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City of Tacoma  
W A S H I N G T O N

## An update from your City Council Member

City of Tacoma Washington sent this bulletin at 03/20/2020 09:15 AM PDT



Greetings,

I am hearing from many of you about your concerns about the Covid-19 pandemic that has reached our community. This is a rapidly developing situation, and the information below may change by the time you read it. Stay up to date on the latest news on the City's website:

[CityofTacoma.org/inthenews](https://www.cityoftacoma.org/inthenews).

Gratefully in service,

Chris Beale  
Tacoma City Council Member, District 5

### State of Emergency Proclamation in Regards to COVID - 19

Council voted on Tuesday to confirm the City of Tacoma's March 12 state of emergency proclamation in response to COVID-19.

The City's state of emergency proclamation was made in accordance with Tacoma Municipal Code Chapter 1.10. It allows the City to waive certain contracting and budget requirements, authorize staff to implement emergency purchasing requirements, and take other steps in response to the emergency.

As the City continues planning for a wide range of incidents and scenarios to ensure continuity of services for customers and community members, [Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department continues to provide updates on Pierce County residents who have received presumed positive test](#)

[results for COVID-19](#) and [the World Health Organization has officially categorized this outbreak as a pandemic](#).

At the recommendation of its Emergency Management Team and Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, City facilities including administrative offices at the Tacoma Municipal Building complex (747 Market St. and 733 Market St.) closed to the public beginning at 7:30 a.m. on March 18, until further notice. Essential City services, including emergency services and solid waste collection services, remain operational.

[Details on impacts of measures taken in response to COVID-19 on City facilities are available here](#).

## The City of Tacoma is supporting our residents

The City of Tacoma is committed to supporting our residents during this emergency.

Pursuant to the City's state of emergency proclamation, Council required the City's power, water, sanitary sewer, storm water, and solid waste utilities to postpone shutoffs for non-payment. Council also adopted Resolution No. 40575 approving the creation of an Emergency Assistance Program by Tacoma Public Utilities to allow more households to qualify for assistance. The Emergency Assistance Program is funded for up to \$1 million. For payment plans and assistance, call 253-502-8600, or visit their website to learn more at [MyTPU.org/COVID19](http://MyTPU.org/COVID19).

I am committed to ensuring every person in Tacoma has a home. During this very stressful time for our community, the City is assessing if additional emergency renter protections are needed.

Businesses impacted by this emergency are encouraged to visit our Economic Development website: [MakeItTacoma.com](http://MakeItTacoma.com). The City of Tacoma will update that website with all of the latest information on financial resources and other support for our local businesses.

## Tacoma Public Schools offering meals to all students

Governor Inslee ordered the closure of all schools in Washington state. Tacoma Public Schools are closed to allow for social distancing to reduce the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) in our community and state.

**10 meals sites remain open to families:** Tacoma Public School's 10 middle schools, including Gray and Baker, are serving as regional meal distribution sites for our students will remain open and staffed by Nutrition Services staff, security personnel and custodians. Hours are 10 a.m. to noon. Find a location near you: <http://bit.ly/TPSmeals>.

## Tacoma Pierce County Health Department

The City of Tacoma continues to work collaboratively with the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department to slow the spread of the virus and protect the public.

If you'd like to learn more about the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department, please visit their website:

<https://www.tpchd.org>

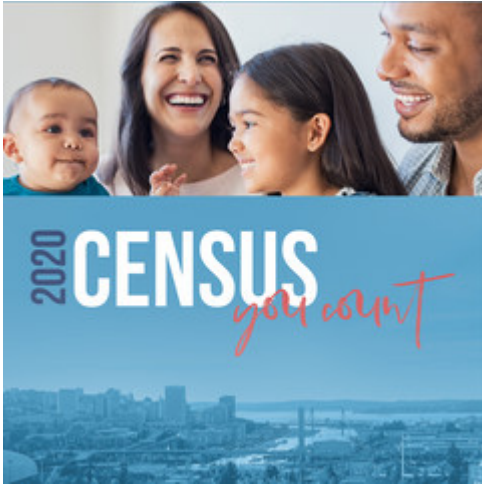
If you'd like to learn more about COVID-19, please see this link from their website for updates:

<https://www.tpchd.org/coronavirus>

## Department of Health call center

The Washington State Department of Health has established a call center to address questions from the public. If you have questions about what is happening in Washington, or how the virus is spread, please call 1-800-525-0127. Phone lines are currently staffed from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m, seven days a week. Please note that this call center can not access COVID-19 testing results. For testing inquiries or results, please contact your health care provider.

## You Count: Why It's Important to Take the 2020 Census Survey



By now, you have probably received information from the U.S. Census Bureau about the 2020 Census survey. I know that much of our attention is focused on keeping our families healthy given the recent COVID-19 outbreak, but I would like to encourage you to take some time at home to complete the Census survey. The federal government uses Census data to make decisions on how \$675 billion in funding will be spent throughout the nation. This funding supports education, public health, transportation, and other programs and grants that the City of Tacoma relies on to serve the community. The data is also used as a basis for the boundaries of state legislative and

congressional districts. The Census is only conducted every 10 years, so this is our chance to be counted!

Please visit <https://2020census.gov/> to learn more about the Census. The website translates into over 50 different languages. You can respond to the Census survey at this link, by filling out the form you received in the mail, or over the telephone. The Census survey does not ask about a person's citizenship status.

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