



Town of Yucca Valley

57090 Twentynine Palms Hwy
Yucca Valley, CA 92284
(760) 369-7207 ~ (760) 369-0626 fax
www.yucca-valley.org

**PRESS
RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For more information please contact: Town Clerk Lesley Copeland, (760) 369-7207

COVID – 19 Update and Related Information

With the recent introduction and spread of COVID-19 in the United States, the Town of Yucca Valley has been actively monitoring the event and related actions through our partnerships with the California Department of Health, and the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health. Both agencies are working collaboratively with the Center for Disease Control.

Town Response

The Town has made it a priority to ensure that information is being shared as it is received, and more importantly, directing individuals to the appropriate source for ongoing information, including the County Department of Health, the State Department of Public Health and the Center for Disease Control. These sites provide the most updated and current information and recommendations related to this event.

Town - <http://www.yucca-valley.org/>
County - <http://wp.sbcounty.gov/dph/coronavirus/>
County Non-Medical Hotline (909) 387-3911 for General Information
State - <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/>
Federal - <https://www.cdc.gov/>

Town Activities

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH), the Governor of the State of California, the County Department of Public Health, and the Center for Disease Control have issued guidance related to the planning, delivery and execution of various types of gatherings and events. Based on the issued guidelines, the Town has cancelled non-essential Town programs and events through April 30th, 2020. This will include the following events, programs and activities:

1. St. Pet-Ricks Day Adoption Event
2. First Saturday Senior Center Event
3. Easter Egg Hunt
4. Earth Day
5. Temporary Closure of the Yucca Valley Senior Center

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6. Cancellation of rental of Town facilities for all events/programs with over 50 participants
7. Cancellation of all Town sponsored Enrichment Classes

Currently, all Town offices remain open for normal business hours. Other programs and events may meet the criteria as identified or modified by the federal, state or county health departments and will be cancelled as required.

Family Services Association Meal Program

Family Services Association (FSA) is the lead agency that provides meals to seniors and others at the Yucca Valley Senior Center. On-site meals will transition to pick up meals effective immediately, with meal distribution taking place Tuesday – Thursday, between 11 am – 1 pm. On-site dining will not be available. For those individuals needing delivery assistance, please contact FSA at (760) 257-5761.

Small Business Assistance

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is offering low-interest federal disaster loans to California small businesses suffering substantial economic injury as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). According to SBA Administrator Jovita Carranza, small businesses, private non-profit organizations of any size, small agricultural cooperatives and small aquaculture enterprises that have been financially impacted as a direct result of the Coronavirus since January 31, 2020, may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans of up to \$2 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred. These loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable and other bills that cannot be paid because of the disaster's impact. The interest rate is 3.75% for small businesses and 2.75% for non-profit organizations. SBA offers loans with long-term repayments in order to keep the payments affordable, up to a maximum of 30 years.

Applicants may apply online at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov>, call (800) 659-2955, or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. The deadline to apply for an Economic Injury Disaster Loan is December 16, 2020.

Best Health Practices Recommendations

As with any virus, especially during the flu season, there are several steps you can take to protect your health and those around you:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Wash hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and 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.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth, especially with unwashed hands.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using regular household cleaning spray or wipes.

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- If someone does become sick with respiratory symptoms like fever and cough, they should stay away from work, school or other people to avoid spreading illness and contact their healthcare provider if symptoms become severe.
 - N95 masks are **not** recommended outside a healthcare setting. Surgical masks can be worn by sick individuals to reduce the likelihood of spreading germs to others.

The public is encouraged to practice common sense and avoid extreme actions such as hoarding, sensationalizing, propagation of false information via social media, and other discourteous and unhelpful behavior.

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