

Statement to the community from Mayor Alice Patino

Thursday, March 26, 2020

As Mayor, I want everyone to know that the City of Santa Maria is committed to taking all possible steps to ensure our community's health and safety during this emergency.

We know this is a very challenging time. We will get through this together.

The City is taking significant measures which continue to evolve as the situation changes. I also want to commend more than a dozen local grocery stores for establishing special hours and resources for at-risk populations, including our seniors.

The City continues to provide vital and essential services for our residents and businesses. We are doing so while public counters are closed to the public, to limit exposure to staff and to customers.

You can do many transactions with the City online (bill pay, permits, library materials) and by phone (805) 925-0951. Use the City website, www.cityofsantamaria.org. Use the drop bins at the Civic Center parking structure to return library materials and to drop off your City utility payments, or the drop bin at our Community Development Department for permit submittals.

I strongly encourage community members to Stay Home and Stay Safe, following the Governor's March 19th Health Order. Staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others. It is critical for everyone to practice social distancing (6 feet apart) to slow the spread of this highly contagious COVID-19 virus.

For updates about City services, and for a wide range of local resources for residents and businesses, go online to www.cityofsantamaria.org/coronavirus.

Follow City service updates at www.twitter.com/City_SantaMaria

Let's focus on our situation and some achievements:

- There are no supply shortages of water or food
- The Police and Fire Departments continue to respond to calls for service.
- The City has an action plan in place
- Employees are working remotely to get the public's work done.
- City public meetings are live on Comcast channel 23 and are livestreamed on the web
- A number of educational and entertaining how-to videos (music lessons, arts and crafts, workout basics and more) are on the [City's YouTube Channel](#)
- We held a successful blood drive on Tuesday to help boost dangerously low supplies
- Santa Maria was one of first cities in the County to get a new homeless shelter up – in great part thanks to the County Public Health Department
- City Rangers are distributing flyers to shoppers waiting in line, reminding them about social distancing

Your City is here for you. Everyone needs to do their part. We'll get through this together.

