



COVID-19

As with many of us, Council is keeping a close eye on developments as COVID-19 spreads. In order to protect our community and our staff we are making some changes to the way we do things – and asking you to do the same:

What is the Shire Doing?

At this stage, we have made some operational changes:

- Cancellation of all scheduled public events up to 30 April
- Staff will not be attending any training or non-essential face-to-face meetings between now and 30 April
- Increasing disinfection of offices, facilities and vehicles
- Putting contingency plans in place for office staff to be able to work from home
- Testing our ability for key functions to be performed externally should the need arise

Shire owned facilities

As of today 23rd March 2020 all Shire owned recreation facilities are closed to all community members.

These include the following

- Swimming Pool
- Recreation facilities
- Licensed sporting Clubs including Bowls, Golf and Tennis
- Library's
- Community Halls

Our office hours and services offered have not changed at this stage, and we will continue to act based on State and Federal Government guidance as it is issued.

What can I do?

To help to protect both our staff, and the community members that access our facilities, we ask that you only attend the Shire office for essential services only and do not come in person if you have:

- Cold or flu-like symptoms
- Have been in contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 in the last 14 days
- Have been in contact with someone who has travelled overseas and is displaying cold or flu-like symptoms in the last 14 days

If you are unsure about whether a transaction you want to carry out can be done over the phone or online, please give us a call on 08 9952 0100 or email

admin@coorow.wa.gov.au You might be surprised by the range of payments and licencing activities that can be completed over the phone or online.

Some licencing activities can also be carried out online at [the Department of Transport website.](#)

Finally, [the Shire website](#) also has an abundance of information and a range of forms should you need further information.

Where can I get more information on COVID-19?

We will continue to monitor this ever-evolving process and take our advice from government and health care professionals and we recommend others do the same. During this time, we urge people to remain alert – but calm – and to seek their advice and information from reputable sources, such as:

- [The HealthyWA website](#) – this site has regularly updated information on COVID clinics and current advice.
- [Commonwealth Department of Health](#) – contains a number of fact sheets to answer the many questions that are currently being asked by the broader community and different industries including advice for employers,
- [WA State Government Coronavirus Page](#) – includes the WA Government Pandemic Plan

Prefer social media? Here are some useful Facebook pages to follow for regular updates:

- [HealthyWA](#)
- [Commonwealth Department of Health](#)

And here are some posters that might provide you with helpful information – feel free to share them:

- [COVID-19 Identifying the Symptoms Poster](#)
- [How to Wash Your Hands Poster](#)
- [Protect Yourself and Others Poster](#)

How can I help others?

Finally, we would like to remind people to check in with each other – with a phone call, facetime or text message. The next few months may be challenging and isolating for some, and it's important that we are looking out for those around us. The Shire is actively looking into other measures to assist in this area during a time of social distancing, so expect to see updates in this space in the coming days and weeks.

The Australian Psychological Association has some helpful tips for managing COVID-19 related anxiety and helping to explain it to children. You can download that document [here](#).

What other help is available?

Should you, or someone you know, be struggling there are also a range of services that can help, including:

- [Desert Blue Connect Rural Support Counsellor](#) (Mon-Fri 9-5): 0419 348 006
- [Lifeline](#) (24/7): 13 11 14
- [Kids Helpline](#) (ages 5-25): 1800 55 1800

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