



BAKERSFIELD

THE SOUND OF *Something Better*

MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, March 18, 2020

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PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES IMPLEMENTED BY THE CITY OF BAKERSFIELD

The City has implemented a number of precautionary measures – including the cancelation or postponing of nonessential events and gatherings – and will remain in effect in the City at least through April 14 in order to reduce the possible spread of COVID-19, also known as the novel coronavirus.

Precautionary steps the City of Bakersfield is taking include:

Services closed/postponed

- As of March 19, City-run leash-free dog parks are closed to the public through April 14.
- All bid openings have been postponed through April 14.
- All employee recruitments – with the exception of public safety – have been postponed through April 14.
- The low-cost monthly pet vaccination clinic planned for Saturday, April 11, has been postponed.
- Nonessential board, commission, and committee meetings will be postponed to later dates.
- All City-hosted community meetings scheduled through April 14 are postponed until further notice.
- The postponement of previously permitted special events scheduled to be held through April 14, 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 April 14, 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 April 14.

- Mesa Marin Sports Complex, Kaiser Permanente Sports Village and Aera Park will be CLOSED to the public through April 14.
- 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 ASM Global. Any questions regarding event schedules or ticketing should be directed to ASM Global.

Services with revised protocols or revised schedules

- City Hall North is open for business
 - City Treasury activities are open for licenses and permits
 - It is requested the public only come to City Hall North for time-sensitive business; please conduct business by phone or online as much as possible.
- Development Service Permit Center, Fire and Public Works and Water Resources are open for business to receive and review various permits/applications; new protocols have been adopted to limit over-the-counter interactions; permits/applications must be dropped off at counters as complete packets.
 - The City encourages telephone and email interactions as much as possible.
- Police reporting: For non-emergency reports, the public is strongly encouraged to submit reports by phone and online.
 - The non-emergency number for Bakersfield Police is 661-327-7111.
- A City-wide alternative work assignments program has been adopted that will allow staff from all departments to assign telecommuting and flexible schedule options for employees to accommodate social distancing.
- The City has implemented new policies to help accommodate leave requests for employees with child care challenges.
- Reduced staffing demand for departments with closed or reduced services will result in a limited number of employees placed on paid leave.

Services with no impacts

- The March 25th 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.
- Police response
- Fire response
- Water
- Wastewater
- Solid Waste
- Streets
- Rapid Response Teams
- Fleet support to health and safety services
- Technology support to health and safety services

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