



Coronavirus

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated as of October 6, 2020

Do I have to wear a mask?

Face coverings are required in indoor, public spaces per the State of California's [order](#) and per a [resolution](#) by Benicia's City Council.

What is allowed to open as of September 22, 2020?

As of August 31, 2020, counties in the Widespread (red) tier of the State's [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#) website may open some businesses and activities with modifications, including indoor dining at 25% capacity, indoor retail at 50% capacity, hair and nail salons indoors, places of worship at 25% capacity, movie theaters at 25% capacity, and gyms at 10% capacity.

What activities/businesses can be open?

Please see the State's [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#) to find the status of activities in Solano County.

Can dental offices open?

Yes.

Is the James Lemos Pool open? What about lap swim?

The James Lemos Swim Center is currently open for lap swim only. Lanes must be reserved in advance. For information on how to reserve a lane, please visit www.ci.benicia.ca.us/aquatics and click on "How to Reserve a Lap Lane Online" under the lap swim announcement.

Are basketball courts open?

Basketball courts are open. They may be used by members of the same household. No pick-up games permitted by members of multiple households.

Are athletic fields open?

Athletic fields are open for use by members of the same household. Applications for sports team conditioning are currently being accepted by the Parks and Community Services Department. Sports games are not currently allowed.

Are playgrounds open?

Some playgrounds are currently open. Please visit www.ci.benicia.ca.us/parks for an updated list.

When will picnic rentals reopen?

Picnic rentals are considered a high risk activity due to large groups of people attending and are not currently allowed to reopen.

Can I have gatherings of friends and family?

Gatherings are only permitted with members of the same household.

Can the fire department or police department join my drive-by car parade?

Unfortunately, they can not. They are experiencing an overwhelming number of requests and it is too difficult to schedule these visits while maintaining readiness for emergency response as a top priority.

Is Ninth Street Beach open for public use?

9th Street beach is now open for use by the public. Please maintain social distancing and only gather with members of the same household.

Why isn't the Benicia Public Library open when other Solano County libraries are open? When will it open?

The Benicia Public Library offers access to our collection via curbside pickup, Monday through Friday from 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm. Please call the Library to schedule an appointment! (707) 746-4343. Our online library of

extensive resources from ebooks to audiobooks to virtual story times (and much more!) is also available 24/7 at benicialibrary.org.

Library staff are working to assess how we can best reopen in a manner that assures the safety of both the public and our staff. The timeline is not yet in place.

Are library programs available?

The Library has continued to offer programming through the Shelter-in-Place order by moving much of our activity online. You can view live story times, book clubs, and other programs through our website at benicialibrary.org.

We're working on expanding our programming and other services by pivoting towards online and virtual offerings, in what we're calling our "Digital Shift," supported by a generous grant from the Benicia Library Foundation.

It will take longer for the next phase of re-opening guidelines to allow for in-person group programs at the Library. We will update the community as we know more.

When can I rent a public room in the library?

As of now, public libraries have not been cleared to host events or to rent their public rooms for community meetings. We are waiting for State and County guidance and we will update the community as we learn more.

Who can I call if I have concerns about a violation of the orders?

Please fill out the [COVID-19 Safety Protocol Compliance Violation online form](#) or call the Community Services Phone Line at (707) 746-4285. You can also email covidcompliance@ci.benicia.ca.us to report a violation.

Are there guidelines for reopening businesses?

The State's [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#) contains industry-specific guidance by county and activity.

Can I eat my take-out food outside in public spaces?

Yes. Please maintain social distancing and properly dispose of your trash.

What restrooms are currently open?

All restrooms operated by the City of Benicia are currently open, with minor exceptions.

Will polling places be open for the November 3, 2020 election?

Yes. Most polling locations will be the same as previous years as long as the location allows for social distancing. If your polling location changes, a postcard with your new polling location will be sent to the address where you are registered to vote. There will be the same number of polling locations as previous years. Please call (707) 784-6675 if you have questions regarding voting in Solano County.

To register to vote, visit <https://registertovote.ca.gov/>.

Please visit Solano County's [Vote-by-Mail Application](#) website if you would like to request to receive your ballot by mail.