

**VCPORA's Weekly Vieux - March 13, 2020**

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## VCPORA's Weekly Vieux Friday, March 13, 2020

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## Coronavirus Update

VCPORA is closely monitoring the ongoing public health crisis associated with the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic as labeled by the World Health Organization. At the time of this writing, there are 36 presumptive cases of COVID-19 in Louisiana, with the majority (26) here in New Orleans. These numbers are expected to rise.

We remain in communication with the Mayor's office, the Department of Health, and Councilmember Kristin Palmer's office in efforts to share any and all relevant information with the French Quarter community. We can all play an important role in preventing the spread on COVID-19 to protect the most vulnerable groups, particularly the elderly and the immunocompromised.

#### **Stay connected and informed with facts:**

Please stay informed by visiting [NOLA Ready](#) and receive updates by texting "COVIDNOLA" to 888-777.

#### **In efforts to protect our community and reduce exposure:**

- Wash your hands frequently for 20 seconds with soap and water
- Cover your cough and sneezes with your elbow
- Try to avoid touching your face
- Routinely clean and disinfect shared surfaces
- Avoid close contact with others
- Stay at home if you feel sick

Make the best use of limited health care resources and reserve emergency services for those who truly need them. Major symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Though these symptoms are frequent this time of year due to allergens and common colds, it important that if you feel ill, you do not immediately go to the emergency room. Instead, call your health care provider or contact the [Louisiana 211 Network](#) by dialing 211 for more information on testing sites in partnership with the Louisiana Department of Health.

#### **Be a good neighbor and a responsible citizen:**

It is always a good idea to have additional food, medicine, and toiletries on hand,

so consider stocking up on essential needs to avoid additional or unnecessary trips to the store. Check in with your neighbors, particularly if they are mobility impaired or cannot easily access additional provisions.

Beyond the potential health impacts of COVID-19, many senior centers may lose access to meal providers and school closures will leave at-risk children without important meals. Additionally, those who work in the service industry and other hourly jobs stand to lose significant income due to cancellations of tourism and convention events. You can help by volunteering your time and making donations:

- The [New Orleans Council on Aging](#) works to provide Meals on Wheels to elderly residents.
- The [Second Harvest Food Bank](#) is accepting monetary and supply donations and has volunteer opportunities.
- Greater New Orleans Foundation has activated its [Disaster Response and Restoration Fund](#) to provide assistance to those most in need.
- Reach out to locally owned restaurants, bars, and clubs. Find out what their plans are to deal with the emergency. Consider gift cards, delivery orders, and advanced gratuity. Ask how you can help them stay afloat so your friends and neighbors can continue working.

#### Recent Announcements:

- This afternoon, Governor John Bel Edwards announced the statewide closure of all K-12 schools for 30 days beginning on Monday, March 16. Additionally, all gatherings of more than 250 people are prohibited.
- The City of New Orleans has revoked Special Events permits for the foreseeable future in order to dissuade large gatherings. As a result, previously planned events and parades, including the Molly's at the Market Irish Parade, the Italian-American St. Joseph's Parade, the Friends of Lafitte Greenway's Greenway Fest, and French Quarter Festival have all been cancelled or postponed. See the full list of [cancellations and postponements](#).
- The Mayor announced that City Hall is not closing at this time but is restructuring public access to the building. The City Council will be closing City Council chambers for all Board and Commission public meetings, which will likely be postponed.
- Mayor LaToya Cantrell's Office of Utilities is working with power, water, and telecommunications utility providers to ensure efficient and uninterrupted service to residents. The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO) will not be turning off water service to customers until the Emergency Declaration for the City of New Orleans is lifted. Entergy New Orleans has developed a Priority Response Plan that ensures the most critical infrastructure, such as public safety facilities, healthcare facilities, and nursing homes, are being prioritized in the event of emergency. The City's telecom partners have confirmed that their capacity to manage data and Internet services will not be compromised by COVID-19. Residents, businesses, and government agencies will continue to be able to access online resources.
- The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) will work with each State to provide [disaster assistance loans](#) to small businesses impacted by the coronavirus.
- New Orleans judges have decided to [suspend all residential evictions](#) in response to the growing threat of the coronavirus.

Again, please stay informed by visiting [NOLA Ready](#) and receive updates by texting "COVIDNOLA" to 888-777. We hope everyone stays healthy and safe during this ongoing situation.



## St. Ann Construction Update

Full depth construction along St. Ann continues. Since January, crews have installed an upsized 24-inch drain line on one side of the street and are currently working on the new sewer line. Remaining work includes completing the new sewer line, water line, drain line on the other side of the street, roadway restoration and new sidewalks.

The entire project is scheduled to be completed in late June / early July 2020. The roadway will remain closed to vehicular traffic throughout construction. For more information and to sign up for project updates, visit the [RoadWorkNOLA website](#).



## Filming Notification

Friday, March 13 - Friday, March 20

500 block Toulouse, 600 block Decatur

7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Filming for NCIS: New Orleans will affect traffic and parking starting today through next week. Filming will take place from approximately 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17 and Wednesday, March 18 along 500 block of Toulouse and 600 block of Decatur. Notably, a controlled simulated explosion will be conducted at the parking lot located at 520 Toulouse. Please see our [Facebook post](#) for details.

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