



CITY OF FORT BRAGG

News Release

March 13, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE ON CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

In the last few days, the national and local response to COVID-19 has intensified. It is important to remember that as of yesterday afternoon, Mendocino County has confirmed ZERO cases of COVID-19. Mendocino County Officials have stated that they will promptly notify the public if a case of COVID-19 is confirmed. Testing in Mendocino County has ramped up in the last week since commercial testing became available to clinics and hospitals. The City has confirmed that testing is available locally. However, we continue to get reports that there is a backlog of testing statewide.

Both the Federal and State Government have issued new guidance. Yesterday, California Governor Newsom issued [Executive Order N-25-20](#). The order:

1. Waives the one-week application waiting period for people who are unemployed and/or disabled as a result of COVID-19;
2. Delays the deadline for state tax filing by 60 days for individuals and businesses unable to file on time based on compliance with public health requirements related to COVID-19 filings;
3. Directs residents to follow public health directives and guidance, and to cancel large non-essential gatherings that do not meet state criteria;
4. Readies the state to commandeer property for temporary residences and medical facilities for quarantining, isolating or treating individuals;
5. Allows local or state legislative bodies to hold meetings via teleconference and to make meetings accessible electronically; and
6. Allows local and state emergency administrators to act quickly to protect public health.

Items 3 and 5 are the two items most immediately applicable to the City of Fort Bragg government. Late Wednesday, State Public Health Officials announced that gatherings should be postponed or canceled until the end of March. Any gathering of more than 250 people should be postponed or canceled. Smaller gatherings should only proceed if social distancing of six feet per person can be maintained. Any group of individuals with a higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 should be limited to no more than 10 people. A "gathering" is any event that brings together people in a single room or space at the same time. The Mendocino County Public Health Official, Dr. Noemi "Mimi" Doohan, reiterated these directives at a press conference yesterday afternoon.

In response, the following local events have been canceled or postponed:

- The event scheduled in the Sequoia Room of North Coast Brewing Co. on March 19th was postponed to a later, to be determined date.
- The League of Women Voters of Mendocino County has postponed its Meet & Greet Your Public Officials event scheduled for March 20th at the Caspar Community Center.
- The Rotary Club's Fort Bragg Beer Festival scheduled for March 21st has been postponed.

- The Mendocino Coast Chamber of Commerce has postponed the Fort Bragg Whale Festival until this Fall. This includes:
 - Chowder Tasting on March 21st
 - Beer Tasting on March 21st
 - Wine Tasting on March 21st
- The Soroptimist Whale Run and Walk on March 21st has also been canceled.
- The Symphony of the Redwoods has canceled all of the final performances of its 2019-20 Season.

The City is exploring the ability to hold regular City Council and Council Committee meetings via teleconferencing. More details on this option will follow.

The stock market for nearly two weeks has been a reminder of the impact of COVID-19 on the nation and our local economies. West Business Development Center has created a [Coronavirus Business Resources webpage](#) with a good number of links and resources to assist local small businesses dealing with the impacts of the coronavirus.

Public safety is the City of Fort Bragg's highest priority and we will continue to prioritize safe, clean water and wastewater services for our businesses and residents. Likewise, the ability of our Police Department to operate and respond to calls will take priority and be the focus of resources now and going forward.

We at the City want to thank the community for your understanding, patience and cooperation as we encounter these new challenges.

Questions regarding this information should be directed to Tabatha Miller, City Manager, via email at tmiller@fortbragg.com or by calling (707) 961- 2829.