



City of Sanford, Maine

Office of the City Manager

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March 20, 2020

Dear Citizens of Sanford,

This has been a very challenging time for the City of Sanford as municipal officials react and respond to the rapidly developing Coronavirus pandemic (COVID 19). As you know, the information and announcements regarding this global public health crisis are coming in at a staggering pace. It can feel overwhelming at times, but I am reassured to know that our city response team is in place and functioning well under very difficult circumstances. We continue to partner with other Local, County, State, and Federal resources to gather and disseminate the most accurate and up to date information.

The City Manager, Department Heads, and our dedicated group of city staff are working tirelessly to ensure we have continuity of service throughout this time of uncertainty. Our staff is here to continue to serve the community through our 911 and public safety services, as well as trash collection, road and infrastructure maintenance, and many other services. In order to protect our employees and keep operations running without interruption, we have closed all municipal buildings to the public. While this will be an inconvenience for many, a number of tasks, particularly within the Clerk's Office, can be handled online or by appointment at www.sanfordmaine.org/onlineservices.

Our Sanford School District, although closing its doors like most schools around the country, is providing distance learning for our students as well as meals for any student who wants one. I want to offer a special thank you to our school administration, teachers, and support staff for providing our students with learning opportunities, meals, and an overriding feeling that they are still a part of the Spartan family during this difficult time. Details regarding closures, meals, and COVID 19 related school issues can found on the Sanford Schools website at www.sanford.org.

Sanford is built on small family-run businesses, and this outbreak has hit our business community especially hard. Let's be vigilant and pay attention as their business models change temporarily so companies can remain open, keep workers on payroll and serve us. When we do finally get through this, it will be important to continue to rally around our local businesses and show them how much we appreciate them. In the meantime, there are resources available to help business owners and employees get through this difficult time. Employees who have experienced a lay-off or business closing can find resources on www.Maine.gov/unemployment/ and business owners have excellent financial and advising resources available to them through the Small Business Authority at www.sba.gov. For anyone with business-specific questions feel free to email our Economic Growth Council at: info@sanfordgrowth.com.

To keep information flowing, the City will communicate COVID 19 information and related public updates using Cable TV channels 25 and 26, Facebook ([Welcome to Sanford, Maine](#)), [Town Hall Streaming](#), and our website www.sanfordmaine.org. Your City Councilors are also here to help answer your questions and address concerns. Contact information can be found at www.sanfordmaine.org/council.

Together, we will get through this Pandemic and move on with our normal lives. I look forward to how wonderful that will actually feel. In the meantime, please practice vigilant social distancing, call your loved ones and neighbors, and most of all be kind to each other.

Sincerely,

Tom Cote
Mayor, City of Sanford

