

PRESS RELEASE

CITY OF BENICIA
Benicia Fire Department
250 East L Street
Benicia, California 94510

Contact: Fire Chief Josh Chadwick
Benicia Fire Department
(707) 746-4275
jchadwick@ci.benicia.ca.us



CITY OF BENICIA UPDATE ON COVID-19 FOR NOVEMBER 7, 2020 Benicia Firefighter Tests Positive for COVID-19

Benicia, CA (November 7, 2020) — On November 7, 2020, a Benicia Fire Department firefighter informed the City of Benicia that they received a positive test result for COVID-19. The firefighter was last on duty on November 4 and did not begin experiencing symptoms until after completing their shift. The firefighter pursued testing and received the result today.

The source of the infection has not yet been determined, but the Benicia Fire Department is working with the Solano County Public Health Department and is assisting with contact tracing and following and exceeding their guidance. The Firefighter is self-quarantining at home.

Fire Chief Josh Chadwick has been in close contact with Solano County Public Health and has determined that, based on department policy and health department recommendations, there was no direct exposure to the community prior to the firefighter's diagnosis. Close contact exposure is defined by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) as being within 6-feet of others for more than 15 minutes.

“We believe that members of our fire department will continue to experience these positive diagnoses, just as our community members do, until there is a vaccine,” said Chadwick. “Recognizing that, our firefighters wear N95 masks while responding to calls with our citizens, and wear face covering masks at all other times while out in the public. The Benicia Fire Department has standing operating guidelines in place and abides by county protocols to limit or prevent the infection between patients, the public and fire personnel.”

All Benicia fire stations remain fully staffed and the City of Benicia does not anticipate any disruption to service delivery.

Due to health privacy rights, the City is prohibited from providing any information about the identity of the affected firefighter. The City of Benicia facilitates testing

for all employees who may have been exposed.

With the nationwide spike in COVID-19 cases, Benicia residents are reminded to minimize mixing with people outside your home, wash your hands often, and keep your distance and wear face coverings when out in public. If you experience symptoms, self-quarantine and get test as soon as possible. Information on testing sites is available through the Solano County Public Health Department at https://www.solanocounty.com/depts/ph/coronavirus_links/faq_community_testing_sites.asp.

For up-to-date information about the City of Benicia's response to COVID-19, go to <https://www.ci.benicia.ca.us/coronavirus>.

###