CITY OF NEWARK
37101 Newark Blvd., Newark, CA 94560

# DECLARATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

## 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

**(Updated March 16, 2020)**

Newark City Manager David J. Benoun has declared a **LOCAL EMERGENCY** in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This declaration is based upon a variety of factors, including the Alameda County Public Health Department confirming evidence of community-acquired transmission within Alameda County and the President of the United States declaring a National State of Emergency.

This declaration will give the City legal authority and flexibility to mobilize resources in response to this unprecedented public health threat. This action also helps ensure that the municipal government can maintain critical services and operations and also protects our community from further transmission of the virus. Additionally, it allows the City to request mutual aid from regional, State, and other governmental entities.

The Newark City Council will be asked to ratify the declaration at a special meeting scheduled for **Tuesday, March 17, at 6:15 p.m.** inside the Council Chambers located inside Newark City Administration Building. The meeting remains open to the public; however, if there is a large number of attendees, measures may be taken to limit the number of people in the room. The City plans on livestreaming the meeting on the City's website.

The Coronavirus situation is rapidly evolving. Staff has been attending briefings hosted by County and Federal governments. We are also coordinating with the Alameda County Health Department and other governmental agencies.

To address this public health crisis and to comply with State and County Public Health Departments, the City is taking the following action:

## CLOSURE OF NON-ESSENTIAL CITY FACILITIES

The following City facilities are temporarily closed and will tentatively re-open on Monday, April 6, 2020. However, this situation is fluid and any re-openings are subject to change. Please watch for updates.

- **Clark W. Redeker Newark Senior Center** – 7801 Enterprise Drive
- **George M. Silliman Community Activity Center** – 6800 Mowry Avenue
- **Newark Community Center** – 35501 Cedar Boulevard
- **Newark Library** – 6300 Civic Terrace Avenue
- These closures include **Child Care and Pre-School.**

We apologize for the inconvenience these cancellations may cause.

## CITY HALL IS TEMPORARILY CLOSED

Newark City Hall is TEMPORARILY CLOSED.

City staff plans on re-opening building, planning, business licensing, finance payments, and non-emergency police responses. City staff is drafting policies and procedures to limit person-to-person contact so as to minimize the spread of the virus and also provide these services. These procedures will be announced as soon as possible.

## BUILDING AND CODE ENFORCEMENT INSPECTIONS

The City of Newark is currently not conducting and inspections. As explained above, City staff is drafting policies to provide limited services.

## POLICE RESPONSE

Our Police Department will continue to receive calls for service and will be prepared to address any needs for police service. However, the following questions will be asked when responding to any call for service:

- Have you or anyone you have contacted recently exhibited any flu or flu-like symptoms?
- Have you or anyone you have contacted recently traveled outside the United States in the last 21 days?

The questions are being asked in order to provide for a safe response for our Police Officers and to prevent further spread of the virus.

You should also be aware that Police Officers contact hundreds of people on a daily basis. All patrol vehicles are equipped with nitrile gloves, protective masks, and eye protection. Police Officers are allowed to use these materials in their discretion.

Additionally, the Newark Police Department will utilize telephone reporting for documenting some property climes and informational reports that do not require direct Police contact.

## CANCELLATION OF PUBLIC EVENTS

The following events have been CANCELLED:

- **NewBark Dog Park Grand Opening** (scheduled for March 21st); and
- **Family Day at the Park** (scheduled for April 4).

## CITY COUNCIL, PLANNING COMISSION, AND SENIOR ADVISORY MEETINGS

Planning Commission and Senior Advisory Meetings are CANCELLED until further notice.

However, in order to maintain a continuity of government, City Council meetings will continue as regularly scheduled and will remain open to the public. If there is a large number of attendees, measures may be taken to limit the number of people in the room. The City plans on continuing to cablecast and livestream meetings.

Also, please note that the situation is fluid and the announcements relating to public meetings may change.

## PROTECTING YOURSELF AND OTHERS

All people are strongly advised to comply with the following precautions to prevent the spread of germs and prevent respiratory illnesses:

- Wash hands with liquid soap and water and rub for **at least 20 seconds**;
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing;
- Refrain from touching your eyes, nose, and mouth;
- Stay home when you are sick;
- Get a flu shot to protect yourself and others from the flu, which has similar symptoms to COVID-19;
- Flu and other respiratory viruses are very common right now, and large group gatherings are places where viruses can spread. If you are not feeling well or are experiencing cold, flu, or other symptoms, stay home to avoid spreading germs;
- It is recommended to call your physician from home to determine if there is a need to be seen at a medical facility. Going directly to a medical facility with minor to moderate cold or flu-like symptoms may unnecessarily expose you and others;
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces; and
- Consult with your healthcare provider if you or your household members are at high risk for COID-19 complications

People who are well and healthy do not need to use a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory illnesses. A facemask can be worn for those who are coughing or sneezing to protect others from getting sick. The use of facemasks is crucial, however, for health workers and other people who are taking care of someone infected with COVID-19 in close settings.

Healthy people should not be excluded from any activities based on their race or country of origin. There is no racial, ethnic, or cultural basis for the disease. The City of Newark does not tolerate discrimination of any individuals.

## STAY INFORMED

While the uncertainty surrounding a new virus can cause stress and anxiety, it is important to rely on reputable sources for information. These sources include:

- World Health Organization
- Centers for Disease Control
- California Department of Public Health
- Alameda County Public Health Department.

Links to these agencies' websites – both for information generally related to COVID-19 as well guidelines relating to social gathering – can be found on the City's website.

*** END OF NOTICE ***