

**VCPORA's Weekly Vieux Friday, May 15, 2020**

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## New Orleans Moves into Phase One of Reopening

New Orleans will move to [Phase One of reopening](#) tomorrow, Saturday, May 16, at 6:00 a.m., a motion which removes the Stay at Home order for Orleans Parish residents and allows additional businesses to open under strict occupancy, protection, and social distancing guidelines. This will be the first of four phases the City hopes to implement while continuing to “flatten the curve” of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Please note that some guidelines in Orleans Parish are stricter than [the state-level guidance](#) out of an abundance of caution for public health and safety. All non-essential Phase One businesses and churches will be limited to 25 percent of their total occupancy, must have their employees who deal with the public in face coverings or cloth masks, and enforce social distancing.

Businesses eligible to reopen include: shopping malls and retail stores, food service establishments, beauty salons, nail salons, barber shops, houses of worship, childcare, early learning centers, movie theaters, museums, zoos, aquariums, gyms and fitness centers, libraries, outdoor recreation spaces, sports complexes, playgrounds, and racetracks.

High risk individuals should continue to stay at home, except for essential activities, like getting food or medical care. Orleans Parish residents must still wear a face covering in public and continue to practice social distancing. Gatherings are limited to small family groups, no larger than 10 people.



## Coronavirus Update

### Text COVIDNOLA to 888-777 for NOLAReady Updates

Orleans Parish will move into [Phase One of reopening](#) tomorrow. Please continue to practice social distancing and wear masks in public. Health Department guidelines and directives can be found [here](#).

Drive-through testing for any symptomatic individual over the age of 18 will continue with select sites in the Lower 9th next week from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or until the allotted 250 tests have been taken. Additional testing will take place on select dates throughout the month of May. More information on drive-through testing sites can be [found here](#).



### Updates around New Orleans

RTA will [increase transit service](#) and reinstate fares starting this Sunday, May 17.

Evictions in Orleans Parish are [prohibited](#) until August 24.



### Food

Visit one of the [free food sites](#) in New Orleans, where food and supplies are provided to hospitality workers, gig economy workers, musicians, artists, and anyone in need.

Call 211 for information on daily food pantries and meal distribution operations. Call 311 if you are a senior and/or home bound due to special medical needs and would like to sign up for the Hands On Senior Meal Program.

Councilmembers will continue to partner with Second Harvest Food Bank to offer free non-perishables to families impacted by the coronavirus across the city. See [this Facebook post](#) for more information on food pantry dates and times and be sure to follow the [City Council page](#) for updates on future dates.

[NOLA Tree Project](#) is delivering hot meals to seniors and homebound residents Mondays through Fridays from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Additionally, the NOLA Tree Project will be distributing free hot meals for pick up at [1509 Filmore Avenue](#). If you are elderly or know someone in need of delivery, please contact Connie Udo at [connie@nolatreeproject.org](mailto:connie@nolatreeproject.org) or call (504) 415-8434.

[Homer A. Plessy Community School](#) is still giving away meals to schoolchildren from 9:00 a.m. - noon every Monday and Wednesday.



### Resources

NOLA Ready has compiled a list of opportunities for those wishing to donate their [time](#) or [resources](#). There are also resources for residents to help with [food and supplies](#), [housing & legal assistance](#), [workers](#), [utilities](#), and [mental health support](#). Businesses can also find resources for [financial support](#), [unemployment insurance](#), [technical assistance](#), and [industry supports](#). Finally, the [Mutual Aid Facebook group](#) offers a chance for residents to share resources with each other.



### Just for Fun

The National Trust is promoting digital ways to engage with historic places during [Virtual Preservation Month](#).

**Are there more resources that you are looking for or do you have some additional ideas?**

Share them with us at [info@vcpora.org](mailto:info@vcpora.org) and [erinholmes@vcpora.org](mailto:erinholmes@vcpora.org).



## GiveNOLA Day

Tuesday, June 2nd is [Give NOLA Day](#), hosted by the Greater New Orleans Foundation. This one-day online giving event inspires people to give to the non-profit of their choice – and we hope VCPORA is yours! As virtually all VCPORA's fundraising events have been cancelled or indefinitely postponed this year, your donations are needed now more than ever to help advocate for the preservation and protection of the Vieux Carré as an international historic treasure.

Your donations will help cover operating costs so that we may continue to fight for residential quality of life, the retention of historic character, sustainable tourism, and much, much more. Schedule your gift today by visiting our profile at [www.givenola.org/vcpora](http://www.givenola.org/vcpora).



# Census 2020

At the time of this writing, less than [25% of households](#) in the Quarter have responded to the Census. Help change that by taking a few minutes this weekend to complete the census online at [my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov) or by calling 1 (844) 330-2020. Census participation is private, easy, and very important!

Every 10 years, the results of the census are used to reapportion seats in the House of Representatives; to redraw boundaries of congressional and state legislative districts; and to help determine the distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal spending on schools, hospitals, roads, public works, and other vital programs. Participate to make sure the Quarter gets counted!



## Message from Vieux Carré Commission Director Bryan Block

Dear French Quarter Property Owner, Business Owner, Resident or Tenant,

Vieux Carre Commission staff would like to encourage you to take further advantage of this time of relative quiet in the district to continue the work of improving your respective properties. As we look forward to reopening, this is a great time to not only complete work of deferred maintenance or renovation, but also more basic chores like removing vegetation, painting and washing of buildings and sidewalks. Please keep in mind that this work does still require a permit but these can be readily issued and delivered to you via email. This is simple and often provided at no charge. Please visit [nola.gov/vcc](https://nola.gov/vcc) for more information, as well as for helpful links to permit applications, Design Guidelines, public meeting agendas, etc. There are also links to important documents, building details and information about preservation best practices.

VCC staff is also available for individual consultation on your particular projects, so please reach out. Our contact information is on the website. Thank you for all of your hard work keeping the French Quarter beautiful.

All the best,

Bryan



## #FQThenandNow

VCPORA and the [Vieux Carré Commission Foundation](#) continue our #FQThenAndNow series this week with a post on 1012-1014 Ursulines. Head over to [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) to check it out. This weekly series showcases historic pictures, current pictures, and fun facts about our favorite French Quarter locales. Follow #FQThenAndNow the [Vieux Carré Commission Foundation](#) so you don't miss any upcoming posts from this series.



## Closure of Mr. Gregory's / Congo Square Coffee House

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the closure of our nextdoor neighbors, [Mr. Gregory's / Congo Square Coffee House](#). For eight years, the kind folks at Mr. Gregory's have catered our events, hosted us for business meetings, updated us on goings-on in the community, supported us in advocacy efforts, and offered us smiling faces (and delicious pastries) whenever we needed a pick-me-up. This closure marks a significant loss to the French Quarter community.

Mr. Gregory says, "the Shrimp Boil will continue in a new place, with a new name, set up as a new company but with the same old faces at a future time. Look for news about this in the coming months." We are eager to share that news when the time comes.

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