



FAQ - CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) What steps is the City of Downey taking?

HOW IS THE CITY PREPARING?

The City of Downey continues to monitor the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation in coordination with local, state and federal officials. We are working collaboratively to continue the enhancement of safety measures and to keep the public informed of preventive measures to limit the spread of COVID-19.

WHAT CITY FACILITIES ARE CURRENTLY CLOSED?

The City has temporarily closed the following facilities until further notice:

- Barbara J. Riley Community & Senior Center
- Downey Civic Theatre
- McCaughan Gym (located at Apollo Park)
- Columbia Memorial Space Center

Refunds for classes/events will be given accordingly and staff will work with the various partner agencies to reschedule events for future dates.

WHAT EVENTS/ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN CANCELLED?

The City has postponed **all public events of 10 or more people for the next 8 weeks (through May 11, 2020) as recommended by the Centers for Disease and Control (CDC)**. A complete list of postponed events is available on our City website at www.downeyca.org/coronavirus.

All programs, special events, and activities in City parks and facilities are temporarily suspended, as well.

WHAT IF I HAVE A PENDING RESERVATION AT A CITY PARK/FACILITY?

All reservations previously scheduled in City parks and facilities will be cancelled or rescheduled. Please contact the Parks & Recreation Department for questions or more information at 562-904-7223.

IF I AM A SENIOR WHO BENEFITS FROM THE SENIOR CONGREGATE MEAL PROGRAM, WILL I STILL RECEIVE MY MEALS?

The Senior Congregate Meal program at the Barbara J. Riley Community and Senior Center (BJR) will begin distributing meals on Monday, March 16 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Frozen meal distribution will begin on Wednesday, March 18, 2020. Seniors (60+) can call (562) 862-8800 by 1pm to make reservations for frozen meals pick-up for the following day. Seniors can pick-up up to five (5) frozen meals at once.

The Department will provide transit services between 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. to allow seniors to pick up their meals and be transported home.

WILL LOCAL SPORTS LEAGUE CONTINUE TO PRACTICE AND HOLD GAMES AT CITY PARKS?

City parks will continue to be open and staff is in communication with recreational soccer, baseball and other sports leagues to encourage they postpone activities/games. The public is encouraged to contact their league representatives directly for questions or more information.

SHOULD I CONTINUE TO HOLD SOCIAL GATHERINGS SUCH AS BIRTHDAY PARTIES DURING THIS TIME?

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has updated its guidance regarding large group gatherings and events in light of the ongoing effort to combat the spread of coronavirus in the country. The new CDC guidance recommends against holding any events or group gatherings of 10 or more people across the U.S., and it notes that this guidance applies for at least the next eight weeks (through May 11, 2020).

ARE THERE ANY CONFIRMED CASES OF COVID-19 IN DOWNEY?

This is information we do not have access to. If the local hospitals know of someone who is positive, they are obligated to report it to Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

For up-to-date information regarding number of cases in L.A. County, please visit the County's Department of Public Health website at <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/>.

HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF AND MY LOVED ONES?

- Stay at home when sick.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

SHOULD PEOPLE STOCK UP ON SUPPLIES?

Prepare, don't panic.

- The City understands that everyone is concerned - the situation we're in is unprecedented.
- In preparing households, people should take what they need. Overbuying creates a shortage for others.
- As a reminder, the Downey Farmer's Market will remain open as it is considered an "essential function" for individuals to buy food. The Downey Farmer's Market is open on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.

WHAT PRACTICES HAS THE CITY PUT IN PLACE AT CURRENTLY OPENED FACILITIES?

- The City has taken precautions to ensure 6 ft. of social distancing between staff and patrons. For example, in the City Hall lobby, blue tape has been placed on the lobby floor as markers of where to stand. Signage regarding the markings has been posted to notify visitors
- The City has purchased additional disinfecting wipes and scheduled more regular cleaning in public areas. Additionally, the City has purchased extra hand sanitizers and latex gloves for public counters

WILL CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS BE CONDUCTED?

- City Council meetings scheduled in March will take place as planned. As a precaution to reduce community spread of COVID-19, the City sent a press release reminding the public that City Council meetings will continue to be live streamed for the public's convenience.
- The City has created an email address: ccpubliccomment@downeyca.org (City Council Meetings) where the public can submit public comment to be read into the record at a City Council meeting. The email address is posted on the City Clerk's and video streaming webpages.
- The City is currently exploring teleconferencing options for City Councilmembers and City Council meetings in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order.

ARE DOWNEY RESTAURANTS ALLOWED TO CURRENTLY OPERATE BUSINESS AS USUAL?

On Monday, March 16, 2020, Los Angeles County announced that all bars, clubs, theaters, entertainment centers, and fitness centers are ordered to be closed until further notice. **Restaurants will be permitted to serve take out or delivery food only** and grocery stores may remain open.

WHERE CAN I FIND THE MOST UP TO DATE INFORMATION REGARDING CITY SERVICES AND OPERATIONS?

The City has created a webpage on its website with the latest information. Please visit www.downeyca.org/coronavirus. You can also find information on the City's social media outlets: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

WHERE CAN I CALL IF I HAVE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS REGARDING CITY OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMMING?

The City has set-up a specific hotline number for residents to call if they have specific questions pertaining to City operations and programming not stated in

this FAQ. Individuals can call 562-299-6711 to speak to a City representative for those specific questions.

I AM EXPERIENCING FINANCIAL HARDSHIP AS A RESULT OF BEING LAID OFF FROM WORK DUE TO THE CURRENT SITUATION WITH COVID-19 AND CANNOT PAY MY WATER BILL AT THIS TIME. HOW CAN THE CITY HELP ME?

The City's Utilities Division is willing to work with customers experiencing financial hardship so that their water service will not be disconnected for non-payment.

We encourage these customers to contact our Customer Service Center at (562) 904-7246 to discuss payment extension and payment plan options that may be available to keep their accounts in good standing.

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