

Statement from the City of Granite Falls further addressing the Governor’s “Stay at Home” proclamation mandating Granite Falls city residents, business owners, and others who work and recreate in the City of Granite Falls to stay home and limit their interactions with others in order to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

Under the Proclamation:

1. Please do your part to minimize the impact of this COVID-19 pandemic on your local community - **Stay at Home.**

Therefore, residents, business owners, and others who either work or recreate in the City of Granite Falls shall, effective on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 and until further notice:

A. Stay home, except for certain essential activities and work necessary to provide essential business activity and government services, or perform essential public infrastructure construction.

B. Essential Activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Errands to maintain health and safety, such as obtaining medicine or seeing a doctor.
- Acquiring necessary services or supplies for you, your family or household members, such as getting food and supplies, and pet food and supplies necessary for staying home. This can include curbside pickup, delivery, take out or drive-thru food and beverage services. Please only purchase items you immediately need and do not stockpile.
- Engaging in outdoor activity such as walking, hiking or running, provided you keep at least 6 feet of distance between yourself and others. Use of all park/playground equipment is highly discouraged as the COVID virus can live on plastic and metal surfaces for an extended period of time, but the park spaces (including the dog park) will remain open for outdoor activities as long as citizens adhere to recommendations for social distancing and avoid public gathering within the City’s recreational open spaces.
- Caring for a family member in another household.
- Caring for elderly, minors, dependents, people with disabilities or other vulnerable persons.

C. In order to facilitate social distancing measures, it is recommended that citizens conduct essential activities with a maximum of two persons whenever possible.

D. Essential business and government services include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Health care operations, including all training and educational programs and home health workers.
- Essential infrastructure, including construction of housing (residential and mixed-use, industrial and commercial projects currently underway; and operations of public transportation and utilities.
- Businesses that supply products or services necessary to both maintain the functionality and/or safety of equipment, facilities, utilities, healthcare, national defense, all modes of transportation and critical supply chains used in other essential businesses.
- Grocery stores, farmers markets, food banks, convenience stores.
- Food and beverage providers offering curbside pickup, delivery, take out or drive-thru services.
- Businesses that provide necessities of life for economically disadvantaged individuals and shelter facilities.
- Pharmacies, health care supply stores and health care facilities.
- Gas stations and auto repair facilities.
- Banks.
- Garbage collection.

- Hardware stores, plumbers, electricians and other service providers necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation and essential operation of residences and other essential businesses.
- Educational institutions for the purposes of facilitating distance learning.
- Laundromats, dry cleaners and laundry service providers.
- Businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food and goods directly to residences.
- Childcare facilities providing services that enable essential employees to go to work.
- Roles required for any essential business to “maintain basic operations, which include security, payroll and similar activities.

See the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s comprehensive list of Critical Infrastructure Sectors.

E. Follow the recommendations of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) when conducting essential activities and services allowed under B and C, above.

These recommendations include the following: (i) maintain at least 6 feet from other individuals, wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds as frequently as possible or use hand sanitizer, cover coughs or sneezes and do not shake hands; and (ii) perform routine environmental cleaning.

F. Employers in Granite Falls that do not provide essential businesses or government services should take all steps necessary for employees to work remotely from home to the extent possible.

City Public Works employees will continue to work to provide critical City services through this crisis while practicing all recommendations of the CDC to prevent the contraction and/or potential spread of this disease.

City Hall is closed to the public until further notice. City Hall staff will still be available by phone at 360-691-6441.

Utility payments can be placed in the dropbox in the alley behind City Hall.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding as we all work together to get through this crisis. The Granite Falls Community is a strong, resilient, and close-knit group of people who genuinely care about their neighbors and the welfare of our city. Do whatever you can to help those around you if they need something. Patronize our shuttered restaurants with to-go orders. Don’t hoard, but stock up at IGA so we keep the dollars flowing in town. Make sure to take care of yourself as well as your family— get outside, and breathe fresh air, being mindful of social distancing. Find ways to look past the fear, and be grateful for what you have, and know that this virus will pass.

Matt Hartman, Mayor
City of Granite Falls