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## COVID-19 Updates

[COVID-19 City FAQ](#)

[pdf COVID-19 ORDINANCE \(198 KB\)](#)

[pdf Resolution Modifying Social Distancing Requirements in the City \(124 KB\)](#)

[.pdf Business Opening Plan Presentation \(266 KB\)](#), [Video](#)

[.pdf Ease Restrictions Flyer \(7.48 MB\)](#)

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**\*\*APRIL 29 UPDATE\*\***

### ***CITY ORDINANCE REVISION***

- · City Ordinance Revision is in effect. Approved by Council Monday night.
- o Seeing some openings of restaurants already
- o Fielding phone calls and emails from businesses seeking clarification

### ***GUIDE TO EASE RESTRICTIONS***

The City has developed a 'Guide To Ease Restrictions' flyer detailing many of the guidelines from Monday's City Council action. This flyer is available on the City's website and will be provided by our CODE ENFORCEMENT staff to local businesses. The Guide has also been provided to Elevate Rapid City, Visit Rapid City and Destination Rapid City to share with business contacts. "Compliance is everyone's job -- businesses, employees and the public."

### ***CITY UPDATES***

- · City fields/courts openings on the way.
- o Press release this weekend
- o Opening this weekend

- § Tennis courts
- § Basketball courts
- § Volleyball courts
- § Leased fields – baseball

**\*\*Lessees must submit COVID action plan for approval by Parks**

- · Park restrooms will remain closed
- · Park shelters/playground equipment will remain closed
- · Swim Center/Ice Arena to remain closed

o ½ due to safety

o ½ due to financial

- · Decision on public pools will come later – mid to late May
- · All Parks special events are cancelled through June
- · RC Area Schools will open Sioux Park track and field and adjacent soccer fields beginning Thursday

o Meeting tomorrow with the district

- · Summer Nights will delay until July

### **OTHER CITY NEWS**

- • Building permitting is strong
- • Construction is strong
- • City Workforce is healthy
- • Considering now when to reopen City Hall

### **CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE HUB**

Produced by the City Geographic Information System, the Hub is an effort to keep the community updated on local impacts and information related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Hub can be accessed by going to the COVID-19 Updates page on the City's website. The Hub includes City government updates, COVID-19 virus updates, community resources information, maps of community feeding sites and donation locations, and active tweets from the City, from me, Monument Health and the Centers for Disease Control. Also information from the 211 Helpline Center, Emergency Management and other sources.

### **LET IT SHINE**

Rapid City will 'Let It Shine' Friday night, joining other South Dakota cities in honoring the state's health care and other workers on the front lines battling the COVID-19 pandemic.

The public is invited to join a number of Rapid City businesses and organizations in a 'Let It Shine' tribute Friday from 8:30-9 p.m. South Dakotans are expected to respond during the half-hour tribute - in small ways like shining flashlights, car headlights and porch lights, to larger expressions of support such as turning on stadium lights, Main Street business lights and illuminating iconic structures. I encourage residents, businesses and organizations to shine a light on their support!

The 'Let It Shine South Dakota' organization is hosting the statewide event, which will include helicopters, airplanes and drones flying over the state's 12-largest cities to film aerial footage of the light displays. Some 'Let It Shine' examples that will be on display:

- • South Dakota Mines - O'Hara Stadium lights will be turned on along with scoreboard messaging, lights around campus, and lights on M-Hill
- • Rapid City Police Department – Patrol vehicle lights
- • Rapid City Fire Department – Stations to participate by pulling fire trucks out on their station lots and turning on their emergency lights
- • Black Hills Energy – Horizon Point Building lights will be on
- • Visit Rapid City – Dinosaur Park illumination
- • Rapid City Area Schools – School parking lot lights; Sioux Park Stadium lights will be illuminated
- • Rushmore Plaza Civic Center – Parking lot lights illuminated
- • Black Hills Rapids Soccer Club -- Will turn on the lights at Dakota Fields Sports Complex
- • Harney Little League, Canyon Lake Little League, Timberline Little League: field lights will be illuminated
- • Post 22: Will illuminate Floyd Fitzgerald Stadium
- • Black Hills BMX Track --Will illuminate its track area
- • Post 320: Will illuminate Pete Lien Field
- • St. Thomas More High School: Will be illuminated
- • McKeague Field -- stadium lights will be illuminated

### **FINAL THOUGHTS**

- · Public COVID survey concluding today – results out later.
- o Very revealing in terms of communication preferences, major concerns during this time etc.
- · Stick to local news
  - · Many un-vetted sources out there
  - · Practice safety measures

\*\*\*\*

### **CITY LAUNCHES CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE HUB**

COVID Community Updates, Resources Information;

Feeding and Donation Maps, Twitter Connections Among Features

In an effort to keep the community updated on local impacts and information related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Rapid City has launched its Coronavirus Response Hub.

The Coronavirus Response Hub site was produced by the City's Geographic Information System (GIS) Division.

