



PPB NewsBeat



A publication of the Portland Police Bureau

April 2020

To our readers:

This month's newsbeat is dedicated to the current COVID-19 crisis. If you have questions about PPB and its response, visit portlandpolice.com



WeGotThisPDX

The men and women of the Portland Police Bureau are here during this difficult time and remain committed to helping our community.

Thank you to all who have reached out and supported us! We have had many people ask if we need anything, including **Lowe's**, who provided some sanitation equipment and **Rose City Distillery**, which provided hand sanitizer. Others have offered up donations which we have had to respectfully decline as they were either not feasible or we didn't need it.

Possible donations or questions can be emailed to ppbpio@portlandpolice.gov. They will then be passed on to our Incident Management Team that can determine if the donation offer is something we can use or is appropriate.

We feel the support of the community. We'll get through this together!

What does the "Stay at Home Order" mean?

Governor Brown's new state-wide stay-at-home order leads to questions about how the order will be enforced. The Portland Police Bureau will follow an education-first approach.

PPB is taking an educate-first approach

Officers will attempt to educate violators of the order first, from a distance, in accordance with the six-foot social distancing guidelines. Every effort will be made to gain voluntary compliance with the Governor's order and provide a warning.

If community members do not adhere to the officer's direction, they are subject to criminal citation for Interfering with a Police Officer-ORS 162.247 and Penalties for violation of the executive order-ORS 401.990, which are misdemeanor crimes.

See **STAY HOME** next page

Be Careful of Scams

Be aware there are still people trying to scam others during this public health crisis. This can include scammers soliciting donations for those affected by COVID-19. Independently verify the identity of any company, charity, or individual that contacts you regarding COVID-19.

Be aware of reports of scammers posing as national and global health authorities, including the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Don't click on unknown links which could download malware or provide personal information.

At this time there is no cure or vaccine. Be aware of scams that offer fake cures, treatments or supplies.

Also, be aware of people who say they need to check your identification for federal aid or they will deposit your money from the stimulus package for you. This is a scam.

STAY HOME (cont. from previous page)

Criminal citation is a last resort measure and the public is highly encouraged to be aware of the order and voluntarily comply.

What is PPB's plan for enforcement related to those who are houseless?

The Governor's Order does not exclude any particular group based upon housing status from being subject to enforcement, however the Governor has stated Oregon's stay-at-home directives do not apply to shelters and social services.

People experiencing unsheltered homelessness are NOT subject to enforcement of Executive Order 20-12 simply due to the fact that they are in public and unable to stay at home. If PPB members encounter a situation involving a houseless community member, they will make every effort to educate first and will provide resource options, such as where shelters can be accessed.

Again, criminal citation is not the goal and would be used as a very last resort.

If I need to report a violation of the order, who do I call?

Do not call 9-1-1. If there is an identified safety issue related to the Governor's order, the non-emergency dispatch line at (503) 823-3333 can be utilized to report order compliance.

Will the police be doing focused enforcement to stop people while driving to see if they are in violation of the orders?

No. Officers are limiting self-initiated activities at this time and there are not planned enforcement traffic missions to see if community members are in compliance.

What is PPB's plan to enforce the orders equitably?

PPB is concerned about the well-being of all members of Portland's diverse community which varies in more than just age, race, housing status, and social class. As such, our approach (to use an educate-first strategy, followed by a warning, then as a last resort a criminal citation) is designed to reach a broad range of audiences. Officers are trained to interact with a variety of community members and will adapt their approach depending upon the situation.

For example, if they are called for a group of children interacting in a park, they would use different language to explain the situation than for adults. The overarching goal is to make all members of the public aware of the orders and to reinforce the importance of limiting public contact to reduce the spread of the disease to protect our most vulnerable.

PPB still protecting the community

The Portland Police Bureau is dedicated to protecting and serving the people of Portland. We will continue to do so during this public health emergency. Due to this ever-changing situation, PPB continues to adapt and modify our procedures to limit exposure without interrupting the high level of service provided to our community.

PPB remains answering all calls for service. People should still call 9-1-1 for emergencies. To make a non-emergency report, call (503) 823-3333.

Our goal and priority is to respond as quickly as possible to life-threatening

emergencies. PPB members will continue to respond in-person to calls where there is a life safety issue or if it is a call that cannot be taken online or by phone due to the nature of the call. When possible, and there is not a life-safety issue, officers will be taking reports over the telephone. This will reduce the possible transmission of the virus to its members or to the public from Bureau members, as carriers may not even know they have the virus and are inadvertently transmitting it.

Certain crimes can be reported here: www.portlandoregon.gov/police/cor/

COVID-19: Where to go for help

Food boxes available

The Sunshine Division is experiencing a historically high demand in the number of those seeking help through their emergency food boxes. The need continues to grow daily.

Food boxes are available outside the Sunshine Division's warehouses at 687 North Thompson and 12436 SE Stark Street.

If you or someone you know is home-bound, medically fragile, and/or unable to leave their home, Portland police precincts maintain a small supply of

emergency boxes at each of their facilities that are available to be dispatched and delivered (typically within 24 hours) by an officer or Public Safety Support Specialist directly to someone's home. Anyone unable to access Sunshine Division facilities directly can call the Portland police non-emergency line at 503-823-3333 to request a food box delivery by an officer. Delivery arrival time is subject to call-load and time of call.

Please do not call 911 for a food box.

For the most current information about **PPB's response, access to resources, and public messages:** www.portlandoregon.gov/police/covid19

If you are thinking of suicide, know there is help. Call the **Multnomah County Mental Health Crisis Intervention Line** at 503-988-4888 or **Lines for Life** at: 800-273-8255

TALKING BEAT A monthly podcast from the Portland Police Bureau: PortlandOregon.gov/Police/Podcast

