



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Menifee Responds to Governor's Requests Regarding COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

MENIFEE, CA– In an attempt to protect California's most vulnerable as a response to Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), Governor Newsom on Sunday March 15th issued recommendations to communities and businesses to reduce the spread of COVID-19 from person to person (community spread) contact. Governor Newsom urged for all bars, nightclubs, and brewpubs to close, restaurants to reduce occupancy to 50%, and at-risk populations (seniors over the age of 65, those with chronic health conditions, and anyone special needs) to self-quarantine themselves at homes as a precautionary method to keep communities healthy and reduce the possibility of a spread. The Governor also mentioned the push to help house the homeless, and that the state had motels, and about 450 trailers, and was still detailing plans to assist the homeless community in the state.

The City of Menifee has been closely monitoring COVID-19, and has a detailed emergency plan in place, and has been working with local public safety officials, Riverside County Public Health Department, the California Department of Public Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to assist our local community. The City of Menifee has released details of events postponed, and classes, programs, activities, and facility closures (Audie Murphy Skate Park, Lazy Creek Center, and Senior Center).

Information phone lines and resources have been set up for residents and businesses. Riverside County Department of Public Health requested that the general public first **call 2-1-1** for COVID-19 resources, and information. The City is also working alongside local churches, and community based organizations to assist the city's most vulnerable. The City has opened up a phone line: (951) 672-9673, that will be staffed Monday-Friday from 8am-5pm, to assist with question, resource information, and assistance as it relates to COVID-19. Local grocery stores are currently looking into establishing senior shopping hours to accommodate this at-risk population, with Barons Markets announcing hours from 9am-9:30am set aside for seniors 65 years or better, and opening to the general public at 9:30am daily.

While this is a fluid and changing environment, as new recommendations are being made regularly, at this time only bars, nightclubs, breweries, and gastropubs are being asked to self-close, and restaurants to self-reduce occupancy to 50% and create a six foot table gap between patrons. As a reminder, the City provides vital services to the residents of



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Menifee from its support of our local businesses. There are other means to supporting our local businesses such as home delivery, or curb side pick-ups that is highly encouraged.

For businesses, the state has set up employer resources, such as their [Rapid Response Program](#) for businesses on the brink of closure, as well as tax assistance, [work sharing](#), as well as loans to get through the reductions in business ([SBA Disaster Relief](#)). For self-employed, there are available insurance programs, where contribution in the past 5-18 months must be made to be eligible. Please visit [Self-Employed/Independent Contractor](#) to learn more. Employers are encouraged to visit the Employment Development Department (EDD) at www.edd.ca.gov for more information, and visit their online portal for services. The City Economic Development Department and Chamber of Commerce has teamed up and has been outreaching to local businesses to provide critical resources available to them and their employees.

For employees, if they are sick or quarantined, they can file for [disability benefits](#). The Governor's Executive Order last week removed the one week unpaid waiting period, and benefits will be available to them in a few weeks, according to EDD.

If employees are unable to work to care for an ill or quarantined family member with COVID-19 certified by a medical professional, they can file a [Paid Family Leave claim](#) which provides up to six week of benefits for loss of wages at 2/3rds of wages, with EDD processing and issue payments within a few weeks.

If employees have children and have to miss work, and have no other care options and are unable to continue working normal hours remotely, they may be eligible for [Unemployment Insurance Benefits](#). Employees are encouraged to visit www.edd.ca.gov, as there are resources available to them.

Additional resources for employers/employees:

- [Labor and Workforce Development Agency](#) – Resources for employers and workers including workers' compensation and paid sick leave
- [Labor Commissioner's Office FAQs](#) – Employee leave options, compensation, and salary
- [Department of Fair Employment and Housing](#) – Job protection and employment discrimination

For more information regarding COVID-19, please visit www.cityofmenifee.us/coronavirus or please visit www.RivCoPH.org/coronavirus. To learn more about how to protect yourself from respiratory illnesses, like COVID-19, visit the COVID-19 Prevention and



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Treatment page at: (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019ncov/about/prevention-treatment.html>). For information regarding the city's emergency management plans, please contact the Public Works Department, Emergency Management Division, at www.cityofmenifee.us, or call 951-672-6777.

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ABOUT MENIFEE: *Situated in the heart of southern Riverside County along Interstate 215, Menifee is a vibrant, new city of more than 95,000 residents who enjoy a pleasant year-round climate, abundant recreational offerings, reasonably priced housing and convenient proximity to some of Southern California's premiere attractions and employment centers. Within its 50 square miles, Menifee's business, retail and entertainment outlets are starting to shape the community's character and this growing economic base is also contributing favorably to the city's strong financial position. Menifee's growing family-oriented population values the city's ongoing commitment to public safety, community events and smart growth for the future. All of these elements are working together to support the city's strategic vision to make Menifee one of the state's most promising new cities.*