The Response Hub is a link providing City government updates, COVID-19 virus updates, community resources information, maps of community feeding sites and donation locations, and active twitter feeds from the City, Mayor Allender, Monument Health and the Centers for Disease Control. Other information on the site includes links to Rapid City-Pennington County Emergency Management, the 211 Helpline Center, Pennington Outdoors and important COVID information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

**\*\*APRIL 22 UPDATE\*\***

**\*\*BUSINESS REOPENING PLAN**

- Details shared w/Council members
- Presentation provided to media and  
streamed live over Facebook and You Tube
- Council to meet Monday to take up plan  
in special session
- Visit COVID-19 Updates on City's website  
to view presentation/details

**\*\*EMERGENCY HOMELESS SHELTER**

- Numerous organizations assisting in effort
- Would be located in Rushmore Hall/Civic Center
- Shelter for general homeless and homeless who are ill
- More details within the week

**\*\*PARKS**

- Reviewing special event permits  
and status for big City events in July

**\*\*POLICE**

- Gun thefts and burglaries and related  
investigations keeping officers busy

**\*\*FIRE**

- Trend line on service calls remains  
below average; departments remain healthy

**\*\*FINANCE**

- Policy on 24-hour COVID hold on internal/  
external mail has been lifted

**\*\*YARD WASTE**

- Remote sites remain closed due to  
staffing; volume of loads at Landfill  
continue to be double normal traffic

**\*\*TENNIS COURTS**

- Parks closed City tennis courts weeks  
ago due to high usage/large #s of people  
congregating at courts

**\*\*APRIL 15 UPDATE\*\***

**TRAFFIC STUDY**

- City Traffic study – traffic down 25-30% on major roads through Rapid City.

**CLARIFYING LANDFILL ISSUE**

- o Yard Waste sites are not being opened due to workforce issues.
- o Privately hauled trash volume has doubled
- o Available employee time is limited.

- o Landfill site is open and well managed
- o Private haulers may bring 1,000 lbs for free with a City garbage bill.

### **PARKS**

- · The bike path is closed in places due to rising water (As of today, the crossings at Canyon Lake Drive and also Mt. Rushmore Rd).

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

- · Strong-as-ever activity with applications for building and land use permits (good sign)

### **COVID CASES**

- o New cases since we last held a press conference: 721 additional cases for a total today of 1168. A substantial increase from one week ago.
- 161% increase in one week in state
- o Our slow start here was not predicted.
  - · Clarification of flattening the curve – what is the goal?
- o To prevent the overburdening of our hospital systems.
- o Consequences of NOT doing this are grave.
- o It's working, but it's not done working.
- o Social distancing is very important.
  - · Talk of herd immunity lately
- o In the context of the fastest way to get the community healthy.
- o Recklessly causing a spike in infections will be deadly.
- o COVID-19 is far less predictable than the flu.
- o Might be the most ignorant and dangerous statement to date.

### **AIRPORT**

- · FAA Ruling – Airport passengers may not be screened by airport staff.

### **PARKS**

- · 11 porta pots out in parks. May seem controversial, but it is more sanitary from a Coronavirus perspective.

### **HOMELESS CENTER**

- · Temporary, emergency homeless isolation center is in the planning and could start up at the Civic Center.
- o This shelter would be to allow for the temporary isolation for sick homeless individuals, who also need supervision.
- o VOA and the Homeless Coalition is housing homeless families in motels/hotels.

### **\*\*APRIL 8 UPDATE\*\***

- · **Positive test results**
- o The lopsided results from East River to West River cause questions.
  - § This may shake confidence in testing or reporting.
- o Inquiry to the Dept. of Health indicates testing is being done in a comparable fashion – multiple testing locations are submitting to various laboratories and the results are being reported back to the DOH.
- o Monument Health indicates the low positive test results are consistent with their clinical caseload at this time.
- o Conclusion: We are doing something right, let's keep doing it.
- o It should be understood, we are only delaying the spread, which is the goal.
  - · **City Council decision was to extend closures for an additional two weeks.**
- o Tough decision
- o Not universally appreciated.
  - · **On-line reports about the virus being a scam or hoax.**
  - · **On-line reports from “citizen reporters” showing empty hospitals in NYC.**
  - · **On-line reports about Sweden doing it right, everyone else doing it wrong.**
  - · **Why is this occurring? Because humans are gullible.**

- o Listen to the experts. The real experts.
  - **· There are some great examples of social distancing:**
- o Some stores are self-imposing a new occupancy limit.
- o Some stores have floor markings or physical barriers to prevent people from penetrating the 6 foot distance.
- o More stores are getting on board.
  - **· There are still some not-so-good examples.**
- o When the parking lot is full, don't stop.
- o Founders Park parking lot is an example of poor judgement. Grouping of people, playing contact sports etc.
  - **· CDC recommendation to wear masks.**
- o Should not create a false sense of security.
- o You should follow social distance practices the same as before
  - **· Civic Center Events: A large portion of cancelled events are rescheduling for later in the year.**

**\*\*Solid Waste issues addressed by Dale Tech and in separate press release (below):**

### **CITY SOLID WASTE OPERATIONS ANNOUNCE NEW COLLECTIONS, LANDFILL ACTIONS**

**RAPID CITY, SD**--Effective immediately, the City's Solid Waste Division is implementing landfill and solid waste collection procedures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose of the actions are to ensure efficient solid waste collection, landfill operations and maintaining the health and safety of the public and City solid waste employees.

Among the actions being implemented:

\*Per existing City ordinance, collections staff will no longer exit their vehicles to retrieve garbage (bagged or loose) outside of the City-issued containers. Residents are asked to keep trash materials bagged and placed inside the containers and to not dump loose trash material inside the container, or to place bagged garbage or other items outside the container for collection. Collections staff will no longer exit trucks to pick up items placed outside of the containers or collect loose garbage, etc.

\*Per City policy, a valid utility bill issued within the last 12 months may be used for free disposal of a car load or pickup load of refuse at the City Landfill. Use of multiple utility bills for large loads will not be allowed. This action will reduce the number of vehicles using this service at the solid waste facility, thus reducing staff's exposure to the public.

