



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CITY OF NEWPORT
CONTINUES LIMITED ACCESS TO CITY FACILITIES AND PROGRAMMING**

On December 3, Oregon introduced a new framework of safety measures based on each county's COVID-19 risk level. The new framework has four risk levels. At each risk level – Extreme Risk, High Risk, Moderate Risk, and Lower Risk – health and safety measures and guidance for businesses and individuals apply. Lincoln County is in the “High Risk” level.

Various City of Newport facilities and programs will be limited or closed, including:

- Newport City Hall will be open to the public on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 2:00 - 5:00 P.M.
- The Newport Recreation and Aquatic Centers will be closed.
- The Library will be open for take-out only.
- The 60+ Activity Center remains closed.
- The Visual Arts Center and Performing Arts Center are closed.
- City Council, Planning Commission, and advisory committee meetings will be virtual, but viewable on Charter Channel 190 and live-streamed on the city website at www.newportoregon.gov. Public comment may be made at publiccomment@newportoregon.gov. Anyone wishing to speak during a virtual meeting may make that request to publiccomment@newportoregon.gov, at least four hours prior to the scheduled meeting.

The duration of the limitations and closures is unknown at this time, but they will minimally remain in effect until at least Friday, January 22, 2021. The city will review health information next week, and if, based on this information, there are changes to the reopening plan, these changes will be articulated to the public.

It is important to note that there is no zero risk category. Until COVID-19 vaccines are widely available, health and safety precautions will remain in place so that schools, businesses, and communities can reopen - and stay open. For additional information regarding the risk framework, visit the Oregon Health Authority website at <https://govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19>.

To prevent COVID-19 outbreaks, at every risk level, everyone needs to continue to wear face coverings, watch physical distances, wash hands, stay home when sick, and keep social get-togethers and gatherings small.

The city looks forward to welcoming everyone back into its facilities and programs when the time is right. In the meantime, stay home, stay safe, and stay the course.

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