

Caring and Resilient

How Bellevue is responding to the COVID-19 outbreak

BellevueWA.gov/covid-19

中文 BellevueWA.gov/chinese/covid-19

Español BellevueWA.gov/spanish-espanol/covid-19

Русский BellevueWA.gov/russian/covid-19

한국어 BellevueWA.gov/korean/covid-19

Nations across the globe are working hard to slow the spread of the COVID-19 novel coronavirus. We saw the virus move from country to country and then hit our region first in the United States. But we weren't just watching. The city's efforts began immediately to connect with health agencies and government representatives at all levels to gather and share information, track the spread of the virus, and prepare as much as possible to weather this crisis together.



Through it all, we remain committed as a city to serving the people and businesses of Bellevue. Our city's Emergency Operations Center is actively working to support our healthcare system and coordinate with a regional response, our hard-working public safety teams continue to respond to calls and our dedicated service crews will continue delivering essential services.

And the city will provide updates and information to help us navigate the challenge together.

Community Resources

Although we do not know the length or severity of the impact of COVID-19, we are committed to providing up-to-date information on services available to help us all. In Bellevue, from homelessness services to child care and emergency food distribution, we are working with our human service agencies to provide help where it is needed most. For current information on resources and assistance, go to COVID-19 Community Resources at BellevueWA.gov/covid-19-community-resources.



Business Resources

Bellevue's business community plays a vital role in the health and well-being of our community, and many businesses are facing significant hardship. Federal, state and local efforts are being directed to support our economy and provide direct relief for our business community. As a community, we can support this effort through our daily choices to support our local stores however possible, buy online and order take-out from area restaurants. For current information on where to find resources for business assistance, go to the COVID-19 Business Resources web page at BellevueWA.gov/covid-19-business-resources. Also, the city's Economic Development office has established re.startup425.org/restaurants for owners and residents to map restaurants that are open for takeout meals.

The good news is, you can help, too! All of us are critical to the recovery of our community from this emergency. Go to engagingbellevue.com. You can share stories of the great responses that you are seeing from community members and agencies as we work to support each other.

Here are some of the ways that you can help to support our recovery.

- ◆ Check in on your neighbors and friends, especially those in high-risk populations. You can help them to navigate grocery delivery, pick up medications for them, or even just call to talk. Be sure to maintain social distancing any time you need to check in on someone in person. Contact them by phone or email if possible.

- ◆ Support human services non-profits and agencies in our community. In times of crisis, our local non-profits must remain on the front lines to meet the variety of needs of people in our city. They could use your support now in a variety of ways.
- ◆ Buy local! Restaurants and shops still have take-out options, online shopping capabilities, or gift cards that you can buy now for use later. Every little bit helps our local businesses keep employees working and stay afloat.

We are posting our latest updates and pertinent city information related to COVID-19 at BellevueWA.gov/COVID-19, including resources in multiple languages.

This is an unprecedented time and it will test the character and resiliency of our community. But Bellevue's community has always risen to the challenge, and we will do so again. Share your story about how Bellevue is staying strong together at engagingbellevue.com or by using the hashtag #WeGotThisBellevue and #BringItBellevue on social media.

Most of all, stay healthy!

Neighborhoods respond with creative ideas

The Neighborhood Outreach team looks forward to resuming in-person gatherings. Until then, we're working on additional ways to connect safely, and to share the needs, opportunities and great solutions in the community. It's encouraging to see that in this difficult time, neighbors are coming together to help each other and find new ways to stay connected.

Bellevue neighbors are supporting each other in many creative and sensitive ways. We are tracking what people are doing to stay connected and be helpful for each other. For example, in Lake Hills, kids on St. Patrick's Day created shamrocks for their living room windows and as people were out walking, kids could keep count and keep busy! In Enatai and Woodridge, the neighborhoods have arranged for food trucks to visit, so that neighbors can pick up a meal while out walking. The Eastgate Community Association has started a newsletter that includes "Caring Connections," providing avenues to help elderly neighbors in the community, and a neighborhood challenge for litter



pickup. Some neighbors are putting teddy bears in their windows for kids to count on their daily walk.

