



Never confuse motion with action. Benjamin Franklin

Greetings from Mayor Brian Dalton,

As COVID-19 looms large in our windshield, it is worth noting that an unprecedented host of swift and effective actions are being taken at every level of Oregon's government to confront this global pandemic. Rapid, decisive actions - not words or the wheels of government grinding slowly - are the order of the day. With that, let me speed to you what we at the City of Dallas are doing to keep you, our community, safe and informed.

Over the past few days, we have curtailed public access to, or closed completely, such facilities as our public restrooms, the Aquatic Center and the Library. On Thursday, we closed public access to City Hall. To adapt, our City staff continues to be available during normal business hours, but are working primarily via telephone, emails and via other methods such as virtual networking to provide essential services. Of course, our public safety staff will be working 24/7 to protect our community.

In this rapidly changing state of affairs, we feel the acute responsibility to provide you with current, relevant and important information that impacts your daily life here in Dallas. We will employ various means to do this. In addition to information postings (e.g. on the front door of City Hall), we have created a special element on the City webpage entitled "Novel Coronavirus Information and Response" which includes a great deal of detailed information on current updates, status of various City services and contact number to reach City staff working during normal business hours. Please regard this special web link as our central point for disseminating information on this critical period in our lives here direct from the City of Dallas to our community members. Find this at: www.dallasor.gov

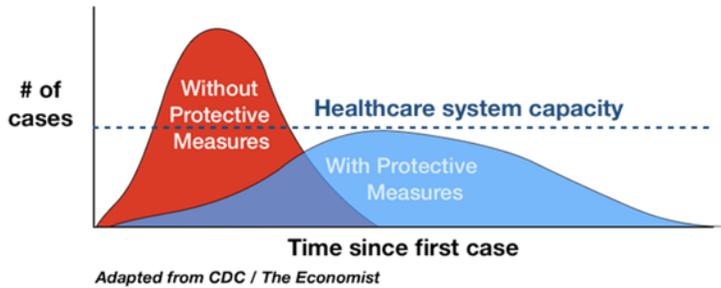
When you visit our site, note at the very top of the page there is a black banner with the words COVID-19, followed by an arrow pointing to the right →. Immediately to the right of that arrow you should see the smaller wording, **COVID-19 Impacts**. Clicking on COVID-19 Impacts will take you to the City's Novel Coronavirus Information and Response page.

In addition to our routine City web site, we will be employing our CivicReady mass notification system to push out urgent information, emergency instructions or warnings if called for, as well as relatively routine information which would be broadly useful regarding COVID-19. These messages go out to subscribed citizens via email, text message, and voicemail alert. We will be creating a new notification group on CivicReady called COVID-19, so current subscribers will need to sign up for this new group and new subscribers should sign up for this group as well. Signing up is free and easy; just visit the City of Dallas web page at www.dallasor.gov, scroll down to near the bottom and click on the orange CIVIC READY logo.

The question comes up, should Dallas declare a State of Emergency? We are aware that the Governor, the Polk County's Board of Commissioners and some other cities around the state have each individually declared a State of Emergency, some based on how their particular Charters or ordinances might be worded. This was doubtless reasonable and appropriate in their cases based on their circumstances. However, after much study and consultation, several cities, including Dallas, have made the conscious decision, based on particular situations, not to declare an Emergency at this juncture. We have the authority and tools we need in hand to manage city operations without a

declaration; but if things change markedly, such an action might be forthcoming here, but it is not in the plan at this point.

Finally, by now the term “Social Distancing” is pretty well understood. This is extremely important here in Dallas as we work hard to “flatten the curve” and slow the spread of this virus. The graphic below—which you likely have already seen—shows how our health care system might be tasked beyond capacity if we don’t all work very hard to slow the spread of the virus—social distancing, that is trying hard to maintain approximately 6’ between each other—is reportedly the very best tool we have at this juncture. Remember, we are striving for the blue example, not the red.



What is the optimal social distancing you ask? We hear between about 6 feet but as low as 3 feet. Per the Oregon Health Authority, 6 feet is routinely recommended, but the science seems to show that 3 feet is sufficient to prevent the spread of the virus in droplet form. Practically seems to dictate which distance to maintain, but surely this is not the time for close contact – hugs, handshakes and the like. If we’re careful, living like this for a while can save some lives.

Finally, below my signature, find some useful weblinks on the subject. Information is changing daily if not faster, so it is worth pedaling hard to keep up.

Meanwhile, be safe and keep each other safe. Not that hard to do in this great city where our habit is to very sincerely care for one another.

Brian Dalton
The Mayor

Oregon Health Authority Main Page for CV-19 info and resources.

<https://govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19>

CDC Main CV-19 webpage, all the info you need to know

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Polk County Public Health main webpage:

<https://www.co.polk.or.us/ph>