"Vehicle traffic at our solid waste facility has doubled in recent days," said City Public Works Director Dale Tech. "If this increased traffic and increased staff exposure continues, the City may have to temporarily suspend use of utility bills for 'free' disposal until the crisis has passed."

\*The City of Rapid City will continue to suspend yard waste drop-off service at the remote collection sites at Floyd Fitzgerald Stadium and West Boulevard North. These sites promote the congregation of large numbers of the public, which is a contradiction of CDC social distancing guidelines. Servicing these sites also increases the Solid Waste Division collection staff's direct contact and exposure with the public.

"Now more than ever, the City's solid waste services are essential to the functioning and health of our community," said Tech. "Minimizing any negative impact to the City of Rapid City's ability to continue to provide these services is critical. The expected increase in confirmed COVID-19 cases will impact our solid waste division staff the same as the rest of the community. It is likely the solid waste division will see a reduction in available work force through direct COVID-19 cases or self-quarantine requirements resulting from direct contact.

"Therefore, it is important and necessary the City take these steps to minimize impacts and exposure both to the public and to our essential staff members."

Tech emphasizes it is the City's intent to provide basic solid waste services to the public throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. To achieve and maintain that goal, officials indicate these steps are necessary to ensure the Solid Waste Division is in a position to meet the long-term needs of the community.

#### **\*\*APRIL 7 UPDATE\*\***

- City staff is working through the federal disaster relief funding legislation.
- City staff continues to work with other organizations such as Monument Health, Emergency Management and Pennington County to develop response plans and strategies.

### **CITY SEES UPTICK IN NON-FLUSHABLE ITEMS AT WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OFFICIALS: FLUSH ONLY TOILET PAPER AS HEAVIER ITEMS CAN CAUSE SEWER BACKUPS**

**RAPID CITY**--City Public Works officials have seen a slight uptick in the amount of non-flushable items showing up at the Rapid City Wastewater Treatment Plant. Officials remind the public to flush only toilet paper and avoid the use of alternative or heavier products that can lead to sewer main backups.

One of the results of the COVID-19 pandemic has been shortages of toilet paper on store shelves. This shortage can lead the public to consider using alternative products.

However, many of the issues involving sewer main backups in Rapid City involve the flushing of products such as non-disposable and disposable wipes, rags, tampons, paper towels and other heavy products. Only toilet paper should be flushed down toilets, according to city officials.

Rapid City Water Reclamation Superintendent Dave Van Cleave offers these helpful hints.

"Toilet paper breaks down in water but heavier products do not degrade and can be the main cause for blockages that lead to sewer backups. Flushable wipes are flushable only because they fit into the toilet but they can be a major cause of backups," said Van Cleave. "Products other than toilet paper should be placed in the trash and not down the toilet."

Common items flushed down the toilet that can lead to blockages and backups include shop and paper towels, cleaning and baby wipes, sanitary napkins and cotton swabs, wrappers, cigarette butts and condoms. Such items should be placed in the trash.

#### **\*\*APRIL 6 UPDATE\*\***

- The City is working on meeting options in the event we must hold virtual only meetings.
  - People are out roaming the City, especially at night and especially juveniles. This is not safe behavior. Many of those contacted by police are claiming to be COVID-19 positive just to cause trouble.
  - Marketing Data shows Pennington Co. behavior is changing.
  - A recent increase in non-flushables are being seen in the sewer system. This increases the likelihood of blocked pipes and a potential sewer back-up. As a reminder, only TP should be flushed. Nothing else.
  - Code enforcement continues to check on compliance with the emergency ordinance.
  - 150 SD mayors and I signed a letter to Gov. Kristi Noem, urging her to declare a public health emergency in SD. This will open more options to SD cities and counties wishing to take action to slow the spread of the virus.
  - Sioux Falls has issued a safer at home proclamation. To improve social distancing.
  - We have been meeting with Monument Health RE: the predictive model for the spread of COVID-19.
- o Models are planning tools only
  - o There is evidence social distancing is working in the Rapid City area. Factors with the biggest impacts:
    - § Closed schools
    - § Business closures
    - § Business restrictions
  - o After consulting with Monument Health, the recommendation to the City Council will be to extend the businesses closures two additional weeks.
    - My observations over the weekend:
  - o Some stores are doing a great job protecting their customers and slowing the spread of the virus. Target is one example.
  - o Some families still do not grasp the seriousness of the situation. Bringing all the kids to the store, touching everything, playing etc.
  - o More work is needed to take responsible action to slow the spread.

#### **\*\*APRIL 3 UPDATE\*\***

- After coordinating with other Parks and Recreation organizations, we have made the decision to close our public basketball and tennis courts. They will be locked or disabled to discourage use. Also signage will be placed.
  - Civic Center Arena project continues. Rumors of out of state work crews coming in to work are untrue.
  - We continue to work with Monument Health in terms of emergency planning.
  - Rapid Transit ridership is down 68%. Most trips are for appointments, employment.
  - Library is equipped to begin printing reusable masks for first responders
  - Emergency Community Development Block Grant funds have been made available. More info next week on allowable uses.
  - Gov's press conference made available the apparent universally accepted projection model for SD, complete with worst-case projections for number of hospital beds, number of ICU beds etc.
- o Mathematical/statistical context is needed to truly understand the process and to avoid misusing the information.

