



CITY OF BANNING
PRESS RELEASE

March 18, 2020

For Immediate Release
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBJECT: MAYOR'S MESSAGE TO THE COMMUNITY REGARDING
NOVEL CORONAVIRUS

As Mayor of the City of Banning, I'd like a few minutes of your time to share information with you regarding the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), the actions your City government has taken, and plans that are in place should they be needed. First, and foremost, follow the guidelines that are being provided by the Center for Disease Control, the State of California Department of Public Health and Riverside County Public Health. Do not rely on Facebook or unofficial sources of information. There is no reason to panic or overreact to the COVID-19 pandemic. Data being collected is showing that approximately 80% of those infected with Coronavirus will not experience serious conditions and, many may not even feel any symptoms.

Our City is receiving daily briefings and information from National, State and County public health and emergency management agencies. While the spread of COVID-19 continues, health care experts on the White House COVID-19 Task Force have emphasized that the risk of serious illness for average Americans remains low. The risk of serious illness is high for Americans over the age of 65, especially those with a serious underlying health condition.

As of Tuesday, March 17, a total of 3,487 individuals have been tested in California. 472 cases have been confirmed by labs. There are 22 public and state labs in California that have received tests and are testing; and capacity has increased significantly in recent days. A total of 11 deaths attributed to COVID-19 have been reported in California. At this point, we are not aware of any COVID-19 cases in Banning.

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The State of California Office of Emergency Services has activated the State operations center at its highest level. Cal OES has requested a number of resources from the federal government; specifically, equipment and response resources. Cal OES is building capacity with hospitals and hotel locations to provide alternative and acute care facilities for people and they are mobilizing staff in regional emergency management teams to help counties most impacted.

Banning residents are strongly encouraged to follow President Trump's "15 Days to Slow the Spread" guidelines, which are:

1. Listen to and follow the directions of your State and Local Authorities.
2. If you feel sick, stay home. Do not go to work. Contact your medical provider.
3. If your children are sick, keep them at home and contact your medical provider.
4. If someone in your household has tested positive for the coronavirus, keep the entire household at home. Do not go to work. Contact your medical provider.
5. If you are an older person, stay home and away from other people.
6. If you are a person with a serious underlying health condition that can put you at increased risk (for example, a condition that impairs your lung or heart function or weakens your immune system), stay home and away from other people.
7. Even if you are young, or otherwise healthy, you are at risk and your activities can increase the risk for others. It is critical that you do your part to stop the spread of the coronavirus.
8. Work or engage in schooling from home whenever possible.
9. If you work in a critical infrastructure industry, as defined by the Department of Homeland Security, such as healthcare services and pharmaceutical and food supply, you have a special responsibility to maintain your normal work schedule. You and your employers should follow CDC guidance to protect your health at work.
10. AVOID SOCIAL GATHERINGS in groups of more than 10 people.
11. Avoid eating or dining at bars, restaurants, and food courts – use drive-thru, pickup, or delivery options.
12. Avoid discretionary travel, shopping trips, and social visits.
13. Do not visit nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.
14. Practice good hygiene:
 - a. Wash your hands, especially after touching any frequently used item or surface.
 - b. Avoid touching your face.
 - c. Sneeze or cough into a tissue, then discard the tissue in the trash.
 - d. Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.

The City of Banning has several useful links related to Coronavirus (COVID-19) posted on the City website at: www.banningca.gov. The information provided will be updated

frequently on the City website. Information is also available at: www.rivcoph.org and www.cdc.gov.

Through an abundance of caution, I am encouraging community members to avoid physically attending City Council meetings, Planning Commission meetings, and Parks and Recreation Commission meetings through April 30, 2020. All of our public meetings are broadcast on Spectrum Channel 10 and live streamed on the City website. Public comments can be sent via email prior to the meeting to the City Clerk's Office at sdelafuente@banningca.gov. In addition, this email address will be monitored during City Council meetings so public comments can be read into the record during the meeting by the Deputy City Clerk.

Thank you for your time.

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