

**PRESS RELEASE**  
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### **CITY OF BENICIA UPDATE ON COVID-19 FOR MARCH 12, 2020**

**Benicia, CA (March 12, 2020)** — The City of Benicia continues to closely monitor the ongoing Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak through local, county and state health officials. Our top priority remains the health, safety and well-being of our community.

California Department of Public Health issued [new guidelines](#) on postponing or canceling gatherings and events through the end of March 2020 to protect public health and slow the transmission of COVID-19.

The guidelines recommend canceling or postponing –

- Large gatherings of 250 or more
- Small gatherings that do not allow for six feet per person for social distancing
- Gatherings of more than 10 persons at higher risk of severe illness

This guidance does not apply to activities such as attendance at regular school classes, work, essential services, public transportation, airport travel, and shopping.

In response to the guidelines, the City of Benicia has canceled or postponed the following:

- All senior activities at the [Benicia Senior Center](#) will be cancelled from March 13 – March 31, 2020 except for the Meals on Wheels program on Friday, March 13. Staff is working with Solano County to provide home delivery of Meals on Wheels beginning Monday, March 16.
- Due to the difficulty in achieving recommended social distancing, the following meetings or events have been canceled through March 31.
  - [Benicia Public Library](#):
    - After School Zone, all storytimes, all book clubs, art gallery receptions, board games evenings, ESL classes, GED

classes, Great Decisions discussions, Language Lab, Resume & Career Counseling, Technology Help, Teen Advisory Board, Writers' Salon, Writer's Workshop

- March 12: Arts and Culture Commission meeting
  - March 14: Friends of the Library Book Sale
  - March 15: Three Poets Welcome Spring event
  - March 16: Art Gallery Committee meeting
  - March 17: Objective Planning Standards Stakeholder meeting
  - March 19: Public Art Subcommittee meeting
  - March 22: Ramana Vieira and Ensemble
  - March 29: Poet Jane Hirschfield
- City Hall Commission Room:
    - March 16: Community Sustainability Commission meeting
    - March 25: Economic Development Board meeting

City Hall, Benicia Public Library and Benicia Community Center remain open and operational with appropriate measures in place to protect the health of staff and the community.

As conditions change, or City meetings or events are canceled, updates will be shared on the Coronavirus webpage at <https://www.ci.benicia.ca.us/coronavirus>.

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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