



## NEWS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### Community Update from the City of Page in response to COVID-19

Page, AZ (March 19, 2020) – As additional facts and circumstances evolve during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic I am addressing our residents and other stakeholders in an effort to provide factual and current information.

Much has transpired during the past several days and information has evolved rapidly. There is a vast amount of information flowing into our community via multiple sources including social media and it has caused significant confusion as to which information is accurate and can be relied upon. This is not tolerable during our current circumstance. In order to combat this problem and to ensure a factual information flow, the City of Page will be issuing a daily information release that will be posted on <https://cityofpage.org/covid19-information> Monday through Friday (or more often should circumstances dictate). Additionally, should it become necessary to send urgent updates, the information will also be sent out on Facebook on both the “City of Page” and “Page Police Department” pages. These are your best sources of information from the City of Page. Please understand that information from my office will likely be a little slower (absent a crisis) due to the need to ensure that information provided is both factual and reliable so confusion can be avoided as much as possible.

The current situation is as follows:

1. **Readiness** – There are now two confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Coconino County. As Mayor, I continue to work closely with City staff and key community members to ensure the readiness of our local government. I am pleased to inform you that the City is ready for an outbreak, and our community is in a good position in that our electrical power, water, and food supplies are not threatened. I renew my call for calm while the pandemic situation in our county and community continues to unfold.
2. **Proclamation of Emergency Measures for Coconino County** – The Coconino County Board of Supervisors has issued a proclamation of emergency measures for the county (<https://www.coconino.az.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=2127>) that orders the closing of restaurants, bars, and other businesses where people congregate. This order does not apply to businesses in Page. Although I encourage our businesses to follow best practice guidelines from our state and county health departments, I also have faith in their ability to make rational decisions regarding how they operate.

What is important to know here is that many of our restaurants are still open (most for take-out orders only), our grocery stores remain, and will remain in operation, and that there are options for community members with various needs. Retailers are adjusting operating hours and metering purchase amounts of items such as sanitizing agents, toilet paper products, and the like so there is enough to go around in the community. I continue to urge residents to make reasonable preparations and not let fear govern their shopping habits.

*Please keep in mind while shopping that many of our residents are on a tight budget and are unable to shop in large quantities or stock up on future needs, so in-store shortages create hardships for others.*

3. **Grocery Store Hours** – I engaged in a conference call with our grocery retailers earlier today and learned the following:

**Dollar Tree**

Hours 9:00am – 8:00pm Monday through Saturday. Sunday is 10:00am to 7:00pm

**Walmart**

Current hours are 7:00am-8:30pm daily.

On Tuesdays only, from 6:00am-7:00am, WalMart is opening one hour earlier for seniors and people with vulnerable conditions. A senior is defined as 60 years of age and older.

**Safeway**

Current hours are 6:00am to 9:00pm daily.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays only, 6:00am to 9:00am, hours dedicated for seniors (65+), pregnant women, and vulnerable shoppers. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, the pharmacy is shifting their adjusting their hours to 8:00am to 7:00pm, in order to be open during the vulnerable shopper times.

4. **Healthcare** – I have been in touch with our healthcare facilities. There is some COVID-19 testing capabilities in Page, and more is on the way. The guidance remains the same regarding what to do if you become ill or think you have COVID-19: Do not immediately go to the hospital or other healthcare facility. Call your healthcare provider first and obtain guidance on how to proceed. If your provider authorizes COVID-19 testing, she or he will provide information on your next steps.
5. **Declaration of a “State of Emergency” for the City of Page** – I am still weighing the factors that go into this as well as the outcomes and effects on various City departments and other stakeholders. I take this very seriously and I want to ensure that my decision is well thought out and that the time is right. With circumstances evolving so rapidly, an emergency declaration could be forthcoming at any time. Even if I decide to declare a state of emergency there will be virtually no visible change in City government for the community. Should I make a declaration, the news will be shared with the community immediately.
6. **Economy** – The City government will be on hand to assist interested local businesses to apply for disaster relief loans. Please contact our Economic Development Coordinator at 928-645-4310.

I strongly urge all community members to remain informed about COVID-19 and to keep the risks involved in context and in focus. I urge everyone to remain calm and to take a rational approach to your preparations. At this point everything that can be done at the City government level has been done, and we will continue to work closely with government health officials. Additional information will be provided on these, and many other topics on <https://cityofpage.org/covid19-information>.

Additional resources and information may be found at:

[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

[www.azdhs.gov](http://www.azdhs.gov)

[www.coconino.az.gov/covid19](http://www.coconino.az.gov/covid19)

[www.coronavirus.jhu.edu](http://www.coronavirus.jhu.edu)