

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **DOWNEY RESIDENTS ARE ASKED TO FOLLOW NEW COVID-19 GUIDELINES AND AVOID PANIC BUYING AT GROCERY STORES**

**Downey, CA, March 15, 2020:**

Governor Newsom announced new stricter guidelines today to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). The new guidelines include:

- Advising all people 65 or older and those with underlying health issues to self-isolate at home
- Directing all bars, brew pubs, night clubs, and wineries to shut down
- Imploring restaurants to be no more than 50% occupancy and ensuring social distancing among their patrons

Additionally, the CDC announced, in accordance with its guidance for large events and mass gatherings, that it recommends that for the next 8 weeks, organizers (whether groups or individuals) cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more.

Events of any size should only be continued if they can be carried out with adherence to guidelines for protecting vulnerable populations, hand hygiene, and social distancing. When feasible, organizers could modify events to be virtual.

This recommendation does not apply to the day to day operation of organizations such as schools, institutes of higher learning, or businesses.

The City of Downey asks that the community follow the newly issued guidelines. The City will be coordinating with the Downey Chamber of Commerce and the local business community to communicate the Governor's new guidelines. Per the CDC guidelines, the will be evaluating City programming and future events for compliance. The City will update its website at <https://www.downeyca.org/residents/coronavirusinfo> and its social media pages to notify the public of its actions regarding adjustments and cancellation of City programming and future events.

The City understands the need to maintain a reasonable supply of shelf-stable food and other supplies as individuals are advised to stay home and new guidelines are released. However, the City is urging residents to avoid panic buying at grocery stores and respect quantity limits of

select, high-demand items (like hand sanitizers and household cleaners) to help ensure others can find the products they need.

Grocery stores are working closely with suppliers to keep food moving quickly through the system and making more deliveries to stores to ensure shelves are stocked.

“The COVID-19 outbreak brings a high degree of anxiety”, says Mayor Blanca Pacheco. “But, It is important to be reminded to remain calm, not panic, understand the facts, and follow state and local guidelines.”

“The spread of COVID-19 is a stressful situation, and we appreciate Downey residents and businesses working together to help protect our community,” says Mayor Pro-Tem Claudia Frometa.

For more information and the latest status of City services, visit the City’s website at <https://www.downeyca.org/residents/coronavirusinfo>. Updates will be shared regularly through the City’s Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter pages.

To learn more about COVID-19, visit the L.A. Department of Public Health website at <http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/> to receive the most up-to-date, accurate information about COVID-19.

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