

## **Reading Parking Authority temporarily suspends most operations in response to spread of COVID-19 virus**

Reading, PA—Reading Parking Authority (RPA) announced today that it will reduce operations to essential functions from March 18 – 31 to help minimize person-to-person contact and prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The administrative office will also be closed during this time. This decision was made in an abundance of caution for constituents, staff and the community as a whole.

Reading Parking Authority understands parking availability is vital to Reading residents and businesses and is doing everything possible to accommodate them. Parking at all RPA facilities is free effective now through 8:00 AM on April 1. This measure went into effect at 4 PM on March 16 at the request of Reading Mayor Eddie Moran.

Reading Parking Authority will continue to monitor this situation and work with all state and local officials as the situation unfolds.

The following information is subject to change as this situation continues to evolve. Please visit [readingparking.com](http://readingparking.com) for the most current information.

### **BELOW ARE ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS CONSTITUENTS MAY HAVE DURING THIS TIME.**

#### **Where should I park?**

Parking at all RPA facilities is free effective now through 8:00 AM on April 1. This measure went into effect at 4 PM on Monday, March 16, at the request of Reading Mayor Eddie Moran.

#### **Are any parking ordinances being enforced during this period?**

Street sweepers, meters, and public safety related violations will be enforced during this time. Safety-related violations include but are not limited to parking at a fire hydrant, blocking an intersection, hazardous vehicle, etc.

#### **How do I report a public safety related parking violation?**

Anyone wishing to report a public safety related parking violation between March 18 and 31 should contact the Reading Police Department's non-emergency number at 610-655-6116.

#### **Will street sweepers be operating during this time?**

Yes. In an attempt to ensure public health and welfare, the Mayor is continuing to serve the community through its street sweeping program.

Street sweepers are operated by the City of Reading Public Works Department. They establish the schedule and provide the necessary staffing. Reading Parking Authority provides enforcement support. Questions about the sweeper schedule should be referred to the City of Reading Citizen Service Center at 877-727-3234.

**What if I need to pay a citation?**

Citations can be paid online or via phone.

*Online:* Citations can be paid 24-hours a day via the Reading Parking Authority website. Visit <https://readingparking.com/> and click the "Violations" tab.

*Phone:* Citations can be paid via phone Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Call the Reading Parking Authority at 610-655-6166 and select the pay-by-phone option.

**What if the fine goes up while your office is closed?**

The penalty fee is automatically added to citations not paid within 10 days/240 hours. If the 10<sup>th</sup> day/240 hours occurs between March 18 and 31, the penalty fee will be removed if payment is made in-person at the Reading Parking Authority office within ten (10) business days of the office reopening. PLEASE NOTE: The penalty fee cannot be removed from payments made online or via phone. Payments must be made in person at 613 Franklin Street in order for the penalty fee to be removed.

**What if I was scheduled for an appeal hearing with the independent hearing officer?**

If you are scheduled for a hearing between March 18 and 31, Reading Parking Authority will make every attempt to contact you via phone or email to reschedule for our next available hearing date. Customers may also contact the RPA at [appeals@readingparking](mailto:appeals@readingparking) to reschedule.

**Will Reading Parking Authority be placing Barnacles or boots on cars?**

No. Barnacles and boots will NOT be placed on cars from March 18 – 31.

**What if I am on a Reading Parking Authority payment plan?**

Reading Parking Authority will not be accepting payments for payment plans from March 18 – 31. No Barnacles or boots will be placed on vehicles during this time.

Customers agree to make a payment every two (2) weeks when they enter into a Reading Parking Authority payment plan. If a customer fails to make a scheduled payment, a Barnacle or boot can be applied to their car. However, as mentioned above, no Barnacles or boots will be placed on vehicles from March 18 – 31. Payments must be made in-person at the Reading Parking Authority office within ten (10) business days of the office reopening. If a payment is not received within ten (10) business days, the payment plan will be considered to be in default and the vehicle will be subject to having a Barnacle or boot applied. Exceptions can be approved by a supervisor on a case-by-case basis.

Any questions or concerns related to the COVID-19 office closure that are not addressed above will be reviewed individually by Reading Parking Authority. Questions or concerns related to the office closure must be brought to the RPA administrative office within ten (10) business days of the office reopening.

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