

ALBANY CALIFORNIA



CITY OF ALBANY
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MAYOR'S STATEMENT CORONAVIRUS #5

I wanted to say a few words about the ongoing situation - the response to the COVID-19 epidemic.

First, a new order has come down from Alameda County Health. We join in many of our neighboring Counties, and other jurisdictions, in requiring nose and mouth coverings in most situations when you are outside your home. When in doubt - cover up. The reason for this is to help control the release of the virus from a possibly infected person, yourself. We now know that you can carry the virus and be asymptomatic. So please comply and help stop the spread, protect others, and therefore, protect yourself as well.

Second - thanks are in order. Thank you to the City staff for all they have done and continue to do to respond to the epidemic. And thanks for them for continuing to do the business of the City on top of that. And thanks to County and State leadership as well. Thank you to all those of you who are following the rules - sheltering in place, wearing masks, and social distancing/physical distancing. You are part of the army against COVID-19. And thanks to the front-line workers - certainly the doctors and nurses and all health care workers and professionals. You are directly protecting our health and helping the sick. But thank you also the food workers, and workers in other essential services. Thank you for bearing the increased risk while allowing us to continue our lives with as much normalcy as possible.

Finally, I want to ask all my fellow electeds to keep up the fight for two things - increased testing, and increased contact tracking. Everyone who should be tested needs to be tested, and test kits should be made available to all health facilities, and testing should be widely available and free. Contact tracking involves informing all those who may have been in contact with an infected individual, and telling them to continue to shelter-in-place, limit contact, observe their health, and whatever other measures health officials deem necessary. Both easy testing and contact tracing have proven to be important and effective measures in countries who have been successful in holding back outbreaks.

Be safe, and be well.