



102 Roadrunner Drive
Sedona, Arizona 86336
www.SedonaAZ.gov

March 18, 2020

Dear Sedona citizens,

As I write this, we have a rapidly growing crisis in our community and across the world. The spread of this novel coronavirus and the daily updates of confirmed cases and tragic loss of life are now impacting every American in significant ways. We are bombarded by news, social media and a constant stream of information and misinformation. Calls from experts, news outlets, pundits and members of the public at large range from pleas to lock down life as we know it to demands to exercise restraint and preserve economic prosperity. The response to these calls is equally varied, ranging from self-quarantine and strict social distancing to cavalier disregard of all restrictions and guidelines.

The city has thus far taken reasonable precautions that meet or exceed guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Arizona Department of Health and Human Services and Coconino and Yavapai County Health Departments. These guidelines have been introduced and vetted by the world's foremost experts. That said, every day another country closes its borders, another business shutsters its doors, skeptics change their tone to urge action and another set of restrictions and guidelines is issued.

While there are still no confirmed cases of coronavirus in our area, it appears only a matter of time. I've spoken with local healthcare providers and county health departments about the likelihood of the progression of the virus, and believe that the fact that there are no confirmed cases is a result of a lack of collection of samples and testing capacity to provide us enough data so we can know what is actually happening.

Clearly there is a lot at stake. The consequences of action and inaction are high. But in times like these the choice is clear: we need to err on the side of caution to protect people and preserve life. Accordingly, I have updated yesterday's Proclamation declaring a state of emergency to include the limiting of restaurants and bars and closing certain places of entertainment for the use and occupancy of the public. Restaurants and bars may offer take-out and delivery service. While this action goes above and beyond mandates issues by the CDC and others, these restrictions are prudent and necessary to slow potential spread of the virus, "flatten the curve" and guard against our health care system becoming overwhelmed. It appears that no restrictions can stop what has started, but decisive action can save lives.

Consistent with guidance from the CDC and others, all citizens are strongly encouraged to refrain from any unnecessary travel and public gatherings. Strict adherence to social distancing is our best defense.

In these unprecedented and trying times, it is important that we come together. All of us must sacrifice. It is our choice to persevere with unity or descend into fear and divisiveness. It is our choice to do our part or quibble until it's too late. I am confident that this course of action is right and that Sedona, Arizona, the United States and the world will overcome this challenge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra J. Moriarty".

Sandra J. Moriarty
Mayor
City of Sedona