

San Bernardino County has 2nd coronavirus case; closes attractions, offices

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PUBLISHED: March 16, 2020 at 7:25 p.m. | UPDATED: March 17, 2020 at 3:23 p.m.

[San Bernardino County](#) has reported [a second case of the novel coronavirus](#), officials said Monday, March 16.

The county has also closed several county-run attractions and public offices until at least April 3.

The case of known as COVID-19 was reported in a 54-year-old man with underlying health conditions who had come into contact with people who had recently traveled from Washington state, officials said.

“This case does not change our level of readiness or response and it should not increase alarm among the public,” Acting County Health Officer Dr. Erin Gustafson said. “The health risk from COVID-19 to the general public in San Bernardino County remains low at this time, but everyone is strongly urged to engage in practices that reduce the risk of spread.”

“We are prepared from a public health standpoint, and our residents, cities, businesses and other key communities have been informed about safe practices,” Gustafson added.

The county’s first case was reported Sunday, March 15, in a 53-year-old woman who had returned from the United Kingdom sometime last week and went to the Kaiser Fontana hospital emergency department Thursday, March 12.

As for the closures, county officials are moving to reduce the spread of the virus.

“We have a responsibility to do everything we can to limit the spread of the virus while still providing access to the county services people need,” Board of Supervisors Chairman Curt Hagman said in a news release.

Additional measures may be taken and announced in coming days, officials said.

The following are closed:

- Big Bear Alpine Zoo at Moonridge
- County branch libraries
- County museums and historical sites
- County regional parks, including Calico Ghost Town
- Park and recreation district preschools in Big Bear and Joshua Tree

Several senior and community centers also will be closed. However, centers that conduct meal programs will make meals available via drive-thru. Closed centers include: Big Bear Senior Center, Bloomington Ayala Senior Center, Joshua Tree Community Center, Lucerne Valley Community Center and Wonder Valley Community Center.

Services for the following county departments and offices will be available only by phone and online. These include:

- Assessor-Recorder-Clerk, including wedding services
- Child support services
- Land use services, which includes planning, building and safety, and code enforcement
- Public works, except for lobby computer access to surveyor records
- Registrar of Voters, except for election observers
- Water and sanitation district
- Transitional assistance
- Veterans' affairs

On Sunday, March 15, the Housing Authority of San Bernardino County announced office closures until April 1. All non-urgent, non-emergency work orders and housing quality standards inspections also will be suspended. Housing authority staff will still be available via phone and email.

County employees continue working during the closures, county spokesman David Wert said.

However, the county is offering more flexibility to employees who want to telecommute, especially those 65 and older, with children or who must care for elderly relatives, he said.

More than 700 county employees are over age 65, Wert said. They're being allowed to use sick time to self-quarantine rather than telecommute, if they wish, he said.

"We still have county employees working, but at the same time we're doing everything we can to be as flexible as we can," he said.