



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 13, 2020

Anchorage to close all Libraries and Civic, Cultural, and Recreational Facilities

ANCHORAGE – Following yesterday's announcement of the emergency declaration in response to COVID-19, today Mayor Ethan Berkowitz directed all municipal libraries and civic, cultural, and recreational facilities where large crowds can gather be closed until March 31 in order to protect and preserve public health and safety.

"Anchorage has great facilities where we gather with neighbors, friends, and visitors to enjoy culture, entertainment, and recreation," said Mayor Berkowitz. "Unfortunately, now our top priority is to flatten the curve – to slow the spread of COVID-19 – so that our healthcare facilities will be able to treat every patient. It is a small sacrifice to close these libraries and civic, cultural, and recreational facilities. But when all of us act together, each of us can make Anchorage as safe as possible."

The municipal libraries and facilities that will be closed until March 31 include:

- All library branches: Loussac, Chugiak-Eagle River, Mountain View, Muldoon, and Girdwood
- Eagle River Town Center
- William A. Egan and Dena'ina Civic & Convention Centers
- The Alaska Center for the Performing Arts
- The Anchorage Museum
- George M. Sullivan Sports Arena
- Ben Boeke and Dempsey/Anderson Ice Arenas
- The MacDonald Center
- All recreation centers: Mountain View, Fairview, and Spenard
- Centennial Campground
- Kincaid Outdoor Center (*bathrooms will remain open to support outdoor recreation*)
- Lidia Selkregg Chalet (*bathrooms will remain open to support outdoor recreation*)
- Mann Leiser Memorial Greenhouse
- All municipal pools: Bartlett, Chugiak, Dimond, East, Service, and West

In addition to temporarily closing these public facilities, Mayor Berkowitz also reminds the public to follow these public health recommendations:

- Strongly consider postponing large events or gatherings.
- If you are an individual at increased risk for severe illness, including older adults and persons of any age with underlying health conditions, avoid large crowds.
- If you have signs of fever, shortness of breath, or cough, call your health care provider.
- Social distancing: maintain a distance of at least 6 feet apart from others.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching face, eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home and avoid others when sick.
- Cover mouth and nose with tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid handshakes, hugs, and other close contact.
- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces.

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