### **BASKETBALL & TENNIS COURTS**

#### **TO CLOSE IN CITY PARKS**

*New York Street Skateboard Park Also Included*

*In Latest COVID-Related closures*

**RAPID CITY, SD**--In his daily press conference Friday afternoon, Mayor Steve Allender announced the City Parks and Recreation Department is closing basketball and tennis courts in the City's park system along with the New York Street skateboard park. The closures are in reaction to COVID-19 restrictions against large gatherings of the general public.

The closures will remain in effect until further notice.

Included in the closures are tennis courts in fenced areas such as Parkview Drive, North Middle School, Wilson Park and Quarry Park, and basketball courts in fenced areas at Roosevelt Park and Thompson Park and the New York Street skateboard park. Basketball courts in other City parks will also be closed to public use.

The City's parks and bike path remain open for public use and the public is encouraged to practice social distancing protocols in these areas. Park restrooms, playgrounds and shelters are closed for public use. Several portable toilet facilities have been placed along the bike path and some park areas.

Earlier this week, the Rapid City Area Schools closed their playgrounds as well as Sioux Park Stadium's track and field areas and the adjacent soccer fields to public use.

#### **\*\*APRIL 2 UPDATE\*\***

- Planning and development applications are up from this time last year.
- We are working on the homeless services capacity issues. Lack of food and funds to the local mission has lowered their capacity. This can be solved with donations of food or funds to buy food.
- Working on solutions for homeless isolation beds for those who are / will become ill.

- We are coordinating with other Parks and Recreation organizations to stay informed on best practices on closures or limitations to parks.
- We've gotten a number of calls related to businesses possibly out of compliance with our emergency ordinance. Compliance checks have revealed there is widespread compliance, and a couple of misunderstandings which were easily cleared up.
- Unemployment has risen in Rapid City. We estimate an increase from 2.9% to 5% over the past month. Be prepared for additional increase.
- The Sioux Park track, field area and adjoining soccer fields have been closed.
- We are preparing for the regular city council meeting on April 6<sup>th</sup>. The emergency ordinance will be discussed at that time. The council will either extend the business closure dates, or allow it to expire.
- Public comment emails will be taken through our public comment form found at [www.rcgov.org/covid](http://www.rcgov.org/covid)
- Stick to the basics:

- o Wash
- o Cough/sneeze safely
- o Don't touch your face
- o Stay away from crowds and 6' away from everyone except those you live with.

#### **\*\*APRIL 1 UPDATE\*\***

- Working through financial projections relative to the 2020 and 2021 budgets.
- Solid Waste staff are struggling with the increased volume of private haulers to the landfill. Volume has more than doubled lately. We want to remain open for citizens, but at this rate we will have to alter service to focus on our primary mission, which is curbside pick up and commercial haulers.
- Concern for City building inspector's safety may lead to the discontinuation of some inspections. More information will be available from our Community Development Department.
- RCPD arrested someone last night claiming to have been confirmed COVID-19 positive. An investigation revealed this was false.
- TSA screening is down 90% nationwide. Today, Rapid City Regional Airport has 24 people scheduled to fly out.
- Seems to be a growing concern for the homeless and their ability to access services. This is the time to donate to the human services organization of your choice.
- School playgrounds and equipment are closed to the public. This is for your own safety, so please act accordingly.
- City park facilities are closed, and playground equipment is closed and roped off. Please comply with this restriction.
- There are cases of people in groups gathering in City Parks and engaging in close contact. Please stop this as closing City Parks is the next step.
- A series of City public service announcements have started on social media and in local media, billboards and other areas

#### **\*\*MARCH 31 UPDATE\*\***

- We are continuing our coordination with Monument Health.
  - New modeling is available – for health professionals' use, and should allow for more accurate assessment of disease progression through our communities.
  - Minor ordinance compliance issues have been resolved.
  - Building permit and land development workload is nearly normal.
  - Construction jobs, contracts, bid openings are occurring normally.
  - Public safety workforce is healthy – more so that one year ago at the same time. Precautions have been an influence in this.
  - All public Civic Center events have been cancelled through April.
  - Library drive-through is open, 30K+ digital downloads available.
  - Feeding South Dakota is consolidating their food distribution efforts to 1 site
- o Wednesday, April 1, @10 a.m. to noon, Central States Fairgrounds. 1 box per family, max of 2 boxes per car, ID req.
- Noticeable surge in food assistance needed throughout our community.
  - If you can, volunteer with Feeding South Dakota or Meals on Wheels. Volunteer information can be found on their websites or by calling

#### **Legislation**

Yesterday, the state legislature passed a number of emergency bills related to the COVID-19 pandemic, but did not pass SB 191.

- SB 191 would have given authority to counties to declare a public health emergency and take actions only afforded to cities under SDCL 9-32-1, to impose regulations for the suppression of disease.
- Also – it would have allowed cities and counties to pass an emergency ordinance with one reading (same authority as the state) but that was removed from the bill early on the advice of the governor's office.
- Several amendments were made, but the bill was killed in the House committee last night around midnight. Opponents of the bill do not believe counties should have that authority. It's fair to say, the same legislators do not want the Cities to have the authority either.

#### **\*\*MARCH 30 UPDATE\*\***

- Positive test results continue to go up. Expect it. It only means the disease is acting as predicted.
  - In preparation for the coming weeks, we are preparing for changes within our workforce.
- o Some will remain on the job in normal fashion, such as public safety, water, sewer, and garbage.
  - o Some will be on modified duty assignments, such as compliance, linking services to essential needs within the community etc.
  - o Some will continue from home.
  - o Some will not be working.
    - The airport is not closed. This is of great concern to some. For consideration:
  - o A closure, means all passenger, cargo and military flights cease.
  - o The airport lacks the authority to close to a certain portion of customers.
  - o FAA has authority over airports.

