



Understanding the COVID-19 Precautions in the City of Fremont

Frequently Asked Questions

This document was prepared by the City of Fremont. Updated April 15, 2020.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT CORONAVIRUS

What is the Coronavirus?

Coronaviruses are a large group of viruses that are common among animals and humans. This novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19 is a newly discovered coronavirus that has not been previously detected in animals or humans. The source of this virus is not yet known. For more information about COVID-19 visit www.cdc.gov/coronavirus

How do I reduce my chances of catching COVID-19?

There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person including between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet), and through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

General precautions you should take to reduce the risk of contracting the virus includes:

- Avoid close contact with persons who are sick
- While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible
- Stay home if you are sick
- Cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs.
- Washing 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 with at least 60% alcohol.

For more information on how to stay healthy visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/prevention.html>

What should I do if I think I was exposed to COVID-19, or sick with symptoms of COVID-19?

If you think you have been exposed to COVID-19 and develop a fever and symptoms, such as cough or difficulty breathing, call your healthcare provider for medical advice. Follow the following steps to help protect other people in your home and community:

- Stay home except to get medical care
- Separate yourself from other people in your home, this is known as home isolation
- Call ahead before visiting your doctor
- Wear a facemask if you are sick
- Cover your coughs and sneezes
- Clean your hands often
- Avoid sharing personal household items
- Clean all “high-touch” surfaces everyday
- Monitor your symptoms

For more details about how to care for yourself and protect your community if you are ill visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>

How many cases of the Coronavirus are in Alameda County?

For a current number of confirmed cases in Alameda County please visit <http://www.acphd.org/2019-ncov.aspx>

How many cases of the Coronavirus are in the city of Fremont?

The Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD) is the agency that has oversight for the City’s response to the pandemic and data is released by their agency. ACPHD has released a [COVID-19 Dashboard](#) that is updated regularly with the number of confirmed cases for both the County and individual jurisdictions.

To learn more about the ACPHD’s response to COVID-19 and view information about the number of confirmed cases in Alameda County, please visit <http://www.acphd.org/2019-ncov.aspx>.

ALAMEDA COUNTY SHELTER IN PLACE ORDER

What is the “shelter in place” order that the County of Alameda issued?

This Order requires that most people stay home through May 3, 2020, unless they are engaged in certain “Essential Activities” which are discussed more below. For most people, this means you and those you live with should remain at home. You are allowed to leave your home for specified reasons to make sure you have the necessities of life (discussed more below) such as getting food and medical supplies. You are also allowed to go outside to take care of pets, go on a walk, exercise outside, and just get outside, so long as you do not congregate in a group and maintain at least six feet of distance between you and other people. If you are sick you should self-isolate, including, to the extent you can, from others you live with.

For more information on the Alameda County Shelter in Place Order visit <http://www.acphd.org/2019-ncov.aspx>

Do I have to comply with the “shelter in place” order?

This Order is a legal Order issued under the authority of California law. You are required to comply, and it is a crime (a misdemeanor) not to follow the Order (although the intent is not for anyone to get into trouble). Also, it is critical for everyone to follow the Order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and protect themselves, their loved ones, friends, neighbors and the whole community. All persons, businesses, and other entities are required to comply if they do not fall within the exemptions that are specified in the Order.

If I witness a “shelter in place” order violation and want to report it, who should I contact?

We ask that the public please not call the Fremont Police Dispatch Center to report potential County Order violations. Instead, please email FremontPolice@fremont.gov so that our Dispatchers may continue to handle emergency calls.

What is the City of Fremont doing to limit the spread of the Coronavirus?

The City of Fremont has adjusted its City facilities closure period to extend until May 3, 2020 (from the previously announced deadline of April 7, 2020). This change is to align with the [March 31, 2020, Shelter In Place Order](#), issued by the Alameda County Public Health Department, in coordination with six bay area counties and the City of Berkeley. This new Order announced for residents in the Bay Area to stay home through May 3, 2020 to help slow the spread and reduce future impact on local hospitals from Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). For more information on how to access City services during the closure visit <http://fremont.gov/3587/City-Closure-and-Contacts>

The City of Fremont will continue to monitor this rapidly changing situation and appreciates your and patience as we take measures to help protect the health and well-being of the Fremont community. For more information and updates on how the City of Fremont is monitoring the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), visit www.Fremont.gov/Coronavirus.

