

# City of Westminster



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## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Update from interim city manager regarding novel coronavirus (COVID-19)**

WESTMINSTER, Calif. - The following is an update from Interim City Manager Sherry Johnson regarding the city's efforts related to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and additional resources and tips to prevent the spread of COVID-19:

Dear Residents, Business Owners, and other Westminster Community Stakeholders,

The State of California and County of Orange recently declared public health emergencies in response to the emergence of a novel (new) coronavirus disease (COVID-19). As the concerns continue to rise, health officials are working with federal, state, and local partners to ensure preparedness and appropriate care are adequate in the event of an outbreak.

As your interim city manager, my highest priority is the safety and welfare of our city's residents, employees, and the community. While the coronavirus outbreak evolves daily on a global scale, local health officials are encouraging preparedness and understanding what you can do to best protect yourself. Regardless of how the outbreak develops in the next weeks and months, Westminster stands ready to assist our community and local partners. Our city has emergency plans in place to guide a comprehensive response to disasters including pandemics.

Our staff trains regularly, both internally and with regional partners, to prepare for emergencies. Our top leaders from our police, fire, and emergency services teams are conferring and reviewing the city's plans and procedures to ensure the most timely and effective response possible. Our city council and staff will continue to stay engaged on this critical issue through ongoing discussions with Orange County public health officials.

As a reminder, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) always recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

More information, including links to your local health care agency, can be found on the city's website.

The County of Orange Health Care Agency is also taking questions from the public regarding COVID-19 via the Health Referral line at (800) 564-8448, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Members of the public are also encouraged to attend the County of Orange's virtual town hall phone call on March 12 from 6-7 p.m. at (855) 756-7520 extension 56750# for live updates.

Be prepared, and stay safe and healthy. We will keep you updated as we receive additional information.

*Sherry Johnson*

Sherry Johnson  
Interim City Manager

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