

Thursday 12 March 2020

COUNCIL TAKES ACTION IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

The City of Ryde is taking steps to support its community and ensure that essential Council services can continue to be delivered during any coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

There have been a number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the City of Ryde since the outbreak was declared a public health emergency by the World Health Organization on 30 January 2020. This includes confirmed cases at Epping Boys High School in Eastwood, Ryde Hospital and Dorothy Henderson Lodge Aged Care Facility in Macquarie Park.

Council has established frameworks for a range of scenarios to ensure it can continue to operate with minimum disruptions and deliver effective services and support to the City of Ryde community.

These include:

- Casual staff members who are required to self-isolate will have their casual shifts honoured for up to two weeks
- Lifting curfews for delivery trucks for two weeks in the wake of shortages of critical supplies at local supermarkets. This will ensure enough supplies can be delivered to restock supermarket shelves
- Providing information and regular updates about COVID-19 to the community via Council's website and social media channels
- Placing advertisements in multiple languages in local newspapers and Chinese and Korean media outlets
- Improving hygiene protocols at all Council events, including citizenship ceremonies, pending further advice from Federal and State governments.

Based on the advice of NSW Health and the Federal Department of Health's Australian Health Protection Principal Committee, the City of Ryde is still proceeding with its scheduled public events. Council will continue to monitor the situation closely and be guided by state and federal government advice.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Jerome Laxale, expressed his sympathies on behalf of Council to all of those impacted by COVID-19.

"We understand the needs of our workers and we will continue to remove road blocks to isolation. I would encourage other levels of Government, and local businesses to consider a similar approach," Cllr Laxale said.

"This is an extremely challenging time for everyone, but it is crucial that we come together as a community and help one another. As a Council we will do all we can to ensure minimal disruptions to our services and to provide support wherever we can to those who require it.

"I would advise everyone to take precautions if you are healthy, self-isolate and seek medical advice if you think you have come into contact with COVID-19, but to continue on as normal wherever you can. Together, we will get through this."

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