Can I be tested for COVID-19 at the Fremont Testing Center? Is there a cost?

To receive a COVID-19 test, each person will be screened as part of a two-part testing process and **must have (or have had) a fever and be symptomatic for COVID-19**. Symptoms for COVID-19 include cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest and/or other respiratory symptoms. A referral from a medical doctor is not required to be screened. After the initial screening process is completed, those individuals who meet the testing criteria will be administered the actual COVID-19 test which involves swabbing of the nasal cavities and back of the throat. The tests are free to the public and available to anyone regardless of where they reside or their immigration status.

Where is the City of Fremont's COVID-19 Testing Center?

The Fremont Fire COVID-19 Testing Center has two locations.

Location 1:

The drive-thru testing system is located at the Fremont Fire Tactical Training Center; 7200 Stevenson Blvd. Testing at the Fremont Fire COVID-19 site will be organized using a drive-thru system and individuals seeking the test will need to remain inside a vehicle. **No walk-up tests will be permitted at this location.**

To get to the Testing Center, vehicles should enter from westbound Stevenson Boulevard—then proceed to Eureka Drive and make a right turn northbound. Vehicles should

Understanding the COVID-19 Precautions in the City of Fremont

then proceed forward on Eureka Drive and the line will be forming along the right curb. Access to the screening line is **only available by vehicle** and may be limited at times to provide for a safe and manageable traffic flow. The site is open daily from approximately 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. or until the maximum number of tests available for the day have been exhausted.

Location 2

The second testing location is in partnership with the Tri-City Health Center located at 39500 Liberty Street. **Those interested in scheduling a walk-up appointment should call the Tri-City Health Center's appointment line at (510) 252-6808.** Walk-up appointments at the Tri-City Health Center are available Monday through Friday on a first come, first served basis, from 1 p.m. until all afternoon appointment slots have been filled. The walk-up COVID-19 testing will be administered by one Fremont Fire Department Paramedic and one Emergency Medical Technician.

Are City employees being paid during the City office closure, or is it considered a furlough?

During this period, regular City of Fremont staff fall into one of three categories.

- Essential personnel that must report to work as usual which includes public safety and essential infrastructure personnel that keep the basic services of the City of Fremont operational.
- Personnel that can perform work remotely are working from home. These employees continue to perform services that keep Fremont operational.
- Other regular personnel that cannot perform telework, and for whom no other work has yet been identified have been put on paid administrative leave at this time. Employees on paid administrative leave are not required to draw from their leave banks and are required to remain local, accessible by phone, and ready to perform telework or report to work if notified that appropriate or essential work has been identified. These staff members are accessible to work and are activated on an as needed basis when appropriate work is identified.

How is the City supporting senior citizens or other members of the vulnerable population?

LIFE ElderCare, a Fremont nonprofit organization that receives CDBG funding from the City, has launched a program called Tri City At Risk, <https://www.tricityatrisk.com/>, to connect volunteers with vulnerable seniors at risk of COVID-19, including ensuring seniors have the groceries and supplies they need. The Human Services Department Aging and Family Services team is working remotely, ensuring services to the seniors in our programs experience minimal disruption. If you know of a senior who may be in need of assistance, please contact the Senior Helpline at 510-574-2041.

Are the City parks still open for exercise? What about the Skate Park and Dog Park?

At this time all recreation facilities, playgrounds, dog parks, basketball courts, tennis courts, skate park, programs, classes, facility rentals are canceled/closed. Please contact (510) 979-5700 or email maint@fremont.gov if you have any urgent questions. **Please note: Fremont parks will remain open for outdoor visitors with the recommended social distancing of 6 feet.** While City parks and bathrooms are still open, drinking fountains are covered for your protection and not recommended at this time.

As of April 9, 2020, the City has begun implementing parking lot closures at Central Park in an effort to reduce drive-in traffic by 60%-90%. These measures will assist the City's overall goal to limit social/physical distancing and decrease crowding of parking lots, park pathways, and trails. Additional parking restrictions will be evaluated and may be implemented at other parks, as needed. The City of Fremont has been encouraging residents to stay local by walking, jogging, or biking through one's neighborhood rather than drive to larger regional parks.

Can I play team sports?

During the Shelter in Place Order issued by Alameda County Public Health Department, sports with shared equipment, like soccer or basketball, may only be played with members of your same household or living unit. No team sports are allowed.

