



Office of Mayor Miro Weinberger

EXECUTIVE ORDER

DECLARING A CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the City of Burlington has been monitoring the spread of the novel coronavirus known as COVID-19 for some months; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared that COVID-19 can be characterized as a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the Governor of Vermont declared a State of Emergency for the State of Vermont; and

WHEREAS, if appropriate mitigation steps are not taken, COVID-19 will likely spread in the City of Burlington, the urban area in Vermont with the highest population density that serves as the commercial and economic center for the State; and

WHEREAS, the University of Vermont Medical Center located in Burlington is a key provider of the region's health care services; and

WHEREAS, authorities throughout the country are encouraging actions to "flatten the curve" to prevent overwhelming the health care system, minimize the risk to the public, maintain the health and safety of all people in Burlington, and limit the spread of infection; and

WHEREAS, the City has developed a COVID-19 response plan and has opened an Emergency Operations Center to coordinate the City's actions;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Miro Weinberger, Mayor of Burlington, pursuant to the powers vested in me by 20 V.S.A. §6, the Burlington City Charter 24 App. V.S.A. §3-116, and Burlington Code of Ordinances §11-5, and other laws and regulations, hereby declare an emergency in the City of Burlington and have authorized the following actions:

1. Because the City's history of large crowds gathering in bars and restaurants on St. Patrick's Day will make it difficult to enforce the Governor's order restricting mass gatherings and because of the risk of virus transmission at this crucial time, all bars and restaurants in the City of Burlington will be closed for 24 hours starting at 6 am on March 17, except for take-out and delivery of food. Further closures are likely.
2. For the immediate future and until further notice, the Burlington Department of Public Works and the Burlington Electric Department will suspend disconnections of water and electric utilities for nonpayment.

3. I will bring to the City Council an Emergency Paid Leave policy that will provide additional paid leave for City employees affected by this health crisis.

4. The City will continue many City services but will curtail certain municipal services and will close or limit public access to all City buildings until at least April 6 starting Wednesday, March 18. The City will continue to provide water, electricity, emergency police and fire services, maintenance of streets and sidewalks, and recycling pickup. Internal functions such as human resources and City payroll will also continue. In-person programs of the Fletcher Free Library, Burlington City Arts, and Parks will end starting on Wednesday. Indoor recreational facilities such as the Miller Center and Leddy Arena will close starting on Wednesday, as well as the BCA Gallery and the Library building. These service curtailments are subject to change and clarification. An extension of these curtailments is possible and will be announced with as much notice as possible. The public should go to www.BurlingtonVT.gov for up to date information about municipal services.

5. The City may temporarily reassign certain employees to support the needs of Burlingtonians and City employees who have been affected by this public health crisis by providing meal delivery or child care.

Updates for which services will be available and which buildings are open can be found on the City's website at this page: www.burlingtonvt.gov/covid-19.



Miro Weinberger
Mayor of Burlington, Vermont