- · Developing an email submission form for public comments relative to public meetings. No anonymous emails will be read. A character limit will keep reading the emails to a reasonable time.
  - · We must understand the goal of social distancing, the emergency city ordinance and voluntary safety measures. The goal is to slow the spread of the virus, to protect the ability of our health care systems to treat us, without exceeding their maximum capacity.
- o Grocery stores should mark off spaces, encourage space between customers.
  - o You should not have visitors over.
  - o Your kids should not have other kids over.
  - o Stay home if you can.
  - o 'DO THE FIVE':
    - Hands (Wash Them Often)
    - Elbows (Cough Into It)
    - Face (Don't Touch It)
    - Space (Keep Safe Distance)
    - Home (Stay If You Can)
  - o We must take this serious.
    - · The SD legislature meets today to consider several COVID-related emergency bills.

#### **\*\*MARCH 27 UPDATE\*\***

- · The City is working on a compliance / enforcement plan in anticipation of passing the emergency ordinance at tonight's special council meeting. Compliance is certainly preferred.
- · Many City departments are attempting to dispel rumors from the public. This is not productive and in most cases we will not devote time to fact-checking erroneous reports, especially from social media.
- · Employee stress is present and lowered morale and tensions are evident. City will be working on mental health maintenance among its employees.
- · Ambulance calls are in fact, trending downward. We will closely monitor this activity.
- · Our critical services workforce is healthy, and operations are in full swing. This includes: public safety, water, sewer and garbage.
- · Pactola Dam releases are increasing due to the recent moisture. Water levels in Rapid Creek are rising so caution should be exercised. More specific warnings will come from the Public Works Dept. as appropriate.
- · The County Care Campus is open and in full operation. A litany of enhanced sanitation procedures are in place.
- · The Rapid City Public Library has imposed a five day quarantine on returned library materials. This may cause a delay in availability, however on-line searching and holding of materials is available and encouraged.
- · Beginning April 1, City Hall will impose a mail quarantine of 24 hrs. on all incoming public and inter-office mail. This will slow the physical mail communication by a day but no customer late fees will be incurred due to this. Other arrangements for bid openings and similar procedural issues will be communicated separately by the City.
- · Known Pennington County cases are at two. We all suspect there is more, but we do have confirmation from the Dept. of Health of active infection here.
- · Marketing efforts will commence in the next day or two
- · Do the five: Hands, Elbow, Face, Space, Home

#### **CITY INCREASES PARKING METER 'FREE TIME'**

##### **TO TWO HOURS BEGINNING MONDAY**

##### ***Free Parking on Saturdays Effective April 4***

**RAPID CITY, SD**--For the second time in a week, the City is adjusting its free parking feature on downtown parking meters as a way to promote support for downtown businesses.

Effective Monday, the free button on downtown meters will be expanded to two hours and parking will be free on Saturdays beginning April 4. The 'free button' must be activated by meter users.

Last week, the City adjusted the downtown parking meters 'free button' from 15 minutes to 30 minutes to promote food pickups and other short-term business-to-customer transactions as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic impacts on many local businesses.

The change will be in effect until further notice.

#### **\*\*MARCH 26 UPDATE\*\***

**Mayor Steve Allender will provide his daily media update at 1:30 p.m. today. It will be streamed live on City You Tube, go to [rcov.org](http://rcov.org) and click on Meetings, then Live Meetings.**

- · Fire Department/Ambulance calls appear to be trending downward lately, however respiratory cases appear to be trending upward (no formal comparison available at this time).
- · Citizens appear to need more clarification on new ordinance. More communication efforts will be made.
- · RCPD arrested a robbery suspect yesterday and now have cleared the recent rash of robberies. Meth was present.
- · There are very few flights in/out of the airport now. United Airlines cancelled many of today's Rapid City to Denver flights.
- · Some Porta-Pots have been placed in and around parks. There are easier to disinfect than park restrooms.
- · Special meeting tomorrow night RE: City ordinance to close/regulate certain businesses.
- · A new ordinance revision will be placed on tomorrow night's agenda allowing a more expedient revision process, in the event changes need to be made in the next few months.
- · Council chamber audience will be strictly limited. Public comments may be emailed. All meetings are streamed live on YouTube.
- · Finalizing our compliance/enforcement plan for the emergency ordinance.
- · City strategic teams will be reporting progress at tomorrow's 10:00 am department directors daily COVID-19 meeting.

## BATHROOM BREAK!

### PARKS DIVISION UPDATE/9:30 a.m. Thursday

The City's Parks Division is adding five portable toilet locations, bringing the number of portable restrooms to 11 that are now located along the bike path and in various Park locations. The portable toilet facilities will be sanitized daily by Parks crews and will be service weekly by the provider. Due to COVID-19 safety concerns for the public and City maintenance employees, the Legacy Commons permanent facility will remain closed until further notice.

