

NEWS RELEASE

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Gatherings limited, City closures announced to proactively limit potential for spread of COVID-19

ABILENE, Texas – Abilene Mayor Anthony Williams has issued a disaster declaration, effective Monday, March 16, 2020, limiting the gathering of individuals in our community to 250. This action makes it a criminal offence to hold a gathering of 250 or more people, and will be in effect for 7 days, with the potential for extension.

In light of the Mayor’s declaration, and in an effort to proactively lessen the impact of the possible spread of COVID-19 in our community, the following municipal services are closed or altering hours and operations:

- All Convention Center events are cancelled, effective 3/18/20 - 4/30/20. Patrons who have made deposits for their events will receive a full refund for payments received by the City to date.
- The Abilene Zoo is closed, effective 3/17/20 - 4/30/20. During this temporary closing, the City will continue to monitor the situation and, if possible, relax restrictions by introducing limited hours of operation, or limited access to Zoo amenities.
- The Abilene Public Library system hours of operation are restricted to 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, for all branches, effective 3/17/20 - 4/30/20. Depending on conditions, additional restrictions for the Library may be considered.
- The Rose Park Senior Center will be closed effective 3/18/20 - 4/30/20. During this temporary closure, seniors 60 and over may come to Rose Park Senior Center during the hours of 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, for a drive-through meal. Limit of two meals per car, strictly enforced.
- Recreation Centers will be closed effective 3/18/20 - 4/30/20. During this temporary closure the City will offer daycare services for City employees and City first responders at City recreation centers on a first come, first served basis. In the event additional capacity is available, the City will work with United Way to identify families eligible for child care. Childcare services are limited to children 6 to 13 years old, from hours of 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

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- Rentals for all Parks and Recreation facilities are cancelled effective immediately. Normal operations will resume May 1, 2020. All cancellations will be fully refunded.
- Recreation leagues are pending. A final decision and an announcement will be made by Wednesday, 3/18/20.
- Adaptive Recreation is closed effective 3/18/20 - 4/30/20. Current Adaptive Recreation program participants may receive a drive-through meal from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the Rose Park Senior Center, with a limit of two meals per car, strictly enforced.
- Splash pads and the Adventure Cove will remain closed through 4/30/20.
- Safety City is closed effective immediately, and will remain closed through 5/31/20.
- All public tours of City facilities are cancelled effective immediately.
- Proclamations, presentations, school age pledgers, and awards and recognitions at Council Meetings are cancelled until further notice.

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