

Advisory 1 - March 13, 2020

The City of Bonita Springs continues citywide preparation with the safety and health of our community as the first consideration. City Council held a special meeting this morning and made the decision to postpone all special event permits for thirty days in the interest of preventing potential exposure of COVID-19. The city will offer refunds for event fees for cancelled events. For events that are postponed, the city will also work closely with event organizers for future planning purposes.

Upcoming events that are scheduled during the thirty day moratorium will need to be postponed or cancelled. The situation will be assessed again as this thirty day period concludes. Any future decisions about additional efforts will be communicated at that time. Prior to the meeting this morning, the city had been informed that approximately six upcoming event permits decided to cancel/postpone as a precaution for the local community. The city is also postponing upcoming city organized events, Celebrate Bonita and Movies in the Park.

“The safety and health of our community are the first consideration for Bonita Springs City Council and staff. We continue to monitor information provided from the Department of Health on the COVID-19 pandemic. This is a fluid situation with updates occurring frequently. We remain in close communication with federal, state and regional officials including representatives of the Florida Department of Health.” Mayor Peter Simmons

“Bonita Springs Fire Control and Rescue District stands ready to assist and is diligently monitoring updates. We will work closely with our community and inform you of information as soon as we have it available.” Chief Greg DeWitt

Additional precautions being taken:

- Taking proactive steps to help ensure safety. City staff is meeting with the Emergency Operations Center and Lee County Staff regularly to align efforts across jurisdictions. Lee County has not declared any State of Local Emergency at this time. The Lee County Emergency Operations Center is not activated at this time; EOC continues to monitor the situation.
- The city is offering all City Council meetings to be viewed online or on tv with the ability to send in public comments for the record. Public comments for a city council meeting can be emailed to Citymeetings@cityofbonitasprings.org. For information about streaming live visit: <http://www.cityofbonitasprings.org>. Cable channels include: Comcast, channel 98, Summit Broadband Cable Channel is 96, Hotwire, channel 398. Century Link/Prism TV, channel 87
- Non-essential meetings are being postponed.
- Stretch and Tone classes at the Bonita Springs Recreation Center will be cancelled starting on Wednesday March 18th until further notice.
- Bonita Springs is working closely with the Bonita Springs Fire Control and Rescue District and the Lee County Sheriff's Office and each agency is working to ensure public safety is always maintained , even if staffing levels are reduced significantly due to illness or quarantine.
- Health and safety information has been posted and hand sanitizer is now available in all city buildings and workspaces.

- City staff have been instructed to disinfect shared common surfaces like doorknobs, counters, refrigerator handles, microwaves, water fountains, vending machines, etc.
- Employee work related travel has been limited only to essential travel.
- Sick employees, board members and citizens are asked to remain at home and not attend public meetings to conduct city business.
- Essential personnel and tools and support needed to perform their duties are being identified.
- When possible, staff has been asked to conduct meetings via phone or other technologies where it makes sense to reduce in person meetings.
- COVID-19 resource information is posted on the city website.
- Continued review of city processes, policies and procedures to reflect all current recommendations and best practices.
- Implementation of responsible public health measures based on circumstances and the recommendations of Florida Department of Health.

Please visit the Department of Health's dedicated COVID-19 webpage for information and guidance regarding COVID-19 in Florida. For any other questions related to COVID-19 in Florida, please contact the Department's dedicated COVID-19 Call Center by calling 1-(866) 779-6121. The Call Center is available 24 hours a day. Inquiries may also be emailed to COVID-19@flhealth.gov.

What You Should Know

COVID-19 can spread from person to person through small droplets from the nose or mouth, including when an individual coughs or sneezes. These droplets may land on objects and surfaces. Other people may contract COVID-19 by touching these objects or surfaces, then touching their eyes, nose or mouth.

Symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, cough and shortness of breath. Symptoms may appear in as few as two days or as many as 14 days following exposure. Most people recover from COVID-19 without needing special treatment. The elderly and those with underlying medical problems like high blood pressure, heart problems and diabetes are more likely to develop serious illness.

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to the virus. The Department recommends everyday preventive actions to help stop the spread of respiratory diseases, including:

- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick;
- Staying home when you are sick and avoiding contact with persons in poor health;
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands;
- Covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then disposing of the tissue;
- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing;

- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty; and

- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

The CDC does not recommend that asymptomatic, healthy people wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19. Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of facemasks is also crucial for health workers and people who are taking care of someone in close settings (at home or in a health care facility).

A person that experiences a fever and symptoms of respiratory illness, such as fever, cough or shortness of breath, within 14 days after travel from China, Italy, Iran, South Korea, Japan and any other destination under CDC travel advisory should call ahead to their health care provider and local CHD and mention their recent travel or close contact.

If a person has had close contact with someone showing these symptoms who has recently traveled from this area or been in contact with a person with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19, they should call ahead to a health care professional and the CHD. The health care provider will work with the Department to determine if the person should be tested for COVID-19.