

City of Keene
New Hampshire

April 7, 2020

TO: Keene City Council
FROM: Mayor George Hansel
RE: FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION – COVID-19 update

Changes to City Operations:

- Meetings of boards and commissions will be canceled until at least May 4th. Those with time-sensitive business before them can meet using electronic means in compliance with RSA-91A and the Governor's Emergency Order #12. These include: Planning Board, Zoning Board of Adjustment, Historic District Commission, Conservation Commission, Trustees of Trust Funds, Library Trustees, and the Energy and Climate Committee.
- City tennis/basketball courts and the skate park are closed to the public until further notice. All public playgrounds, bleachers and equipment are also off limits. Trails and parks remain open and accessible to the public. The City recommends practicing the latest [CDC recommendations](#) while enjoying these outdoor spaces.
- Complimentary downtown parking is extended until May 4th to align with the State's stay at home order.

Federal CARES Act:

- The CARES Act provides broad relief for federal student loan borrowers. Answers to frequently asked questions and an overview of the relief available to borrowers can be found on the U.S. Department of Education's coronavirus resource [page](#).
- Economic Impact Payments are available to Americans that meet the income requirements to help them through the COVID-19 crisis.
 - A maximum payment of \$1,200 for individuals and heads of households and \$2,400 for married couples filing jointly, as well as an additional \$500 for every child. Income is established based on your tax return from 2018 or 2019. If you did not file a tax return in either of those years, there are steps you can take to process your payment.
 - Individuals making up to \$75,000 will receive \$1,200. Individuals making between \$75,000 and \$99,000 will receive a reduced amount based on a sliding scale. Individuals making over \$100,000 will not receive a payment.
 - Heads of household making up to \$112,500 will also receive the full \$1,200 payment. Payments to heads of household are reduced gradually up to an income cap of \$136,500. Heads of household are also eligible for \$500 per dependent child.
 - Married couples filing jointly making up to \$150,000 will receive a payment of \$2,400. Payments for married couples filing jointly are reduced gradually up to an income cap of \$198,000. Married couples filing jointly are also eligible for \$500 per dependent child.

- It will take several weeks for the IRS to process these payments. More information can be found on the IRS [website](#). Check for updates often. The Washington Post has also created a [calculator](#) that can be used to estimate your payment amount.

Federal Paid Sick and Family Leave (for employers):

Employers with less than 500 employees can now be reimbursed for providing their employees with paid sick and family leave. This reimbursement is through the Department of the Treasury and the IRS in the form of dollar-for-dollar tax credits. Answers to frequently asked questions can be found on the IRS [website](#). It is important to note that while the City and other government entities are required to provide this benefit to our employees, we do not have a tax liability to offset this expense.

Public Outreach:

The public is encouraged to participate in the Mayor's Virtual Town Halls daily, Monday-Friday at 8am. Credentials for the Zoom meeting change daily and can be found by visiting: www.notifykeene.com. Additionally, participants can call in via telephone by dialing 603-766-5646 and using the participant code: 981441.