



CITY OF FORT BRAGG

News Release

March 16, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CITY OF FORT BRAGG RESPONDS TO THE GOVERNOR'S GUIDELINES REGARDING THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

California is responding to the spread of a respiratory illness caused by a novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Governor Gavin Newsom and state health officials held a press conference yesterday, Sunday March 15, 2020, to give an overview of the status of the virus in California and the state's efforts to combat it.

The Governor provided an update on the latest numbers throughout the State:

- Latest Numbers:
 - 335 people have tested positive;
 - 14% increase from the day before;
 - 6 people have died in California so far; and
 - 8,316 tests have been conducted.

Governor Newsom stated there are 19 state labs that processed 2,665 tests; private companies have supplemented testing.

Currently, California has 74,000 hospital beds at 416 hospitals:

- 9,000 surge capacity beds;
- 11,500 ICU beds for pediatric and adults patients;
- 7,587 ventilators in California hospitals;
- California has its own cache of 900 ventilators.

As we manage this disease, we need to anticipate the spread and prioritize our focus. The City of Fort Bragg is responding by following the Governor's guidelines. The most important objective is to protect our most vulnerable, the 5.3 million Californians 65 years of age or older. The Governor is therefore calling for the home isolation of all seniors 65 and older, and those with chronic conditions. Governor Newsom yesterday provided [guidance to senior communities](#) restricting visitations and only allowing visitation for end-of-life situations.

Governor Newsom also directed all bars, pubs, brewpubs, nightclubs, and wineries in California to close. Restaurants and movie theaters may remain open and are instructed to reduce their current occupancy by half and enforce social distancing. Additional enforcement actions are to come.

Currently, 51% of schools are shut down throughout the state; this encompasses 85% of kids that will not be in school as of today Monday. The Fort Bragg Unified School District (FBUSD) has announced the temporary closure of all FBUSD schools beginning tomorrow, Tuesday, March 17 through Friday,

April 3, 2020, following the County Superintendent's order to transition to modified schooling. This means that students will work from home. During these dates, FBUSD will provide meals for any child up to the age of 18. Meals will be provided in a "drive thru" format at Dana Gray and Redwood Elementary schools between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM daily, Monday through Friday. Every child's meal will include a breakfast and a lunch, but the child must be present to receive the meals. Visit the [Fort Bragg Unified School District](#) website for more information.

The [Fort Bragg Police Department announced temporarily closure](#) until further notice of their front lobby and cancellation of administrative services such as finger printing in an effort to protect the community and staff from COVID-19 and to comply with prevention efforts. The Department will continue to provide services to the public, but you will now have to call the front office at (707) 961-2800 to request service from clerical staff.

City Hall will follow the same prevention efforts by closing the City Hall lobby and limiting walk-in services to City staff availability, by appointment or by telephone only. These temporary closures are currently in place through March 31, 2020 but may be re-evaluated, considering the rapid changes regarding the COVID-19 situation. The City of Fort Bragg hopes to return to normal business hours beginning the month of April 2020.

Town Hall is closed and all Town Hall events for the month of March, including City Council meetings and private functions, will be cancelled.

All other City water, sewer and public works services remain available. No utility services will be interrupted.

It is the City's intention to advise and update the public as soon as possible. It is also important that you listen to public health officials who may recommend community actions to reduce potential exposure to COVID-19, especially if COVID-19 is spreading in our community.

It is recommended you stay informed for the most updated information available regarding the COVID-19 Emergency and that you protect yourself and your loved ones by continuing to follow self-care and hygiene guidelines.

- The Centers for Disease Control provides information about the COVID-19 pandemic at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- The California Department of Public Health has an informational website that is updated daily with information about the COVID-19 pandemic. The website is located at: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/ncov2019.aspx>
- Mendocino County Health & Human Services Center also provides information on their website at: <https://www.mendocinocounty.org/community/novel-coronavirus> "
- Coronavirus Hotline: (707) 234-6052, open 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

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



Gov. Gavin Newsom at a press conference following the first COVID-19 death in California.
Photo by Anne Wernikoff for CalMatters