

Dear Simi Valley Citizens,

Since this new journey began, we have made numerous changes in our lives to deal with COVID-19 coronavirus. We “social distance” and take shelter in our homes. We wash our hands so much that our skin is dry. We use hand sanitizer. Gatherings of more than 10 people are forbidden.

In Ventura County, the California Department of Public Health and Ventura County Public Health are the lead agencies addressing the crisis. We look to these agencies for guidance and our role is to support their efforts. The actions of these agencies, tasked with saving lives, have dramatically changed ours.

The Health Orders from the State and Ventura County Public Health have established limits on which business can remain open. These “essential businesses” provide daily needs for our community. Those businesses not listed in the Orders are considered non-essential businesses and must immediately close to prevent further spread of the coronavirus.

The City of Simi Valley has taken measures to implement social distancing. We have closed City facilities to the public. We have reduced the number of staff members remaining in the City buildings to a minimum to ensure the work of the City still gets done, while sending remaining employees home to work. The City has taken steps to protect residential and commercial tenants from eviction due to the economic effects of the coronavirus. The City pledged to continue water service to customers despite non-payment of bills during this crisis. We also support Ventura County Public Health in its efforts to coordinate the overall health response among hospitals, first responders and homeless service providers. We have increased our meal services to our senior citizen population to assist them during this crisis.

Adhering to the State and County Health department restrictions demands unprecedented sacrifices from each of us, but these sacrifices are urgent, necessary, and justified. We each have the power to stop the spread of this virus and to save the lives of others. While these safety measures mean we may need to postpone or cancel important events and milestone celebrations, it is our shared responsibility to protect each other and our most vulnerable populations. The City Council understands that making these sacrifices is difficult and often disappointing. Nevertheless, if we all do our part, we can protect our lives and our futures, and move forward together.

Every resident and business owner has a critical role in stopping the spread of COVID-19. Social distancing measures are essential to protecting our community from the coronavirus as much as possible. We urge all Simi Valley residents to remain at home and limit your exposure to people outside your household. If you must go out, please practice social distancing and wash your hands regularly.

The City Council has always been, and continues to be, a strong supporter of the business community. However, these are desperate times. If you are not an essential business,

please voluntarily close your doors to the public. Your continued operation puts the entire community at risk, and provides yet another opportunity to spread the virus.

The fight against coronavirus is up to every one of us. First responders, hospitals, and the government can't stop the spread unless we take responsibility for our part. Simi Valley has a long history of coming together in times of need to take care of each other. By working together during this crisis, we can come through this as an even stronger community.

Mayor Keith L. Mashburn
Mayor Pro Tem Mike Judge
Council Member Dee Dee Cavanaugh
Council Member Ruth Luevanos
Council Member Elaine P. Litster

Follow these links for current and factual information and resources regarding coronavirus:

www.vcemergency.com

www.simivalley.org/covid19