



COVID-19 Closures and Service Adjustments

Office of the City Manager

November 16, 2020

Phased Re-Start of Activities.

The City complies with the State's "[Safe Start Washington](#)" plan and Yakima Health District's public health orders. Yakima County will gradually re-open based on our progress against the pandemic:

Phase 1 - Modified (CURRENTLY IN EFFECT STATEWIDE THROUGH DECEMBER 14, 2020): High-risk residents should stay home except to get food or medical care. No indoor restaurant dining. Other limited indoor recreation, travel, spiritual, and business activities are OK, but with limited occupancy. No social gatherings with people outside your household; if you must host people outside your household, all should quarantine for 14 days in advance.

Phase 2: High-risk residents should still stay home except to get food or medical care. Social gatherings and outdoor recreation in groups fewer than 5 persons outside your household per week are OK. Certain indoor retail, construction, barber/salon, fitness, winery/brewery, and restaurant services are OK.

Phase 3: High-risk residents should still stay home except to get food or medical care. Social gatherings and outdoor recreation in groups fewer than 50 persons are OK. More business activities involving groups may resume.

Phase 4: High-risk residents may resume public interactions. Social gatherings and outdoor recreation in groups of any size are OK. Activities involving large groups may resume (like nightclubs, stadiums, and concerts).

City Programs and Services that are CLOSED.

- The lobbies at City Hall, Planning, and the Law & Justice Center are closed until Phase 3. The Fire Department lobby was not staffed or generally open to the public before the pandemic.
- The Community Center, the Senior Center, and all organized group recreation activities are closed through Phase 2 and will re-open with limitations in Phase 3.
- The Municipal Pool is closed for 2020. We have conducted some deferred facilities maintenance.
- The Police Department will not offer in-person jail visitation hours through Phase 3. Online visits through Visitel are still available: <http://www.visitel.us>
- The Governor's Office has stated that a yard sale is a large "gathering" of people, which is not allowed until Phase 3. The City is not yet issuing permits for yard sales, and yard sales should not be occurring.

City Programs and Services that are OPEN or OPEN WITH CHANGES at this time.

- All essential City services are operating while observing public health protocols. Some City employees are working remotely.
- City Council is meeting remotely until Phase 3, and Council meetings are streamed online. Per Governor's Proclamation 20-28, no in-person component is permitted. In-person advisory Board and Commission meetings are also cancelled until Phase 3; some are meeting remotely.
- The State Supreme Court has directed all Courts statewide to follow the most protective public health guidance applicable in their jurisdiction, and to use remote proceedings whenever appropriate. Civil jury trials may resume with certain restrictions in January 2021. Sunnyside Municipal Court has halted using its drive-up Court window due to the colder weather.

- Residents are instructed to conduct all regular business with the City by phone, online, or email.
- Please make all payments through Xpress pay online, by phone, or at our payment drop boxes. Payment by check, card, or money order is preferred. If you must pay by cash, no change will be provided, but you may ask for a receipt by mail.
- The City will not shut off or charge a late fee or reconnection fee for non-payment of City water or sewer utility services for the duration of Governor's Proclamation 20-23. Council has authorized the City Manager to temporarily extend administrative deadlines for payment of utility bills, license fees, and permit application fees, upon request due to hardship through December 30, 2020.
- City park grounds are open for activities like walking, cycling, or running in groups of five or less. However, park facilities like restrooms, sport courts, playground equipment, and shelters are closed for the winter. Residents are advised that the City does not have the resources to sanitize park facilities after each use. Park facilities will re-open with restrictions as permitted when we reach Phase 3.
- The recycling station at South 4th and Lincoln is open.
- The Airport is open. It is unstaffed; signs urge pilots and visitors to adhere to social distancing.
- More information is available at www.ci.sunnyside.wa.us or at www.yvopenandsafe.com.

Mask Up to Open Up.

Per state and county health orders, residents must wear face masks at work, in all common areas indoors, and in public where you cannot keep 6 feet apart. Businesses must refuse entry or services to customers not wearing a face mask.

Health officials and city leaders urge all residents: Please help reduce further spread of COVID-19 by keeping at least 6 feet apart, washing your hands frequently, sanitizing commonly used surfaces often, limiting social gatherings, and staying home except for essential travel. If you must host guests from outside your household, officials recommend quarantining for 14 days in advance (or for 7 days with a negative COVID-19 test <2 days in advance).

These are not perfect solutions; they significantly reduce the risks of infection but do not eliminate them. Even so, they are the best tools we have until a safe and effective vaccine becomes widely available.

Thank you!