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## **STAY HOME, SAVE LIVES, MUKILTEO STRONG**

To my fellow Mukilteans,

As of today, there are more than 540 confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases in Snohomish County alone and ten deaths. There are cases in nearly every city in our county, including Mukilteo. Statewide there are nearly 1,400 confirmed cases. These are unprecedented times and pose enormous risk not only to our public's health, but also our economy and quality of life.

The virus that causes COVID-19 is easily transmitted, especially in groups. The Snohomish Health District states that "The closer the contact between people – and the more people in a group – the greater the risk of passing along viruses." Especially at risk are those who have a compromised immune system; are pregnant; have a serious condition such as diabetes, heart disease or lung disease; or have a cough, fever, and/or difficulty breathing. People older than 60 are especially vulnerable to the COVID-19 virus. It is essential that the spread of the virus be slowed to protect the ability of public and private health care providers to handle the influx of new patients and safeguard public health and safety.

As a result, I am directing each of us to take the following precautionary actions, effective immediately and until further notice.

1. Stay home, except for certain essential activities and work to provide essential business and government services, or perform essential public infrastructure construction. Homeless individuals are not subject to this directive, but are strongly urged to find shelter and government agencies are urged to take steps needed to provide shelter for those individuals.

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, pet food and supplies necessary for staying home. This can include curbside pick up, School District food pick-up, 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 others.
- Caring for a family member in another household.

- Caring for elderly, minors, dependents, people with disabilities or other vulnerable persons.

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 operation 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 pick up, 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](#).

2. Follow the recommendations of the [Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#) when conducting essential activities and services allowed under #1, 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. Employers in Mukilteo 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.

To the extent that any of these directives conflict with State law, or the Governor issues a Stay at Home Order applicable to the residents of the City of Mukilteo, such State law or Order shall supersede this directive.

These are challenging and unprecedented times. I am so concerned that what we have done so far is not enough, and I fear that even this further directive is not enough. The science our state leaders are using shows that minimizing social contact can save lives. For a short time, we must figure out how to lead our lives differently. I know some small businesses and employees are also afraid of the long term consequences to their livelihood. I live in hope that we will come out of this #mukilteostrong.

Mayor Jennifer Gregerson