Many in our community have reached out to provide small acts of kindness or continuing support. Thank you for all that you have done for your neighbors and friends!

A request that we've received from seniors is that others help seniors abide by safe distancing on daily exercise walks. When possible, please move to the side so that the responsibility for distancing is not on the senior walker. Thank you!

As we all adjust to the current challenges, it's a great time to share the needs and opportunities and the creative solutions in the community. We're always glad to hear from our community, to help you and to learn how your neighborhood members are helping each other.

City of Bellevue Neighborhood Outreach Team

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Look for the helpers!

By Blayne Amson, City of Bellevue Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator

Hello, neighbor! I'm writing in the hopes of sharing a simple message at a time when many of us are coping with the effects of Coronavirus. I borrow this message from Fred Rogers, American children's television personality. He was on the air for decades teaching many of us the importance of taking care of each other, having empathy for another's experience, and finding the good in the world, even in times of challenge. Mr. Rogers was often quoted as saying, "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'"

For those with disabilities, older adults, and those with health conditions, the charge from the governor to stay home and stay safe can pose some unique challenges, and the fact that this virus appears to be more severely impacting these populations can create



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a sense of fear and uncertainty. As a wheelchair user, I am not immune to these feelings. At the same time, my disability gives me a unique opportunity to see the continued goodness, empathy, and helpful spirit I have seen in my neighbors throughout my entire life.

Just as Mr. Rogers said, in times of struggle I have seen the community come together. The helpers have made themselves known. This should provide us all with an enduring sense of hope. And so, I want to encourage all of us to continue to reach out to each other. Give your neighbor a call if you know they have difficulty going to the store and see if they need anything. Offer a listening ear and a sense of connection. Let them know you are there and will do your best to help. Even in the best of times, these simple gestures can mean the world for a person in need. In these challenging times, they can help to ensure we all make it through. Just as we always have, we will come out the other side of this—if we take care of ourselves—and each other.

Viruses don't discriminate, and neither should we!

Bellevue's Police Chief is asking anyone experiencing discrimination or hate crimes, especially related to the COVID-19 virus, to report their experience to the police department. Digital tools can help residents report these incidents from the safety of home. Public Health – Seattle & King County also created educational information to help share the facts about COVID-19.

"I am disturbed to hear that people are being targeted and blamed for COVID-19," said Police Chief Steve Mylett. "If this is happening here in Bellevue it needs to stop. We will vigorously pursue and arrest anyone who commits a hate crime in Bellevue."

How to report

To report an immediate threat or ongoing incident, call 911 immediately. If an incident occurred in the recent past, you can easily report it online at BellevueWA.gov/report-crime. An officer will review it and will contact you if more information is needed.

To learn how you can help stop the spread of misinformation and support your fellow community members, visit the Public Health website on anti-discrimination at kingcounty.gov/ncov/anti-stigma.

"These are stressful times for everyone. COVID-19 doesn't recognize race, nationality or ethnicity, and viruses don't discriminate," Mylett said. "Please, stop blaming, support one another, heed the orders to stay home. The life you save may be your own or someone close to you."

Important Emergency Responder Message:

Our response may look and sound a little different, but we will continue responding to your emergencies.

Bellevue Firefighters and Police are working with our NORCOM dispatch center to take measures to ensure the safety and health of those that we serve, to protect them, as well as ourselves.

When a 911 call is made with information that indicates the possibility of flu-like symptoms, the dispatcher will ask more screening questions.

If the answers indicate a possible COVID-19 infection, responding crews are alerted that Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is advised. The responders will arrive at the scene having already donned this PPE (a mask, eye protection, gown and gloves) before contact is made and will wear it throughout the duration of contact with the patient including during transport.

