



# City of Port St. Lucie

*"A City for All Ages & All People"*

March 20, 2020

## City Council

**Gregory J. Oravec**  
Mayor

**Shannon Martin**  
Vice Mayor  
District 3

**Stephanie Morgan**  
District 1

**John Carvelli**  
District 2

**Jolien Caraballo**  
District 4

Dear Leaders of Faith in Port St. Lucie,

This letter serves to ask for your continuing help in lifting up our community during this moment of crisis and the recovery that follows.

As you know, the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a severe acute respiratory illness that can spread among humans through respiratory transmission and has proven to be especially life-threatening to our senior and immunocompromised citizens. In addition to this direct threat to life, COVID-19 threatens our society and way of life in many ways, including: spreading at a rate that has the potential to overwhelm our medical system; shutting down essential services because too many people are out sick; disrupting the food and essential goods supply chain; contracting the world, national, state and local economies; and interrupting all social activities.

In response to these grave threats, our nation, state, county and City of Port St. Lucie have all made formal declarations of emergency, taking extraordinary measures to protect public health and safety and calling upon all citizens to be informed, prepared and committed to a national response that relies upon social distancing. Attached for your convenience, please find the White House's Coronavirus Guidelines for America, which can be found on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention webpage and explains social distancing in detail.

You, your leadership teams, elders and congregations form one of the most important pillars of our community. Please know how much we appreciate everything you do in service to God, our citizens and our society. We know that the services you help to provide go well beyond worship and include social activities, social assistance, feeding the hungry, caring for seniors, teaching children and so much more. Sadly, COVID-19 has left no facet of life as we know it uninterrupted, and all social gatherings, even for the highest purpose, can run afoul of the Coronavirus Guidelines for America without the implementation of proper safeguards. As a result, I am asking for your help in understanding the operation of any of your ongoing services and would be grateful for your response to the following requests:

- A direct point of contact and communication between an appropriate decision maker of your organization and the City Council Office.
- How might the City of Port St. Lucie be able to help you, your organization and congregation?
- A detailing of your ongoing worship and other services with the corresponding safeguards that have been put into place.

On behalf of the people of Port St. Lucie, I would like to thank you, your leadership teams, elders and congregations for all that you are doing to serve our community and for your consideration of these requests. I think we are in for some tough weeks ahead; but, I am certain that we will make it through this crisis and that, when we do, we will be able to look back and see that the actions you took to “stop the spread” made a difference and saved lives.

We look forward to your reply and our continuing collaboration on serving our community. Brandon or Christina of the City Council Office will be following up with all of our points of contact. Additionally, you are always invited to contact us at 772-871-5159.

May God continue to bless you and the people of Port St. Lucie,



Gregory J. Oravec  
Mayor

# 15 DAYS TO SLOW THE SPREAD

Listen to and follow the directions of your STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

IF YOU FEEL SICK, stay home. Do not go to work. Contact your medical provider.

IF YOUR CHILDREN ARE SICK, keep them at home. Do not send them to school. Contact your medical provider.

IF SOMEONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAS TESTED POSITIVE for the coronavirus, keep the entire household at home. Do not go to work. Do not go to school. Contact your medical provider.

IF YOU ARE AN OLDER PERSON, stay home and away from other people.

IF YOU ARE A PERSON WITH A SERIOUS UNDERLYING HEALTH CONDITION that can put you at increased risk (for example, a condition that impairs your lung or heart function or weakens your immune system), stay home and away from other people.



For more information, please visit  
[CORONAVIRUS.GOV](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

# DO YOUR PART TO SLOW THE SPREAD OF THE CORONAVIRUS

Even if you are young, or otherwise healthy, you are at risk and your activities can increase the risk for others. It is critical that you do your part to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

Work or engage in schooling FROM HOME whenever possible.

IF YOU WORK IN A CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE INDUSTRY, as defined by the Department of Homeland Security, such as healthcare services and pharmaceutical and food supply, you have a special responsibility to maintain your normal work schedule. You and your employers should follow CDC guidance to protect your health at work.

AVOID SOCIAL GATHERINGS in groups of more than 10 people.

Avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts-  
USE DRIVE-THRU, PICKUP, OR DELIVERY OPTIONS.

AVOID DISCRETIONARY TRAVEL, shopping trips, and social visits.

DO NOT VISIT nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.

PRACTICE GOOD HYGIENE:

- Wash your hands, especially after touching any frequently used item or surface.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Sneeze or cough into a tissue, or the inside of your elbow.
- Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.

[CORONAVIRUS.GOV](https://www.coronavirus.gov)

School operations can accelerate the spread of the coronavirus. Governors of states with evidence of community transmission should close schools in affected and surrounding areas. Governors should close schools in communities that are near areas of community transmission, even if those areas are in neighboring states. In addition, state and local officials should close schools where coronavirus has been identified in the population associated with the school. States and localities that close schools need to address childcare needs of critical responders, as well as the nutritional needs of children.

Older people are particularly at risk from the coronavirus. All states should follow Federal guidance and halt social visits to nursing homes and retirement and long-term care facilities.

In states with evidence of community transmission, bars, restaurants, food courts, gyms, and other indoor and outdoor venues where groups of people congregate should be closed.