

Citizens of Ucon:

I know that many have questions and concerns about Governor Little's "Stay at home" order issued to slow the spread of the Covid-19 virus, including who it applies to and how the order will be enforced in Ucon. The order will be in place for 21 days and ALL residents of Idaho must self-isolate and stay and work from home as much as possible, unless you work in healthcare, public safety or an identified "essential business" as defined in the order. All people may leave their residences only for "Essential Activities" which include but are not limited to:

- Purchasing groceries, ordering takeout from restaurants, convenience stores etc.
- Health care including pharmacies
- Financial institutions, legal services, government services
- Childcare services

If you are unsure if you work in an essential field or for more examples of what is considered an "essential activity", please visit <https://coronavirus.idaho.gov> for more information.

Outdoor activities are OK, however it is recommended that individuals keep a distance of 6 feet from others not in their household. The use of both city parks is allowed at this time but should only be used for the purpose of exercise (including dog walking, leashes are required.) Recreational use of the parks and equipment (slides, swings, etc.) is not recommended, and gatherings of any size are prohibited by the order so please do not use the parks for family reunions, cookouts, etc. while the order is in effect. Anyone deemed to be loitering in the parks will be asked to leave. The City of Ucon, at its discretion may close the parks as the situation develops.

Now, the big question, how will it be enforced? The simple answer is: with common sense. Violations of this order could be a misdemeanor offense under Idaho Code: 56-10003(7)(c). (Other statutes may apply as well). I would however, like to assure everyone that while possible, criminal charges are unlikely and will be reserved for serious violations of this order. I will not be stopping, nor attempting to stop anyone from leaving their home, nor will I question you about your purposes for leaving your home. I am a firm believer in personal responsibility and trust that the citizens of Ucon will use their best judgment to keep themselves and this community safe. I do ask that parents keep their minor children in compliance with this order, if I observe juveniles out and about with no purpose, I may direct them to return home while this order is in effect.

Lastly, know that the City of Ucon is here for you. I will continue to patrol and will still respond to all call types. I have talked to the Sheriff's Office and they will respond as well, however low priority calls may be held for me if I am not on duty so please be patient. To do my part, I will limit my contact with citizens unless my presence is requested otherwise issues will be handled over the phone when possible. I have been asked to advise people NOT to call 911 to ask questions about the stay at home order, as this diverts resources away from actual emergencies. If you have any questions please refer to the link above or call me at the City offices and I'd be happy to discuss any questions or concerns with you.

It is a privilege to serve this community, if I can do anything for you (even if it is not law enforcement related) please don't hesitate to ask. The Mayor and Fire Department share this sentiment. Ucon is a special place and I am confident that we are ready for whatever comes

-----Chief Fullmer