



April 2, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE #103

SUBJECT: Brea Police Department Employees Contract COVID-19

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BREA, Calif. – Three Brea Police Department employees have contracted COVID-19, the infection caused by the coronavirus. Two employees, who have tested positive for the virus, are asymptomatic. The other employee was clinically diagnosed but not tested. All employees are doing well at home on a 14-day quarantine and under medical supervision. It is unknown where the employees contracted the virus. The employees’ names and details related to their positions are being withheld in accordance with privacy laws.

Brea Police Department operations have not been impacted. Although the risk of exposure to other members of the Brea Police Department, City employees and the community is low, personnel that came in contact with the employees were notified and are being monitored. City of Brea officials implemented procedures already in place in preparation of possible COVID-19 exposure to employees. Brea has quarantine plans in place for employees who may contract the

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virus or be displaying symptoms. Details of quarantine plans are being withheld to protect the privacy of those who may need use of them.

Since the COVID-19 virus is widespread in Southern California, all City of Brea employees have been advised to monitor themselves for related symptoms and adhere to public health best practices. Guidelines from federal, state and county health officials have been followed meticulously to reduce the risk of exposure and promote recovery. This includes continuing heightened cleaning and sanitation measures for all City facilities and vehicles. In response to the virus contraction in the police department, a specialized company was hired to perform additional sanitizing measures in all areas of the department.

Officials at the City of Brea have been closely monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic since February 26, 2020 when the County of Orange declared a local health emergency. On March 16, Brea City Manager Bill Gallardo declared a local emergency and activated the City's Emergency Operations Center. Following guidelines and orders that have been issued from the County of Orange, State of California, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the City took the following measures to maintain a safe environment for both the community and its employees.

- Closed all City facilities for public access beginning on March 17, 2020.
- Cancelled, postponed, or modified City events and programs to comply with federal social distancing orders, until further notice.
- Closed all amenities to the public at City parks and trails.
- Reduced staffing levels at all City facilities in order to adhere to the Governor's stay-at-home order.

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- Implemented additional protective measures to ensure the protection of public safety personnel.

Provided employees with hand sanitizers, sanitizing wipes and disinfectant cleaners to frequently disinfect their work areas, including City vehicles.

- Increased the frequency of custodial staff sanitizing high-touch areas at all facilities.
- Installed germological UV-light systems on all air handlers at City facilities to clean the air as it comes through the HVAC systems.
- Encouraged all employees and the community to follow best practices in order to maintain a healthy environment.

The City of Brea values the safety and wellness of the entire community and its employees. City officials have been working diligently to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and remain focused and committed to providing services to the community, along with tracking developments during this rapidly-evolving situation.

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