

Statement from Lewiston Mayor Mark Cayer
Coronavirus Communication
March 13, 2020

For Information About the Coronavirus, Please Click or Call

Maine CDC Health Alerts Network

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/newhan.shtml>

Central Maine Medical Center

<https://www.cmhc.org/about-us/cmhc-alerts>

St. Mary's Regional Medical Center

<https://www.stmarysmaine.com/patient-and-visitor-information/coronavirus>

Call: 211

Lewiston Mayor Mark Cayer has issued the following statement:

"The Coronavirus is unsettling to all of us, and I want to assure you that the City of Lewiston and Lewiston Public Schools have been proactively preparing for weeks to respond as needed. History has shown that social distancing is the best way to mitigate the spread of a virus. By doing this as a community, we will protect our most vulnerable, and we'll limit the strain on our health care system. It's also crucial that our community turns to trusted agencies for reliable information."

The City of Lewiston is taking the following steps to address this health concern:

- ❖ **Closures:** Effective immediately, all non-essential meetings and events planned for City facilities are cancelled for an initial thirty-day (30) period. The City's Recreation Division programs and Senior Center located at the Lewiston Armory will be closed for the next two (2) weeks. These closures will be re-evaluated at the expiration of that time.
- ❖ Closures extend to all Lewiston Public Library programming for March & April, including the use of Library meeting and study rooms for this same period.
- ❖ The LA CA\$H Coalition, which utilizes the Armory, is closed for at least the next two (2) weeks—**WITH ONE EXCEPTION**. Free tax preparation appointments will take place on 3-14-20 but at a changed location. Appointments scheduled for that date will be held at the AARP tax site at Sacred Heart Church, 8 Sacred Heart Place, in Auburn.

- ❖ **City Business:** If you need to do City of Lewiston business, services will still be offered at City Hall, but, when possible, we urge doing City-related business at a distance (six ways provided below):

Using Mail: (Lewiston City Hall, 27 Pine Street, Lewiston, ME 04240)

E-mail: (Staff Directory - <http://www.lewistonmaine.gov/directory.aspx>)

Telephone: (207-513-3000)

Web-Based Online Services: Front of Web Site at www.lewistonmaine.gov

Drop-Box on Park Street Side of City Hall: Water bills, etc.

FAX Machine: (207-784-2959)

- ❖ The City has cancelled all non-essential travel by City employees, again for the next thirty (30) days.
- ❖ City Administration and staff are participating in weekly statewide online briefings with the Maine CDC. Mayor Mark Cayer, Council President Michel Lajoie, and Fire Chief Brian Stockdale are meeting weekly with local hospital and health care leaders. City staff are also regularly convening to address concerns.
- ❖ City/School administration will brief the City Council/School Committee on updates/actions at the beginning of each meeting for the foreseeable future. Meetings are recorded and shown live. Municipal updates will be posted on our web site (www.lewistonmaine.gov), the "Official City of Lewiston, Maine" Facebook page, Lewiston's Twitter account (Lewiston Government - @LewistonMeGov), and through press releases to our local media.
- ❖ The best safety practice that you can undertake is "**social distancing**" – avoiding close contact with others and not attending events, activities, or meetings—**unless deemed necessary**.
- ❖ Regular handwashing, using sanitizers, & cleaning surfaces are important steps.
- ❖ The School Department currently plans to keep the schools open but will be cancelling any activities that would attract more than 250 people. This is also in a constant state of re-evaluation.

PLEASE stay home if you are sick. Coronavirus symptoms are fever, coughing, shortness of breath, and sometimes a sore throat. Please contact your primary health doctor if you have a health concern.

According to Mayor Cayer, "As a community, we must do all that we can to contain and mitigate the spread of this virus throughout the community. The City is and will remain in close contact with State and Federal officials and local health care organizations to ensure that we respond appropriately and effectively to this public health challenge. As we did during the ice storm of 1998, let's commit to checking on those we know who are seniors or who have health challenges to make sure they are OK and have access to life's essentials. Also, please remember, be kind and support one another in these trying times."