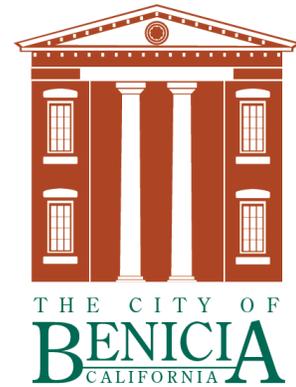


PRESS RELEASE
CITY OF BENICIA
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**CITY OF BENICIA UPDATE ON COVID-19
FOR MAY 22, 2020**
**City Announces Streamlined Process for Retail Business to
Expand Operations Outdoors**

Benicia, CA (May 22, 2020) – In concert with Solano County’s amended shelter order that allows dine-in restaurants and retail shops to operate within certain parameters, the Benicia City Manager has issued an emergency order to streamline the process for use of outdoor space for dining and shopping.

“Our business community needs our help following the COVID-19 closure. We know that outdoor activities are lower risk in terms of exposure to the virus so we want to make it easier for dining and shopping to expand into outdoor spaces. This emergency order cuts through the red tape for those interested in using privately or publicly owned spaces.”

The emergency order applies to parking lots, sidewalk areas, and neighboring plaza areas as well as a new City program under development that could turn parking spaces into outdoor “alfresco” dining and shopping locations. Business owners should complete forms beginning on page 5 of the order and submit to the City Manager at ltinfow@ci.benicia.ca.us for approval.

Solano County issued new rules known as Exhibit C that allow more businesses to reopen. Patrons visiting businesses should look for social distancing protocols, occupancy limits, and extra sanitary activities such as use of hand sanitizer. Businesses are also required to post signage certifying compliance with the regulations. Some businesses have chosen not to reopen at this time.

Solano County has a warm line to answer questions about COVID-19, including questions about whether or not a business or activity is permitted to be open. Call 707.784.8988 or email covid19@solanocounty.com, Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.

The City of Benicia also has a community services phone line for questions or concerns; call 707.746.4285 or email pcs@ci.benicia.ca.us.

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Attachments:

- Emergency Order 20-3
- Solano County Exhibit C