



OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER
VICTOR M. GORDO
DISTRICT 5

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

I want to take a moment and communicate directly with you regarding developments in the COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak. Please know, my top priority is keeping our District 5 constituents and our Pasadena community informed, prepared, and safe. The health and safety of your family are the most important things in the world. The uncertainty and anxiety about the COVID-19 outbreak is palpable in our community. I want to provide you the best information about the current status of this evolving issue and our City responses so that we can reduce anxiety, avoid panic, and work together as a community during this challenging time.

To that end, my office has been working closely with the City Manager hour to hour to monitor public health updates regarding COVID-19. The week began with news of the city's first identified case of coronavirus. This afternoon it was announced that Huntington Hospital is treating patients with COVID-19. Due to patient privacy laws there is no further information available. I want to make sure we're doing everything possible to protect and accommodate our residents and neighbors during this extraordinary health threat.

As we well know, Pasadena is a community that looks out for our neighbors and pulls together in difficult times to address complex issues. It's been said that every challenge is an opportunity in disguise. With a challenge of this magnitude, I encourage us to take this opportunity to reach out to our neighbors and friends, pass along a hello and kind word, let's remember to take care of one another.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call my office at (626) 744-4741 or reach out to me by email at VGordo@cityofpasadena.net.

Sincerely,

Councilmember Victor M. Gordo

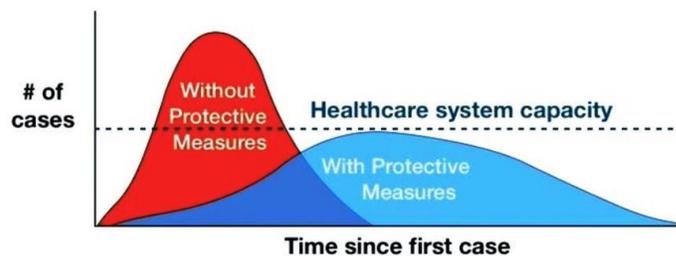
Social Distancing & Flattening the Curve

The most important step we can take at this time is to contain and mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in our community through social distancing. This means not only shutting down schools, group gatherings, and public events, working from home (as much as possible), but also making daily choices to maintain our distance from one another as much as possible so as to not exceed our healthcare system capacity (see chart). The

City has cancelled all of its “non-essential” City-sponsored events and activities until further notice, including recreational events and classes, educational and cultural events, and Census events. The PUSD has cancelled classes until April 5 ([more information can be found here for PUSD families](#)).

Although vigorous hand washing and social distancing may sound over simplified, our public health experts stress the critical importance of these measures to mitigate community spread (see chart).

Interventions to slow disease spread are critical



Adapted from CDC / The Economist

https://twitter.com/CT_Bergstrom/status/1235865328074153986

Steps I'm Taking

I spent this week away from my regular work and want to report to you the steps I've taken in the last 5 days.

- Requested that the City **plan to keep essential services going** in the event of unusually high absenteeism among municipal employees – especially those in essential services such as public safety and Water & Power (Utilities).
- I am proposing a **temporary eviction moratorium** to protect residents who can document that they cannot pay rent due to a substantial loss of income related to COVID-19.
- I have had ongoing communication with the President of the PUSD Board of Education (Pat Cahalan) to ensure we are **working in sync with our school district to support students, families, staff and faculty during the school closures**. I've also called for contingency plans to provide support for our most vulnerable working families who may be facing childcare and food security issues in the face of our school closures.
- I am working with our local businesses to better understand their needs and concerns at this time. We need to explore **measures to support our local businesses** that are experiencing a slowdown in business in response to the coronavirus. We need to support our business community.
- Requested expanded **outreach to some of our most vulnerable residents** – our unsheltered community members – to inform them about the virus and steps they can take to protect themselves from COVID-19, as well provide public hand

Each one of us must do our part. In addition to critical social distancing, please be sure to protect yourself and others from getting sick by taking these simple precautions

Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water aren't available, use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Cough or sneeze only into a tissue or the crook of your elbow - not your hand.

Avoid touching your mouth, eyes, and nose.

Frequently disinfect high-touch surfaces - cell phones, light switches, doorknobs, and toilets handles.

Avoid contact with people who are sick.

sanitizer stations. At the same time, I've requested that our City's Health Department and City Manager investigate ways the City can obtain hand sanitizer, hand wipes, and disinfectant sprays for distribution to our residents and neighbors.

- I have had **ongoing communication with City employee groups and line level employees** to discuss contingencies for working at home, childcare arrangements and self-quarantine, should it become necessary. We also need to ensure our workforce has the personal protective equipment and information needed to stay safe on the job. This past Friday morning, I asked for a meeting of all our labor groups to discuss these issues and ask for their input and requested that they remain open and flexible to City's possible need to adjust work schedules, policies, procedures.
- I am also requesting that City staff **call our large local employers** to provide current guidelines from the California Department of Public Health regarding mass gatherings and encourage them to consider telecommuting options for their employees to increase social distancing.

Many of the ideas listed above arose out of meetings and discussions with many community leaders and neighbors. I invite you to consider and add to the list. Each of us has an important perspective and thoughts to share about our community, its health and safety. I appreciate your ideas and suggestions, please keep them coming!

Finally, if you have recently returned from a country with ongoing COVID-19 infections, I ask that you follow **public health guidance** by calling our City's Health Department (626) 744-4311 and your healthcare provider to inform them about your travel history and carefully monitor your health.

Links & Resources

[Pasadena Public Health Department](#)

[Pasadena Unified School District - School Closures Information](#)

[Pasadena Public Library](#)

[Talking with Children about Coronavirus from the CDC](#)

[Activities for Young Children at Home](#)

[Stuck at home? Virtual Tour of 12 Museums](#)

[Tips for your Mental Health during Social Distancing](#)

[Social Distancing Doesn't Have to Doom Your Weekends - CNN](#)

[Social Distancing: This is not a snow day](#)



City Council Meetings and Agendas

The Pasadena City Council meets regularly on Monday evenings in Council Chambers at City Hall, 100 N. Garfield Ave., 2nd Floor. Council begins closed session at 5:30pm and regular open session in Chambers at 6:30pm.

Weekly agendas are available on the Thursday before the Monday meeting and can be found at the

City's [Council Agenda page](#). Public comment is always welcome and encouraged.

Should you need translation or other assistive services, please contact the City Clerk at (626) 744-4124. Council meetings are also streamed live by [KPAS](#).

Office of Councilmember Victor M. Gordo

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**Contact
Us**

