



TO: City Manager Stephanie Garrabrant-Sierra
FROM: Chief Greg Allen
SUBJECT: Willits Police Department COVID-19 Media Release

Chief Allen and the Willits Police Department wish to thank our community and businesses for your responsiveness, cooperation and adherence to our "SHELTER IN PLACE" mandate relating to our COVID-19 response. You and your families' health and safety during this challenging time remains our priority. As a reminder, The City of Willits has declared the "Existence of a Local Emergency" and this declaration will remain in place until further notice. The men and women of the Willits Police Department, along with the Fire Department and other first responders, are committed to keeping you safe.

"WE NEED YOUR CONTINUED COOPERATION TO KEEP YOU HEALTHY!"

As you know, the Willits Police Department is very small, but extremely committed to protecting and serving you. During this challenging period, it is necessary to prioritize our response to calls for service. We will respond to all emergency calls. For your health and safety, we will evaluate the need to immediately respond to non-emergency calls. Calls of a non-police, business dispute or civil nature will be handled telephonically. Priority will be given to responding to crimes of violence, domestic violence crimes, and other emergency "in progress" crimes. All calls for service will be documented and followed up on.

For your safety and that of our first responders, all officers have been supplied with (and may be wearing) protective gloves and masks in order to reduce exposure should they respond to your call. Please do not be offended. There may also be situations where officers responding to your call may decline entering your home or place of business, and may instead request that you meet them in front of your location, keeping the recommended distance of a minimum of six (6) feet distance as your call is handled. Due to the nature of the Covid-19 virus, it is extremely important to us, your families and the Willits community that we all CONTINUE TO AVOID RISKING UNNECESSARY EXPOSURE AND CONTACT. Remember that every contact potentially exposes you, your family members and your neighbors to the Covid-19 Virus. Our officers are conducting visible patrols throughout the community and businesses to ensure your safety. They have been directed to "politely but firmly" remind persons seen congregating of our very important "SHELTER IN PLACE" mandate. There may be a tendency to become complacent as time passes, however, as a community WE CANNOT allow this. It is now more important than ever to remain vigilant.

PLEASE REMEMBER;

1. "HAND TO HAND CONTACT" IS ONE OF THE MOST COMMON SPREAD POINTS OF COVID-19". WASH YOUR HANDS FREQUENTLY!!!
2. CONSTANTLY DISINFECT /CLEAN!
3. ****PLEASE PRACTICE "SOCIAL DISTANCING" (SIX FEET MINIMUM)****

BE SAFE AND STAY HEALTHY!

We will get through this together. Thank you for helping US to keep YOU safe and healthy!!

For Police "Emergencies" ONLY call 911.

Non-Emergencies: (707) 459-6122

-Chief Greg Allen