

A Message from the Wheat Ridge City Manager

I hope this message finds you and family well, and we are so grateful for all your efforts to practice social distancing to keep the Wheat Ridge community safe and well. A reminder that all City of Wheat Ridge facilities are currently closed to public access until at least March 29, 2020, and the closure has been extended to April 30 for the Recreation Center, the Anderson Building and the Active Adult Center per the Governor's order related to the closure of gyms. Please continue to check the [City's website](#) frequently, as dates are likely to change.

At a special meeting last Friday, March 20, City Council approved a resolution declaring an emergency for Wheat Ridge. This will enable us to access federal and state funds and any additional resources we might need under the states of emergencies declared by our Governor and the President.

We have created a new online resource to support local businesses [Eat-Ridge.com](#). Visit this page regularly to find an updated list of Wheat Ridge restaurants and food-related businesses offering takeout, delivery or curbside options. If you are a business owner, please update or add your information. Stay tuned as we continue to find more ways for all us to support our local businesses in the coming weeks.

We will continue to add information to the City's [COVID-19 web pages](#). Please check there first if you have questions or are seeking virus-related information.

While the City is closed to the public, please be assured that we are doing everything we can to provide access to City services as follows:

- Municipal Court is canceled for all in-person appearances. The Court window is also closed. Call 303-235-2835 with questions.
- City Clerk Office call 303-235-2823. More info on the City [webpage](#)
- Business licensing and tax services call 303-235-2820. More info on the City [webpage](#)
- Building division call 303-235-2876 or 2873. More info on the City [webpage](#). Apply for a Right-of-Way construction permit [online](#)
- Police Records window is closed. Call 303-235-2921 to request police reports or email policerecords@ci.wheatridge.co.us. To file a police report call 303-237-2220.
- The time frame for fulfilling [CORA requests](#) has been extended for 10 days upon submission.

Yesterday, Governor Polis held a state briefing to emphasize the need for increased social distancing at all levels and announced [a new executive order](#) that requires all non-critical workplaces to decrease their in-person workforce by at least 50% by March 24. The new order lasts through April 10 and has a number of exemptions including emergency operations and industries that provide goods and services critical to our response to the COVID-19 emergency. I am proud to say that the City of Wheat Ridge made some critical decisions early on one of which was having employees work from home if they were able to do so which helps keep onsite workers healthier. Onsite employees have adjusted to this health emergency by staggering their shifts. For example, parks employees don't need to share parks vehicles so they are able to stagger shifts in order to continue maintaining our parks for the enjoyment of visitors.

The Governor also encouraged all of us to continue practicing social distancing, limiting grocery store visits to once a week, decreasing the number of times we exercise outside from say four to five jogs a week to one or two, and he urged all employees to "telecommute" as much as logistically possible, suggesting workplaces implement staggered shifts to limit unavoidable in-person interactions.

Please continue to check for updates on the City website www.bit.ly/WRCOVID-19 as this information changes daily. We will also continue to send **Emergency Preparedness Alerts** on a regular basis.

Stay well and remember to check on your at-risk neighbors and friends who might require help or simply need to hear a friendly voice on the phone.

We are in this together and, by supporting each other, we WILL get through this together. #WRInThisTogether

Stay well,

Patrick Goff, Wheat Ridge City Manager