



# *Press Release*

**For Immediate Release:**  
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## **City of South El Monte Declares Local Emergency Due to Public Threat Caused by the Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

**South El Monte, CA** – The City of South El Monte has declared a Local Emergency due to the Public Health threat caused by Coronavirus (COVID-19). Although there are still zero confirmed cases in South El Monte, the declaration is out of an abundance of caution to protect the health, safety, and welfare of our community members and employees. This action is in response to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health’s recent announcement of the first coronavirus death and the Governor’s recent declaration of a state of emergency. The City of South El Monte’s emergency declaration will enable City officials and staff to mobilize resources, formalize an emergency action and contingency plan, and obtain additional resources should an outbreak occur in the City.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health has confirmed 27 cases of coronavirus in Los Angeles County and has issued warnings regarding the impacts and severity of this event. COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that is easily spread through personal contact, which can lead to serious illness or death for vulnerable members of the community.

The City of South El Monte is following the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health’s latest recommendations to cancel and postpone community events and gatherings where large groups are expected. Consequently, the City of South El Monte is implementing the following precautionary measures:

- Cancellation and postponement of March community events including Baby Pageant, Census Walk, Little League Opening Ceremonies, and T-Ball Opening Ceremonies.
- Temporary closure of the South El Monte Senior Center until further notice. For our regular Elderly Nutrition Program participants, a meal pick-up station will be set up outside of the Senior Center. Beginning March 16, 2020, seniors will be able to receive five frozen meals a week for a suggested donation of \$15. City personnel will deliver meals to senior residents who are homebound or unable to pick up their meals in person.
- The after-school program will remain in effect; however, the South El Monte Community Center will be temporarily closed to the general public until further notice. Any facility rentals will still be held as scheduled.

We apologize for any inconvenience these measures may have caused, however the well-being of our community and staff is the City's highest priority. Please visit our social media page and website [cityofsouthelmonte.org](http://cityofsouthelmonte.org) for up to date information.

Community members are strongly encouraged to follow the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health's recommendations to protect themselves from the COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses highlighted below:

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and then dispose of the tissue and clean your hands immediately. If you do not have a tissue, use your sleeve (not your hands).
- Limit close contact with people who are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipes.

Always check with trusted sources for the latest accurate information about COVID-19:

- Los Angeles County Department of Public Health <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/>

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**The City of South El Monte**, "The City of Achievement" is a vibrant and thriving community, located in the heart of the San Gabriel Valley, just minutes from downtown of Los Angeles. Our community members are the heart of South El Monte and for that reason, the City of South El Monte is always striving to enhance the quality of life and provide exceptional service. For more information on the City of South El Monte visit [www.cityofsouthelmonte.org](http://www.cityofsouthelmonte.org).