After transporting any patient exhibiting flu-like symptoms, crews are conducting decontamination procedures of both the equipment used on the call as well as the transport unit.

Extra help for seniors: Paying for your prescription drugs

People on Medicare who struggle to pay for their prescription drugs may qualify for a program called Extra Help (also called Low-Income Subsidy), which is run by the Social Security Administration.



Extra Help covers part or all of Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage and Medicare Advantage drug plan premiums, deductibles, copays and the donut hole/coverage gap. If you qualify, you can also change your Part D or Medicare Advantage plans once every three months – not just during Open Enrollment.

Eligibility requirements

To be eligible, if you're single, your gross income must be less than \$1,615 per month (\$19,140 per year) with resources less than \$14,610. For a couple, your gross income must be less than \$2,175 per month (\$26,100 per year) and resources less than \$29,160.

The gross income limit does not include food stamps, housing assistance, household expense assistance from others and earned income tax credit payments.

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The gross income limits are before any of your deductions, such as Medicare Part B payments. Be aware that the limits are higher for people on Medicare who support other family members living with them and they'll also be higher for people who have earnings from work.

Resource examples include bank accounts, certificates of deposit, retirement accounts, mutual funds and real estate other than primary residences. Resources do not include primary residences, vehicles, life insurance policies, and jewelry or home furnishings.

Who to contact to see if you qualify

If you're already enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B and think you might qualify for Extra Help, call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (phone lines open at 7 a.m. on weekdays) or apply online at: ssa.gov/benefits/medicare/prescriptionhelp.

You can also contact the Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA) program in King County to see if you qualify, as well as answer all your Medicare questions. Call Sound Generations at 206-727-6221 or statewide at 1-800-562-6900. SHIBA is a free, unbiased counseling service of the Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner.

For information on Extra Help in 12 different languages, go to: ssa.gov/benefits/medicare/prescriptionhelp/forms.html

Day of Sharing and Caring

Helping residents with yard clean-ups in a time of need

Request help with yardwork by May 29



Please note:

Neighborhood Outreach is compiling a list of residents in need of yardwork and outside projects. The timing of receiving services will be evaluated as COVID-19 challenges continue. Day of Sharing and Caring will proceed when work is determined to be safe and appropriate for residents and volunteers.

Many of us have been focused on our health and caring for family members. Don't allow yardwork or outside projects to further overwhelm you. Residents who need help with outside home maintenance can apply for help from a team of volunteers who will do one-day yard clean-ups at 20 Bellevue homes this summer.

Now in its 13th year, "Day of Sharing and Caring" is a partnership of the City of Bellevue and Jubilee REACH, a

Bellevue-based non-profit. The deadline for submitting a request for assistance is May 29. A committee representing Jubilee REACH will review applications and select projects. Residents whose projects are selected will be officially notified by the city by July 21.

We remain hopeful that "Day of Sharing and Caring" improvements will be able to take place as scheduled starting late July through Saturday, Sept. 26. We will continue to monitor the situation and keep all those involved informed if plans change. To be considered for this opportunity, you must own and occupy a home in Bellevue. Home selection is need-based; residents facing economic or other life challenges are encouraged to apply. Past projects have included: bark and gravel spreading; tree and hedge trimming; power washing: driveways, houses, decks, fences; fence/gate repair and staining; shed, junk and recycling hauling; and wood-rounds removal. Residents can request more information or receive a home improvement application to begin the process by contacting Carol Ross at cross@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7917.

For more information on minor home repair services for income-eligible homeowners offered through partnering organizations, contact Carol Ross at cross@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7917. For more information about City of Bellevue Home Repair 0% Interest Loan or grant/weatherization programs, contact Sam Ezadean at SEzadean@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-6884. For more information about the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Puget Sound Energy (PSE) HELP Program, please call 425-452-5285 or email UtilityRelief@bellevuewa.gov.



