



MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT A COUNCILMEMBER JOSEPH I. GIARRUSSO III



To our neighbors across New Orleans,

I know this is a scary time for our city, so I want to touch on some basic information to answer frequent questions and relieve possible concerns.

Remember, you can always contact my office with any questions. You can also follow my Facebook and Twitter pages for all up-to-date information: @cmgiarrusso.

Best,

Joe

### SPREAD PREVENTION

**YOU** can help prevent the spread of coronavirus. The New Orleans Health Department has issued guidelines to reduce the number of people who contract this virus.

Older people and people with underlying health conditions seem to be at greater risk of serious illness. Those conditions include heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, and cancer. This virus is thought to spread between people in close contact (within 6 feet) and through droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Even if you're not showing symptoms, you may be a carrier of the virus.

### Prevent spreading COVID-19

COVID-19 spreads between people in close contact and through droplets from coughing / sneezing.



To help prevent spreading this virus, it's imperative to practice social distancing. If possible, avoid unnecessary contact, avoid contact with immunocompromised people, meet by telephone or by online means, and avoid groups larger than 10 people. If you must be in public, stay back 6 feet from each other.

For all coronavirus information and updates, visit [ready.nola.gov](https://ready.nola.gov).

The novel coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, is a respiratory disease that was first detected in China. It has now been detected in many countries, including in the United States.

### Symptoms

Symptoms include fever, cough, and shortness of breath and may appear 2 to 14 days after exposure.

### Severity

Worldwide illnesses have ranged from mild to severe, including illness resulting in death. Older people and people with underlying health conditions seem to be at greater risk of serious illness. Those conditions include heart disease, lung disease, and cancer.

### How it spreads

The virus is thought to spread between people in close contact (within 6 feet) and through droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

### Treatment

There are no medications specifically approved for COVID-19. People with coronavirus should be treated with supportive care to help relieve symptoms. Some severe cases require going to the hospital, particularly in the elderly or those who have underlying medical conditions.

### What to do if you are sick

- 1** If you recently traveled to an area affected by COVID-19 transmission AND you feel sick, stay home and call your doctor immediately. Do not go to the doctor without calling first.
- 2** If you have a fever, cough, or shortness of breath, call your primary care provider.
- 3** If you do not have a primary care provider, call the Louisiana Department of Health hotline at 1-855-523-2652.
- 4** If you are severely ill and you think you need to go to the hospital, call 9-1-1 or go to an emergency room.

### Prevent the spread of respiratory illness, including COVID-19.



Wash hands with soap and water often. Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.



Stay home if you feel sick to prevent the spread of germs.





Cover your cough with your elbow to prevent the spread of germs.



If you are a senior or have a chronic medical condition, reconsider travel and large public gatherings.

 [ready.nola.gov](http://ready.nola.gov)

 3-1-1

 @nolaready

## UNEMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

### Employees:

Hundreds of New Orleans workers have been impacted by COVID-19. For many, bar, restaurant, and retail closures result in loss of income, which can lead to loss of transportation, housing, and security. If you've been affected by these closures, for now, you can file a claim for [unemployment](#) through the Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC) at [www.louisianaworks.net/hire](http://www.louisianaworks.net/hire) or calling 866.783.5567

### Employers:

If you're an employer and have temporarily closed or reduced hours of operation due to COVID-19, please contact the LWC to discuss how they can provide assistance and answer questions regarding [unemployment insurance](#).

### Small Business Administration:

The City has requested an Economic Injury Disaster declaration from the Small Business Administration. Once declared, all eligible businesses can apply to the SBA for lower-interest loans. Once declared, businesses should call 1-800-659-2955 or email [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov).

### Gig Economy Workers Fund:

The New Orleans Business Alliance (NOLABA) has launched a relief fund to meet the needs of gig economy workers who have been directly impacted via loss of income. Learn more, donate or apply at [www.nolaba.org/relief-fund](http://www.nolaba.org/relief-fund).

## RESTAURANTS

Mayor Cantrell ordered the closure of bars, movie theaters, and gyms to help stop the spread. Restaurants can now only provide take-out and delivery service. Please keep our local eateries in mind during these next two weeks, and order meals from them when possible.

You can find which restaurants remain open on my Twitter page (@cmgiarussso) or through [New Orleans Menu](#), which is keeping a list categorized by neighborhood

We're all in this *together!*

## PARKS & RECREATION

- All NORD recreation centers and facilities are closed until further notice. Playgrounds and open spaces will remain open, as will tennis courts.
- [City Park's](#) mini-golf, tennis courts, City Bark, and golf courses remain open
- [Audubon Park's](#) tennis courts, golf course, and nature trail remains open
- Lafitte Greenway's recreation programs are temporarily canceled

## UNIVERSITIES

Tulane, Loyola, Dillard, Holy Cross, Xavier, Southern University, and the University of New Orleans canceled in-person classes for all students. Those schools have transitioned to online teaching for the remainder of the spring semester.

## CITY HALL

City Hall remains open and functioning, though visiting remains limited to 25 people per

floor. All visitors and City Hall employees will have their temperature read after entering, and those with temperatures of 100 degrees or higher will be asked to leave.

**The Department of Public Works** continues to respond to service requests. If you need help with any of these non-emergency services, please call 311 or visit [nola311.org](http://nola311.org).

**The Sewerage and Water Board** suspended water service shut-offs, and is working to restore water service to customers who have been disconnected. If you have an emergency or service request, call 52-WATER (504-529-2837).

If you have any questions, concerns, or need assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out to my office by calling (504) 658-1010 or [Joseph.Giarrusso@nola.gov](mailto:Joseph.Giarrusso@nola.gov).



The infographic is a white rectangular box with an orange border. It lists 11 services in two columns, each with a corresponding icon. The services are: ABANDONED VEHICLES (car icon), EMS (ambulance icon), HEALTH-RELATED REQUESTS (first aid kit icon), LIGHTS/SIGNS/SIGNALS (street light icon), MOSQUITO, TERMITE, & RODENT CONTROL (mosquito icon), and NORDC (people icon). The second column includes: PARKS & PARKWAYS (trees icon), PROPERTY MAINTENANCE (house icon), ROADS/DRAINAGE (road sign icon), TAXI ISSUES (taxi icon), and TRASH/RECYCLING (trash can icon). In the bottom right corner of the infographic is the NOLA 311 logo, which features a stylized city skyline and the text 'NOLA 311'. Below the infographic is an orange banner with the text 'YOUR HOME FOR NON-EMERGENCY SERVICES' in white capital letters.

ABANDONED VEHICLES

EMS

HEALTH-RELATED REQUESTS

LIGHTS/SIGNS/SIGNALS

MOSQUITO, TERMITE, & RODENT CONTROL

NORDC

PARKS & PARKWAYS

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

ROADS/DRAINAGE

TAXI ISSUES

TRASH/RECYCLING

YOUR HOME FOR NON-EMERGENCY SERVICES

As always, if you have any questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to contact my office at (504) 658-1010 or email me at [Joseph.Giarrusso@nola.gov](mailto:Joseph.Giarrusso@nola.gov).



New Orleans City Council  
Councilmember Joseph I. Giarrusso, District A