



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Menifee Response to Coronavirus Outbreak

MENIFEE, CA– Based on the latest recommendations from the State Department of Public Health and Riverside County Public Health Department to slow the spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in our county, the City of Menifee is taking action to reduce potential exposure to this virus, especially for those individuals who are at higher risk of severe illness. As of Thursday, March 12, there are now 7 confirmed coronavirus cases in Riverside County, none of which are in Southwest Riverside County where Menifee resides.

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that is spreading from person to person in parts of the United States. The risk of infection with COVID-19 is higher for people who are close contact of someone known to have COVID-19 (community spread), for example healthcare workers, or household members. Other people at higher risk for infection are those who live in or have recently been in an area with an ongoing spread of COVID-19.

The virus spreads mainly between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet) through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It also may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

The City of Menifee is closely monitoring the rapidly evolving situation in coordination with the Riverside County Department of Public Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and local and regional public health and healthcare agencies. **The City of Menifee has developed an Emergency Operations Activation Level Plan, as a response to good public health policy, which consists of a four-phase plan to coordinate COVID-19 response activities by the City based on the orders received from the Riverside County Department of Public Health's postponing public gatherings of 250 people or more.**

City officials understand how Menifee and surrounding City residents enjoy and value the community events, programs and services that the City holds; however, under the guidance of County Public Health and in consultation with our expert internal emergency response staff, the City is making these difficult decisions in the best interest of the public's health and welfare.



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The following events and programs are being postponed:

1. March 28th – Multicultural Festival
2. Saturday April 4th - Music and Arts Festival
3. Saturday April 11th – Spring Fest + Centennial Park Grand Opening

Based on the latest situational updates, the City plans to evaluate the status of these programs on a weekly basis. In the meantime, other City programs will continue to operate as scheduled while staff follow all protocol and preventative recommendations and procedures, exercising good public health policy in the process.

The City of Menifee has also activated the city's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to allow for enhanced response coordination, and provided prevention messaging to health care professionals, businesses, schools, and the general public. Under the partial activation, the EOC has established a planning team that meets daily to discuss any changes and impacts of COVID-19.

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