



City of Port St. Lucie

"A City for All Ages & All People"

Via Hand Delivery

March 19, 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 Grocer or Pharmacy,

This letter serves to ask for your help in serving our community in this time of crisis.

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. As you may know, the nation's guidelines for social distancing include directing all citizens to avoid social gatherings of more than 10 people and all senior and immunocompromised citizens to stay home and away from other people.

You and your team are especially important to our community's ability to meet this emergency head-on and, ultimately, prevail. You are our citizens' connection to some of life's most basic necessities, and we are asking for your help in preserving this essential connection even in the face of these many threats and social distancing requirements. To this end, I am asking for you to let us know how we, as a City, might be able to help you, your team and your families and for your cooperation with the following requests (if you have not already):

- A direct point of contact and communication with an appropriate decision maker between your store(s) and our designated emergency coordinator;
- A designated regular time for shopping by seniors and/or the immunocompromised that can be advertised;
- Enforced quantity limits on staples that are in short supply; and
- Communicating with our designated point of contact about the availability of staples.

On behalf of the people of Port St. Lucie, I would like to thank you and your team 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 it was people like you and your team members who made a difference by doing their jobs and helping others even when things were at their worst.

We look forward to your reply and our continuing collaboration on serving our community. The deliverer of this letter will provide you with all of our points of contact. Additionally, you are always invited to contact me and the City Council Office at 772-871-5159.

Sincerely,



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

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.