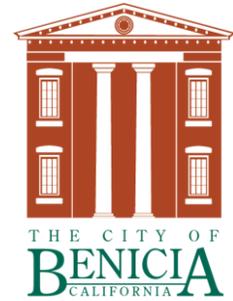


PRESS RELEASE
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CITY OF BENICIA UPDATE ON COVID-19

Benicia, CA (March 9, 2020) — Coronavirus Disease 2019, or COVID-19, is a respiratory illness caused by a novel virus that has been spreading worldwide. The complete clinical picture with regard to COVID-19 is not yet fully understood. Reported illnesses have ranged from mild to severe, including death. Experts are gaining more understanding of COVID-19's epidemiology, clinical course, immunogenicity, and other factors as time progresses.

City of Benicia officials are continuing to monitor the situation and receive regular updates from State and Federal agencies. The Benicia Fire Chief remains in almost daily contact with Solano County Public Health, Solano County Office of Emergency Services, and the Benicia Unified School District.

“There is a tremendous amount of information being shared regarding the Coronavirus.” said Fire Chief Josh Chadwick. *“We are actively engaged in tracking the information released by the CDC, California Department of Public Health and the World Health Organization in order to keep the Benicia community informed by reliable sources. This situation is changing rapidly, and the City of Benicia will continue to adjust recommendations and procedures as appropriate.”*

At this time, the City recommends that individuals evaluate opportunities to attend events, programs, recreation classes, etc., on a case by case basis. Older people and people with certain underlying health conditions such as heart disease, lung disease and diabetes, for example, seem to be at greater risk of serious illness and may want to be more conservative when deciding whether or not to attend events.

The City has begun implementing enhanced facility cleaning to reduce potential exposure to COVID-19 as well as posting reminders about hand washing and other precautions.

Should conditions change, the City will share more information and updates on its Coronavirus webpage at <https://www.ci.benicia.ca.us/coronavirus>.

What else can you do?

- See the [CDC's Coronavirus Disease website](#) for updates, news and symptoms to watch out for.
- Keep in touch with older adults and encourage them to seek medical assistance, if necessary.
- Increase your social distance (no hand shaking or hugging) at social events or mass gatherings.
- Follow these [tips on flu prevention](#) from the Centers for Disease Control.

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