The new locations of portable toilet facilities:

- \*Memorial Park Bandshell
- \*West Memorial Park
- \*Canyon Lake Park West Restroom
- \*Founders Park
- \*Roosevelt Park

Existing location of portable toilet facilities:

- \*Braeburn Park
- \*Canyon Lake #3 Shelter
- \*Jackson Park Disc Golf
- \*Robbinsdale Park
- \*LaCroix Disc Golf
- \*Sioux Park Tennis Court area

#### **\*\*MARCH 25 UPDATE\*\***

[Mayor Allender's COVID-19 Video Update:](#)

- State test result are posted to the DOH Website. SD now at 41 cases, new one in Meade Co.
- Ambulance continues to transport sick patients
- Sorting out work-at-home employee issues and digesting the fed legislation pertaining to FLMA and emergency sick leave.
- Hotel robbery last night. RCPD is investigating.
- We are working on alternative lodging space for first responders.
- City/County now communicating regularly.
- County is considering an ordinance based on the City ordinance
- Our first daily press debrief is scheduled today at 1:30. Live stream.

#### **CITIZEN OPTIONS WITH CITY HALL CLOSED DUE TO COVID-19:**

City Hall offices are closed to the public.

Department staff are available by appointment only. The City Hall lobby is open for limited access as residents can drop off payments and documents, including development plans and permit applications, into a locked drop off container. This option is also available for prospective candidates wishing to drop off petitions. The City Finance Office will be open to accept petitions in person one-half hour before the filing deadline, 4:30-5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 31.

Residents are strongly encouraged to use the City's online services for payments as well as utilize the night depository box on the west side of the City Hall building, which is available any time of day. The public can also call or e-mail questions by contacting the individual City department. Contact information can be found on the City's website at [rcgov.org](http://rcgov.org).

**\*\*Utility Bills:** Residents are encouraged to use online automatic payment of utility bills by visiting <https://selfservice.rcgov.org> and clicking on Citizen Self Service on the left hand side for utility bills or by using the City's Utility Billing "Sure-Pay" system. Call 394-4125 or visit the Water Division's page on the City's website at [rcgov.org](http://rcgov.org). If you visit the self-service portal, you will need to know your account number and customer number to register, both of which can be found on your most recent utility bill.

In addition, residents are encouraged to mail in their payment or use the night drop box on the west side of the building, which is available any time of the day.

**\*\*Parking Tickets:** Residents are encouraged to pay parking tickets online by visiting the 'How To' section at [rcgov.org](http://rcgov.org) or <https://rapidcity.citationportal.com/>

**\*\*Shut-off Notices:** Residents facing shut-off notices from the City will not have their utility services and solid waste collections suspended, however late fees for non-payment will continue to accrue.

**\*\*Permits:** If you have questions regarding building permits or air quality permits, contact the City's Community Development Department at 394-4120. Customers can also e-mail questions and plan information to [cpweb@rcgov.org](mailto:cpweb@rcgov.org). Staff can also work with customers for online submittals of plans.

**\*\*Development Applications:** If you have questions regarding development applications, contact the City's Community Development Department at 394-4120. Customers can also e-mail questions to [cpweb@rcgov.org](mailto:cpweb@rcgov.org). Staff can also work with customers for online submittals of preliminary applications.

**\*\*General Business:** Residents with general questions about City services, should call or e-mail the individual City department rather than making a personal visit to the department office.

#### **\*\*MARCH 24 UPDATE\*\***

[MAYOR'S UPDATE VIDEO](#)

- Attended a conference call today with the Governor and DOH.

- · Listened to the Governor's press conference this morning- two new cases.
- · Escape from the women's prison in Pierre. Nine isolated inmates, one of which came to Rapid City and was arrested by RCPD.
- · We are answering dozens of questions on effects of new ordinance.
- · The ambulance transported three patients consistent with COVID-19 symptoms.
- · Strategic teams are formed, making early progress now. Weekly reports will occur on Fridays.
- · Digesting new FMLA expansion and emergency sick leave legislation now. There are many questions. Each employer should be doing the same.
- · First day of City Hall closure went ok. Will get better with practice.
- · The Airport is working with its tenants to understand losses and find a way to help. Airport flight activity at about 18% now.
- · The City is working on financial loss projections in preparation for priority budgeting.
- · RCPD mitigated a robbery last night with a robbery strike force. 302 E. Blvd. Vehicle pursuit and foot pursuit, led to the arrests of two people and the recovery of a firearm.
- · Receiving many calls about suspension of utility payments or forgiving payments. Working through this and not ready to report anything yet.
- · Assessing the park restroom closure issue. We may reevaluate and make an adjustment in Memorial Park.
- · Communicating with EAFB today as well as Pennington County and emergency management.

#### **\*\*MARCH 23 UPDATE\*\***

##### March 23 Update

- · Fielding hundreds of messages relative to the proposed city ordinance closing or limiting certain businesses for public health reasons.
  - · Civic Center is now locked-down.
  - · The ambulance services continues to transport patients with symptoms consistent with COVID-19. Five such patients yesterday.
  - · Casino robberies continue to be a problem. If the business closure city ordinance passes on 3-27, casinos will be closed. RCPD will reevaluate strategy when this occurs.
  - · The Parks and Recreation office is now closed to the public, as are all public works buildings.
  - · We are creating work-arounds for licensing processes, usually requiring a City Hall visit. Update will follow when available.
  - · Cross-training is occurring between City divisions to ensure critical services remain consistent for the duration.
  - · Rapid Transit volume is down, but now consistent. Best practices are being evaluated concerning continuation of service.
  - · State Dept of Transportation has allowed work to resume on East Blvd reconstruction.
  - · Rumor control continues to be a challenge. No, the airlines are not increasing air travel to Rapid City.
  - · Strategic teams are being built to address or coordinate information on:
- o Grocery and supply store supply chain and consumer activity.
  - o Food distribution from non-profit and other food sources.
  - o Emergency planning relative to medical providers
  - o Health services to establish points of contact and capacity.
  - o Financial, to include city budget status and federal disaster funding.
  - o Employee support to include benefits, day care and mental health.
  - o Communication to include consolidation and dissemination to/from City, County, State, health officials and public.

