

Supervisor Monica Brown Newsletter

SUPERVISOR MONICA BROWN MARCH 2020 NEWSLETTER

Hello Benicia, Fairfield and Vallejo,

I hope you are all staying safe during this time. In lieu of my traditional monthly newsletter, I will be focusing on the Coronavirus and what resources are available to you during this time. Please don't hesitate to contact my office if we can be of help to you. I can be reached at 707-784-3031 or at mebrown@solanocounty.com.

All of us are concerned about the impact of the Coronavirus. I urge everyone to exercise caution and follow the recommendations of the public health department. Many of you have contacted me concerning the shelter in place order that was put in place yesterday for 6 Bay Area counties. Solano was not a part of this order. I was told there would be a video update from our Public Health Officer Dr. Bella Matyas. This video will give you an update on what decisions the county has made. The video was not available when I sent this newsletter out. I will send the video out once I receive it.

Benicia Mayor Elizabeth Patterson reached out to me to request the county issue a shelter in place order. I reached out to the County Administrator and the Public Health Officer to express my support for Mayor Patterson's request for the county to issue a shelter in place order. I personally do not get to make that decision; this is the decision of the County Administrator and Public Health Officer.

I am providing you with information about some resources available to you during this time. Please remember that this situation is constantly evolving and there will likely be new information that comes out.

On a personal note, I truly understand your concerns. I am going to be 68 next month. Because of my age (over 65), I am in a high-risk category for the Coronavirus. Going forward, I will be doing my best to limit my time outside of my house. I would encourage all of you, especially those in my age group and/or those with underlying medical conditions, to shelter in place as much as possible.

Please follow all health and safety guidelines. Please wash your hands regularly and avoid touching your face with unwashed hands. Please cover your mouth or cough and/or sneeze into your elbow.

CALIFORNIA ATTORNEY'S GENERAL OFFICE INVESTIGATING PRICE GOUGING

If you notice unusually high prices during this time, please report this to the California Attorney's General office. Price gouging is illegal and those who do this should be held accountable. Please contact the Attorney General's Office at oag.ca.gov/report or at 800-952-5225.

RECEIVING HEALTHCARE FOR CORONAVIRUS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED A PUBLIC CHARGE

The public charge rule, which essentially says that immigrants who are determined to cost the government money will be denied lawful permanent residency. The federal government recently and unfortunately expanded this rule to include non-cash aid, which it previously did not. The Board of Supervisors unanimously opposed this change.

I learned from Congressman Mike Thompson that seeking treatment for Coronavirus will not be considered a public charge. Members of our community should feel safe to receive coronavirus related healthcare services regardless of immigration status. This is imperative to protect the health and safety of our community.

GOVERNMENT CLOSURES

Many offices have closed for the time being. If you need to go somewhere, I would suggest calling ahead and determining if the office is open and whether you can conduct business over the phone and/or online.

The Solano County Libraries have closed through March 31. Late fines will not be charged during this time.

The Benicia Public Library (which is run independently from the county library system) will be closed through March 31. Due dates and fines have been extended.

The Vallejo police department will close their front lobby until further notice. Persons wishing to obtain records from the police department should call 707-648 4491 between the hours of 9:30 am-5:00 pm Monday-Thursday. You can also obtain information at www.vallejopd.com.

The Benicia 707-747-8300, Fairfield 707-399-500 and Vallejo 707-556-8921 School Districts will still be offering meals to students during the school closures.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

If you lose your job or your hours are reduced at this time because of the coronavirus, you may be eligible for unemployment insurance. For more information, please visit www.edd.ca.gov.

SUPPORT FOR SENIORS

During this trying time when seniors are advised to stay home as much as possible, please be sure to reach out if you need help. Faith in Action in Solano County has a program for peer counseling for seniors. If you are interested, you can get more information at 707-425-6164 or at <https://www.faithinactionsolano.org/senior-peer-counseling-program/>.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) has a resource guide for coping with coronavirus. <https://www.nami.org/getattachment/About-NAMI/NAMI-News/2020/NAMI-Updates-on-the-Coronavirus/COVID-19-Updated-Guide-1.pdf?lang=en-US>

ALERT SOLANO

To receive emergency notifications from the county, please sign up here: <https://www.solanocounty.com/depts/oes/alertsolano/information.asp>.

ONGOING INFORMATION

Please check Solano Public Health's website regularly: (<http://www.solanocounty.com/depts/ph/ncov.asp>)

Please check the State Department of Public Health's website: (<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/ncov2019.aspx>).

INSURANCE COVERAGE AND COST OF TESTING

Here is a link to a press release from the California Department of Insurance: <http://www.insurance.ca.gov/0400-news/0100-press-releases/2020/release025-2020-2.cfm>

OFFICE HOURS

Unfortunately, given what is happening, my office hours will have to be cancelled for now. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me by phone or by email. I am here for you.

TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

The San Francisco Bay Ferry will have reduced service. For more information please visit: <https://sanfranciscobayferry.com/news/shelter>

Capitol Corridor will also be making changes in service. For more information, please visit: https://www.capitolcorridor.org/blogs/get_on_board/capitol-corridor-novel-coronavirus/

IN MEMORY OF

I adjourned the March 10th Board of Supervisors meeting in memory of Dr. Hoe T. Poh. Dr. Poh was a resident of Benicia. I knew him and his wife Mary Frances Kelly-Poh through our community involvement. He was an active community member and he will be missed.

Please remember that we are all in this together. It is going to take all of us to keep our community safe during the coming days and weeks. If you order out for dinner, please order takeout from a local business. Stay safe.

Sincerely,

Monica Brown

Solano County Supervisor, District 2.



Elected in 2016, Monica represents District 2 on the Solano County Board of Supervisors. District 2 encompasses the city of Benicia, the portion of Vallejo south of Georgia Street, Mare Island, Cordelia, Green Valley and a portion of Fairfield.