



SUPERVISOR MONICA BROWN CORONAVIRUS UPDATE #4 (04/3/2020)

Hello Benicia, Fairfield and Vallejo,

Welcome to the fourth coronavirus update. I want to provide you with resources available during this crisis. If I can be of any help to you during this time, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. I can be reached at 707-784-3031 or at mebrown@solanocounty.com.

It is with a heavy heart that I inform you Solano County has reported our first death from the coronavirus. I want to extend my condolences to their family and loved ones during this difficult time. They are in my thoughts. The victim was a Solano County resident who was 85+ years old, had underlying health issues and had recently traveled out of the country. This update is dedicated to their memory.

Thank you to first responders, grocery workers, restaurant workers and all the essential employees still working during this time. You are keeping us going and I am extremely thankful for all you do.

Please remember that this is a constantly evolving situation. New information is received regularly. Please be sure to check the information to ensure it is the most up to date. Almost all government offices (including the county) are closed to the public during this time. Please call ahead of time to make sure that offices are open to the public, and if you can conduct your business via phone, mail, fax or online. I encourage you to postpone any business you cannot conduct online, via fax, mail or the phone until this crisis is over. When you must go out, please practice social distancing (6ft apart) and please remember to wash your hands with soap for 20 seconds regularly. Please don't touch your face with unwashed hands.

I understand that this is a difficult time for all of us. So many things have had to be put on hold during this time. While I know it is difficult, I ask that you follow the stay home order. Please do not go out unless it is for an essential activity. Staying home will help to stop the spread of the coronavirus. Please remember that we are all in this together.

STIMULUS BILL

Under the CARES act (stimulus bill), there are many benefits that are available to us:

STIMULUS MONEY:

Every U.S. citizen and lawful permanent resident who earns an adjusted gross income (AGI) of \$75,000 or less will receive \$1,200. The amount is reduced until you hit \$99,000 AGI and then is eliminated. This will be based on your 2019 tax returns or your 2018 tax returns if you have not yet filed 2019 tax returns. If you have not filed tax returns for those years but still qualify, you will still receive the money, but it may take a little longer. The IRS will set up something on their website for people who do not have direct deposit on file so that you may utilize direct deposit. Once I have that information, I will share it.

SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORT:

There are many resources available for small business in the stimulus. There is debt relief for previous SBA loans, the opportunity for forgivable SBA loans and other resources. Here is a guide from the House Committee on Small Business: https://smallbusiness.house.gov/uploadedfiles/cares_act_small_business_adminstration_summary.pdf

If you need assistance navigating these federal programs, you can contact your Congressperson's office. If you live in Benicia or Vallejo, please call Congressman Mike Thompson's office at 707-645-1888. If you live in the rest of Solano County, please call Congressman John Garamendi's office at 707-438-1822.

Also, the Solano Small Business Development Center has a resource page for small businesses impacted by Covid-19: <https://www.solanosbdc.org/covid-19>

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS:

The stimulus bill is providing an additional money for unemployment and providing states the ability to provide benefits longer. If you are out of work, please file for unemployment insurance. Please go to <https://edd.ca.gov/> to apply for unemployment.

RETIREMENT ACCOUNT REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTION (RMD)

Under the stimulus bill, those over age 70 ½ who normally would be required to take their RMD from their retirement accounts are not required to take them for 2020. If you have a traditional IRA, a 401(k)

or similar retirement account, you are generally required to take an RMD when you reach 70 ½. Contact your financial adviser if you need more information.

WORKPLACE BENEFITS:

There are many benefits for workers included in the stimulus bill. For more information, please visit: <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic>

DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP AS A TEMPORARY ALTERNATIVE TO MARRIAGE

Given the coronavirus, Solano County is not providing in person services to the public except in very limited circumstances. This includes marriage licenses. I do not know of any counties in the area that are providing marriage licenses currently.

People have contacted my office concerning the need for a marriage license. Unfortunately, you must appear in person for a marriage license. For those who need immediate access to the benefits of marriage for health insurance, decision making powers over healthcare, inheritance rights and other benefits, a Domestic Partnership may be a good temporary alternative for you.

Domestic Partnerships provide all the same rights, responsibilities, and benefits as marriage under state law (although not necessarily under federal law). Domestic Partnerships used to be limited to same-sex couples and were designed to provide a legal relationship like marriage before equal marriage laws.