#### **\*\*MARCH 22 UPDATE\*\***

##### Mayor Steve Allender's COVID-19 City video update:

<https://youtu.be/GubfWJtCyMQ>

- · Monument Health, our primary medical advisor advises the City to take restrictive action beginning this upcoming week.
  - · Governor Noem's press conference today indicates community spread is occurring in Beadle County. They will confirm through Dept. of Health investigation by Tuesday.
  - · Safe to assume community spread today in state.
  - · Following CDC Guidelines, Rapid City will pass an emergency ordinance restricting or closing certain businesses. This is necessary due to unacceptably low compliance with social distance recommendations.
  - · Press conference held today at 2:30 to explain situation and gave notice of special council meeting tonight at 6:00 pm.
  - · At special council meeting, two items will be addressed:
- o Repealing a resolution limiting the use of electronic attendance for council meetings.
  - o 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the emergency ordinance.
    - · In City messaging, special emphasis will be given to the topics of:
  - o Social distancing
  - o In-home isolation
  - o Our responsibility to our neighbors
  - o Remaining calm
    - · Beginning tomorrow we will begin aligning our mission and employees with high-priority community needs.
    - · Many City programs and non-essential services will be unavailable indefinitely.
    - · All essential City services are guaranteed to remain in operation:
  - o Wastewater treatment
  - o Drinking water treatment and delivery
  - o Solid Waste pick-up

- o Public safety
  - Some city services will remain available through appointment:
- o Community development
- o Public Works
- o Others as needed, on a case by case basis

**\*\*MARCH 21 UPDATE\*\***

**MAYOR STEVE ALLENDER'S COVID-19 DAILY UPDATE:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cTFULRRjrHI&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR3Lm3aYhIPLzG\\_DhqkOecq2jYutpTt8OVUXCnIdirBjjleUSiZP7bN7se8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cTFULRRjrHI&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR3Lm3aYhIPLzG_DhqkOecq2jYutpTt8OVUXCnIdirBjjleUSiZP7bN7se8)

\*The City's 36 parks, bike paths and scenic trails are open for use however park playground and restroom facilities have been closed effective Friday, March 20 in an effort to limit the potential for transmission of the COVID-19 virus.

\*Residents are encouraged to use online automatic payment of utility bills by visiting <https://selfservice.rcgov.org> and clicking on Citizen Self Service on the left hand side for utility bills or by using the City's Utility Billing "Sure-Pay" system. Call 394-4125 or visit the Water Division's page on the City's website at [rcgov.org](http://rcgov.org).

\*Residents can also mail in their payment or use the night drop box on the west side of the City Hall building at 300 Sixth Street.

\*Residents are encouraged to pay parking tickets online by visiting the 'How To' section at [rcgov.org](http://rcgov.org) or <https://rapidcity.citationportal.com/>

\*If you have questions regarding building permits or air quality permits, contact the City's Community Development Department at 394-4120. Customers can also e-mail questions and plan information to [cpweb@rcgov.org](mailto:cpweb@rcgov.org). Staff can also work with customers for online submittals of plans.

\*If you have questions regarding development applications, contact the City's Community Development Department at 394-4120. Customers can also e-mail questions to [cpweb@rcgov.org](mailto:cpweb@rcgov.org). Staff can also work with customers for online submittals of preliminary applications.

**\*\*MARCH 20 UPDATE\*\***

**MAYOR ALLENDER'S DAILY COVID-19 CITY UPDATE:**

<https://youtu.be/w81HYhIXRyw>

**CITY HALL OFFICES TO CLOSE BEGINNING MONDAY**

Beginning Monday, City Hall offices will be closed to the public.

Department staff are available by appointment only. The City Hall lobby will be open for limited access as residents will be able to drop off payments and documents, including development plans and permit applications, into a locked drop off container. This option is also available for prospective candidates wishing to drop off petitions. The City Finance Office will be open to accept petitions in person one-half hour before the filing deadline, 4:30-5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 31.

Residents are strongly encouraged to use the City's online services for payments as well as utilize the night depository box on the west side of the City Hall building, which is available any time of day. The public can also call or e-mail questions by contacting the individual City department. Contact information can be found on the City's website at [rcgov.org](http://rcgov.org).

**CITY POSTPONES APRIL CLEAN-UP WEEK; DELAYS OPENING OF REMOTE YARD WASTE SITES**

As part of its COVID-19 response, the City is postponing the annual City Clean-Up Week activities and also delaying the opening of remote yard waste collection sites at two locations in Rapid City.

The annual City Clean-Up Week was scheduled for April 20-25 and City Public Works officials will evaluate if the event will be rescheduled later this year. The week-long event provides for free drop-off of many items to the City's Landfill and is highlighted by the Community Clean-Up Day where the City encourages groups of volunteers to work in assigned areas.

"We know the clean-up week and Community Clean-Up Day are very popular among people of all ages," said Jancie Knight of the City's Solid Waste Division. "There is considerable small and large group interaction as well as exposure to waste products during the Clean-Up week activities. With the COVID-19 outbreak, the best option is to postpone efforts until later in the year."

A new date for Clean-Up Week has not been determined.

