

March 12, 2020

Good afternoon. The City of Birmingham continues to remain in constant contact with state and local health officials about the coronavirus. Although a majority of states and several countries have reported confirmed cases of the coronavirus, there have been no reports of the coronavirus in Alabama. However, we want to be proactive with employees as matters continue to develop with this virus.

Please take note of the latest procedure that has been established when it comes to personal and professional travel for City of Birmingham employees.

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

City Business Travel: All city business travel outside of the state is canceled. For travel outside of Jefferson County but within Alabama, essential travel is still permitted.

Personal Travel: At this time, employees are discouraged from traveling outside of the state. Additionally, city personnel should inform their supervisor if they travel outside of the state. If employees choose to travel outside of the state, the employee may be prohibited from returning to work up to a minimum of 48 hours and up to an additional 12 days after returning from out of state. The length of time the employee may be prohibited from returning to work will be made on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration the location of travel and the most current information from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

When requesting leave time, employees may be required to certify in writing that they do not intend to or have not traveled to an area where the coronavirus has been reported. Supervisors of employees who may or have traveled outside of the state should contact HR before the employee returns to work.

If there are questions about personal or business travel, please contact HR at 205-254-2641 or 205-254-2644.

Here are a few things to remember about the coronavirus:

- The symptoms of the coronavirus (fever, cough, shortness of breath) may resemble the flu. Such symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure. Please remember that testing for the coronavirus will only be done for those with these symptoms.
- If you are not feeling well, please stay home.
- The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person. Go [here](#) for steps to prevent illness.
- Face masks will not prevent the spread or contraction of the virus. Wash your hands, sanitize thoroughly and avoid putting your hands near or on your face.
- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Do not shake hands. To greet someone, consider a wave; a smile and saying, "Hello;" a fist bump or elbow bump.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue. Discard the tissue and then wash your hands.
- Be sure to clean all work surfaces, phones, keyboards and door knobs.
- Use hand sanitizer.

Important websites and phone numbers

For more information from the Centers for Disease Control, go [here](#).

For more information from the Jefferson County Department of Health, go [here](#) or call 205-930-1440.

For more information from the Alabama Department of Public Health, go [here](#) or call 1-800-338-8374.

Updates from the City of Birmingham may be found [here](#).

Several Large Events in Birmingham Have Been Canceled

Due to a growing concern over the spread of the coronavirus, several events with an expected large crowd in Birmingham have been canceled. The Jefferson County Department of Health recommended today, March 12, 2020, that any event with 500 people or more be canceled. This is effective immediately. To see today's press conference with the health department, go [here](#). (This link is from the health department's Facebook page. If you are trying to view it on your city desktop, it will likely be blocked. Please try to access it via a non-city device.)

Mayor Woodfin has said the risk of the virus spreading is not just a concern for event spectators and participants but also for city employees. It's the city's interest to protect employees and public safety officials, as well as everyone else. For smaller events and venues, the health department has recommended that people remain aware of the latest news developments and practice "social distancing," which means putting 6 feet between you and the other person.

As of March 12, 2020, here are some of the major events that have been canceled in Birmingham:

- The in-person March 12 Town Hall meeting with Mayor Randall L. Woodfin and Councilor Hunter Williams at Ossie Ware Mitchell Middle School has been canceled. Instead, Mayor Woodfin and Councilor Williams will do a virtual town hall, which will appear on the city's Facebook page this evening around 5:45 p.m.
- The Birmingham Botanical Gardens has canceled its March 21 Sakura/Cherry Blossom Festival.
- The UNCF Mayor's Masked Ball, set for March 14, has been postponed. A new date has not been announced yet.
- The 36th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, set for March 14, has been postponed. A new date has not been announced yet.
- The NCAA Division II Track and Field and Women's Basketball, set for the Birmingham CrossPlex, has been canceled for March 14.
- Birmingham Hammerfest has been canceled for this weekend.
- SWAC basketball games at Bartow Arena have been canceled for this weekend.
- March concerts at the BJCC for Chris Stapleton and Cher have been canceled. Please go [here](#) to see a list of other canceled events at the BJCC.
- Since Minor League Baseball has decided to delay the start of the 2020 season, the Birmingham Barons has delayed its season. They will release a date on when the season will start.
- The Black Veils Concert, which was scheduled at Sloss Furnaces for March 26, has been postponed. A new date will be released at a later time.