Cultural Conversations

“Continuing connections through storytelling”

There are many articles, stories and blogs outlining ways to create connection while experiencing social distancing. Given that the foundation of Cultural Conversations is connection through storytelling, an idea that comes to mind is creating multiple platforms where the community can both share and hear small parts of each other's stories.

In past conversations, some storytellers talked about their experience sharing the joy of opening a birthday gift over video chat with loved ones who were looking on from thousands of miles away. Video technology certainly comes in handy to bridge distance, but we also recognize that everyone does not have the same level of technological access.

So we are asking the community for their innovative ideas for creating connection in a currently separated world. How might we build community and share our stories through video, writing or sound? Do you have an idea? Please share it with us and stay tuned for more information as we explore different ways that we might connect. Share your ideas by reaching out to Cross@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-7917.



Conflict assistance for landlords, tenants and homeowners during the COVID-19 crisis

Bellevue Conflict Resolution Center staff are working remotely during the COVID-19 crisis. Even though we are all limiting contact with others and working together to battle the virus, there are still conflicts. We are here to help you on the phone and online to help resolve conflicts in this unique time. For example, we can help landlords, tenants and homeowners with housing issues related to the pandemic.

There may be an increased need for creatively resolving unique landlord-tenant issues right now. Some tenants may be unable to pay rent, and landlords still need to be able to pay their bills. Repairs may need to be made. Tenants may need to move, but are on lockdown, or may be sick. A home may have housed someone who was infected and may need to be cleaned in a reliable way before vacating. Landlords and tenants may not know how to resolve these unprecedented issues.

The services we offer at BCRC are flexible, allowing us to work together to create solutions unique to your situation. We provide phone conciliation between all parties involved, which will help you to negotiate financial and logistical issues in a way that is fair and protective of everyone's safety.

Our program also provides foreclosure mediation, as referred by the Washington Department of Commerce. If you are in arrears and facing a foreclosure process, and want to know your rights, you can request mediation with our program by contacting the Washington State Department of Commerce. If you wish to seek modification or assistance, you can contact the Department of Commerce at commerce.wa.gov/building-infrastructure/housing/foreclosure-fairness/. They will then set up a mediation with BCRC.

We hope that everyone who lives or works in Bellevue will be able to maintain a safe place to shelter during this crisis. And we're here to help you!

Neighborhood Enhancement Program Updates

NEP launching in Wilburton this month with over \$100k for improvements

Following limitations on public gatherings, there will not be a NEP Kickoff Meeting held for the Wilburton Neighborhood Area. However, residents will be able to participate in the program via mail and online. Each Wilburton household should have received a postage-paid NEP Project Request Form in the mail during the last week of March. Wilburton residents are encouraged to use this form, or the online project request form on the NEP website: BellevueWA.gov/nep, to submit as many NEP project requests as they like by May 19.

Examples of past projects throughout city neighborhoods include art elements, crosswalk improvements, trail connections, street lighting, play structures and streetscape improvements.



Crossroads NEP in scoping and review phase

City staff are in the process of evaluating and reviewing resident-submitted project ideas for the Crossroads Neighborhood area to determine which will be viable as projects for the Crossroads ballot. Crossroads residents should watch their mail for a voter's pamphlet and ballot to arrive in early June, then vote for their top three project choices. Voting is by mail only and limited to one ballot per household.

One Bellevue resident called NEP "the best of city government" in a recent segment of "Lake to Lake," Bellevue Television's (BTV) monthly program at: [BellevueWA.gov/city-news/very-best-city-government-lake-lake](https://www.bellevuewa.gov/city-news/very-best-city-government-lake-lake)

The Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP) is a \$5 million, city-funded, capital improvements program that allows residents to propose and select projects that improve their neighborhood's quality of life and enhance its character. The program rotates through the city's 14 NEP Neighborhood Areas, serving two areas each year. Since 2015, NEP has rotated through the Eastgate/Factoria, Cougar Mountain/Lakemont, West Lake Sammamish, Northeast Bellevue, Bridle Trails, Northwest Bellevue, Downtown/BelRed, Lake Hills and Crossroads neighborhood areas.

