

March 18, 2020

Dear Business Owner:

First, let me express my deepest sympathy over the hardship you are encountering over the Coronavirus (Covid-19) situation. Companies – large and small -- are all grappling with the economic effects from the epidemic sweeping our country.

Our Economic Development Team has spent the past several days calling businesses throughout Avondale to assess the situation. It saddens me to report that virtually none of our businesses believe that they will come away unscathed from this crisis. The City of Avondale is no less immune -- as an organization that relies heavily on sales tax revenue to fund vital services and programs, the economic health of our business community is vital to our city's future growth and success.

At this time, the health and safety of our community is paramount. As you are well aware, the Covid-19 situation is one that changes day by day, and we're constantly making adjustments to our operations. From closing our senior center and libraries to suspending all our sports and recreation programs and special events, the City is constantly monitoring County, State and Federal public health guidelines and making adjustments as needed.

On March 18, 2020, the Mayor of Avondale signed an Emergency Declaration via Proclamation, similar to the emergency declarations by cities across the state, to protect the public health of our community and help stop the spread of the coronavirus.

As part of this Declaration, the City of Avondale is adhering to recommendations set by the Arizona Department of Health Services <https://azdhs.gov/> for dining establishments in areas of known community spread to discourage dine-in traffic, and instead provide curbside pickup or drive-through service.

The guidelines provide for flexibility to allow our smaller, family owned/operated dining establishments to operate at some level during this crisis, until such time the emergency order can be lifted.

- Effective immediately, dining establishments and bar operators will be required to limit their food service to curbside pickup, delivery or drive-through service only.
- If a dining establishment chooses to have any seating, they will be limited to no more than 10 people at a time, and they must be adequately spaced apart (3-6 ft). In addition, the dining establishment must have an active sanitation cleaning program in place to clean after every patron leaves the establishment.
- There will be no gatherings, events, or functions or any sort allowed at such establishments.

We fully understand that these guidelines will impact the bottom line of many of our small businesses; these actions are necessary to protect the public's health and help curb the spread of disease in our community. These emergency management measures will be in place for an undetermined period of time to reduce the severity of the local emergency, receive available aid, and to protect the health, safety, life and property in Avondale.

Our Economic Development Team is working on a Business Retention and Small Business Development Plan, taking into account many of the concerns we heard from our local businesses and companies. Our staff will work with businesses individually regarding the standards they will employ during this time, and will make accommodations as much as possible.

Please continually check the Avondale Edge website, avondaleedge.com as we provide updated information and links to resources. Our team is also available at (623) 333-1400 or by email at ecdev@avondaleaz.gov, and we encourage you to reach out to us with questions or concerns.

On behalf of the Mayor and City Council, we understand and share your anxiety surrounding the uncertainty and challenges ahead. Our foremost priority is ensuring that the City is taking the necessary steps to protect the public's health. Please know that we are all in this together, and that we will do our utmost to help our local businesses weather this crisis.

Please do your part to stay healthy. Take care of your families, and please follow the advice of trusted public health sources to protect yourself and reduce your risk for illness.

Sincerely,



Charles Montoya
City Manager