Will the City of Fremont assist community members pay their rent?

On March 27, 2020, the Fremont City Council ratified an [Executive Order](#) establishing a temporary moratorium on evictions of residential tenants. This new Executive Order imposes regulations related to evictions from all residential rental units where the failure to pay rent is due to income loss resulting from the declared Coronavirus (COVID-19) public health crisis.

Tenants who are not able to pay rent should provide documentation to their property manager or landlord that proves their financial hardship is related to COVID-19 as soon as possible, but no later than five calendar days after they are properly served with a Notice of Termination. Permissible documentation that residential tenants can submit to their property manager or landlord includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- A letter from an employer or other source of income citing the COVID-19 crisis as a reason for reduced work hours, termination, or other significant reduction in pay;
- Paycheck stubs showing a reduction in pay following the COVID-19 outbreak;
- Bank statements showing financial hardship following the COVID-19 outbreak;
- Documentation showing payment of substantial out-of-pocket medical expenses caused by COVID-19; and/or

- Documentation showing the closure of school or childcare facility where a child in the tenant's care would otherwise be attending during the tenant's working hours.
- Medical bills not covered by insurance with a COVID-19 diagnosis.

Small-scale commercial tenants seeking protection would need to demonstrate substantial business losses and also would need to show that they have attempted to adjust their business models, i.e., to takeout/delivery to mitigate their emergency-related losses.

The Eviction Moratoriums will end 30 days after the expiration of the declared emergency. For more information about the Temporary Eviction Moratorium visit www.Fremont.gov/HousingEvictionMoratorium.

Are grocery stores or critical retailers offering special hours for seniors or people who are vulnerable to COVID-19?

Yes, some grocery stores or critical retailers are offering a compassionate adjusted schedule to accommodate seniors and community members who are vulnerable to COVID-19. These hours may change without notice so it is best to call your specific store to confirm hours before visiting. For a full list of retailers and their adjusted hours visit <https://www.fremont.gov/3597/Senior-Resources>.

Can I adopt a cat or dog from the Tri-City Animal Shelter during the Shelter in Place Order?

The Tri-City Animal Shelter is not facilitating adoptions during the Shelter in Place Order issued by the Alameda County Health Officer. However, the Shelter is accepting applications to be a foster family. Once the Shelter in Place Order is lifted, the shelter staff will discuss next steps for adoption if you are interested in adopting the animal in your care.

For more information and to apply to foster an animal visit www.tricityanimalshelter.org/foster.

After applying to foster an animal, a staff member from the Tri-City Animal Shelter will contact you if you meet fostering requirements. When applying please be as detailed as possible. Due to the number of interested people, it may take some time for a staff member to get back to you.

For updates follow the shelter on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter at @TriCityAnimals

Can I foster a cat or dog during the Shelter in Place Order?

Yes! The Tri City Animal Shelter is now accepting applications for foster families.

If you're interested in fostering visit www.tricityanimalshelter.org/foster to complete a Foster Application. After applying to foster an animal, a staff member from the Tri-City Animal Shelter will contact you if you meet fostering requirements. When applying please be as detailed as possible. Due to the number of interested people, it may take some time for a staff member to get back to you.

For updates follow the shelter on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter at @TriCityAnimals

STAYING INFORMED

What's the best way to stay up to date on the Coronavirus and the impact on Fremont?

General updates will be made to the City's social media accounts on Facebook, Nextdoor, Nixle and Twitter; follow our channels by visiting www.Fremont.gov/SocialMedia.

How are utility agencies that service Fremont responding to the Coronavirus outbreak?

Each utility agency is following their own protocol to maintain the health and safety of their employees and the community, while still maintaining essential services. For more information please visit their website.

- Alameda County Water District (ACWD): <https://www.acwd.org/>
- East Bay Community Energy (EBCE): <https://ebce.org/>
- Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E): <https://www.pge.com/>
- Republic Services: <https://www.republicservices.com/>
- Union Sanitary District (USD): <https://www.unionsanitary.com/>

What are other reputable websites for information about the Coronavirus?

- World Health Organization:
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>
- California Department of Public Health:
<https://covid19.ca.gov/>
- Alameda County Department of Public Health:
<http://www.acphd.org/2019-ncov.aspx>