To find out which NEP Neighborhood Area you call home, when NEP will be in your area and how much funding your area has been allocated, please visit [BellevueWA.gov/nep](https://www.bellevuewa.gov/nep). For more information about NEP, please contact Theresa Cuthill at tcuthill@bellevuewa.gov or 425-452-4186.

Resilience and Environmental Stewardship: Staying Engaged Without Getting Overwhelmed

One thing the COVID-19 crisis is teaching us is the importance of resilience. Resilience is most commonly described as the ability to bounce back when we experience stress or shocks to the system. When it comes to climate change, resilience refers our ability to respond to extreme weather, natural disasters, rising sea levels and other impact.

Reducing our overall carbon emissions is an important part of climate resilience, but so is planning for risks we may face in the future and investing in programs that can make us more resilient.

The city's Environmental Stewardship Plan addresses climate resilience in a variety of ways. Actions under

consideration include supporting programs to retrofit homes, providing more transportation options, ensuring new buildings are built to high energy efficiency standards, preserving and enhancing our tree canopy, and more.

Even while we work from home and practice good social distancing, the Environmental Stewardship Initiative team is still moving projects forward and there are many ways you can participate from home. In addition to our online survey, we had several in-person events planned for the spring of 2020, which we have transitioned into online engagement opportunities listed below:

- ◆ **Now-April 24:** Take our Action Survey and let us know what you think the city should prioritize at <https://bit.ly/2WAKiAf>
- ◆ **Tuesday, April 21 at 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.** Attend our Virtual Earth Week Talk – Climate Anxiety: Staying Engaged Without Getting Overwhelmed. RSVP to bbrod@bellevuewa.gov to get event link.
- ◆ **Wednesday, April 22 at 12-1 p.m.** Join our Virtual Earth Week Town Hall to learn more about the Environmental Stewardship Plan. RSVP to bbrod@bellevuewa.gov to get event link.

Together we can care for each other and care for the earth.

Work on SE Newport Way upgrades, new detour route starts in April

Work is scheduled to begin in April on a much-anticipated project to improve Southeast Newport Way—from Somerset Boulevard to 150th Avenue Southeast—for people who walk, roll and bicycle.

Project upgrades will include a 10-foot-wide multipurpose path (north side), a bike lane (eastbound), a new sidewalk between the South Bellevue Community Center and 150th Ave. SE (south side), a crosswalk with flashing beacons at the entrance to Eastgate Park, and retaining walls and guardrails.

Construction will require the closure of the eastbound lanes of the Newport Way for several months and an updated detour route has been added since project mailers were sent to nearby residents in February.

The plan now includes a 24-hour/7-day closure of eastbound SE Newport Way, plus additional detour routes (see accompanying map).

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The full eastbound lane closure will allow the project to be substantially completed before the rainy season starts in November, several months earlier than previously planned. Crews will return in spring 2021 to complete final paving and striping, with only occasional daytime detours.


Detour information:

- ◆ Westbound SE Newport Way will be open. Local access will be to and from westbound SE Newport Way.
- ◆ Eastbound SE Newport Way will be closed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through late November 2020. Detours available via SE Allen Road and Somerset Boulevard.
- ◆ Pedestrian access will be available; however, pedestrians and bicyclists are encouraged to use SE Allen Road.

More information is available on the project webpage (BellevueWA.gov/newport-way) and Traffic Advisories webpage (BellevueWA.gov/trafficadvisories).



Subscribe to Neighborhood News electronically:
BellevueWA.gov/neighborhood-news

 For alternate formats, interpreters, or reasonable accommodation requests please phone at least 48 hours in advance 425-452-2735 (voice) or email mheilman@bellevuewa.gov. For complaints regarding accommodations, contact City of Bellevue ADA/Title VI Administrator at 425-452-6168 (voice) or email ADATitleVI@bellevuewa.gov. If you are deaf or hard of hearing dial 711. All meetings are wheelchair accessible.

