

April 8, 2020 Update

Please visit www.cityofmlt.com/2060 for city information and resources on the COVID-19 public health emergency. Snohomish Health District is the lead agency on this pandemic and their website is <https://www.snohd.org/>.

What's New?

- **The City of Mountlake Terrace issued a Declaration of Emergency** on Monday, April 6 following the Governor's extension of the "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" Order until May 4. Doing so allows the city to change our operating hours, work beyond normal hours, make emergency procurements, reassign staff to tasks not normally in their job descriptions, etc. to ensure continuity of government and essential operations consistent with the orders of Governor Inslee during this pandemic.

As a result, City Hall, the Police Station and the Public Works Shop are closed to the public. The city will continue to process building and development permits, inspect essential construction activities, provide police services and maintain grounds and infrastructure.

The Recreation Pavilion is closed to the public with the exception of the city's child care programs. Playground facilities are closed. Park trails are open, subject to gathering and social distancing requirements.

Most employees at City Hall, the Public Works Shop, and the Recreation Pavilion, as well as non-commissioned personnel at the Police Station, are now separated into two work groups to work remotely or on alternating shifts to reduce the risk of broad infection at city facilities.

City phone numbers:

Building Permits:	425-744-6267
City Hall – General:	425-776-1161
Code Enforcement:	425-744-6254
Non-Emergency Police/Fire:	425-407-3999 (Call 9-1-1 if emergency)
Recreation Pavilion:	425-776-9173
Traffic Tickets/Violations:	425-744-6228
Utility Billing:	425-744-6214

City emails:

City Hall General: cityhall@ci.mlt.wa.us
Code Enforcement: codeenforcement@ci.mlt.wa.us
Traffic Tickets/Violations: Violations@ci.mlt.wa.us
Utility Billing: utilitybilling@ci.mlt.wa.us

Police fines and payments may be placed in the Police Station payment box outside the station or mailed in to 5906 232nd Street SW, Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043.

City utility payments may be placed in the drop box outside the Redstone Corporate Center II (Interim City Hall) parking lot or mailed to 6100 219th Street SW, #200, Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043. They may also be paid online and the city's vendor is currently waiving the \$2.00 convenience fee. Visit www.cityofmlt.com/167 to learn more about making utility payments.

- **The April 6 City Council meeting** was conducted remotely via Zoom. The audio of the recording is available [here](#).
- **The April 16 City Council work/study session is cancelled** in compliance with the [Governor's Proclamation 20-28](#) that states business may only be conducted on items that are both "necessary and routine." The city is working on adjustments for the next regular meeting to be held remotely via Zoom on April 20, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

General Information and Resources:

- **Social Distancing Violations of "Stay Home, Stay Healthy Order":** In summary of the Governor's March 30 press conference regarding handling reported violations of orders on social distancing and proper business operations, please note the following:
 - People are **NOT** being asked, stopped and/or checked for identification purely for being out of their homes.
 - An individual, group or business disobeying the Governor's order is in violation of RCW 43.06.220(5).
 - To report an ***individual*** or ***private group*** that is not following the order, people are to contact local law enforcement. For Mountlake Terrace, those calls should go through dispatch's non-emergency number: (425) 407-3999. Please DO NOT call 9-1-1 or the Police Station.

- People can report ***business*** violations here:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/09349a1c56844b539fea1c2cabd16d56>

- **Snohomish County Extends Provides Some Property Tax Extensions:** Due to the financial hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Snohomish County Treasurer Brian Sullivan and Executive Dave Somers have extended the first-half 2020 property tax deadline to June 1, 2020. *This executive order only applies to residents who pay their individual and commercial property taxes themselves, rather than through their mortgage lender.* Banks and other financial institutions that pay property taxes on behalf of their lending customers will still need to meet the original April 30 deadline. For those who can do so, Snohomish County is encouraging individual taxpayers to pay by the original April 30 deadline or as soon thereafter as possible.
- The Recreation and Parks Department is taking registration for camp care for children currently in our program as well as any children of essential workers or vulnerable children who do not have alternative care. The cost of the camp is \$170 per week for Mountlake Terrace residents. To register, please email mltrecreation@ci.mlt.wa.us. For more information, please call the Recreation Pavilion at (425) 776-9173 on weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. due to limited staffing. In compliance with the “Stay Home, Stay Healthy” Order, the Pavilion is closed for in-person information so please call or email.
- [Governor’s Proclamation 20-28](#) (issued March 24, 2020) temporarily prohibits in-person contacts with the public that are required by the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) (RCW 42.30) and the Public Records Act (PRA) (RCW 42.56), suspending some statutory language that would require such contacts. This proclamation also temporarily suspends the PRA’s requirements for agencies to respond to PRA requests for public records within five business days from receipt, and to maintain business hours for public inspection and copying of records for a minimum of 30 hours per week. It is effective from March 24, 2020 until midnight, May 4, 2020. Please read the proclamation for details and to see the list of citations to the specific OPMA and PRA statutes or portions of statutes that are temporarily suspended.
- **“Stay Home, Stay Healthy” Order In Effect March 25, 2020 Until Midnight May 4, 2020, Unless Extended:** Starting Wednesday, March 25, 2020, most businesses will be closed statewide with the exception of [essential businesses](#) and key government

