



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Dear South San Francisco residents and businesses owners,

As mentioned, The City of South San Francisco continues to closely monitor the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), which is causing an outbreak of respiratory illness throughout the world. The City is coordinating with the San Mateo County Health Department and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to obtain the most current guidance related to COVID-19. The CDC is the lead agency within the United States Government tasked with responding to the outbreak of respiratory illness caused by COVID-19.

San Mateo County Health recently issued a statement strongly advising **all non-essential gatherings should be canceled, postponed, or done remotely**. While there is no definition of “non-essential” or “gathering,” it is our duty as a City to ensure that our residents, and those that visit our City, remain safe during uncertain times. To view the latest San Mateo County Health statement, go to www.smchealth.org/coronavirus.

As a City, we have decided to cancel several upcoming events, including:

- The **South San Francisco Women’s Conference**, scheduled for Saturday, March 7th from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Joseph A. Fernekes building
- The 18th Annual **St. Patrick’s Day Dinner** sponsored by the Police Association, scheduled for Sunday, March 8th from 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the South San Francisco Conference Center
- The 23rd annual **Senior Health & Fitness Fair**, scheduled for Friday, March 13th from 9:00 a.m. – Noon at the Municipal Services Building
- The library is also postponing all **special library programs** scheduled for this weekend, Saturday and Sunday, as well as Monday

I want to assure all residents and business owners that the City is fully prepared to respond should a case arise in South San Francisco. In addition to our local preparedness efforts, the County of San Mateo and its Office of Emergency Services (OES) are coordinating their actions with the San Mateo County Health Department, the California Office of Emergency Services, and the CDC.

The County of San Mateo has opened a call center for residents with non-medical questions about COVID-19. Simply call 211 from your phone to be directed to this line.

Help prevent the spread of COVID-19:

While the immediate risk of this new virus to the American public is believed to be low at this time, everyone can do their part to remain healthy and prevent this virus from spreading. **The CDC is recommending preparedness, not panic.** We encourage everyone to take common-sense precautions to prevent the spread of all infectious diseases, including common illnesses like colds and flu.

- Stop shaking hands
- Avoid close contact with sick people.
- Avoid touching your face, particularly your eyes, nose, and mouth.

- While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible.
- Cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs.
- Check out the following information on handwashing and hygiene:
 - [CDC Videos for proper handwashing techniques](#)
 - [CDC General Handwashing Information](#)
- The CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.
- If you feel sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, and have traveled to China, Italy, or Iran, or were in close contact with someone with COVID-19 in the 14 days before you began to feel sick, seek medical care. Before you go to a doctor's office or emergency room, call ahead and tell them about your recent travel and your symptoms.

Although no confirmed cases of COVID-19 has been reported in the City of South San Francisco, please keep in mind that we are still in the middle of peak flu season.

Sincerely,



Richard Garbarino
Mayor