

PRESS RELEASE

City of Downey to Implement Changes to Operations as a Precautionary Response

Downey, CA, March 16, 2020:

In order to reduce the risk of community spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19), the City of Downey is implementing temporary precautionary changes to City operations to protect the public and reduce community spread of COVID-19.

The changes to operations will be in place through the end of March, or until further notice. The changes are as follows:

City Facilities:

- City Hall remains open to the public. The City has taken numerous precautions to protect employees and public:
 - Additional purchase of disinfecting wipes, hand sanitizers, and latex gloves for public counters
 - Extra regular cleaning in public areas
 - Ensuring 6 ft. of social distancing between staff and patrons through blue tape markers on the lobby floor
 - Signage at public counters for patrons regarding precautionary measures
- The following facilities will be temporarily closed to the public:
 - Barbara J. Riley Community and Senior Center (BJR)
 - McCaughan Gym located at Apollo Park
 - Downey Civic Theatre

During the closure at these facilities, city staff will be able to provide services and answer questions by phone and email.
- The City has purchased additional disinfecting wipes and scheduled more regular cleaning in public areas at opened facilities. Additionally, the City has purchased extra hand sanitizers and latex gloves for public counters.

City Events:

- In accordance with the [Governor's Executive Order](#) and the [CDC's newly issued guidelines](#), below is a list of all cancelled events through Monday, May 11, 2020. Refunds will be given accordingly and staff will work with the various partner agencies to reschedule events for future dates.



DATE	DAY	TIME	EVENT
MARCH 20	FRI	7PM-11PM	Downey Theatre: Dance Masters
MARCH 21	SAT	7PM-7PM	Downey Theatre: Dance Masters
MARCH 21	SAT	9:00 AM	Keep Downey Beautiful Clean Up
MARCH 22	SUN	9AM-5PM	Downey Theatre: Beauty & The Beast
MARCH 24	TUES	8AM-2PM	Downey Theatre: Downey Symphony Bus In
MARCH 25	WED	5:00 PM	Measure S Grand Re-Opening: Discovery
MARCH 26	THURS	12:30PM-6:30PM	Downey Theatre: Countdown Dance Competition
MARCH 27	FRI	6AM-11PM	Downey Theatre: Countdown Dance Competition
MARCH 28	SAT	6AM-11PM	Downey Theatre: Countdown Dance Competition
MARCH 28	SAT	9:00 AM	Measure S Grand Re-Opening: Golden Park
MARCH 29	SUN	6AM-11PM	Downey Theatre: Countdown Dance Competition
APRIL 4	SAT	10AM	City of STEM Event
APRIL 4-5	SAT-SUN		Downey Theatre: Willy Chirino
APRIL 9	THURS	NOON	Business Watch Quarterly Seminar
APRIL 11	SAT	6:30PM	Downey Theatre: Downey Symphony Concert & Art Show
APRIL 11	SAT	9AM	Sound the Alarm w/ the Red Cross
APRIL 11	SAT	9:30AM	Brunch w/ the Bunny at Golden Park
APRIL 18	SAT	8AM-12PM	Shredding & Free Mulch Giveaway
APRIL 18	SAT	9AM	Keep Downey Beautiful Clean Up
APRIL 18	SAT	10AM	Downey Earth Day Celebration
APRIL 18	SAT	2PM-8PM	Downey Theatre 50th Anniversary
APRIL 19-25	SUN-SAT		National Library Week
APRIL 23	THURS	8:30AM	Student Government Day
APRIL 25	SAT	9AM	Downey One Day of Service
MAY 9	SAT	10AM	Touch-a-Truck Event
MAY 10	SUN	3PM	Downey Theatre: Mariachi Los Camperos

Columbia Memorial Space Center:

- The City has postponed the April 4 City of STEM event at the Columbia Memorial Space Center (Space Center) to the fall.
- The Space Center is temporarily closed to the public. Space Center staff will be able to provide services and answer questions by phone and email.

- During to the Space Center closure, staff will be exploring ways to continue to engage with the public through other digital means. Visit the [Space Center website](#) for updates.

Parks and Recreation:

- 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 can call (562) 862-8800 to make reservations for frozen meals pick-up. 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.
- Due to the Downey Unified School District two week closure from March 16-27, 2020, the ASPIRE program will also be closed during that period.
- All Parks and Recreation programs, special events, and activities in parks and facilities are temporarily suspended. Visit the [Department's website](#) for updates.
- All reservations in buildings and parks will be canceled or rescheduled.
- Staff is in communication with recreational soccer, baseball and other sports leagues to limit activities/games. The public is encouraged to contact their league representatives directly for questions or more information.
- Rio Hondo Event Center remains open. This includes Golf activity and the restaurant is following the newly issued stricter guidelines and ensuring social distancing.

City Meetings:

- The Planning Commission meeting schedule e in March is cancelled.
- 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 and Planning Commission meetings will continue to be live streamed for the public's convenience.
- The City has created two email addresses: ccpubliccomment@downeyca.org (City Council Meetings) and pcpubliccomment@downeyca.org (Planning Commission Meetings) where the public can submit public comment to be read into the record at a City Council or Planning Commission meeting. The email addresses are posted on the [City Clerk's](#) and [video streaming webpages](#).
- The City Clerk's office will also prepare a teleconferencing phone number allowing the public to participate in public comment during City Council meetings. Visit the [City Clerk's website](#) for more updates.
- The City is currently exploring teleconferencing options for City Councilmembers and City Council meetings in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order.

Downey Farmers Market:

The Downey Farmers Market will remain open as it is considered to be "essential facilities" (such as grocery stores) and many of community members rely on the Market to purchase their food. The Market has instituted a number of precautionary measures in accordance with the CDC and Los Angeles County Department of Public Health guidelines. The Market is located at 11039 Downey Avenue and is open on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

For more information and the latest status of City services, visit the City website at <https://www.downeyca.org/coronavirus>. Updates will be shared regularly through the City's [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#) pages.

To learn more about the Coronavirus, visit the L.A. Department of Public Health visit the [Los Angeles County Department of Public Health](#) website to get the most up-to-date, accurate information about COVID-19.

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