In addition, the City is delaying the April 1 placement of yard-waste containers at the two remote locations at Floyd Fitzgerald Stadium and West Boulevard North. The remote sites often attract dozens of people at a given time dropping off materials. As part of social distancing protocols during the COVID-19 outbreak, the City wants to minimize the potential of large-group interaction.

Residents on city solid waste collection service are encouraged to place their yard waste in brown disposable bags for curbside collection beginning April 1. Yard waste can also be dropped off at the City's Landfill on Highway 79.

**\*\*MARCH 19 UPDATE\*\***

- The City saw 100+ walk-in customers yesterday, mostly for utility bill payment. Staff is encouraging customers to mail payments or create an on-line payment account.
- City Hall will likely close to public access beginning Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. All services related to building permitting, inspections, utility payments etc are being made available through telephone, mail and on line services. When necessary, City staff will meet a customer at the door to receive or deliver documents. This is necessary to help prevent unnecessary or frequent physical contact with members of the public.
- Parks and Recreation will close playgrounds and park restrooms immediately. This is necessary to discourage the use of public and frequently-used facilities.
- City Hall – specifically the HR Dept. is finalizing employee sick leave use policies, in light of the pandemic. This is necessary to protect City employees and their families.
- All Civic Center events have been cancelled through April 8<sup>th</sup> and more closures are imminent. This is largely at the behest of event promoters and is necessary to limit crowd sizes.

- The Public Library will remain closed through April 8<sup>th</sup>. This is necessary to reduce the opportunity to gather in public settings.
- Ambulance staff report many calls for service with symptomatic patients. In addition to emergency transport, isolation recommendations found at the CDC website is the advice of the day.
- The Rapid City Police Department is advising the public to use their on-line reporting site whenever possible. Emergencies are still handled through calling 911. This is necessary to reduce unnecessary or frequent contact with members of the public, and to keep our 1<sup>st</sup> responders as healthy as possible.
- The City is bolstering our ability to host conference call or video conferencing for meetings. Some public meetings may take a more virtual attendance theme. This is necessary to allow those who have business with the City to interact in a long-distance manner, to reduce the possibility of contamination of staff and officials, as well as members of the public.
- We are attempting to change the 15 minute free parking downtown, to 30 minutes, to encourage carry out/pick-ups and quick trips. The timeline is on our parking vendor and we will announce when this is complete.

### CITY INCREASES PARKING METER 'FREE TIME' FROM 15 TO 30 MINUTES

The City is increasing its free parking feature on downtown parking meters from 15 minutes to 30 minutes to promote food pickups and other short-term business-to-customer transactions as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic impacts on many local businesses.

The change will be effective on all meters by tomorrow (Friday).

When they were installed in downtown Rapid City last summer, the new downtown parking meters included a 15-minute free parking feature to allow for business deliveries and customer pickups. The feature has proved a popular one among businesses and patrons. City officials are encouraging the public to utilize the feature and the increased free parking time to patronize local businesses.

The change will be in effect until further notice.

### CITY CLOSING PARK SYSTEM PLAYGROUNDS, RESTROOM FACILITIES

The City's Parks and Recreation Department is closing park system playgrounds and restroom facilities to public use and will stop taking reservations for Park picnic shelters. The actions are being taken to limit spread of COVID-19 by minimizing the size of public gatherings as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control.

The actions are effective Friday (tomorrow) and will remain in place until further notice.

The City is making the decision based on Centers for Disease Control recommendations for social distancing, limiting the size of public gatherings and managing the cleaning of the park equipment and facilities. The restroom facilities at Canyon Lake West Park Shelter, Legacy Commons in Memorial Park, Founders Park and Skyline Wilderness Park are year-round facilities and will be closed. Other park restroom facilities were scheduled to open in April but their opening is delayed until further notice.

Parks staff will be surrounding Park playground equipment with caution tape and orange fencing and placing closure signage in the affected areas. City officials indicate the City's 36 parks and bike path remain open for public use.

### **\*\*MARCH 17 UPDATES\*\***

### CITY TO DISCONTINUE UTILITY SHUTOFFS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

The City of Rapid City announced Tuesday it will discontinue utility shutoffs of water, sewer and solid waste collection until further notice to allow for proper sanitation during the COVID-19 outbreak.

"Our primary goal with this action is to keep the community and the public healthy," City Public Works Director Dale Tech said in making today's announcement.

City officials remind customers to pay their utility bills on time to avoid late fees and to not impact the City's ability to provide these critical services.

The action is effective immediately.

Post

Published in [COVID-19 Updates](#)

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Message from Mayor Allender About COVID-19

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- [New Arena Feasibility Study](#)
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## Latest News

- [From Military Service to Public Service: Council Comprised of Several Veterans](#)
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## Upcoming Events

- [City Council Meeting](#)  
(05/04/20 6:30 pm)
- [City Council Meeting](#)  
(05/18/20 6:30 pm)
- [City Council Meeting](#)  
(06/01/20 6:30 pm)
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 City of Rapid City

## City of Rapid City

- 📍 300 6th Street  
Rapid City, SD 57701
- ☎ 605-394-9300
- ⌚ 8am - 5pm M - F

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## Live Meeting Broadcasts

[YouTube Channel](#)

Schedule:

- City Council: 6:30 pm  
First and third Monday of the Month

- Legal & Finance: 12: 30 pm  
Wednesdays prior to the Council meeting
- Planning Commission: 7:00 am  
Thursday following the Council meeting
- Public Works: 12:30 pm  
Tuesday prior to the Council meeting

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