



# BAKERSFIELD

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## MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Thursday, March 12, 2020**

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### **CITY TAKING STEPS TO REDUCE POSSIBLE COVID-19 EXPOSURE**

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Out of an abundance of caution and following California Governor Gavin Newsom's Executive Order (N-25-20) issued today, the City of Bakersfield will postpone or cancel nonessential events and gatherings hosted by the City through the end of March in order to reduce the possible spread of COVID-19, also known as the novel coronavirus.

The City of Bakersfield is working closely with the Kern County Department of Public Health, the Office of Governor Newsom and the Centers for Disease Control, with regards to the ongoing COVID-19 health crisis.

Public health is a primary concern for the City of Bakersfield. While there have been no cases of COVID-19 confirmed in Bakersfield, the City is taking steps to limit the possible spread of the virus.

"I encourage Bakersfield residents to be proactive in protecting our community's health," said Mayor Karen Goh. "Together we can make our community safer by observing the guidelines from the California Department of Public Health. Last night at our City Council meeting, I proclaimed Bakersfield to be a 'handshake-free city.' Join me in refraining from shaking hands as one proactive practice to safeguard the health of our families."

Precautionary steps the City of Bakersfield is taking include:

- The March 25<sup>th</sup> City Council Meeting is planned to take place as originally scheduled with an abbreviated agenda.
  - In-person public comments will still be accepted at the meeting, however, the public is encouraged to submit public comments for that meeting via the City Clerk's Office at [city\\_clerk@bakersfieldcity.us](mailto:city_clerk@bakersfieldcity.us).
- Nonessential board, commission, and committee meetings will be postponed to later dates.

City Manager's Office  
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- All City-hosted community meetings scheduled through March 31 are postponed until further notice.
- The postponement of previously permitted special events scheduled to be held through the end of March, including special events scheduled at City parks.
  - Application fees may be refunded, or the event may be rescheduled to a later date.
  - Attendees or participants should contact respective event organizers to find out potential impact.
- The suspension of Recreation & Parks Department programs provided to the public through the end of March, with the exception of the after-school meal programs at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center.
- City Community Centers and pools will be CLOSED to the public until the end of March.
- Mesa Marin Sports Complex, Kaiser Permanente Sports Village and Aera Park will be CLOSED to the public through the end of March.
- The low-cost Community Vaccination Clinic scheduled for Saturday, March 14 has been postponed to a later date and will be rescheduled.
- Specific impacts to scheduled events at the Mechanics Bank Arena, Convention Center and Theater, as well as the Spectrum Amphitheatre will be determined by the facility manager AEG. Any questions regarding event schedules or ticketing should be directed to AEG.

It is important to note that essential services provided by the City, including the Bakersfield Police and Fire Departments, will NOT be affected by these precautionary measures and will continue functioning as normal.

However, the lobby counter services at the Police Department Headquarters and the Westside Substation will be closed until further notice. All nonessential Police Department events, programs and activities through March 31 have been postponed. Please refer related inquiries to the Bakersfield Police Department.

Operations at City Hall North – including Human Resources and Finance – as well as Development Services and Public Works will also continue as normal. Trash services will also not be impacted and will function as normal.

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