



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chief Templeman's statement in response to Governor Inslee's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order

EVERETT, WA – Everett Police Chief Dan Templeman issued the following statement in response to Governor Inslee's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order.

"Governor Inslee and Mayor Franklin have announced unprecedented orders for Washington State and Everett residents to stay in their homes and restrict movement to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Like many other cities in the nation, we are currently facing a public health crisis. As a department, our goal is to seek voluntary compliance with the orders, to keep our residents safe and healthy. We do not wish to criminalize what would be normal activity at any other time. I believe our community understands the severity of the situation and encourage them to follow the advice of our public health officials. The Everett Police Department will not actively seek out individuals failing to comply with the orders solely to charge them with a crime. We recognize that people need to go to the doctor, the pharmacy, the grocery store and perform other essential activities. When our officers encounter someone failing to comply with the orders, we will remind them, as appropriate, of the restrictions. No law enforcement agency has the desire to make arrests for violations of emergency orders related to COVID-19. Rumors of individuals or businesses needing "passes" or "licenses" to conduct essential services are not true. Our communities are in uncharted territory as law enforcement and residents alike prepare to navigate the new restrictions. Everett Police remains committed to serving our public and protecting their safety."

Everett Police reminds the public not to call 911 to report violations of the governor's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order, social distancing violations, or individuals outside of their homes. 911 must be reserved for those needing immediate emergency assistance. Everett residents may report concerns by e-mail to cv19violations@everettwa.gov.

Visit everettwa.gov/COVID19 for up-to-date information on City operations and response, program cancellations and closures, as well as additional resources and information.

News Releases are located at: www.everettwa.gov/EPDNews.

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