

PRESS RELEASE
CITY OF BENICIA
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CITY OF BENICIA UPDATE ON COVID-19

Benicia, CA (March 11, 2020) — The City of Benicia is closely monitoring the ongoing Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak through continuous contact and monitoring with local, Solano County and California health officials. As the situation continues to change rapidly, our top priority remains the health, safety and well-being of our community.

City staff are meeting daily to review this emerging situation, are planning for several contingency scenarios and are taking action to limit the spread of COVID-19, while ensuring the continuity of service. We will continue to update the community regularly to provide updates and information on additional measures should they be needed.

Solano Public Health recommends social distancing to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and protect community health. Social distancing is a means to reduce interactions between people and slow the spread of the disease in our community. The recommendations will protect the health of vulnerable populations who are more likely to be susceptible for severe COVID-19 illnesses, as well as the community at large. Social distancing is defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as "remaining out of congregate settings, avoiding mass gatherings and maintaining distance (approximately 6 feet) from others when possible."

City Hall, Benicia Public Library, Benicia Community Center and Benicia Senior Center remain open and operational with appropriate measures in place to protect the health of staff and the community. In an abundance of caution, the following events are City of Benicia programs which will be postponed or canceled until further notice due to the difficulty in maintaining social distancing:

- Wednesday, March 11: Family Reading Night for students at Robert Semple and Joe Henderson Elementary Schools
- Wednesday, March 17: Objective Planning Standards Stakeholder meeting

- Sunday, March 22: Ramana Vieira and Ensemble at the Library
- Fridays: Board Game Evenings at the Library
- Next two weeks: All Storytimes and After School Zone, due to limited space at the Library

“As a reminder, the City of Benicia recommends that individuals evaluate opportunities to attend events, programs, recreation classes, etc., on a case by case basis. Older residents and residents with certain underlying health conditions such as heart disease, lung disease and diabetes may want to be more conservative when deciding whether to attend events,” said Fire Chief Josh Chadwick.

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

What can you do?

- See the [CDC's Coronavirus Disease website](#) for updates, news and symptoms to watch out for.
- Wash your hands often and cover coughs and sneezes.
- Increase your social distance (no hand shaking or hugging) at events and gatherings.
- Stay in touch with older adults and encourage them to seek medical assistance, if they develop symptoms.

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