



City of Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell

Office of the Mayor
City of Seattle
Bruce A. Harrell, Mayor

Executive Order 2022-01: COVID-19 Civil Emergency – Extensions of City Relief Measures

An Executive Order to further extend actions to combat the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and to mitigate the impact of the public health emergency on the people of Seattle.

WHEREAS, former Mayor Jenny A. Durkan proclaimed that a civil emergency exists in the City of Seattle in the Mayoral Proclamation of Civil Emergency dated March 3, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 2020-03 directed Seattle Public Utilities and Seattle City Light to exercise flexibility with customers, including instituting payment plans, and avoid utility shut-offs whenever possible; and

WHEREAS, in March 2020, the Seattle Department of Transportation announced new parking rules and procedures to reflect people staying at home, the transition of restaurants to take-out only, and the shortage of parking around medical facilities; and

WHEREAS, on March 16 and 17, 2020, Emergency Orders were issued placing a temporary moratorium on residential evictions, as well as evictions of small business and non-profit organization commercial tenants, respectively; and

WHEREAS, while Seattle has been very successful in achieving a high rate of vaccination against COVID-19 among the City's residents, the Omicron variant poses a new and serious threat due to its heightened contagiousness; and

WHEREAS, with the spread of the Omicron variant, reported COVID-19 cases are increasing at a staggering rate, with the number of new cases equaling over 15,000 per day in Washington State on January 6, an increase of 4,000 in just one day. The number of new cases is far higher than at any previous point in the pandemic, and the wave of new cases has yet to peak. In King County, the seven-day average case rate is more than four times the county's previous peak; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 hospitalizations in King County are up fivefold since mid-December and now exceed the previous peak. Health experts expect hospitalizations to continue to rise and health system stress to continue to increase for weeks even after cases peak; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 crisis has had a significant impact on the local economy. Improvements in economic conditions since the start of the pandemic are now threatened by widespread disruptions due to the Omicron variant;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bruce A. Harrell, Mayor of Seattle, hereby order the extension of the following measures to help combat the COVID-19 pandemic in our community and promote the health and well-being of the people of Seattle:

A. Emergency Moratorium on Residential Evictions

On March 16, 2020, an Emergency Order was issued imposing a moratorium on residential evictions for sixty days, or until the termination of the Civil Emergency, whichever is earlier. Subsequent orders extended the moratorium through January 15, 2022.

Given the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency, the Emergency Order, dated March 16, 2020, imposing a moratorium on residential evictions is hereby extended through February 14, 2022, at which point the Emergency Moratorium on Residential Evictions will sunset and Ordinance 126075's six-month defense against evictions due to financial hardship goes into effect.

B. Emergency Moratorium on Small Business and Non-Profit Commercial Tenant Evictions

On March 17, 2020, an Emergency Order was issued imposing a moratorium on evictions of small business and non-profit commercial tenants for sixty days, or until the termination of the Civil Emergency, whichever is earlier. Subsequent orders extended the moratorium through January 15, 2022.

Given the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency, the Emergency Order, dated March 17, 2020, imposing a moratorium on evictions of small business and non-profit commercial tenants is hereby extended through February 14, 2022.

C. Utility relief flexible payment policies and shut-off policies, as announced in Executive Order 2020-03. Seattle City Light and Seattle Public Utilities are directed to maintain flexible payment plan policies and to not resume disconnections for nonpayment through April 15, 2022.

D. Booting of vehicles with unpaid parking tickets, as announced on March 21, 2020, will remain suspended until further notice.

E. Temporary Parking Zones for hospital and human services staff, as announced on March 26, 2020, are extended through April 15, 2022.

F. Reopening of Closed Facilities as City departments begin to gradually reopen public-facing customer service counters. During the reopening, online and telephonic access should continue. Accessible communication to people with disabilities and to non-English speaking community members should also continue, to the greatest extent practicable. Please visit <http://www.seattle.gov/departments> for additional information on specific City Departments' openings, closures, and modified hours/service delivery during COVID-19.

This Executive Order continues all other temporary relief measures established by the American Rescue Plan and Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds including programs for small businesses, youth and families, human services and homelessness programs, and rental assistance.

For all other COVID-19 legislation, emergency orders, closures, or relief measures announced by the City but not enumerated in this Executive Order, the City will monitor guidance and future orders from Public Health - Seattle & King County, as well as the county, state, and federal government before determining whether to extend their intended termination dates.

Any questions regarding this Executive Order should be directed to Policy Director Dan Eder, Office of the Mayor.

Dated this 13th day of January, 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce A. Harrell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "B" and "H".

Bruce A. Harrell
Mayor of Seattle