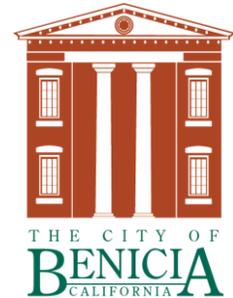


PRESS RELEASE
CITY OF BENICIA
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**CITY OF BENICIA UPDATE ON COVID-19
FOR MARCH 18, 2020
SHELTER AT HOME ORDER ISSUED FOR SOLANO COUNTY**

Benicia, CA (March 18, 2020) — Solano County Public Health has issued a countywide Shelter at Home health order for Solano County residents to ensure consistent compliance with social distancing and self-isolation. The order is effective immediately and will remain in effect through April 7, 2020.

Restaurants have been ordered to close onsite dining but To-Go orders are still allowed, as is exercising out of doors with social distancing.

“This is the time to remember our humanity and help our neighbors, young and old, weather these trying times,” said City Manager Lorie Tinfow. “I want to assure our community that while the Shelter at Home order is in effect, police, fire and public works personnel will be visible throughout our community maintaining essential City of Benicia services. Behind the scenes, City staff are operating at emergency levels to take care of public safety and infrastructure needs.”

Police Chief Erik Upton reminds residents to not call 9-1-1 with questions related to the Shelter at Home order, so that the lines may remain open for life-threatening emergencies. Instead, you are requested to contact Solano Public Health with your questions at www.solanocounty.com/depts/ph or call (707) 784.8600.

The Solano County Health Department Order, in part, directs the public to implement the following:

- Gatherings of any size, including places of work, that do not allow for participants to maintain six feet of distance apart are strongly prohibited unless they are for "essential activities" as defined in the Order.
- Establishments serving alcohol such as bars, wineries, nightclubs and

breweries must close. Movie theaters must also close.

- Establishments serving food may remain open with takeout and delivery options only. Dine-in operations must cease.

- All health clubs, tanning facilities, gyms and spas must close.

- Prohibits non-essential travel.

- Employers are required to ensure compliance with social distancing guidelines and should implement teleworking where appropriate and feasible. Only employees performing essential duties that are not able to be done remotely should physically come to work.

- Employers that require a doctor's note for a leave of absence due to illness must suspend those policies. Employers are strongly encouraged to allow employees flexible use of paid time off/sick leave.

- All people with fever, cough, or other respiratory symptoms should stay home until seven days after symptom onset. Self-management of these symptoms is encouraged, but if difficulty breathing and lethargy develop, or symptoms suddenly become worse, they should contact their healthcare provider or urgent care center immediately. Calling ahead is strongly encouraged.

- Childcare centers [providing services that enable employees exempted in the order to work] may remain open if they strictly follow social distancing protocols in accordance with the guidance distributed and posted on the Solano Public Health website.

- Nonessential personnel are prohibited from entering hospitals and long-term care facilities, including patient visitation. All essential personnel displaying symptoms of COVID-19 should self-isolate until seven days after symptom onset, and hospitals are urged to delay elective procedures.

- Populations with higher risk of complications from infection should stay home and away from all gatherings involving people outside of their immediate families. These populations include: people with chronic conditions such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes cancer, heart disease, lung disease, immuno-compromising conditions and those over 65 years of age. Pregnant individuals should also strongly consider self-isolating to the extent possible.

- All Solano County Residents, regardless of risk-level, should stay home to the extent possible, and continue practicing universal precautions of handwashing for at least 20 seconds, disinfecting commonly used surfaces, and covering coughs or sneezes with their elbow or tissue instead of hands.

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 is always the health, safety and well-being of our community.

As conditions change, updates will be shared on the Coronavirus webpage at <https://www.ci.benicia.ca.us/coronavirus>. Please follow the City of Benicia, Benicia Fire Department and Benicia Police Department on social media and sign up at www.Nextdoor.com for neighborhood updates and information from the City of Benicia.

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.
- Maintain 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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Attachment: Shelter at Home Health Order, Solano County (03-18-20)