



San Carlos News Release

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CITY OF SAN CARLOS TO HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE IN RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

(San Carlos, CA, March 11, 2020) – The City of San Carlos will hold a press conference today at 6:00 p.m., at City Hall, (600 Elm Street), to discuss the City’s response to the coronavirus, and coordinated efforts with County, State, and Federal officials to keep our community safe.

Mayor Ron Collins will speak and introduce: Deputy County Manager Iliana Rodriguez; Regional Director of Health and Human Services Region 9, Edward Heidig; and CalOES Acting Deputy Director of Response, Eric Lamoureux. These officials will provide details on the temporary relocation of passengers from the Grand Princess cruise ship to a secure facility in San Carlos, and answer questions relating to public safety and health. Every measure is being taken by the responsible agencies to ensure that no additional public exposure occurs.

As the City of Good Living, San Carlos prides itself on being a welcoming community. We know that San Carlans will rise to this occasion to welcome and empathize with those who find themselves stranded in our community through no fault of their own.

The events of the past few weeks surrounding the coronavirus outbreak have been unsettling to a great many. Families, businesses, and daily lives have been disrupted and tragically, lives have been lost.

The official response by the Federal and State governments is rapidly unfolding and impacts have been felt across the state and the nation.

It was highly unexpected when City Staff was notified that passengers of the Grand Princess cruise ship would be housed in San Carlos while receiving care to help them recover—and we hope they will be able to eventually return home to their families.

San Carlos did not seek this role, nevertheless, we find ourselves in the position to temporarily house patients, stranded far from home and isolated. And so it is our duty, not just as San Carlans but as fellow human beings, to embrace our core principles of fostering a safe, welcoming, inclusive community that values family, diversity, and safety.

We recognize that a world-wide pandemic is a frightening event. We understand and respect our community member's concerns. The Federal and State plan prioritizes, not only the safety and well-being of these patients who will be housed here for care, but also the safety of our residents and community. Every measure is being taken by the responsible agencies to secure the housing site so there is no contamination or spread of the virus from this location.

Further, the City maintains a robust and open line of communication with State and Federal officials. The City will share information updates with the community in a timely manner and as appropriate, while respecting the privacy of those who are recovering.

As your city officials, we pledge to protect our community as we serve as host of a designated site assigned by the State and Federal governments to provide shelter and a safe haven for those currently in a much less fortunate situation than we. We hope that you will join us in welcoming and be accepting of those in need.

The situation with coronavirus is a dynamic one. We ask the public to check the City's website regularly for updates. The public is encouraged to heed the advice of the San Mateo County Department of Health and the CDC to stay healthy and reduce the risk of infection.

These are difficult times but San Carlos is a resilient community and we will get through this together.

The City will continue to update the community as new information becomes available via our website at www.cityofsancarlos.org/coronavirus. We have also set up a hotline at (650) 802-4347.

For more information regarding the coronavirus, please visit San Mateo County Health at www.smchealth.org/coronavirus or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at www.cdc.gov. For non-medical related questions regarding the coronavirus, please call the County call-center (open 24/7) by dialing 2-1-1.

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