

## news



Mayor, Cr Josh Gilligan supporting local business.  
Pictured: Preethi from Charlies Fruit Market in Werribee

**As we unite globally to reduce the impact of the COVID-19 virus on our communities, Council is taking preventative measures to slow the spread of the virus in Wyndham.**

The health and wellbeing of our residents is our primary concern, and we need to ensure our most vulnerable community members feel safe and protected.

To help reduce the spread of the virus at a time where cases in Victoria are comparatively low, Council has decided to cancel its upcoming events. This decision is consistent with the State Government's move to cancel large gatherings or run events without spectators.

However, we want to continue to provide you with your most vital community services. Kindergartens, child health services, immunisations, and youth counselling and support services, will operate as usual. And rest assured, we have ramped up our cleaning regime to ensure all frequently used areas are kept clean at all times.

We will continue providing these services for as long as possible, until we need to look at alternative modes of delivery to our keep community safe.

We have decided it is safer to close our community centres, libraries, and Council-owned swimming pools and sporting facilities, until further notice.

During this time, it is vital to care for one another and keep an eye on out for at-risk family members, neighbours and friends. And don't forget to support your local businesses, that are already feeling the financial pinch of this pandemic.

This is the current situation at the time of going to print. Circumstances are rapidly evolving and I want to assure you that as a Council and an organisation we will respond to these changes as a priority.

We're committed to keeping you updated as much as possible as we continue to put you first, so I encourage you to keep an eye on Council's social media pages and visit Council's website for more information.

Regards,  
Wyndham City Mayor, Cr Josh Gilligan.

wyndhamcity

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT COUNCIL'S  
RESPONSE TO COVID-19 AND THE LATEST UPDATES,  
VISIT: [www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/covid19](http://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/covid19)

**THIS SPECIAL EDITION OF WYNDHAM NEWS IS DEDICATED TO INFORMING OUR COMMUNITY ABOUT LOCAL INITIATIVES TO CONTAIN THE SPREAD OF COVID-19.**

On page 2 you will find key information about Council facilities that are closing for now and those that will remain open. This page also provides details on services and programs that will be offered online and those that will continue to operate as normal.

Tips for supporting our local businesses is on page 3 and important health information, including what to do if you feel unwell, can be found on page 4.

Wyndham City is committed to keeping our residents informed of the latest local developments in the management of this COVID-19 and being proactive in protecting the wellbeing of our community.

## COUNCIL SERVICES THAT ARE CONTINUING

Kindergartens, as well as maternal, child and health services, and immunisations will continue as usual. While our community centres will be closed, any kindergarten service that operates from the building will remain open.

We will continue providing these services for as long as possible, until we need to look at alternative modes of delivery to keep our community safe.

Council is committed to continuing its aged care and disability services, so there will be no disruptions to personal care assistance, home care, domestic assistance, in-home respite, home maintenance and modification services, or delivered meals.

Rubbish and recycling collections will continue as usual. Customer services will continue to operate. All business can be conducted on the phone or online, so you don't need to step outside to pay your pet registration, rates, or any other Council-related expense or query.

Visit our website [www.wyndham.vic.gov.au](http://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au) or call Council on 9742 0777.

## CLOSED

Council made the difficult decision to close all community centres, libraries, and cultural venues – including Wyndham Cultural Centre and Encore Events Centre. Council-owned leisure and sporting facilities, including Eagle Stadium, Werribee Outdoor Pool and AquaPulse, have also closed until further notice.

We know the important role sport plays in our community, and our sports grounds, pavilions and open spaces are hubs for sport, recreation, community and a healthy and active lifestyle.

As we continue to do all we can in order to minimise the spread of COVID-19 throughout our community, we have made the very difficult decision to not accept any new bookings for sports grounds, pavilions, or open spaces.

If your group has existing community sport and recreation bookings, Council will liaise with you and the relevant peak bodies to ensure the local clubs and groups are supported to make informed decisions about the ongoing delivery of their activities.

Over the past week we have seen local basketball, netball, Rugby Union, and dog obedience suspend their activities until further notice due to concerns for participants and the spread of COVID-19.

While we acknowledge this may cause a level of disappointment among participants, it isn't a decision we've made lightly.

A full list of closures and information about alternative service arrangements can be found at: [www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/covid19](http://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/covid19)

## DELIVERING SERVICES DIFFERENTLY

Council is looking at innovative ways to continue offering local arts and culture and family friendly events to residents. For example, our Reveal exhibition, which showcases all of Council's art collection in one place, will be available to view on Council's website, Experience Wyndham Facebook page or the website [www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/arts](http://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/arts)

We are exploring running library events online, as well as filming artists and shows that were planned for the Cultural Centre, and encouraging our residents to view them online.

Libraries may be closed around Wyndham, but that doesn't mean to you need to miss out on accessing a range of great books, magazines, newspapers and more. Did you know that Wyndham City Libraries has a free 24/7 online service, including eBooks, eMagazines, newspapers, eAudiobooks, learning resources for all ages, English language support, movie streaming, children's story time and more.

Visit: [www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/services/libraries](http://www.wyndham.vic.gov.au/services/libraries)

## EVENTS

All of Council's events, programs, and activities have been cancelled until further notice. For Ticketed events residents will be offered a full refund. This was decided in line with of the State Government's move to cancel large gatherings or run events without spectators.

As this situation is evolving rapidly, it is important that Council is proactive and responsive in putting you, the community, at the forefront of our decision-making.

