Falls City Situation Report.

Sincerely,



Jeremy Gordon  
Mayor, City of Falls City

**City of Falls City**  
**COVID-19 Situation Report**  
**March 24, 2020**

**Purpose:**

To provide information on the Falls City specific response to COVID-19. Information on the broader response can be found at [www.fallscityoregon.gov](http://www.fallscityoregon.gov), and <https://govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19>.

**March 14, 2020- Council Emergency Session**

- City Hall traffic limited to business through foyer door, and by telephone/email.
- City Facilities closed to public use, exception for emergent social services.
  - Warming center operational inside Community Center, special cleaning requirements.
  - School Nutrition Program operational outside Community Center.
- Water Shut-offs and penalties waived during state emergency declaration.
- Temporary COVID-19 employment policy implemented.

**March 23, 2020- Governor's Executive Order 20-12**

- All city park structures closed (playground, gazebo, restrooms)
- City park green spaces open, but social distancing required by law
- City staff placed on modified work schedules with work from home and separation of activities emphasized.
- Parry Rd. Water Main Project
  - Contractor allowed to begin, but cease before point of water shutoff for further assessment on health conditions.

**March 24, 2020-Council Emergency Session**

- Emergency Declaration
  - Effective through April 28, 2020 (unless extended or cancelled)
  - Mayor Gordon, and Clerk Ward named as acting Manager's respectively in case City Manager becomes incapacitated during the emergency.
  - City Manager given authority to take lawful, temporary actions and issue temporary orders to protect public health and mitigate the emergency.
  - Authorizes the city to request emergency funding, assistance, and/or reimbursement for emergency response and recovery.
  - Authorizes emergency procurement procedures.

Please visit [www.fallscityoregon.gov](http://www.fallscityoregon.gov) for up to date information on city hall services and hours. Additional situation reports will be provided as changes to the situation occur.