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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, MARCH 13, 2020

# NEWS RELEASE

## City Closing Facilities and Canceling/Modifying Upcoming Meetings

**Durango, CO:** As a proactive mitigation effort, the City of Durango is coordinating with [San Juan Basin Public Health](#) and La Plata County to take measures to ensure our staff and community members are not exposed to or contributing to the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19).

### **City of Durango facility closures effective Monday, March 16:**

- Durango Community Recreation Center
- Chapman Hill
- Durango Gymnastics
- Durango Public Library

All previously scheduled Recreation and Library programs, as well as meeting room rentals, will be canceled during this closure period. We will be evaluating the ability to issue refunds or credits for recreation passes, memberships, and meeting room rentals. The City facility and program closures will be in effect through April 7, 2020. All other City facilities are still operating normally.

During the closure, City staff will conduct a deep cleaning and disinfection of these facilities as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers.

For additional information regarding Parks and Recreation Department services, please call (970) 375-7321 or email [rec@durangogov.org](mailto:rec@durangogov.org). For additional information regarding Durango Public Library services, please call (970) 375-3389 or [sandy.irwin@durangogov.org](mailto:sandy.irwin@durangogov.org)

### **Public meeting cancelations and modifications:**

- **The regular City Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 17 has been canceled.**
- The City will shift its meeting practices using an online meeting platform for councilors and the public to access via computer and telephone. Public participation at relevant meetings will be handled through this platform and information for joining the meeting will be distributed prior to the meeting.
- The City Council Study Session on Tuesday, March 24 will shift to a virtual meeting.
- The next regular City Council meeting for Tuesday, April 7 will shift to a virtual meeting

- All Boards and Commissions meetings will shift to virtual meetings through at least April 7.

The City appreciates your understanding as we implement mitigation efforts to increase social distancing due to the Coronavirus in accordance with best practices recommended by San Juan Basin Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Everyone plays a role in preparing and staying healthy. The City encourages citizens to protect themselves as they would against any respiratory virus:

- Clean hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub.
- Cover nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing.
- Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms.
- Plan for ways to increase space between people to at least 6 feet.
- Staying home if you feel sick.
- Get a flu shot if you haven't gotten one this year.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

People who are ill or concerned they may have been exposed to the virus **should call their primary care physician**, or Mercy Hospital's Emergency Department at 970-764-2100 to receive further instruction. The most up to date information about the virus is available on [San Juan Basin Public Health's website](#).

Other helpful resources include the [Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment](#), the [CDC](#) and the COHelp line at 877-462-2911.

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