For more information on what Wyndham City Council is doing to support the community, or for the most up-to-date information, please visit:

Council's Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/wyndhamcityliving](http://www.facebook.com/wyndhamcityliving)

**For any questions email us at:**  
**[COVID-19enquiries@wyndham.vic.gov.au](mailto:COVID-19enquiries@wyndham.vic.gov.au)**

### FACILITIES CLOSED ACROSS WYNDHAM

**AQUAPULSE**  
**EAGLE STADIUM**  
**WERRIBEE OUTDOOR POOL**  
**LIBRARIES**  
**COMMUNITY CENTRES AND HALLS**  
**YOUTH RESOURCE CENTRES**  
**WYNDHAM CULTURAL CENTRE**  
**WYNDHAM ART GALLERY**  
**ENCORE EVENTS CENTRE**  
**WERRIBEE VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE**



## BUY LOCAL TO SUPPORT WYNDHAM BUSINESSES AND RESIDENTS

During this challenging period, many residents will wonder what they can do to lessen the impact of the COVID-19 on the Wyndham community. One crucial way you can help is by buying products from local, independent small businesses.

Wyndham is home to more than 17,000 businesses, of which 69% are single-person operations, with another 29% employing fewer than 20 people.

The vast majority of small business owners in our City are Wyndham residents, who rely on your support to stay afloat and feed their families. Buying local not only helps businesses, it helps our neighbours. If you want your favourite restaurant, café or fitness group to remain open after the crisis ends, they need your support now.

While many of us are fortunate enough to be able to continue to work through this period, including working from home, others are highly exposed to the economic fallout as a result of the virus. Let's all pledge to help those whose livelihoods are most affected by the current circumstances, so that Wyndham is well-placed to maintain a strong and resilient economy.

## WHAT COUNCIL IS DOING

Over the next few weeks, Wyndham City will work with key business industry groups such as the Committee for Wyndham, the Werribee Business & Tourism Association, and others to offer our support.

In addition, we will be helping businesses stay abreast of State and Federal Government policy announcements and funding packages, informing them about how they can access assistance. We are also able to provide businesses with general advice about how they can adapt to the current circumstances.

Council is considering how it can support businesses and community members economically during this time. We are exploring the potential for a business stimulus package and working to support community members through financial challenges, in partnership with other agencies.

Council is ensuring that it remains at the forefront of any changes, with the situation evolving at a rapid rate.

Visit the Council's Werribee City Centre Facebook page for updates about businesses within Werribee, at: [www.facebook.com/WerribeeCityCentre/](http://www.facebook.com/WerribeeCityCentre/)

For updates about businesses across Wyndham, visit: [www.facebook.com/wyndhamcityliving](http://www.facebook.com/wyndhamcityliving)

### TIPS:

- Continue to buy your daily coffee and snacks. Take-away is also an option
- Order from your favourite restaurant via delivery. Many food delivery businesses are implementing 'zero contact' policies – where they will drop the food at your door without any contact with you at all
- Postal deliveries are continuing as normal, so invest in that household item you have been wanting for a while. Contact your independent, local retailers to see what delivery options they can offer
- Buy gift vouchers to use later, providing owners with a much-needed cash injection
- Participate in and pay for online classes and entertainment, such as yoga classes and performances
- Buy your groceries from local grocers, butchers, bakeries and other food suppliers
- Follow your local businesses on their social media channels and like and share their posts.

# HEALTH INFORMATION AND TIPS COVID-19

**DURING THIS PERIOD, IT IS IMPORTANT WYNDHAM RESIDENTS REMEMBER TO LOOK OUT FOR ONE ANOTHER, PARTICULARLY THE ELDERLY AND PEOPLE WITH PRE-EXISTING HEALTH CONDITIONS.**

**IT IS ALSO ESSENTIAL THAT WE FOLLOW THE OFFICIAL HEALTH ADVICE THAT WILL HELP OUR COMMUNITY STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY.**

## SOCIAL DISTANCING

The State and Federal Governments have advised Australians to practise social distancing, to limit the spread of COVID-19 by reducing close contact between people.

### Social distancing involves:

- Attempting to keep a distance of 1.5 metres between yourself and other people where possible, for example when you are out and about in public places
- Avoiding crowds and mass gatherings where it is difficult to keep the appropriate distance away from others
- Avoiding small gatherings in enclosed spaces, for example family celebrations
- Avoiding shaking hands, hugging, or kissing other people
- Avoiding visiting vulnerable people, such as those in aged care facilities or hospitals.

## TIPS FOR PROTECTING YOURSELF AND OTHERS

- Wash your hands with soapy water for at least 20 seconds
- Dry your hands with paper towel or in the hand dryer
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze or cough or sneeze into your elbow (do not cough or sneeze into your hands)

- Do not reuse a tissue after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose
- Avoid contact with anyone who has cold or flu-like symptoms
- Stay home if you are unwell
- Get vaccinated for flu (influenza) when available in April. It is not yet known whether COVID-19 could significantly increase the risks of influenza infection.

## SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19

- Fever
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Fatigue
- Shortness of breath.

## What should I do if I do not feel well?

If you suspect that you or a family member has COVID-19 you should call (not visit) your GP or ring the national COVID-19 Information Hotline on **1800 020 080**

For the most current information, resources and advice – including factsheets translated into multiple languages – visit The Department of Health and Human Services website: [www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus](http://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus)