Effective January of this year, any two people (same-sex and opposite sex) eligible to enter into a marriage may enter into a Domestic Partnership. When the crisis is over, you may enter into a marriage with the person you entered into a Domestic Partnership with. A Dissolution of a Domestic Partnership is handled the same as a divorce.

For the tax and legal implications, please speak to an Attorney and/or a financial professional. To obtain a Domestic Partnership, you will need to file a form with the Secretary of State's office. Here is the link: <https://www.sos.ca.gov/registries/domestic-partners-registry/>.

The forms will need to be notarized. If you need a notary and are unable to afford one, please contact my office.

SOLANO COVID-19 DASHBOARD

For information on Solano County's Covid-19 numbers and resources, here is a link to the county's Covid-19 site: <http://www.solanocounty.com/depts/ph/ncov.asp>

SHELTER AT HOME ORDER EXTENDED FOR SOLANO COUNTY

The shelter at home order has been extended for Solano County through April 30th. For more information about Solano County's shelter at order, please see: http://www.solanocounty.com/depts/ph/covid_19_health_order.asp

PG&E REBATE

PG&E is required to provide a climate credit to its customers. Here is a link for more information on the upcoming rebate: <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/climatecredit/>

EDUCATION RESOURCES

School Closures have been extended throughout the rest of the school year. Here is some information about education during this time:

RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS AT HOME:

<https://www.history.com/>

<https://www.loc.gov/item/today-in-history/april-03/>

<http://tu.edu/emergency/covid-resources.html>

<https://www.edhelper.com/>

<https://www.education.com/>

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNOR AND EDUCATORS:

Gov. Newsom reached an agreement with many of the stakeholders in education. Here is a link to the framework for the agreement: <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/4.1.20-Labor-Management-Framework.pdf>

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS:

Here is an article regarding college admissions in California during the coronavirus crisis: https://www.timesheraldonline.com/2020/04/02/coronavirus-amid-covid-19-outbreak-ca-college-k-12-systems-issue-joint-statement-on-college-admissions-placement-agreements/?utm_source=listrak&utm_medium=email&utm_term=https%3a%2f%2fwww.timesheraldonline.com%2f2020%2f04%2f02%2fcoronavirus-amid-covid-19-outbreak-ca-college-k-12-systems-issue-joint-statement-on-college-admissions-placement-agreements%2f&utm_campaign=norcal-vallejo-morning-report&utm_content=automated

PROPERTY TAX DEADLINE

I have received many requests to delay the property tax deadline. Only the state can extend the deadline. The county does not have the authority to do that. I sent a letter to the state asking for the property tax deadline to be extended. Frankly, it does not look like this will happen. Solano County's Tax Collector Charles Lomeli has utilized his authority to waive penalties for those impacted by the coronavirus. Documentation will be required. I thank Mr. Lomeli for doing all he can in this situation. For more information, here is an article from the Daily Republic: <https://www.dailyrepublic.com/all-dr-news/solano-news/fairfield/solano-county-offers-property-tax-penalty-relief-due-to-covid-19/>

HEALTH INSURANCE ASSISTANCE THROUGH COVERED CALIFORNIA

Covered California, California's insurance exchange through the Affordable Care Act, has extended their special enrollment period through June 30th. If you need health insurance, you may qualify for financial assistance. For more information, visit: <https://www.coveredca.com/>

CASHLESS (NOT PAYMENTLESS) BRIDGE TOLLS

The Bay Area bridges with tolls will not be accepting cash during this time. If you do not have Fastrack, a bill will be sent to you in the mail. They will use your license plate to get your information.

CENSUS

Please remember to fill out your census. This will determine our representation in Congress, where businesses will locate and how much money will be sent to us for programs. It is extremely important that we all respond. Here is the link: <https://2020census.gov/>

RESOURCES AVAILABLE DURING THIS TIME:

<https://www.ci.benicia.ca.us/coronavirus>

https://www.cityofvallejo.net/city_hall/departments_divisions/city_manager/city_news_and_reports/critical_incidents/covid-19_novel_coronavirus

<https://onwardca.org/> (Help finding jobs)

http://www.solanocounty.com/depts/ph/coronavirus_links/resources.asp

<https://www.aging.ca.gov/covid19/> (Resources for seniors)

I hope this information helps. If I can be of any assistance to you, please don't hesitate to contact me. Please call your neighbors, friends and family to check up on them (while following all social distancing guidelines of course). Let's all do our best to help each other and spread kindness. We are all in this together. Please stay safe.

Sincerely,

Monica Brown,

Solano County Supervisor, District 2.