



My Ward Report for March 15, 2020

Dear Fellow East Siders:

Thank you all for taking necessary precautions to slow the spread of COVID-19. The next two weeks are critical, and we must continue to be diligent. Residents are encouraged to continue social distancing (6 feet) practices as outlined by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) to reduce the spread of germs. This includes avoiding direct contact with peers through handshaking or hugging. Residents are also encouraged to continue following and sharing the recommended best hygiene practices which include: washing your hands and using gel hand sanitizer; covering your cough; staying home if sick; and continuously disinfecting surfaces. <https://health.ri.gov/diseases/ncov2019/>

As you know the Mayor declared a state of emergency for the City of Providence last Thursday. The City will not be permitting or licensing any new events, temporarily revoked previously-issued entertainment licenses, and is restricting current license holders from serving or gathering more than 100 people at a time. Last Friday the Governor moved up spring break and closed the public schools for one week beginning March 16th. Also last Friday, the Mayor closed all city buildings from March 14th to March 30th, including all Recreations Centers.

The impact of these actions, while necessary, are most difficult for those who are food insecure, hourly wage earners, small business owners, elderly or at risk, homeless, and those who have no childcare.

Our Federal, State and City leaders are working hard to develop resources and provide relief for those that will be impacted as a result of COVID-19. Here are a few things you should know:

Schools

Students (Grades 3-12) were sent home with Chrome Books and the teachers are preparing Distance Learning Plans in case schools remain closed after this week. Beginning on Tuesday, March 17th, until the schools reopen, Sodexo is distributing “grab and go” meals to PPS Students (who must be present to pick up meals) at 8 different locations from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. everyday. For the location of meal sites please visit <https://www.providenceschools.org/grabandgo>.

Utilities

National Grid is temporarily suspending collection related activities, including service disconnections through the end of April. www.nationalgridus.com/COVID-19

Providence Water will not turn off your water while their office is closed, at least through March 31st. www.provwater.com/covid19

Food

For the list of Food Pantries near you visit <https://rifoodbank.org/find-food/>. Please note that the normal protocols for food distribution will be modified, so before going to the Food Pantry, please call first.

Financial Assistance

If you have been quarantined and/or if your workplace has been temporarily closed, please review information regarding temporary disability and unemployment insurance on the Information Sheet from the Department of Labor and Training.

<http://www.dlt.state.ri.us/pdfs/COVID-19%20Workplace%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>

For financial assistance for small businesses refer to COVID-19 advice from CommerceRI. <https://commerceri.com/covid-19/> Please take the time to fill out the Estimated Disaster Economic Injury Worksheet for Businesses, as the information will be used to request the U.S. Small Business Administration to issue an economic injury disaster declaration.

All businesses affected by COVID-19 should keep a detailed list of losses that result from COVID-19 as there should be federal and state funds available to assist businesses, such as \$7 billion in low interest loans for small business in the Families First Corona Virus Response Act, which passed the U.S. House last week and is awaiting Senate approval.

Healthcare

HealthSource RI is offering a limited enrollment period, following Governor Raimondo's State of Emergency declaration in response to the potential growth of the new coronavirus. This will allow uninsured Rhode Islanders to purchase coverage through April 15th. Rhode Islanders who wish to obtain coverage can do so by visiting www.healthsourceri.com.

Mayor's Center for City Services

If you have any questions, concerns or are in need of assistance, please call 311 which will be staffed from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. seven days a week.

Finally, please reach out to your elderly neighbors who may need assistance with errands and be safe and stay healthy.

Please feel free to call me at (401) 489-2470, visit www.helenanthony.com, and/or or email me at helen@helenanthony.com. I will have more resources listed on my website.

Sincerely,

Nilew Anthony