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Mayor

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***** Media Advisory *****
Coronavirus (COVID-19) Daily Update
March 20, 2020

The City and County of San Francisco has issued a Public Health Order requiring that residents stay home, with the only exception being for essential needs. The Order is in effect until April 7, 2020, or later if extended. [Link to the announcement here.](#)

Additionally, on March 19, Governor Gavin Newsom issued a statewide order for all Californians to stay home. [Link to the announcement here.](#)

*** New * [Statement from Mayor London N. Breed on the statewide order here.](#)**

The City and County of San Francisco is focused on implementing the City's Public Health Order requiring residents remain in place to disrupt COVID-19 and protect community health. We caution the media and the public from relying too heavily on confirmed case count as an indicator of the situation in San Francisco.

The most important thing that people can do is to follow the Public Health Order to stay home except for essential needs, practice social distancing, maintain good hygiene and look out for one another. Confirmed cases in San Francisco are available on the Department of Public Health website at sfdph.org. Updates will be made regularly.

Frequently Asked Questions here: <https://sf.gov/stay-home-except-essential-needs>

GENERAL UPDATES

San Francisco Health Orders Issued:

- [Order Prohibiting Visitors to Residential Care Facilities](#) (3/19/20)
- [Moratorium on Routine Medical Appointments and Elective Surgery; Encourage Cannabis Delivery](#) (3/18/20)
- [Requiring Residents Stay at Home Except for Essential Needs](#) (3/16/20)

- [Order Limiting Hospital Visitors \(3/13/20\)](#)
- [Order Prohibiting All Large Group Events of 100 or more persons \(3/13/2020\)](#)
- [Order Prohibiting Visitors to Long-Term Care Facilities \(3/12/2020\)](#)

More City and County of San Francisco Public Health Orders related to the COVID-19 response can be found at <https://www.sfdph.org/dph/alerts/coronavirus-healthorders.asp>

Commercial COVID-19 Lab Testing:

Commercial and clinical laboratory COVID-19 testing options are currently available to the public upon **clinician referral**. All positive COVID-19 cases are reported to the appropriate county public health agencies. Due to limited testing capacity, the SFDPH Public Health Laboratory will continue to prioritize COVID-19 testing resources for hospitalized patients and vulnerable, at-risk populations.

[More information about COVID-19 testing and the SFDPH Public Health Laboratory](#)

[Photos](#) and [video b-roll](#) of SFDPH Public Health Laboratory COVID-19 laboratory testing.

*** New*** [Link to press conference](#) at the Emergency Operations Center at the Moscone Center.

Social Distancing Update:

The City's Public Health Order, requiring residents stay home with the only exception being for essential needs, contains the latest information about social distancing guidelines. [Link to the announcement here.](#)

Vulnerable Populations

- The Health Officer issued an order prohibiting visitors to residential care facilities in order to protect community members, residents, staff and health care providers from the spread of the virus. [Link to the announcement here.](#)
- Mayor London N. Breed announced that the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) will no longer shut off water or power for delinquent payments, and that both the SFPUC and the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) will no longer add penalties on to delinquent payments during the City's Local Emergency response to coronavirus. These actions are part of the City's response to reduce financial impacts on individuals during the COVID-19 pandemic. [Link to announcement here.](#)
- Mayor Breed announced a moratorium on residential evictions related to financial impacts caused by COVID-19. The moratorium will prevent any resident from being evicted due to a loss of income related to a business closure, loss of hours or wages, layoffs, or out-of-pocket medical costs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. [Link to the announcement here.](#)

For more information on vulnerable populations guidelines, visit: <https://sf.gov/news/san-francisco-responded-coronavirus-new-directives-and-expanded-resources>

Workplace and Businesses

- Mayor Breed announced a moratorium on commercial evictions for small and medium-sized businesses related to financial impacts caused by COVID-19. The moratorium will prevent any small to medium-sized business from being evicted due to a loss of income related to lost revenue or other economic impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. [Link to the announcement here.](#)
- Mayor London N. Breed announced a Workers and Families First Program to provide paid sick leave to private sector workers who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. [Link to the announcement here.](#)
- Mayor London N. Breed and City Administrator Naomi M. Kelly announced that the City and County of San Francisco's Give2SF Fund (www.Give2SF.org) allows the City to accept tax-deductible monetary contributions, which can be spent on various City efforts to respond to the novel coronavirus outbreak and support residents and small businesses. [Link to the announcement here.](#)

For more information on workplace and business protections, visit: <https://sf.gov/news/san-francisco-responded-coronavirus-new-directives-and-expanded-resources>

Schools

- On March 17, SFUSD began providing free breakfast and lunch to all children 18 and younger at several pick-up sites Monday through Friday. [Link to SFUSD information.](#)
- SFUSD announced closure of all public schools for three weeks, beginning Monday, March 16 through the end of regularly scheduled spring break (which ends Friday, April 3). [Link to the announcement here.](#)
- The Archdiocese of San Francisco has closed its school buildings and canceled classes and student-related activities from March 12 - March 25. [Link to the announcement here.](#)

City Facilities

- Find out which City services are open during the coronavirus outbreak [here](#).

Transit and Traffic Updates

- Most **Muni** routes are operating, but with reduced frequency. Muni will cut most express and specialized commuter routes. [Link to the SFMTA update here.](#)
- **Parking Enforcement:** Effective Tuesday, March 17 at midnight through the end of March, the SFMTA will not ticket for mechanical street cleaning. Street cleaning tickets issued on March 17 will be waived. However, it is crucial that we still clean our streets to prevent trash buildup and local flooding. Please still move your car for street cleaning if you can. [More enforcement information here.](#)
- **511** has a complete list of transit service updates for the Bay Area. [Information is available here.](#)

Health Care Settings

- In order to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus and to free medical capacity for more acute conditions, a Public Health Order was issued requiring that elective surgeries be postponed, and that routine health care, counselling and other appointments be cancelled, postponed or conducted remotely. The Order permits in-person essential appointments if the provider screens the patient and follows social distancing protocols. The Order encourages the city's pharmacies and cannabis dispensaries to do everything possible to promote home delivery. [Link to the announcement here.](#) [Link to the order here.](#)
- To ensure the safety of residents, staff and visitors, San Francisco's Health Officer issued an order restricting visitors to Laguna Honda Hospital. [Link to the order here.](#)
- To extend protections for vulnerable populations in long-term care facilities, San Francisco's Health Officer issued an order restricting visitors from all of the City's 18 private long-term care facilities. [Link to the announcement here.](#)
- To protect vulnerable people in hospitals, San Francisco's Health Officer issued limitations on hospital visitations. [Link to order here.](#)

Everyone: Do Your Part

- Follow the Public Health Order and stay home, except for essential needs.
- When going out for essential activities, maintain social distancing (at least six feet)
- Look out for each other. Check on, by phone or online, older adults, people with underlying medical conditions and other who may be vulnerable and socially isolated.
- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Cover your cough or sneeze.
- If you are performing an essential service, stay home if you are sick.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Try alternatives to shaking hands, like a wave.

Stay Informed:

For the latest news on COVID-19, visit sf.gov and sign up for the City's alert service for official updates: text **COVID19SF** to **888-777**.