



## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### **RIDGEFIELD ISSUES EMERGENCY DECLARATION AND TAKES FURTHER STEPS TO CONTINUE PROVIDING NEEDED SERVICES**

Press Contact Information:  
Steve Stuart, City Manager  
PH: 360.887.3557  
[steve.stuart@ci.ridgefield.wa.us](mailto:steve.stuart@ci.ridgefield.wa.us)

**Ridgefield, WA, March 17, 2020** – In order to rapidly respond to the developing novel coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, Ridgefield City Manager Steve Stuart today issued a formal Declaration of Emergency and adopted further operational steps to assure continuing service and the safety of residents and City staff. These actions follow operational changes announced last Friday in Ridgefield which were enacted in coordination and consultation with Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency (CRESA), Clark County Public Health, Clark County, and the cities within Clark County,

The declaration will be reviewed by the Ridgefield City Council at their regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 26.

The declaration gives the City the flexibility and authority to respond quickly to changing needs with access to federal, state and local emergency resources and funds. Any emergency orders and actions taken under the declaration are anticipated to be done in coordination with a regional response. Clark County, cities in Clark County, and the State of Washington have also made similar declarations of emergency.

The City of Ridgefield is also partially activating its Emergency Operations Center to better coordinate its response efforts locally and is participating in a Joint Information Center established by the Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency (CRESA).

Effective March 18, the City will implement the following changes to its operations and services as preventative measure to limit the spread of COVID-19 among our employees and the community:

City Facilities. City Hall, City offices at the RACC and the Police Department lobby will be closed to the public, with access by appointment only. Online services will remain available and phones will be answered during normal business hours. Employees are being encouraged to work remotely when possible, provided it does not interfere with vital operations.

City Services. City services will be modified as follows:

- All public events and park reservations will be cancelled.
- Public parks will remain open, and while sheltering in place, social distancing if residents use the parks is still recommended, Public Works will also regularly sanitize City playground equipment and public benches.
- There will be no late fees assessed for water bills until further notice, and there will be no water shutoff during this timeframe. Utility payments can be made online at [www.ridgefieldwa.us](http://www.ridgefieldwa.us) , by phone (360)887-3557, by mail, or in person through the drop box at City Hall. Start/Stop/Move Utility services are also available by phone.

City Public Meetings. All non-essential public meetings will be cancelled. City Council meetings will continue but may change to virtual meetings.

City Businesses. Due to the statewide restrictions on business operations, the City will be working with local businesses to understand those restrictions and communicate with residents about which businesses and services are still available.

These measures will be in effect until the threat of COVID-19 to public health and safety has abated, as determined through continued local, regional, statewide, and national evaluation.

For more information about the City's response to COVID-19, visit [www.ridgefieldwa.us/coronavirus](http://www.ridgefieldwa.us/coronavirus)

# DECLARATION OF CIVIL PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

A RESOLUTION declaring a local public health emergency.

**WHEREAS**, on February 29, 2020 the Governor of the state of Washington proclaimed that a State of Emergency exists in all counties in the state of Washington as a result of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak;

**WHEREAS**, on March 6, 2020, the Clark County Public Health Department confirmed the first case of COVID-19 within Clark County;

**WHEREAS**, the Director/Health Officer of Clark County Public Health Department has reported to the Clark County Council that beginning March 6, 2020, COVID-19, a potentially life-threatening infectious disease was identified in Clark County;

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020 the President of the United States proclaimed that a State of Emergency exists as a result of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak;

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020 the Chair of the Clark County Council declared that there is an emergency that requires immediate measures to protect the public health and safety of Clark County citizens;

**WHEREAS**, this COVID-19 can result in serious illness or death and have serious impacts to the health and well-being of the public and can overwhelm the health and medical system in Clark County;

**WHEREAS**, under the above referenced conditions there is substantial likelihood of risk to the residents of Ridgefield unless further efforts are taken to reduce the threat; and

**WHEREAS**, the conditions stated above constitute an emergency for the City of Ridgefield, necessitating activation of the City of Ridgefield Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and the utilization of emergency powers granted pursuant to Ridgefield Municipal Code 2.44 and Chapter 38.52 RCW;

**NOW THEREFORE**, pursuant to Chapter 38.52 RCW and Ridgefield Municipal Code Section 2.44.070, the City Manager of Ridgefield, Washington, acting under the authority granted as the executive head, does resolve as follows:

Section 1. Pursuant to Section 2.44.070, the City Manager declares there is an emergency that requires immediate measures to protect the public health and safety of Ridgefield residents.

Section 2. There is hereby declared an emergency due to the imminent threat of the spread of COVID-19 in Ridgefield.

Section 3. Pursuant to the emergency declared at Section 1, and pursuant to the authority in RMC 2.44.100, City Manager, Deputy City Manager, and Finance Director are authorized to make emergency procurements where the City may suffer a substantial loss or damage to property, bodily injury, or loss of life by reason of the time required for following the regular purchasing procedures. Such authorization for emergency procurement shall be presented to the City Council for ratification and confirmation, modification or rejection at their next scheduled meeting after the procurement is authorized. Emergency procurements shall be considered in full force and effect until the City Council acts.

Section 4. The declaration of a local emergency set forth at Section 1 is issued subject to the ratification and confirmation, modification or rejection of the Ridgefield City Council as soon as practicable. It shall be filed with the City Clerk and notice thereof given to the Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency, the public, the Governor, and the media.

Section 5. Effective upon execution of this declaration, and subject to the ratification procedures in Section 4 above, the Ridgefield City Manager shall exercise authority through issuance of Executive Orders and through use and direction of City personnel, services and equipment, and any additional acts deemed necessary by the City Manager for the management of this emergency.

Section 6. The declaration of a local emergency set forth at Section shall terminate upon issuance of another declaration when order has been restored in the affected areas of the City of Ridgefield, unless otherwise extended or limited by the City Council.



---

Steve Stuart, Ridgefield City Manager

Dated this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020

In consultation with:

Dave Fuller  
Director of Emergency Services  
Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency

Approved as to form:



Janean Parker, City Attorney