functions including the City of Mountlake Terrace. The State defines “Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers” as personnel who are needed to maintain continuity of operations of essential critical infrastructure sectors and additional sectors as the State Public Health Officer may designate as critical to protect health and well-being of all Washingtonians.

The Governor’s Proclamation does not prohibit working from home, operating a single owner business with no in-person, on-site public interaction, or restaurants and food services providing delivery or take-away services, so long as proper social distancing and sanitation measures are established and implemented.

Residents are permitted to leave home in order to meet their essential needs including traveling to grocery stores and food banks, pharmacies, gas stations, urgent or emergency medical care, caring for an elderly or sick family member, and traveling to work for essential staff as defined by state or local authorities. For more information on what’s open and closed, please visit the State’s [webpage](#). You can read the Governor’s announcement [here](#).

- **Drive-thru testing available by appointment** for high-risk Snohomish County residents with COVID-19 symptoms, including those who work in healthcare, public safety or critical infrastructure, now have another option for free testing. *Testing is by appointment only if you meet the criteria to be tested.* Visit www.snohd.org/503 to learn more or sign up for an appointment.
- Thanks to MLTNews.com for their work in creating [this list](#) of Mountlake Terrace **restaurants offering takeout or delivery service**. Please help our businesses stay open if you are able to. City Hall employees are placing a group lunch order each day to a different Mountlake Terrace restaurant to try and help our local businesses.
- The city recognizes there is uncertainty at this time and realizes that some utility customers may be worried about paying their water bill. Therefore, in line with Governor Inslee’s request of March 18 and his extension, **the City of Mountlake Terrace will postpone shut offs of water service to customers for nonpayment through May 4**. This action may be extended in the future, and no late fees or penalties will apply during this time.

We encourage customers to continue to make their utility payments or to call Utility Billing at (425) 744-6214 to make payment arrangements if they are unable to pay at this time.

- **SW Transfer Station Changes:** Effective March 28, 2020, Snohomish County closed all of its Solid Waste facilities and programs and announced they would reopen to *mechanical-unload customers only* on weekdays on Monday, March 30. Additionally, Snohomish County announced the transfer stations reopened on Saturdays only, starting April 4, to hand-unload/self-haul customers with only household garbage (see their [webpage](#) for criteria) during the duration of the health crisis. Rural drop box sites and the Household Hazardous Waste Facility will remain closed. Transfer station hours are now changed to 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Credit cards or account transactions only during the health crisis – no cash or checks. For more information, please visit their [Solid Waste webpage](#). The city has updated its [Transfer Station webpage](#) and made this announcement on social media.
- Snohomish County has launched a **COVID-19 Emergency Sheltering Program** to help those most at risk of exposure to COVID-19. The funds will target those who are experiencing homelessness and are parents with children, veterans, or other vulnerable individuals. For more information, visit <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/72255/NewCOVID-19-Emergency-Sheltering-Program-Launched-in-SnohomishCounty?bidId=>.
- **Renters & Landlords:** In response to inquiries made to the city about this issue, "Under the Governor's March 18 order, landlords are barred from evicting someone who fails to pay rent on time. It's in effect for 30 days. Landlords are prohibited from issuing a 20-day notice for unlawful occupancy unless they can demonstrate it's necessary to ensure the health and safety of the tenant or others." Read article [here](#).
- Edmonds School District continues to provide **free bag breakfasts and lunches** at 21 distribution sites during their six-week closure. Check [here](#) for distribution sites/times.
- **Federal student loan payments have been suspended without penalty for at least 60 days.** Please visit the White House's [webpage](#) for more information on the briefing.
- **U.S. Tax Filing Deadline Extended to July 15, 2020** - All taxpayers and businesses will have until July 15, 2020 to file and make payments without interest or penalties.

Updates on Meetings and Events

- April 8 Coffee with the City is cancelled
- April 11 Easter Egg Hunt is cancelled (by Cheeseburger Babies Foundation)
- April 11 April Pools Day is cancelled
- April 14 Recreation and Parks Advisory Commission meeting is cancelled
- April 16 City Council work/study session is cancelled
- April 20 City Council regular meeting held remotely via Zoom
- April 25 Earth Day/Arbor Day Volunteer Park Clean Up