Boards and Commissions Meetings

As of April 1, no meetings are taking place at City Hall. Stay updated on meetings and cancellations: BellevueWA.gov

All meetings are conducted at City Hall unless otherwise noted. Agendas are subject to change. If a holiday occurs on a Monday, please check the updated calendar. Agendas can be downloaded from the city's web pages listed below. Meeting alerts are available through subscribing to the City's Special Meeting Notices page. BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-clerks-office/special-meeting-notice

Bellevue Diversity Advisory Network

(6 p.m., Bellevue City Hall) Last Tuesday of each month BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-managers-office/diversity/bellevue-diversity-advisory-network

East Bellevue Community Council (6:30 p.m., Lake Hills Clubhouse, 15230 Lake Hills Blvd) First Tuesday of each month BellevueWA.gov/city-government/east-bellevue-community-council

Arts Commission

(4:30 p.m., 1E-109) First Tuesday of each month BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/community-development/arts-and-culture/arts-commission

Environmental Services Commission

(6:30 p.m., 1E-113) First Thursday of each month Utilities.BellevueWA.gov/conservation-and-the-environment/environmental-services-commission

Planning Commission (6:30 p.m., 1E-113) Second and fourth Wednesday of each month BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/community-development/planning-commission

Transportation Commission (6:30 p.m., 1E-113) Second Thursday of each month with fourth Thursday as needed. BellevueWA.gov/planning/transportation-commission

Human Services Commission

(6 p.m., 1E-113) First and third Tuesday of each month BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-clerks-office/boards-and-commissions/human-services-commission

LEOFF 1 Disability Board

(6 p.m., Room 1E-118) First Tuesday of each month BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/human-resources/retirees-former-employees/leoff-1-disability-board

Library Board

(5p.m., Lake Hills, Bellevue or Newport Way Library) Third Tuesday of each month BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-clerks-office/boards-and-commissions/library-board

Parks & Community Services Board

(6 p.m., 1E-113) Second Tuesday of each month BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-clerks-office/boards-and-commissions/parks-and-community-services-board

The Bellevue Network on Aging (BNOA)

8:30 a.m., North Bellevue Community Center 4063 148th Ave NE, Bellevue) First Thursday of each month BellevueWA.gov/bnoa

Special Events Committee

(8:30 a.m., 1E-112) Second Thursday of each month Parks.BellevueWA.gov/special-events/special-events-committee

Youth Link Board

(6 p.m., 1E-120) Second Wednesday of each month BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/city-clerks-office/boards-and-commissions/youth-link-board

Bellevue's Neighborhood Services Division offers a variety of programs and partnerships for neighborhood leaders and active residents. To learn more about citizen involvement opportunities and programs to enhance neighborhoods, please visit our website at: BellevueWA.gov/city-government/departments/community-development/neighborhoods or call 425-452-6836 or email: neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov. To subscribe to this newsletter, visit: BellevueWA.gov/neighborhood-news

City Council Bellevue.Legistar.com/Calendar.aspx

Day	Scheduled Meeting(s)	Location	Public Comment Opportunity
First and third Mondays except in August and December	6 p.m., Study Session	Council Conference Room	None
	8 p.m., Regular Session	Council Chambers	8 p.m., Oral Communications
Second and fourth Mondays except in August and December	6-10 p.m., Extended Study Session	Council Conference Room	6 p.m., Oral Communications
August – first Monday only	6 p.m., Study Session	Council Conference Room	None
	8 p.m., Regular Session	Council Chambers	8 p.m., Oral Communications
December – first and second Mondays only	6 p.m., Study Session	Council Conference Room	None
	8 p.m., Regular Session	Council Chambers	8 p.m., Oral Communications